

Co. Tipperary G.A.A. Year Book 1981



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TIPPERARY G.A.A. YEAR BOOK 1981

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY BOARD G.A.A.

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Le gach deá-ghuí agus Comhgháirdeachas do Coiste Cho. Thiobraid Arann ó Chomhairle na Mumhan C.L.G.

Senior Championship Fixtures 1981

Iomáint

24th May	S.H.C. An Clár v. Portláirge
7th June	S.H. Semi-Final—Tiobraid Arann v Luimneach
14th June	S.H. Semi-Final—Corcaigh v. An Clár nó Portláirge
5th July	Cluiche Ceannais Iomána

Peil

31st May	S.F.C.—Tiobraid Arann v. An Clár
31st May	S.F.C.—Portláirge v Luimneach
21st June	S.F. "B" Final—Tiobraid Arann nó An Clár v. Portláirge nó Luimneach.
28th June	S.F. Semi-Final—Ciarraí v. Tiobraid Arann nó An Clár
28th June	S.F. Semi-Final—Corcaigh v. Portláirge nó Luimneach
19th July	Cluiche Ceannais Peile

EDITORIAL

With all due humility the committee presents its third production. We hope that its blend of current themes and reminiscence will appeal to readers. Those same readers have been numerous enough in previous years to ensure a prompt clearance of the Yearbook off the news-stands of Tipperary within a few weeks of its appearance. This may be at least as much a tribute to the deep-seated interest in Gaelic games among the Tipperary public as to any merits in our earnest efforts.

Within a short time after our last edition had scored a popular success we had lost our joint-editor, Bill O'Donnell. We are both obliged and glad to honour his memory suitably in the current issue; we have still not quite got used to his absence from our scheduled meetings or to the silencing of a cheerful voice.

Though the longed-for and long-delayed restoration of senior hurling championship prominence again eluded Tipperary— and we can never be of contented mind while that situation prevails— still 1980 had a pair of most acceptable consolations by way of the minor and under 21 double All-Ireland victories. Many a county gets along on a great deal less. Congratulations are in order to the boys and the young men who won through long and difficult series with true grit as recorded in separate features in this book; no less to the selectors and coaches who established such a fruitful rapport with their charges and reaped the benefits of a happy and co-operative camp. Senior mentors, let it be admitted, never have it quite so easy in dealing with a more age-variegated and less uniform group; and it would be ungracious not to thank those senior selectors for time and energy expended, or to sympathise with them on the way



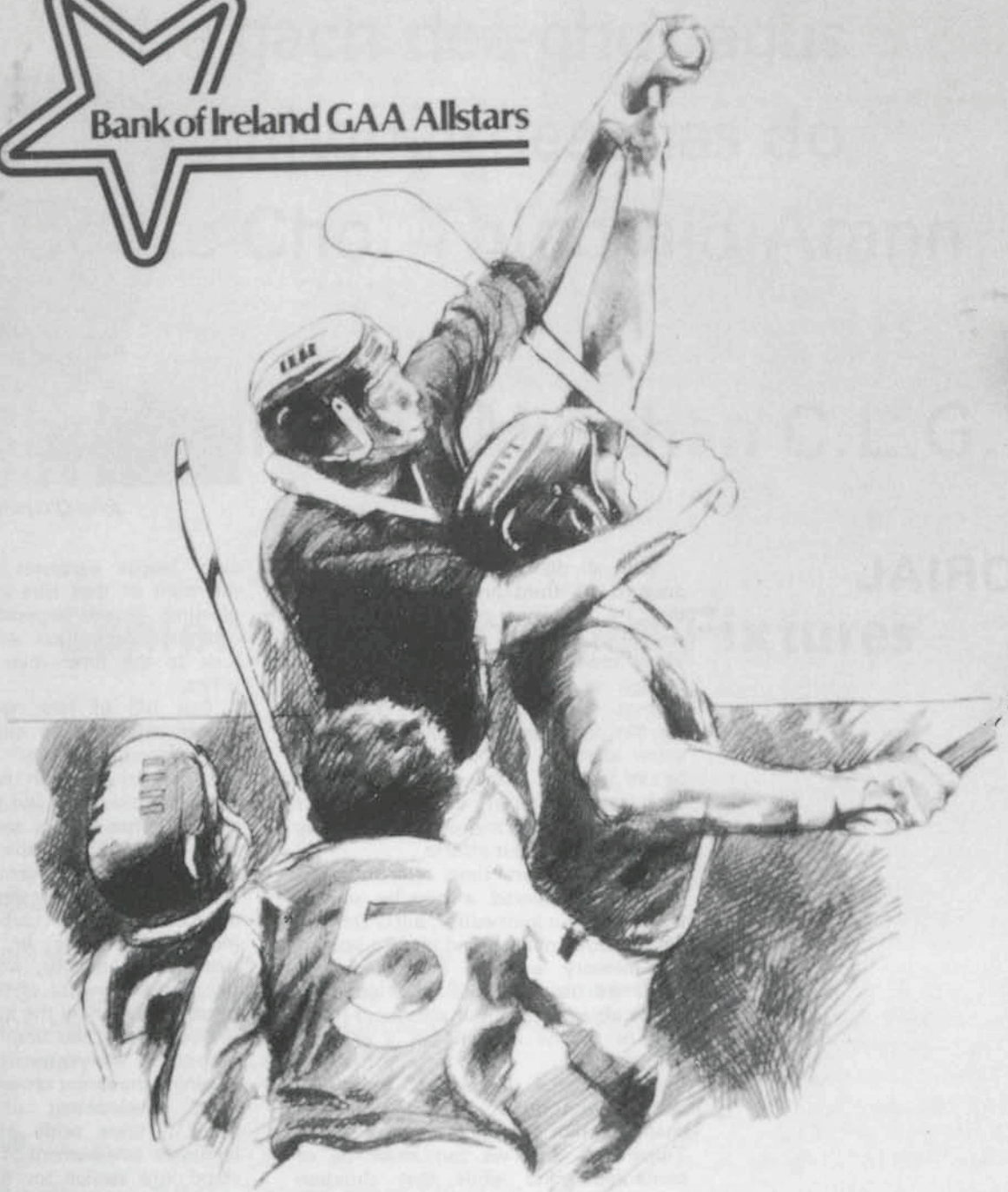
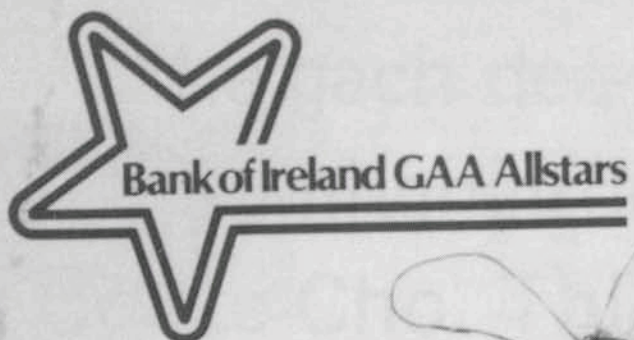
John O'Grady

early league successes led neither to retention of that title nor to a public-pleasing display against Cork in the championship. Good wishes for better luck to the three men who now hold office.

Our bill of fare naturally includes proper reference to club affairs. Here the predominance of North Division was maintained, with not only a keen home championship but provision of one of our better county senior finals, Roscrea regaining the title from honours-laden Kilruane in a game that was welcome after moderate semi-finals. Loughmore-Castleiney, a club that bids for increasing prestige in hurling, made Intermediate history; while Cashel illustrated the benefits of an active school nursery in winning the minor. In football Galtee Rovers had ample compensation for some early-season controversy in regaining the senior crown.

In development of facilities the Stadium takes pride of place for the landmark achievement of putting the new stand into service for the Tipp. v Cork game. Both then and for the Munster final it made an impressive and comfortable contribution. The attention of clubs and public is directed towards the continuing financial commitment such large-scale expansion entails; support is needed for all fund-raising enterprises; good-will is the source of that support.

The Committee thanks all who have been good to us— contributors of articles, suppliers of illustrations, the advertisers whose help goes far to make it a viable proposition, the interested public who make it a Christmas custom to buy the Yearbook— and very particularly the Wellbrook Press for its expertise and co-operation. We look forward to an active and successful 1981 for Tipperary G.A.A.



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MESSAGE TO COUNTY TIPPERARY G.A.A. YEARBOOK

To win a Minor All Ireland hurling title by Tipperary hurlers in 1980 was appreciated. To add a second Under 21 All Ireland within two years gave added pleasure and satisfaction but to have been beaten so decidedly by Cork in the Senior Championship in a game which gave us little to care to remember, cast a gloom over our followers on a day we proudly showed a new Semple Stadium to Gaelic followers from far and wide.

Total commitment by players and generous giving by officials will be required to bring the McCarthy Cup back to Tipperary. It is now absent for ten years.

A ray of hope appeared for football in the county when our Minor footballers acquitted themselves with distinction against Kerry on an evening in May at Clonmel. They were extremely unlucky to loose to a team who were to become All Ireland Minor champions for 1980.

We must, however, continue to try to have our clubs better organised. Too few are still trying to do too much. A haphazard approach is no good. Our County Board members must be leaders at local level. Players and ex-players by deed and example have much to offer. They should and must be involved. In many parishes I would invite the clergy and teachers to be more involved. They have been very helpful in the past. They are close to the youth and have a great influence in moulding their ways.

May I thank all who have helped us during the year and may I compliment this Committee on their production of a Year Book for 1980.



M. O'Meachair, County Chairman

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STILL SEEKING THE SENIOR FORMULA

By John O'Grady

To have a grade A in the year's hurling all you need is to win the All Ireland; the runners-up might rate a B. In the classification stakes of 1980, Tipperary would have been no higher than a moderately weak D. Once again we failed to win a championship match. That extends the string to seven lean seasons without coming off the field as victors. Little indeed would anybody have thought as much that day at Limerick in 1973 when we swooped on Cork with late goals by John Flanagan and Roger Ryan. But so it has been.

Naturally, very naturally, the county is unhappy. So long-continued a drought is way below Tipperary's dignity and self-esteem; it even draws kind words from opponents— "things aren't the same without Tipp . . . " why, the late great Ring himself was heard to be sympathetic — a man who spent energy and spirit in trying to stop us in high-temperature days at Limerick and elsewhere.

DATE WITH CORK

Munster Council has taken to very early draw-making. We have well over six months advance knowledge of the next year's fixtures. So written large in many a mental diary, circled for emphasis, was 22nd June 1980. On that day Tipp would play Cork in Thurles in a Munster semi-final, the venue being our turn in the home-and-away deal made with Cork. It was looked forward to with unusually keen anticipation, for hopeful logic said— "if we could run them to a point at Pairc Uí Chaoimh in 1979, surely we can go better and beat them in Thurles."

FIELD TARGET

It wasn't only hurlers and selectors who knew their deadline for readiness. A concurrent target had to be met by both the Centenary Development Committee and the building firm of Duggans from Templemore— a new stand had to be completed; some 2,500 ten-year tickets had to be sold to co-operative investors so as to mark the big day with a new and impressive background. As things turned, the tickets sold out, the stand stood there to be sat in and praised — but out there on the pitch the day's specifications were far from met.

Going back to the start of the story, however, we find a league campaign of very puzzling nature— superficially excellent up to a point but rapidly turning sour beyond that point. Readers of the league table during that competition— especially those who didn't see the actual games— must have been impressed enough to believe the "Tipp are back" judgment of some superficial Bess com-

ments. For there we were right at the head of the table from an early stage; qualifying was never in question, and we duly headed the final standings. In truth the picture was flattering. It followed a pattern set at Birr in the very first game, when we looked to be beaten right up to the very late free which enabled Seamus Burke to draw the contest. Offaly people and players argued that Damien Martin had been fouled on his way to clear, and they had a case. Other features of the day: a solid debut by Denis Cahill at wing-back, two points by goalie McLoughney off frees. Cahill's promotion was the major new idea by selectors Costigan, Minogue, Ryan, Murphy and Moloughney. Pat O'Neill had been ordained and was now on the English mission.

IN TULLA MUD

Next to Tulla in the mud— what else? — and a super show by McLoughney again for a shaky one-point win. The Burke-Grace midfield was retained. Gerry Stapleton stood in at centre-back for O'Dwyer, who was to take a break till the new year. Seamus Ryan and Brendan Kenny were at this time first-choice forwards, neither to survive to the end of the trail; Donie Carey was another trialist.

Galway came to Thurles, led into the last minutes and then conceded an "own goal" by Conor Hayes to give Tipp two more points, 2-9 to 0-13; another defensive victory for the most part. Tall John Grogan, now in Waterford, was at full forward; fellow Cashel player Fitzelle was the star of the hour. Gilbert Williams became a wing-back on the strength of a club game against Blackrock, but this was not to be persisted with. Ex-under 21 players Doyle and Looby were substitutes to be called in.

KILKENNY BEATEN

The fourth match saw Kilkenny visit the Stadium where the new stand had reached a considerable stage of progress. So apparently had our team— this was the best show to date, full of hope. The 3-10 to 1-8 victory cheered up everybody, nothing in it more than the goal— since televised frequently— by Tommy Butler off Grogan's pass. The Drom-Inch forward had a partner in recall by way of Paul Byrne; O'Dwyer reappeared at centre-back in this eight-point win.

Qualification had been assured by the time we went to Limerick, so there was a psychological excuse for a very modest performance and another lucky draw. Young Pat McGrath of Loughmore got a run here but was replaced by Doyle

before the end; Grogan also was called off for a return of Jim Kehoe. Another veteran to hurl, none too successfully on the day, was Loughnane. In fact it was this game that led to his exclusion for the rest of the league and for the championship— and led to headlines like "Selectors mustn't like me" from the discontented Roscrea forward and to county-wide debate on the matter.

A QUICK K.O.

So the league came to knock-out business, and out we were knocked! Windy day at Ennis Road, nine points down at break, revived by Gerry Stapleton's three long points in a rally, our defeat was sealed by a Grimes goal that surprised McLoughney and dismayed his admirers. The switch of O'Donoghue to mark Stapleton worked for Limerick; the pair got put off for a minor flare-up. Disturbing signs were Keogh's difficulty with McKenna, O'Dwyer's enforced move to wing-back, the withdrawal of Grogan and widespread forward flaws, with hardly a success among the six; Butler's illness kept him idle.

Not alone was our league title surrendered, but we faced months of idleness in any serious sense before the June fixture with Cork. The poor display had some excuses offered to the effect that we hadn't been concentrating on the league anyway— but in retrospect it may be said that morale now sank low and never recovered. A sequence of pallid tournaments did nothing for us except to wear out hurlers also busy in the club championships of their divisions. That at Templemore v Kilkenny sent home followers in outright despair and lowered public confidence to the point where gloomy forecasts were readily given.

THURLES' BIG DAY

Thurles on 22nd June: big day in every way; eager, lively crowd, excellent conditions apart from considerable breeze to the town goal; new stand sparkling, brand-fresh after hectic last-minute preparation. Cork v Tipp on the schedule, could we rise to something in tune with the tense atmosphere. In brief, we could not. Cork weren't good enough to please themselves, but Tipp sank below lowest valuations. Last to the ball, unable to read the moves, to find traditional cut, we failed even in that much-trusted defence, especially up the centre against Horgan and Cummins. Cork led against the wind. O'Leary's goal the worst wound. A green midfield of Fox and Stapleton was outhurled and replaced. Late forward recruit Murphy (Temple-derry) got a brief tenure before Burke replaced him on Horgan. A Cashman



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goal ended our post-resumption flurry. A flood of facile points rubbed in the Cork supremacy. Individual successes like goalie McLoughney, wing-back Cahill — injured by a flying stick— and forward Queally shone out among the wreckage.

The annual recrimination followed. Many said we simply hadn't got better; others put it down to just a bad day's form; the less charitable questioned the fighting heart of the side as a whole. Selectors' decisions were of course faulted. Veteran Loughnane would have

been better than several of the forwards, it was widely claimed; others said the same for Byrne and for the discarded Grogan. Modern hurling and training were roundly damned as being untrue to Tipp tradition a return to ground play called for. Failure to mend the ailing midfield was criticised. On one thing there was agreement— "thanks be to God for Pat McLoughney." He retained All-Star rating on that day of defeat.

WORK CUT OUT

What next? We are booked to meet

Munster holders Limerick in 1981 and our work is cut out for us to break the monotony of misery at senior level. Selectors have been appointed— Co. Chairman Michael Maher of the great days of success; Len Gaynor of the same vintage; Jimmy Hennessy, who has had previous selecting experience; these to be aided by widely-spread contacts in all divisions. We'll wish them luck; as realists they know of no magic formula, but they won't fail for lack of earnestness.

ADDRESS TO DURLAS OG

... by Michael Maher, Chairman Co. Board

Tá áthas orm bheith in bhur measc anocht agus labhairt libh faoi imeachtaí Cumann Luithcleas Gael agus go speisialta faoi iománaíocht.

I want to talk to you very young people in particular and to remind you that when you were younger still you required various kinds of toys to occupy yourselves and keep you out of all kinds of destruction. As you grow older other forms of pastimes come into your life e.g. records, reading, nature study and games.

Ready made pastimes e.g. pictures, television, discos— are all set up for you but nothing is as rewarding as having a pastime in which you are directly involved yourself e.g. playing of games. You are lucky to be able to play games and you are luckier still to be living in an area where willing adults are prepared to organise games for you and you have an added bonus in that you are involved in games with a great tradition in the area and held in much regard.

To get real satisfaction in any game you need to spend a good deal of time practising hurling; once a week is not

enough. You should do so every chance you get— twice a day if possible. Take advice from those who are helping you. Read about hurling and how good hurlers practice. It's good to practice but better still to practice the right way.

Lastly I must say involvement of games with bodily contact demands a high degree of discipline. Hurling is such a game. Bad language should never be used by you especially on the playing field. It's a sign that you are not sure of yourself and no one will admire you for it. Play as skilled a game as you can and on no account strike anyone with a hurley.

Playing hurling will help you to have friends of lasting value. It will enable you to be part of a team, to contribute your share, to respect others, to admire them, to be modest in victory and manly in defeat. By developing such qualities you will be able to get thro' life better.

To parents I would say to show at least goodwill towards your club and those who run it. You can help them by subscribing without being asked. You are

part of the community and either your children or some of those in your neighbourhood are being helped thro' life. You might help with transport. Car hire is very costly on any clubs. Encourage your boys with hurleys and hurling gear. Go to see them play. Talk about the game with them. Maybe you could help a little at training and surely you could be present at functions to which parents are invited. Many contributing a little in a sincere way is a recipe for sure success.

To the members of the present Committee— I say— congratulations on your good work. Your Chairman, Bro. O'Higgins, I compliment on his work for the boys not alone at games but at their school work as well. With you all working together you are sure to get satisfaction in the knowledge that you are providing a healthy pastime for many young people. You are encouraging the playing of games, especially Gaelic games which are so much part and parcel of the Thurles area.

Ar aghaidh in Ainm Dé leis an obair brea sin.



SARSFIELDS

Back row: K. Carroll, G. Stakelum, M. O'Bryan, Eamonn Jordan, P. Keelan, P. Maher, P. Maher, M. Dorney, A. J. Callanan, T. Dunne, J. O'Brien.
Front row: G. Corbett, M. Coppinger, K. Cummins, M. Keane, P. J. Cavanagh, J. Kennedy, M. Mahony, T. Barrett, E. Stakelum, T. O'Meara, P. Mockler, M. Kenahan.

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PAT McLOUGHNEY : TIPP'S ALL-STAR TALKS HURLING

Pat McLoughney of Shannon Rovers was Tipp's outstanding individual against Cork; his inspired goalkeeping, proof once again of his big occasion flair, was probably the major factor in his retention of All-Star status. And that status may be said to have redeemed our senior prestige at national level, keeping the county's name on the roster of the exclusive and prestigious best. On the eve literally, it may be said of his departure for the U.S. tour, Pat responded to our editor's questionnaire with the following candid answers and observations.

My family background is very strong on hurling as my father and mother are both Kilruane people. My father won a North Tipperary Senior medal in 1949. My mother was also interested in camogie. When I began to play hurling they both helped me greatly by taking me to club training sessions, and also to games where I could see the top players in action.

It was never an ambition of mine to become a goalkeeper. I had always hoped that some day I would make the inter-county grade as a wing-forward.

I had no experience of goalkeeping except that I played three games for my school, Borrisokane, which was in 1970. When I finished school I played all my club hurling at wing forward, and played county minor in 1972 in the same position. My return to goalkeeping came in 1974, when in the third round of the championship our regular keeper became injured I was asked to play in goals. I did so under the condition that it was only for the one game. We won that game against Ballina, and I played reasonably well so I decided then to stay in goal. A very wise decision because that year we won the Intermediate championship.

In 1975 Shannon Rovers also won the Intermediate championship. But my greatest thrill that year was my selection on the county u-21 team. We played Clare in Cashel but were beaten by a few points; but it was probably my best game in goals to date.

DEBUT FOR TIPP

I was first selected on the Tipp Senior panel in October '75. I was sub to Seamus Shinnors. My first senior game was twelve months later against Kilkenny in the first round of the league played in Nowlan Park. We were beaten by nine or ten points, but I played very well and conceded no goals and I have been a regular ever since, missing only a couple of games through illness.

I have played in all the championship games since 1977. I played reasonably well in all the games but we never won



PAT McLOUGHNEY

any of them. The game that gave me the most satisfaction was the game versus Cork in 1979. It was probably the greatest game I ever played. I would also say it was the best Tipperary team that I have played on. The spirit of the team was great following our great performance in the league final.

ALL-STAR MEMORIES

I have some great memories from 1979. My greatest was my selection on the Bank of Ireland All-Stars and the tour of America. It was a memorable trip; the All-Star team played 4 games against Kilkenny and the All-Stars won the competition. While out there I made many friends because it was my first chance to meet players from outside my own county. The people out there were really terrific and treated us like members of their own families. But my greatest memory of the trip was my selection as player of the tour and with it the Padraig

Puirséal award. I also received "player of the match" in San Francisco.

THE MENTAL SIDE

When I started to play in goals for Tipp it was indeed a great mental strain because I was the first player ever from my club to play senior inter-county hurling. It was then I realised that I would be compared with the great Tipperary goalkeepers of the past, and also with present-day goalkeepers from other counties. To cope with those pressures was even harder than the game itself. But once I began to realise that I had proved to myself that I was good enough it took away a lot of the pressure.

The couple of days before each game are very important. I always look on the game as a source of pleasure, which it is meant to be for those taking part. It is very important to eat and sleep properly. A lot of the people outside of the game

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PRACTICE METHODS

During the winter I do very little sharpening up. I like to play badminton as often as possible. It is a great help for reflex action. This year I hope to play a little squash as well. But during the summer I practice as often as is possible. When we go into training in Thurles different members of the team take shots from different positions, some on the ground, some of them to catch and then shots from close in to improve my reflex action.

I also train at home using a sponge ball hitting it as hard as possible off a wall, and trying to stop it coming back. It also helps build up my arms to be much stronger, which helps when taking puck-outs.

ANALYSING THE LET-DOWN

My biggest disappointment was Tipp's very poor performance against Cork in last June's championship. To my mind it was one of the worst displays ever. But to pin-point what went wrong is a

different matter. To me it was more than just a poor performance on the day. If one looks back through the early stages of the league the team was very impressive. Probably our best game was against the All-Ireland Champions Kilkenny, but it was after this game that the rot began to set in to this team. Trials were held shortly after this game. Players who had played well in the Kilkenny game began to lose their places on the team. The most disappointing point of all was the decision not to train for the league semi-final. We were beaten by a very poor Limerick team on the day and all through the lack of training.

From then on things went from bad to worse; we were playing in tournaments all over the place. We played three games in one week plus club matches. Players were getting fed up at this stage, and I was one of them. I went through one of my worst spells ever. We then took a week's rest from the game and shortly after that I began to regain my hunger for the game. The team was now in full training and there was a full attendance every night. At this stage I began to believe that we could beat Cork, now that we had them on our own ground. But on the day we failed badly. We were

beaten in too many vital positions, especially in the first half when we made very little if any use of all the possessions we had. There was no fight left in the team when we went out for the second half and we were made look a very poor side indeed.

FUTURE BRIGHT

I am very confident of a bright future for Tipp. Our success in the minor and u-21 over the past couple of years shows that the younger talent is there. The important thing now for those players, especially the u-21 is to show them that there is a future for them in Tipperary senior hurling and during the league is the time to give those players a chance.

Our main failure over the past couple of years has been our style of hurling, we never seem to play as a team, and to win anything nowadays it takes a lot of team work, because of the change in rules it is a lot easier to blot out an outstanding individual. Our u-21 teams in recent years had great team-work and hopefully it will carry through to the senior team. As for the psychological side of it, the important thing is to get a winning team together, then we can look to the future with confidence.

Pat McLoughney



BALLYBACON-GRANGE SOUTH INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONS 1980

Back row, l. to r.: L. Myles, P. Ryan, J. Moran, T. Condon, T. O'Leary, J. D. Condon, J. Guthrie, Phil Walsh, John Walsh, Ger Walsh, Sean Gorman, MI Prendergast, Rd Boyle.

Middle row, l. to r.: P. Kendrick, S. Ahern, Joe Carrigan, A. Dillon, J. Duggan, MI Babs Keating (captain), J. Walsh, E. O'Sullivan, B. Maher.

Front row, l. to r.: P. O'Brien, A. Power, S. Butler.

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U-21 REPEAT A SATISFYING FEAT

By Michael Dundon, *Tipp Star*

There was something immensely satisfying about Tipperary's win in this year's All-Ireland under 21 hurling championship. To win an All-Ireland at any time is an achievement, and in these barren times for Tipperary, even more than that, but the manner in which this year's squad retained the trophy won in '79 endeared them to followers of the Blue and Gold everywhere.

With a liberal sprinkling of last year's squad again eligible, Tipperary's optimism about retaining the Croke Cup was reasonable. Not alone had they a strong backbone from '79 in the team, but such as Joe O'Dwyer, Vincent Mullins and Michael Murphy had also figured on the team which lost the '78 final to Galway.

Accordingly, Limerick were not expected to trouble the champions unduly, but trouble them they did and to the extent that Tipperary were fortunate to get a replay when first they met in Limerick. Tipp made no mistake at Semple Stadium, and so the campaign to win the fourth All-Ireland in the grade was underway.

FERMOY DRENCHING

Cork provided the opposition for the final in Fermoy. On a night that saw the large gallery drenched to the skin, and which at times gave rise to the suggestion that the game should be abandoned altogether, Tipperary courage— a badge that was to hallmark this year's team, manifested itself in the manner in which the players overcame all adversity to absorb the challenge of Cork.

This win went a long way towards erasing the bitter memories of the seniors dismal showing in the Munster semi-final against the Leesiders, and while outwardly Tipperary folk were dripping wet following the game, inwardly they oozed with pride in the Blue and Gold.

Galway, our great rivals in this grade, came to Ennis for the semi-final, and how Tipperary won this game is still a cause of wonder, as Galway looked winners all the way, when Tipperary, reduced to fourteen men, struck dramatically in the dying seconds for a Joe Kennedy goal and victory.

SPIRIT TRIUMPHS

Came the final against Kilkenny in Waterford, a hectic struggle which demanded courage and commitment of the highest order from the Tipp lads before the championship was retained. As with Galway in the semi-final and Cork in the Munster final, defeat stared Tipperary in the face, but once again the spirit of Knocknagow, so evident right through the championship, saved the day, as Tipperary's youth hurled defiance in the

faces of jubilant Kilkenny, and snatched victory from under their noses.

I can recall speaking to selector Mick Minogue of Roscrea before this game, and he told me that in all his time involved with teams he had never come across a bunch of lads so totally dedicated and devoted to realising their ambition. In hindsight, nothing less would have sufficed, and I think it was this absolute commitment which endeared this team to its supporters.

How we warmed to the full-blooded tackling of Joe O'Dwyer, Pat Fox and company in defence. Their play epitomised the hurling for which Tipperary is traditionally famous, and gave colleagues the heart to continue the struggle when things looked black. The truth of the saying— fortune favours the brave— was clearly brought home, because this Tipperary squad simply refused to accept defeat no matter how precarious the circumstances— and their courage was invariably rewarded with a favourable turn of events.

HOW MANY FOR SENIOR

The big question on everybody's lips of course is how many of these players

will make the senior side. Writing before Tipperary's first game in the National League against Waterford, it is encouraging to see five of the players in the panel. Pat Fox and Michael Murphy got the call-up for the senior championship and they are now joined by Joe O'Dwyer, Bobby Ryan and Pat McGrath who starred in the All-Ireland final.

It may not be long either before such as Cormac Bonnar, Denis Finnerty and Philip Kennedy are promoted to the senior squad.

And what of next year? Can Tipperary make it a hat-trick of titles in the grade? Again, there is a strong backbone of players from this year's side eligible next term, and with members of the team which won the minor hurling All-Ireland ready to fill the gaps, Tipperary can look with optimism to 1981.

It is appropriate too to commend the selectors and trainer for a job well done. The manner in which they used the talent at their disposal contributed immensely to the success. They even had to take the unpalatable step of omitting the captain for the final, an unusual but courageous thing to do, and in the circumstances, the outcome justified their judgement.



Philip Kennedy, Captain, Tipperary u 21 receives the trophy from Paddy Buggy

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PASSING OF A PATRIARCH —

TOM DWAN OF 1916

by Philip O'Dwyer

Tom Dwan, whose death took place last May, was the last survivor of the victorious Tipp team of the historic year, 1916. Although referred to, invariably, as Tom Dwan of Beakstown, he lived and formed all his long life in the townland of Lisnagonoge, the most easterly in the parish of Holy Cross—Ballycahill (until Gilbertstown was transferred from Moycarkey to Holy Cross a couple of years ago). Only a "Bounds-ditch" separates his farm from the parish of Thurles and the river Suir divides it from the parish of Moycarkey-Borris. About 2 miles south of Thurles Station the Main C.I.E. railway line to Cork passes through the farm.

Tom was perhaps the best known of a great hurling family, five of whose members played with distinction for either Holy Cross or Thurles, the others being Patrick, Willie, Stephen and Rody. Rody, hale and hearty, is still as interested as ever he was in his favourite game. Another brother, Frank was a very promising player when he emigrated to Australia, as a very young man, with Stephen. Frank still lives in the antipodes.

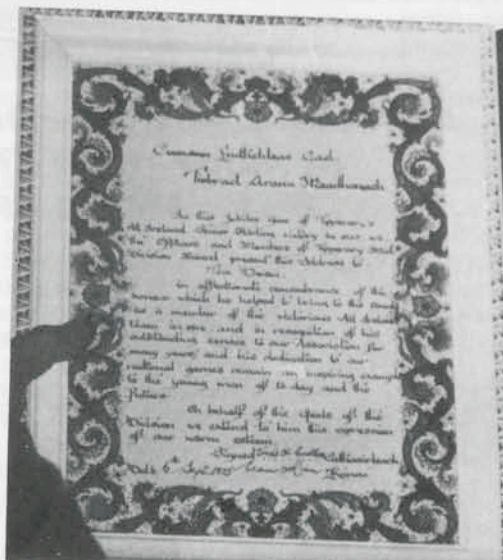
FIRST MENTION

Tom's name is mentioned for the first time in Canon Fogarty's History, as a member of the Holy Cross team beaten by Thurles Blues in the semi-final of the South Tipp Championship of 1906. The mid Division was born the following year. For 1907 Tom helped Holy Cross-Drombane defeat Cashel in the mid semi-final, but an objection reversed the result. Canon Fogarty was a member of that Holy Cross-Drombane team. Glengoole south champions, caused the upset of the century that year, when they beat Thurles in the Co. final at Glengoole on the score 4-2 to 2-6. The records show Thurles as Co. Champions for 1908, although Canon Fogarty's History says that: "A later Co. Convention declared the championship of 1908 dropped." There must have been an objection and counter-objection. The Thurles team in that final included Pat and Tom Dwan.

TOM IN GOAL

Tom was cúlbáire for the Thurles team which beat the Racecourse (Cashel) in the Co. decider for 1909. Junior championships confined to the province were inaugurated in Munster in 1910. Tipp won both football and hurling and Tom Dwan was a member of the hurling selection. He was also a member of the Tipp team beaten by Cork in the Munster S. H. final of 1912, the last year of 17 a side teams. In 1913 he helped his county win the Croke Cup. That same

year the first Junior All Irelands were played and the Tipp team which won in hurling had the assistance of Tom Dwan. He played against Cork in the first round of the Munster S. H. Championship of 1915 won by the rebels, but he captained the Tipp juniors to a second All Ireland victory the same year.



TOM DWAN

ALL-IRELAND WIN

1916 was perhaps the highlight of Tom's career when he was Cúlbáire on the Boherlahan selection, which defeated Kerry, Limerick, Cork, Galway and Kilkenny to win the senior All Ireland and the Trophy—a new Railway Cup. The only living link with that victory is Wm O'Dwyer, Boherlahan, then Treasurer of the club. In 1917 Tom, with his brothers Willie and Stephen helped Thurles in the Mid Final against Boherlahan at Coolcree, but unsuccessfully. Tom was a member of the team beaten by Limerick, in a replay, of the 1918 Munster semi-final. Cork beat Tipp by one point in 1919 with Tom again in action. When Limerick overcame us in the semi-final of 1920 the game was played at Riverstown, outside Cork city because the British authorities would not allow it in the Park. Tom Dwan and his brother Willie took part.

NEARLY ANOTHER

Tom went within an ace of winning his second Celtic Cross, when Kilkenny stole a march on the Premier County in the '22 decider, regarded as one of the greatest games of hurling ever played. Willie Dwan was a forward on this team. I had seen Tom in action for the first time on 1 July 1923, against Limerick at Thurles in the Munster final of that campaign, which was a year late owing to the Civil War. This game ended in a draw.

Tom ended his playing career as he had started, with Holy Cross. I saw him with his brothers, Rody and Willie, in a hectic encounter with Clonoulty at Cashel in the Mid Championship of 1927. The last time I saw Tom in action was in 1929 when he played at full back for a Holy Cross-Drombane team beaten by Castleiney-Killea in the Mid S.H. campaign. This, I think was his last appearance on the hurling field, when he was over forty years of age.

So ended a great career that lasted over twenty years, which began when there were only two divisions in the county (North and South), when teams were 17 a-side, and the cúlbáire had three gaps to mind (in the days of the Point-Posts).

VERSATILE HURLER

Tom's usual position was at right corner-back, but his versatility was shown by playing in goal at All-Ireland level. He was a close marking defender who wasted no time in lifting but cleared first time to safety. His constant hard work on the land, in the pre-tractor era, ensured that he was always fit. I would also like to mention that Tom was Chairman of Thurles Creamery Committee for a long number of years.

Slán leat, a Thomáis. Ní bheidh do leithéidí ann arís. In iothlann Dé go gcastar sinn.

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MID TIPP REVIEW

By John Guiton (Tipperary Star)

Reviewing the affairs in the Mid Division of the year just petering out one cannot immediately pinpoint any extraordinary events of note, or unusual happenings—domestic competitions were as keen as ever with, generally speaking, the old reliables emerging from the various grades while on the administrative scene all matters were dealt with expediently and without any acrimony.

Certainly the divisional representatives in the county championships did us proud with county victories for Moycarkey-Borris Intermediate footballers, and of course Loughmore Intermediate hurlers.

However, back to divisional matters—as expected Thurles Sarsfields proved the best of the senior pick deservedly winning their 33rd title. The only outstanding feature of the championship was the promotion of 1979 Intermediate champions Clonmore-Killea to the senior grade. Indeed, they gave some notably fine performances not alone in the mid championship league early on but in the championship when they disposed of Moycarkey-Borris in the 1st round. However, on reaching the semi-final they lacked the necessary experience and went down to a strong Drom-Inch outfit on the scoreline 3-14 to 2-8. Led by County Star Seamas Burke they also had good performers in Tom Larkin, Eugene Doherty, Noel Fogarty and Paddy Bourke. Sarsfields did not impress in the early stages of the championship and though they overcame the challenge of Upperchurch in the first round on the scoreline 2-8 to 0-5 they had to fight all the way and had quite an amount of home work to do before their remaining games in the campaign.

They knuckled down to intensive preparation and left no doubt in anybody's mind as to their intentions when they handed out a decisive sixteen point beating to keen rivals and neighbours Holycross-Ballycahill in the semi-final.

Meanwhile Drom-Inch appeared to be coming back into the limelight once again after fading from the scene for quite some time. With a well-balanced strong team comprised of some talented young hurlers such as John Hassett, Pat Carey, Ger Harkins, aided by the vastly experienced Tommy Butler, Pat Looby, Larry Doherty and Paudie Butler they put paid to Clonmore's efforts in the semi-final following a spirited second-half display to win comfortably by a nine point margin on the scoreline 3-14 to 2-8.

BLUES TOO SLICK

Hurling enthusiasts in the division

were eagerly awaiting the clash of the men from the Ragg and the Blues. Drom-Inch were justifiably confident, they had not had as good a year for quite a while, in fact since 1974 when they last captured the title. On the other hand Sarsfields had prepared earnestly for the encounter and were not alone hoping to topple Drom-Inch but get another bite at the County Championship. D-Day in the Mid division was Sunday 20th July. Unfortunately the elements contrived to produce possibly the worst day of a terrible summer. On a slippery Stadium sod after a dour struggle Sarsfields had four points to spare at the end of the day. The Blues proved too slick and too composed for their rivals whose tenacity and determination could not be questioned but who lacked the overall ability of the Thurles outfit. Sarsfields once again depended on the determined efforts of Michael Gleeson, Michael Maher, County Minor Paddy Maher, Paul Byrne, Tom Barry and Pat McCormack to keep them on top in the division. Subsequently Drom-Inch had to meet Moycarkey in the losers group final at Templemore to decide the second team to represent the division in the county championship. In a game of fluctuating fortunes the green and white ran out victorious but disappointingly went down to west

champions Sean Treacys in the County Quarter-final. Likewise, in a rather tame County Semi-final Thurles Sarsfields saw their hopes of reaching the final crudely dashed for the second successive year when they failed to champions Roscrea.

Once again the Mid league held great interest not alone for the established senior sides but for Intermediate and junior sides such as Loughmore-Castleiney, Boherlahan-Dualla and Thurles Kickhams. At the end of the series Sarsfields again finished on top handing out a decisive 3-16 to 0-2 defeat to Moyne-Templetuohy to take home the Phil Cahill Cup. Despite their unquestionable dedication it was a most disappointing year for Holycross-Ballycahill who also lost the 1979 Cahill Cup competition to Loughmore, played earlier this year due to an overspill of fixtures.

GREAT SARS. YEAR

Indeed, looking back, in retrospect, on the records, it certainly was a great year for the Thurles Sarsfields club as their minor and u-21 hurlers also emerged as champions.

In minor hurling the standard was satisfactory with the Blues shading it over their great rivals Loughmore-Castleiney. The u-21 competitions produced some keen clashes with Sarsfields topping



Br Perkins addressing the gathering at the reception to the victorious Tipperary Minor team outside the Cathedral in Thurles.

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Loughmore-Castleiney in the semi-final and Holycross-Ballycahill qualifying to meet the Blues in the final. However, in the final there was no stopping Sarsfields and they pulled clear in an easy fashion.

LOUGHMORE TAKE INTER.

The Intermediate grade produced its quota of good hurling with Loughmore-Castleiney taking the title and indeed going on to bring County honours to the division by a convincing victory over Kiladangan into the County final. After an interesting campaign in which Gortnahoe-Glengoole and Boherlahan-Dualla played impressively Loughmore were never in any real trouble and pushed aside the challenge of the Boherlahan boys in the final.

In the Junior competitions, a grade which has often surpassed the senior competitions for excitement and endeavour the boys from Holycross-Ballycahill accounted for neighbours Boherlahan-Dualla after it took two games to decide the issue.

In football the boquets must go to the Moycarkey-Borris side for a memorable year in which they brought Intermediate honours to the division, following a fine win over Moneygall. They conquered Loughmore-Castleiney in the Mid decider. Templetuohy club also came back into the "big time" with a good final victory over Holycross-Ballycahill.

UNDER-AGE EVENTS

When it comes to under-age competitions Loughmore-Castleiney as always were the side to beat. They took both minor and u-21 titles with victories over Templemore and Drom-Inch respectively. Indeed the minor decider was an attractive game with little between the sides up to the final minutes when Loughmore edged out in front. The club easily captured the u-21 crown with an easy victory over a weak Drom-Inch side, played at Holycross. In the senior grade the old firm of Loughmore and Temple-

more again provided the entertainment when they met in the final, a curtain-raiser to the Tipp and Cork senior hurling clash in June last.

However Loughmore were never in difficulty against a Templemore side that failed to rise to the occasion.

It is impossible to record how every divisional club fared out in the various competitions but it must be emphasised that all clubs played a major role in the efficient running of the championships making the task of the divisional board under the chairmanship of Mr Tim Maher with the assistance of his courteous and efficient secretary Mr Tom O'Hare and the hard-working treasurer Mr Billy Sweeney, a relatively easy one.

After quite a successful year followers in the Mid Division have a lot to look forward to in 1981 and club officials and players through sheer commitment and dedication should stride to improve the standard of football and hurling in Mid Tipperary and restore the Division to the prominent place it held in the 1940s, 50s and 60s.



BALLINGARRY SOUTH SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1980

Back row, l. to r.: Dick Goldsboro, Sec., P. Donovan, J. Maher, Ray Brennan, Matvey Brennan, MI Sparrow, T. McCormack, John Molloy, G. Ivors, Martin Brennan, Pat Ivor, P. Aherne, MI McGrath.
Middle row, l. to r.: T. Brennan, K. Shelley, D. Shelley, Johnie Molloy, Willie Hayes, J. Purcell, S. O'Brien, Jim Molloy & Milo Molloy.
Front row: M. F. Brennan and John Ivors.
Missing from photo— Jas Ivors (captain).

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MINORS MARCH INTO THE 80s

by S. O Páircín

Is binn, breá, blasta ceol na gcamán
I bpáirc ghlas, ghlé-gheal úr;
Le camán im' láimh is mé go sámh
'Measc iománaithe, mear mionúr.

At the beginning of 1980 we did not expect to have a very good minor team. Cork had done very well in the Colleges competitions and the Mon. and St Colman's were in the Harty final, with some fine hurlers in the other Cork schools as well. They could also draw from the excellent clubs in city and county. So it looked as if Tipp would not have a chance against the experience and skill of these hurlers.

Each division in Tipperary brought together prospective minors for trials and had a team ready by March. These divisional matches were played and then there were matches between the best thirty or forty. The selectors were slow to drop any eager and promising young lad and so up to thirty players were kept on the panel. Seven matches were played against Clare, Waterford and Limerick teams and a chance was given to as many as possible to show their talents.

DIFFICULT CHOICE

It looked as if we had not great talent in the county and it was difficult to pick the outstanding players or put them in their best positions. Some were not playing as well as they should have been; but because of the fact that the selectors knew their hurlers and had seen them all in action since their juvenile days, made their task easier. It is not too easy for minor selectors to pick the right players. It is the most difficult grade of all to select. The under twenty one and senior selectors will have seen more of the players after their minor days.

It is not always the best hurlers that make the best minors. He must have many other good qualities as well. Time and again we hear club mentors shout: "Why is such a one not on the County Minor team"? He may have given a great display for his club or starred in a county final or in junior or even in senior grade!

Even this year we had such 'stars'. It is not always easy to tell them the truth or the reason why. Often such lads do not care, are too lazy to train when asked, are not willing to make sacrifices early in the year, prefer nicotine and alcohol to hard training, will not fit into the team because they are not willing to be part of a team, they may lack discipline or may not make the supreme effort when asked. Not all good club men are good county men or vice versa.

Selectors play a vital part in building a team. They, too, must be a team who

work together in harmony, agreeing to differ. Their sincerity must be unquestionable, putting the county before their club or division, and be honest in everything they do. They definitely come under a lot of pressure from outside; how ignorant often club-mentors and tor-mentors can be! It is important and very important that the County Board show confidence in the men they pick at the beginning of the year. Change is good at times, but the changing of selectors that has been going on in Tipperary for the past couple of years leads one to ask who is really right or wrong! Judgment is one of the Cardinal Virtues. Our minor hurling selectors for last year were a fine team who worked together well and reaped success. They were: Fr Seymour (North), Mick Quinn (Mid), T. J. O'Dwyer (West), Willie Peters (South). It is the team effort that always wins. A collection of stars may look well on paper, but there are often sparks. You don't have to be an All-Star to be a good county selector. Experience in any field is good but without common sense and good judgment it avails little. The 1980 selectors were a happy group that worked well together. They deserve our thanks and compliments.

FINE COACHING

The 1976 victorious minor hurling team, well-coached by Br M. V. O'Grady, were boys of excellent character and the very best of them have made the grade in the u-21 team. This minor team had not any outstanding hurlers like "Babs" Keating or Jimmy Doyle but they played well together. The following year, 1977 we had a good minor team, too, with the same selectors but they were not just good enough. In 1978 our minors were beaten by Cork by two points. Pat McGrath and Donie O'Connell had been injured in club matches previous to the big game. It was a match we *could* have won. We *should* have won the 1979 match against Cork on that very wet evening in Limerick. This was a very good team that met a great Cork team which easily won yet another All-Ireland. Only *three* of that team were eligible for the 1980 team.

Why were the 1980 minor hurlers so successful, when one remembers that fifteen different clubs were represented on the first fifteen and twenty one clubs on the panel of twenty seven? The answers are: Good selection at divisional level, many hurlers tried, good trial matches and challenge matches, a disciplined, determined and dedicated bunch of lads, good spirit among the group (hence the keeping together of the big

panel), proper training, training by the boys themselves at home.

PEAK FOR CORK

The team was trained to reach their peak for the Cork game, and the Munster final against Limerick was only ten days later. Therefore, they gave their best displays on these two days. The preparation for the All-Ireland was hindered by the following: Injuries, too many club matches at minor, junior, u-21 and even at senior level. Often they were too tired to train or were sparing themselves for coming matches. Championship matches on the Sunday before the All-Ireland did not help at all. How can one expect to have a team at its peak with such hindrances? It is an art in itself to have a team at peak fitness at the right time, mentally tuned up for the big day as well as being a hundred per cent physically fit for such an occasion as an All-Ireland. Playing on grassy fields, small fields, being against slower opposition etc. etc. knocks a team off its rhythm, its alertness, its sharpness that is so necessary in top-class competition. Going on to Croke Park for the first time is another experience not easy to cope with, especially when the opposition has played there on at least three previous occasions.

FINAL OBSTACLES

Considering the obstacles that had to be overcome on All-Ireland Day 1980 and how those minors stood up to this fine Wexford team and win a great victory makes me admit that this team was a great one and we should get some fine senior hurlers from it.

For a team so dedicated and disciplined in their long months of training, and having made so many sacrifices for the sake of hurling, I was amazed (and a little shocked) to have noticed how few pioneers or total abstainers there are among them. It does make me sad to reflect that some fine hurlers that one day should make the senior team and bring honour to their county and to themselves, will never make the grade. So much time, money and energy has been spent on them that it seems a woeful waste. Admittedly, we often help so many young men lead better lives. There are many good hurlers in the county who would profit by the training our minors are getting. However, we must get commitment from our young hurlers, otherwise, we will never be able to build a truly committed Tipperary senior team. It is an honour to wear the Blue and Gold and those who wear it must be totally dedicated to the game.

It would be interesting to note how

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many minors have "fallen by the way-side" since 1976. If there is very few then we've had good selectors and also minors of sound character. Our minors are the men of to-morrow and we must keep producing the good ones and unearthing the talent that will profit, in the long run, by training and coaching.

Tipperary has had good minor teams for the past few years. The credit for this must go to schools and Bord na nOg. Year after year good material is being well-nurtured and developed. The schools and Bord na nOg supplement each other. They provide the matches, the experience and the discipline so necessary for good minors. They have the men and women capable and willing to give the necessary instruction and training. The schools and Bord na nOg are the fertile fields in which minors are produced— after that it is only a matter of selecting the best fifteen in the county at minor, u-21 and senior level.

SOUND INVESTMENT

The money spent on the county hurling course a few years ago was the best investment of the County Board for many a day. Forty men and a lady, with an interest and a love of hurling, were sent back to the clubs where their knowledge and expertise were used to the full to make better hurlers and to improve standards all round.

I would hate to think what the state of hurling would be like in our towns and county parishes if our schools, primary and post primary, had not done so much for the game. Do we thank them enough? I am delighted to see how the minor Cup is being brought around to schools and clubs to say "Thank you for the work being done." The Cup is an inspiration to our youth in Tipperary. It will stir up more enthusiasm for the world's greatest game. Young lads look up to

those minors who have won an All-Ireland. They, too, will be an inspiration to them. I hope they will never sully their good reputation by alcohol or misconduct. An amount of good can be done by these young ambassadors in the many clubs they visit throughout County Tipperary. Let them give back something to the game and thereby continue on the great tradition that is ours— a tradition that has been generously handed on to us and which has made us the Premier County— proud of our hurlers and our hurling. We enter the decade with Victory and Hope. Let us continue on the good work that has been done in 1980.

Is fada anois ár Sinsir thíos
Gan Corn, gan Craobh ná bua;
Tá Tiobraid Arann ag teacht chun
tosaigh arís;
Eireoimid suas go luath.



Most Rev. Dr Morris, presenting the All-Ireland Minor Hurling Trophy to Jim Maher, Captain Tipperary team.

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ST MARY'S CLONMEL, COUNTY CHAMPIONS FE 12

Michael Forde

After many years of frustration in juvenile ranks the ultimate honours of a county title came our way. So near and yet so far has been the case down through the years. The hard work of the juvenile committee never seemed to reap the reward they justly deserved. However 1980 was a memorable year for the club.

In famed Semple Stadium we had equally famed Toomevara as our opponents. Toomevara famed in song and in story, steeped in the grand tradition of hurling, were between us and the coveted county title. The gauntlet was thrown down; we accepted the challenge and in a thrilling game St Marys Clonmel South Champions earned the laurels. It was indeed the culmination of a great year.

It all began in 1979. Defeated by Durlas Og in the county final we set our minds to the task of going one better in 1980. With this in mind our panel was drawn up early September and from then on it was all systems go. Thanks to the loyal supporters we were in all quarters of Munster playing practice matches. We met and beat the best. Then St Patrick's week-end we had our own juvenile under 12 tournament. Through the generous hospitality of the Clonmel people we had as guests young hurlers

from Na Piarasigh Cork, Old Christians Limerick and Faythe Harriers Wexford. To put the finishing touch to a very successful tournament our young lads defeated Na Piarasigh. With that and other scalps under our belt we were ready for all comers. Our panel at this stage were well seasoned and tested.

In the south championship all opposition was brushed aside. We went through at a canter against Fethard, Cahir, Ballybacon, Carrick Swan and the Davins. On then to the real test. The one the boys were eagerly awaiting. Our tussle with Durlas Og in the semi-final was to be crunch game for our lads. But in Golden that obstacle was surmounted. Durlas Og were gracious in defeat. Let me say that we and the boys too have made some great friendships in the Cathedral town from our games. This is as it should be. On the field of play the clash of the caman, the hard tussle but then when all is over either victorious or vanquished the hand of friendship.

A BIG OCCASION

County final time in Semple Stadium was an occasion to be savoured. With our

loyal supporters urging us on we put on a dazzling display worthy of the occasion. We were first to the ball and first in the pull and at the end worthy winners of our first county under 12 title. Tradition meant nothing. The south champions came, they saw and they conquered. All the training during the cold days of winter was now worth it. The panel of players who brought glory to the division and the club were Declan Ryan, Derek Doyle, Pdraig Kavanagh, Frank Fennessy, Dick Ryan, John McCarthy, Malcolm Gearon, D. J. O'Connell, Eddie Anderson, David Hickey, Ger Deeley, David O'Donnell, Niall Hickey, John Dempsey, Ger Hall, Brett McGrath, D. J. Dwyer, Kevin Keating and Tommy Foran.

I have not mentioned any name specifically as this was a team effort. Each of them was a hero at some stage or another.

Finally this victory was only possible because of the generosity of the people who supplied their cars week in and week out. To them our thanks.

Let's hope some of these young lads will one day emulate the feats of our All Ireland winners— Willie Peters, Franny Kelly and Vincent Mullins.



ST MARY'S CLONMEL, CO. U-12 CHAMPIONS 1980

Back row (left to right): Denis Fennessy, Kevin Keating, John McCarthy, Gerard Deeley, Malcolm Gearon, Niall Hickey, Gerard Hall, Brett McGrath, Michael Walsh.

Front row (left to right): David O'Donnell, Derek Doyle, Thomas Foran, David Hickey, John Coyne, Declan Ryan, D. J. O'Connell, Eddie Anderson, D. J. O'Dwyer, Frank Fennessy, Dick Ryan, Pdraig Kavanagh, (missing from photo John Dempsey).

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BILL O'DONNELL : MAN OF MANY TALENTS

By The Editor

Co. Convention met at Rockwell College the last and bitter Sunday in January. By the evening of Monday the Gaels of the county and from outside, had unexpected and unwelcome reason to go back to the West: Bill O'Donnell had died suddenly in the meantime. Of all the hurling funerals this was certainly one of the most moving and one of the largest. Opponents and officials came loyally from all the great counties of camanraught, especially from Cork, Limerick, Kilkenny against whom his finest days were exerted. Surviving companions and thank God, they are many, from the legendary Tipp team of 1937, always linked in mind with the unique venue of Killarney, were naturally among the first and the most affected of sympathisers to extend condolence to Vera O'Donnell, her daughters Maeve and Deirdre, and to Bill's brothers. Men from the 1941 Munster champions, the 'Foot-and-Mouth' title won after Cork's All-Ireland, were there too. So were the Anacrahy Eire Og veterans of the unprecedented county senior championship— and from the Moycarkey-Borris team they surprised. Between them all, with the neighbours, the friends, the admirers, they made it a notable tribute of respect and of regret to a multi-talented gentleman, teacher, hurler, referee, athlete, writer.

CHAIRMAN'S TRIBUTE

Co. Chairman Michael Maher expressed official and personal sadness at the Board: "As a very young man I knew of the prowess of Bill O'Donnell on the hurling fields. He was a teammate of my fellow parishioner Dinny O'Gorman, Holycross, and how we marvelled as youngsters to see them both at early Mass and leave by car to play in faraway Cork or Limerick, as it appeared then. We knew that Tipp weren't winning too often but these were men on a county team and that was the mark of men to be respected in Tipperary. He was sincere, mild and concerned about all games, especially Gaelic games. He loved to meet people, officials and followers and talk of the present and the past. He was inoffensive and above all cultured. He loved Tipperary its villages and towns, its games and its traditions, and above all its people; to be amongst them made him happy."

"Culbairé" wrote in the "Tipperary Star": "And then I heard something that brought the chill breath of eternity so near: Bill O'Donnell is dead. The mind rejected it. We had exchanged no word on Sunday. He had left before I arrived for the evening session. Late in the



afternoon he came back and sat at the rear, from which he directed a cheery wave as our gaze met.

Last week I called him "that irreplaceable divot", a repeat of a little golf joke that amused him in the past; Bill played the game for years and was the Tipp club's captain only last year. Early images cling to the memory. The first I ever had of him was a photo from the Killarney All-Ireland of 1937. Diving straight towards the camera to block a Kilkenny clearance, with the impressive display of multi-ridged dark hair, to boyish eyes immensely galmorous. We pasted into a used school copy a cartoon of the same period, one of those head-above-miniature-body affairs, emphasising the same crowning glory of the handsome Bill. I recall too a Railway Cup group, of perhaps 1941, with O'Donnell standing tall beside some of the most powerful and formidable people that ever caught sticks— Mackey, Quirke, Clohessy— great company, evidence of his own ability. Two years later in Thurles sportsfield he achieved what could well have surpassed an All-Ireland in his valuation, as Anacrahy Eire Og overhauled Moycarkey-Borris for the West's only senior county title. Bill scored the turning-point goal into the Killinan end.

A GENEROUS CRITIC

When he turned to writing his weekly contribution became a standard feature. They were always knowledgeable and good-humoured, with a generous leaning towards mildness in criticism and towards

warmth in praise of players. His Tipperary patriotism was never a strident or intolerant one, because he respected fine hurlers wherever they were from. How he loved to meet old opponents at the big games. The West attracted a strong loyalty from him, too. He served it well as P.R.O. in recent years. We who have been on the Yearbook Committee with him can testify to the work of his role as joint editor, contributor and advertising contact in his Division— and to the fun we got from his stories that often interrupted the course of supposed business-like meetings."

Bro. Perkins in his "Tales of the Gaels" column wrote: "A powerful-built man, a father-like figure, a modern Matt the Thresher, a man of whom Tipperary can be proud— he was typical of those great men of the past whom we looked up to in every sense of the word. He was one of our greatest."

COLLEAGUES REMEMBER

Seeking a glimpse of Bill in his playing days the Editor turned to a pair of his colleagues, rivals and friends— Paddy 'Sweeper' and Johnny Ryan of Moycarkey Borris. 'Sweeper' was in the opposite corner of attack in 1937: "he was a fine character, very entertaining on our journeys to the games . . . a great knack of crossing a ball into the right place, putting it right for you, not direct to goal but out maybe fifteen yards or so to give you room; well able to talk out things beforehand and plan a move."

The great defender Johnny recalled: "I think his best game ever was the 1940 League final against Cork in Cork. We were against a strong wind and fell about twelve points down by half-time. Bill was on Batt Thornhill. In ten minutes of the second half he whipped three great goals; he struck the uprights a couple of times and could have had six goals with more luck. We lost but gave Cork a great fright that day. Bill had great hands. He could play anywhere— he was midfield with Niall Condon in the Foot-and-Mouth Munster final and I saw him play great games at left half-back. There were no better friends than Bill, Dinny O'Gorman and myself. He was like a father to us all behind the scenes. In that 1943 county final he was midfield with Tom Burke. We were four points up, Jerry Ryan connected on a ball, O'Donnell drove home a rebound for a goal. A bad puck out and Tom Joye got another . . . Tom Purcell and myself went to Anacrahy for their celebration; they appreciated that very much. Bill always had great time for his old friends, God rest him."

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THE LITTLE MAN FROM TUBBERADORA

By Seamus Leahy

For all our plentiness of All-Ireland medals, there have been only four Tipperarymen to captain more than one team to All-Ireland victory: Mikey Maher in 1895, '96 and '98, Tom Semple in 1906 and 1908, Johnny Leahy in 1916 and '25 and Jimmy Doyle in 1962 and '65.

Equally remarkable, we have had only four goalkeepers to win more than one All-Ireland. We had Ned Maher who kept goal in Mikey Maher's three victories and for the Moycarkey selection of 1900. Then there was Jim O'Brien of the Thurles Blues whose uncanny eye earned him the sobriquet 'The Hawk'. He was one of the heroes of Tom Semple's All-Ireland wins and when I was a lad he was still spoken of with awe by those who had seen him in his prime. Of frail build, he was a familiar figure at games in Thurles till shortly before his death in 1951.

Nearer to our own time, Tony Reddan crossed the Shannon from where he had been sub-goalie to Galway's Seanie Duggan to become in the opinion of many the real key-man in Tipp's All-Ireland successes in 1949, '50 and '51. And then there was John O'Donoghue who played in four finals and won the two of 1964 and '65.

But in between these there were others who provided displays which formed part of the treasure-house of memories for those who saw them. In his history of hurling, published in 1940, 'Carbery' listed among the great goalkeepers he had seen: 'Skinny' and Tom O'Meara of Toomevara, 'Hawk' O'Brien, Arthur O'Donnell of Boherlahan and Tommy Butler of Thurles. No doubt there were other Tipp goalies since 1940 whom he would have listed among his all-time greats and for anyone who saw Tony Reddan in his prime it is difficult to imagine anyone ever surpassing his sheer magnificence under pressure.

But when one is young and impressionable one adopts a hero and no one ever quite measures up to him afterwards. For me all subsequent Tipp goalkeepers were compared to the first I ever saw minding a net for the county. Jimmy Maher of Tubberadora and Boherlahan can't have been an awful lot over five feet but to my boyhood imagination, when he loped back to the goals, pulled his cap down over his eyes and squinted up at the sun, he was as big as a giant.

GREAT HEART

I may not have been all that wrong either because, if he didn't have the stature, Jimmy had the heart of a giant.

In the blue and gold jersey, with the likes of Ger Cornally, Johnny Ryan, Dinny Gorman and Tom Hayes in front of him, he was guaranteed a certain amount of physical protection but, inevitably, such a small man between the posts often had to shift for himself. Those were the days when a full-forward would turn his back on a dropping ball with the intention of depositing the goalkeeper in the net before the ball arrived and all too often the referee saw nothing wrong with this procedure.



Jimmy Maher

But in the roughest of the rough Jimmy was never known to take his eye off the ball to ensure his own safety.

The son of the Ned Maher of many All-Irelands, Jimmy first wore the county jersey as a minor in 1932 when he kept goal for Tipperary's second minor title victory. Captained by Dinny Gorman, the team included Tom O'Keeffe of Moycarkey, Charlie Downes and Joe Fletcher of Roscrea, Jimmy Cooney of Carrick, Mick Burke of Cashel and Phil Purcell.

IN SENIOR RANKS

It was 1941 before he reached senior county ranks but it was the ill-fated year of the 'Foot and Mouth' and, though Tipp beat Cork fairly and squarely in the Munster final by eight points, it was Cork who lined out against Kilkenny in the All-Ireland. Thus, like many another good man, he lost an All-Ireland to which he was justly entitled.

But in 1945 he came into his own when, in the first post-war championship, Tipp put a halt to Cork's gallop towards their fifth All-Ireland in a row. On a never-to-be-forgotten sun-drenched day in Thurles, Jimmy was the inspiration of a Tipp victory which was all the sweeter for having been so long awaited. Against

Limerick in the Munster final— again played in Thurles— he was confronted by that most formidable of full-forwards, John Mackey, who attempted to assert his own inimitable brand of intimidation by knocking off Jimmy's cap and playfully rubbing his head whenever the small man complained of his incursions into the 'square'. But, as always, he stood his ground and Tipp squeezed through by a goal.

It was in the final against Kilkenny, however, that he became something of a national hero. Wartime restrictions on travel were still in force but the fact that the war had ended lent a colour all its own to that All-Ireland. Sixty-nine thousand people managed, despite the absence of private cars, to make it to Croke Park for a game which was generally agreed by neutral spectators to be hard rather than brilliant but which every Tipperaryman thought was one of the most exciting ever played.

Tipp won by 5-6 to 3-6 and, if there was a special poignancy for Tipp followers in the fact that it was Captain John Maher's last game— 'John of the Hundred Battles', as one of the papers of the day called him— it was generally agreed that the day was Jimmy's. All through the game he played like a man inspired and when, late in the second half, he stopped a point-blank shot from Jim Langton, the back of the Kilkenny effort was broken.

"Hero of the Tipperary crowd during this period of Kilkenny pressure was the goalman, Jimmy Maher of Boherlahan who, like one of the fairy hurlers of Slievenamon, seemed to have a magic caman that connected with every ball which the Kilkenny forwards lashed at his net," said the Nenagh Guardian.

"To state that Jim Maher kept a great goal is to fail to give sufficient credit to this diminutive custodian," said the Cork Examiner. "Time and again he brought the crowd to their toes with his amazing saves."

"Little J. Maher in the Tipp goal was the hero of the hour", summed up Michael O'Hehir in the Irish Independent.

END OF CAREER

Jimmy continued between the posts for Tipp until the arrival of Tony Reddan with Lorrha. I was ill at home in Nenagh when Holycross beat Lorrha at McDonagh Park in the county final of 1948 and after the game I had a visit from Paddy Leahy and Jimmy. I produced an autograph-book to be signed and, in a not-too-steady hand, Paddy wrote, "Sensation: Holycross won County Championship 1948. Tipp will win

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THE SCÓR SCENE

By Máire Ní Chionnaith

Though we did not bring any All-Ireland Scór trophies to Tipperary last season, Scór 80 was perhaps the most successful to date. In our two county finals, there were 30 clubs represented, and while some "old hands" were still in evidence, we were pleased to have many newcomers on the Scór scene. This is a very important aspect of Scór—the introduction of fresh talent each year. As in our field games, we must be constantly on the look out for new talent, new personnel, who will keep Scór alive and vibrant and who will ensure its continuity and growth.

HIGH STANDARDS

Last year's competitions in Tipperary were of an exceptionally high standard. In Rince Fóirne, Newcastle proved that our rincí Gaelacha are well catered for in the South Division when they captured the county title in both age groups.

In Ceol Uirlise, the senior team of M. Creamer, M. O'Connor and J. Killeen from Portroe played their way through Tipperary and Munster, and were our only representatives in the All-Ireland. Though not fortunate enough to get the nod from the adjudicators on the night, they did the Premier County proud, and were given a rousing reception for their lively rendering of "Patsy Tuohy (reel)" and "The Kid on the Mountain" (slip jig).

Loughmore were our Scór na nOg winners and went on to qualify for a place in the Munster final.

Mary Morrissey from Knockavilla-Kickhams was the winner in Amhránaíocht Aonair. In Scór na nOg, Denise Cronin from the Rockwell Rovers club, delighted the audience with a very beautiful rendering of "Eamonn a' Chnuic."

The Nua-Chleas competition usually has us all in suspense—wondering and marvelling at where some of the ideas come from! Last year was no exception. The winners here were from Fr Sheehy's Club, Clogheen and in this group we saw the All-Ireland Tráth na gCeist winner of 1978, Jackie Condon, literally going "from the sublime to the ridiculous" in his portrayal of a spoiled child up to all its usual antics!

The winners in Scór na nOg were a group from Lattin-Cullen and they presented an unusual, though topical act, titled "The Year of the Child" in a lively and refreshing manner.

Tráth na gCeist had some old faces but new winners in Rockwell Rovers and Dúrlas Og.

Mary Peters from Kilruane has proved her ability at Aithriseoireacht in the past, and she came out on top once again with



Maire Ni Cionnaith

her very emotional and fine recitation on "The Famine". She has represented the North Division on three occasions and won another county final in 1976.

Alice Ryan of Seán Treacy's club was the winner in Scór na nOg.

As in other years, the Bailéad Ghrúpa section produced a very high standard where the accompanying instruments blended delightfully with the harmony of the singers, and in a very close contest Burgess came through. Rockwell Rovers were adjudged the best in Scór na nOg.

SET EXCITEMENT

The announcement of the Rince Seit competition aroused the usual feverish excitement. The winners here were Moycarkey-Borris who had the distinction of having only two families in the group—5 Cooneys and 3 Hayes, —all of whom are no strangers to set dancing as seven of that particular group brought All-Ireland honours to Tipperary in 1977. In Scór na nOg the young dancers from Newcastle took their second set of plaques of the night when they were declared winners.

STRONG CLUB NEEDED

Where do we go from here? We must not forget that the whole concept of Scór is based on club activity and embraces the promotion of our culture and the involvement of all our people. We are aware of the packed houses at Divisional and County finals, but in many cases, attendances at parish finals are a sorry sight indeed. The strength of Scór in any county can really be measured in the strength of its clubs. I think the strong club is the one which has a success-

ful parish final in which all eight competitions are contested in a friendly and sporting manner. Success, though sweet, is not nearly as important as the friendship and spirit which emulates from being involved with a team who enjoy giving pleasure to others, and in so doing, also benefit themselves.

A good Scór committee is vital, not only at parish but also at Divisional and County level. One cannot expect the already overburdened club officers to do everything, so the Scór committee should be drawn from interested individuals who abound aplenty in every parish. They could be entrusted with the complete responsibility of organising the parish competition, and delegates from the Scór committee should be allowed to report on their activities at the annual convention. A general list of Scór committee members could be kept at Divisional level.

What a pity that so many Scór committees disband after the area final. Perhaps they could organise a concert on St Patrick's Night or some other such occasion. In this way they would not only be helping club funds, but they would also be affording an opportunity to unsuccessful competitions to perform again free from the pressures of competition. This exercise would really be fulfilling the aims of the association by cultivating a love of our music, song and dance among all our people.

PANEL OF JUDGES?

Adjudicators in Scór have been the victims of much criticism in the past. Without doubt, the adjudicator's job is a thankless one. An effort should be made to restore the confidence of competitors (and the general public) in adjudicators by setting up a panel of competent individuals in each area. If the members of this panel are known to be qualified and capable people, we will have gone a long way to eliminate the dissatisfaction which has existed in the past. At the beginning of each season the panel should be instructed on changes in rules etc so that justice will be done to every competitor.

Incidentally current copies of the Scór booklet should be freely available through the Scór committee. Many people compete in Scór and are often disqualified for a breach of rules which they do not even know exist.

Níl gach rud chomh foirfe i Scór is ba mhaith linn é a bheith. Ach tá tosú fíor-mhaith taobh thiar dinn, agus is orainn féin a bheidh an locht má thagann meath air anois. Ná bímis bogásach! Comharlaím do gach duine páirt éigin a ghlacadh i Scór. Is cuma munar féidir

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STORY OF TIPP FEMALE FOOTBALL

By John Guiton (Tipperary Star)

In recent years the number of occasions on which supporters of the Blue and Gold in any code have tasted the sweetness of All-Ireland victory have been rare. With respect for our u-21 and minor hurlers who have brought honours to the county, we have had little else to enthuse about. However the Ladies Football teams of the county have set a headline for their male counterparts by capturing four All-Ireland crowns within the past seven years. Indeed, what few readers may know is that Sunday 13th October 1974 will go down in the record books as the day when Tipperary Ladies football recorded the only win of 1974 for the county and the only win of a Tipperary football team since 1920, when they defeated Offaly in style. It was their first ever final and it quickly dispelled any illusion that the catch and kick game is not for the gentle sex. Played under GAA rules, the exceptional rule, being that the ladies can pick the ball off the ground, the Premier County have been to the fore in the senior grade, winning the All-Ireland title in '74 and '75 and this year 1980 and in all figuring in four finals.

THE BEGINNING

But, you are asking how it all began? Appropriately enough, the All-Ireland Ladies Football Committee was founded at Hayes Hotel Thurles—where the GAA originated in 1884. Initially the game started in this county and was mainly the brainchild of Mr Jim Kennedy, Connolly Park Clonmel, an ex-army Sergeant who got the idea of starting outdoor activities for the ladies. He got together a team in Ardfinnan and as the news spread of this new idea other keenly interested people became involved. Mr John Donovan, Thorny Bridge, Ballypatrick formed a team in Mullinahone and in Mid Tipperary Mr Dermot Shanahan, Littleton with the help of Miss Sally Clohessy also from Littleton initiated a team in the Moycarkey area.

The next step was the staging of a club championship in 1973-74 which proved a big success with appropriately Ardfinnan emerging as champions. Ladies Football was catching on!

With more and more people showing interest in the sport within the county those already involved at administrative level convened a meeting in Clonmel towards the end of the year with the purpose of inviting all interested parties to try and establish a County Board. The County Board was set up under the control of the following officers—Chairman: Mr Jim Kennedy, Clonmel; Secretary: Mrs Bridget Ryan, Ardfinnan and PRO: Mr Dermot Shanahan, Littleton. The ever increasing popularity of



TIPP LADIES FOOTBALL TEAM

Back row: L. to r.— L. Gorey, A. Maher, M. Leahy, M. O'Shea, A. Lambert, G. Ryan, S. Clohessy, L. Shinnock, A. Lyons, E. Bonner, M. Butler, L. Doyle (coach), D. Minogue, D. Lanigan.
Front row: C. O'Dwyer, M. Griffin, C. Loneran, B. Rohan, J. Stapleton, A. Kelly, A. O'Rourke, N. Shelly, A. Clohessy; Mascot: Tricia Stapleton.

Inset: Dermot Shanahan, Kitty Savage, John O'Donovan.

the game was realised by the Board and they decided to try and encourage other counties to promote the game with a view to starting an All-Ireland competition.

At a historical, well attended meeting held under the auspices of the County Board in Hayes Hotel the National Association was formed. The National Committee members who pioneered the development of the game were— Jim Kennedy Tipperary; Marie Holland, Roscommon, Mary Nevin, Offaly, Joe Feeley, Offaly, Margaret Flanagan, Roscommon and Brendan Martin, Dublin. Initially eight counties were under the control of the National Committee— Cork, Kerry, Galway, Waterford, Tipperary, Roscommon, Laois and Offaly. The Association now boasts of a membership of sixteen counties. Eventually the four provinces were well-represented in the All-Ireland series, with each county running its own internal championships.

FIRST TITLE

After the club championship was run off a Tipperary team was selected to participate in the All-Ireland series. They performed with complete control and confidence in the Munster championship and were favoured to take the first title. Fittingly, the ladies did just that with

a memorable victory over Offaly at Durrow. In a year when the Premier County seemed doomed to end the year without a championship title, the girls saved the situation in style with a precious one point victory. The game itself was a thriller from the throw-in to the final whistle and those present will remember the tough encounter between two outstanding teams, and though Offaly were unlucky the Tipp ladies had the vital edge in speed and all round fitness. A reception was held for the champions in Ardfinnan, the home of team captain Kitty Ryan, laid on by the Ardfinnan GAA club and the cup went on display.

The Tipperary panel on that glorious occasion was— Margaret Carroll (Ardfinnan), Sally Clohessy (Moycarkey), Ann Croke (Mullinahone), Majella Sweeney (Newcastle), Ena Hackett (Newcastle), Tina Flynn (Ardfinnan), Betty Looby (Golden), Eileen Dudley (Cashel), Susan O'Gorman (Ardfinnan), Josephine Keane (Mullinahone), Eleanor Carroll (Ardfinnan), Lilian Gorey (St Bridgets), Kitty Ryan, capt. (Ardfinnan), Mary McGrath (Emly), Mary Power (Mullinahone), Nora Moran (Newcastle), Mary Loneran (Emly), Mary Burke (Emly), Alice Morris (Moycarkey), Kate O'Dwyer, Ann Clohessy, Marian Bryan, Ann Bryan

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(do), Noreen Blake (Golden), Katherine Keane (Mullinahone).

The majority of the side with the exception of a few still make up the nucleus of the present team, who have been the kingpins of the sport since its nativity.

Indeed, when the Tipperary United sports panel sat down to announce its thirteen Sports Stars of 1974 they justifiably and proudly included Ladies Football among the awards with county player Lilian Gorey of the St Bridgets Club receiving the award. An all round athlete of exceptional talent, she never failed to put in a good performance for either club or county teams.

BACK ON THE SCENE

The senior side retained the title in 1975 and though they reached the final in 1978 and 1979 they lost to Roscommon and Offaly respectively. However with great courage and enthusiasm

they were back on the scene this year and only a few weeks ago they captured the Brendan Martin Cup when they defeated Cavan in a hard fought and closely contested affair, at Edenderry. The stars of the side were Sally Clohessy, Martin O'Shea, Lilian Gorey, Cait Dwyer and Josephine Stapleton, to mention but a few.

To complete a glorious year the u-16 team also brought All-Ireland honours to the county when they overcame Laois a few weeks ago. The under age competitions was established five years ago, and since then the game has attracted so much interest that the Association has decided to institute an u-18 competition giving ample opportunity to girls of all ages to participate in the sport. In addition the council has set up a National League in senior competition played over the winter months. Our county representatives on the National Association are Mr Dermot Shanahan and Miss Sally Clohessy.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Reaction in GAA circles to Ladies Football has been encouraging and talks have been had by the Ladies Council with the Association with a view to eventual affiliation with the Gaelic Athletic Association.

An article on Ladies Football would be incomplete without acknowledging the efforts of not alone the girls involved within this county and at National level, but also the team mentors and trainers for their encouragement, commitment and sheer dedication. With little financial assistance those involved give much of their spare time in preparing teams for championship in addition to travelling long distances to play games.

It's a tribute to the organisers that they have been able to retain an interest of the girls in the sport over the years, particularly at a time when there are so many other counter attractions and the affluence to be distracted by them. Yes, Ladies Football has really caught on!

HANDBALL

By Mick Tyrrell

"A POOR START TO THE '80s"

With the 70s now well left behind us we approach the 80s with success. And what a shot in the arm we have received so far this season. Now we have practically come to the end of 1980 with little success and so we'll say what exactly happened (but people also said during the 70s what happened hurling in our county). Now we must look at '81 and see what can be achieved. Some people may say that the standard of handball has dropped within the county. I don't think so, but our problem, I think, could be that our tradition within the county for many years has been that the county's champions automatically represented us in the Provincial champions, this I feel has been part of our failure during the past year. But some club officials will not agree with these words, they'll say we have had success with the old method of selecting so why should we change now. But if we expect to gain success in the present decade then we should give it a try.

1980 will not be a year without success as we collected three All-Ireland titles, two u 21 singles in 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 and Golden Masters Doubles. Tony Ryan who dominated handball in

the second half of the 70s once more was our main hope and whilst he won both u 21 titles he was collecting his first title in the 60 x 30 code. No doubt Ryan will be one of the key figures during the coming decade, a player that has it all with a pair of hands that can equal the best within the game of handball. Not only that but he is one of the most dedicated players in the game. Ryan also made history in becoming part of our International Team which travelled to the American Championships earlier this year as one of our 23 representatives this was his second trip to America within twelve months and as he is still eligible for two more seasons we can expect him to make a few journeys across the Atlantic.

Do you know people still play handball at over 50 years of age. Some people will say it is hard enough to keep going at forty but if you know of Dermot Wall and Jimmy Walsh from Ballyporeen who captured the doubles title in this competition you will think otherwise. And what a performance they gave of handball sportmanship and of course of fitness, they must surely be models for younger players who have decided to call it a day. Keep playing with dedication for as long as your heart allows you to, without doubt this you will find that a large

percentage of handballers retire years before their time.

So now let's recap on the past year to some of the things which did happen. Do you know that the Ballina pair of Michael Gleeson and Gerry Kogh reached the final of the 40 x 20 Novice Doubles but were beaten by Carlow on this achievement. The Ballina Club supporters were magnificent in the manner in which they supported this pair so now they can look at 1982 hoping to go that step further.

While our juvenile season was very disappointing, it was the first year in a long number that we failed to win a provincial 60 x 30 title. But we won only 40 x 20 so now it's here that we should pull out the old blackboard and correct our wrongs, like in all games it's with the juveniles we should start to put things right.

So now let's look at the coming year and see who will be our leading lights. Just look at such players as John Scanlon, Mark Flynn, John O'Donoghue, John Woodlock, Sean Nealon, who is son of Donie the present Munster GAA Secretary. These are a few who come to mind at the present moment.

When this article will be written in 1981 we hope that the headline will be "Handballers Success in 1981."

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Seamus O Riain

'I wonder will they make right use of it'. The speaker was an eighty year old former official of a club in Tipperary to which he had given long years of service when there was no club field, no dressing rooms and every day was a hurling day. He was commenting on the fine new centre which had just been opened to meet the demands of the present time.

True he was proud to see the building completed and he gave full credit to the younger generation for their unselfish initiative in raising funds and giving voluntarily of their time and energy to provide the modern amenities that the present day calls for. But he had doubts as to whether a small rural community would be able to maintain a regular programme of suitable activity there throughout the year.

'I'd be afraid 'twould become only a dance hall', he said, 'although I have nothing against dancing at all, but I'm glad they didn't put a bar in it'.

One may be inclined to look upon what he said as the murmurings of an old man who is living in the past and who is out of tune with modern thinking. But there is a warning here which is worth noting.

Great enthusiasm can be generated in regard to planning and fitting out a place of recreation and this is entirely admirable and necessary, but it should be matched by a sensible approach to what will become the most important factor in the future, how it will be managed and controlled.

Occasions and opportunities for leisure time activities need to be thought out, taking account of the needs of all age groups, and arrangements must be made for the day to day control of the building and for maintaining it in good condition. Undesirable trends and problems may arise if this kind of advance planning is not taken in hand at an early stage. An Armagh priest commenting recently on a trend which he noticed in some of the centres being run by different voluntary groups, said he was afraid that when the novelty wore off, the bar was becoming the main attraction and the games activity was declining.

SENSIBLE PLANNING

This could be due in the main to the absence of sensible planning on the part of the controlling body, and it is up to us in the GAA to make sure that this mistake is not made. It must be admitted however that very little guidance is readily available to clubs either in regard to the most suitable type of structures or as to the best ways of managing and controlling them.

That is not to say that planning and

control should be directed from the top. Clubs like to control their own internal affairs, they will make great efforts to develop amenities for their own needs, but they do need help and guidance which will assist them in making their own decisions.

Of course financial assistance is available from Central and Provincial Councils and in some cases from County Committees, for different types of development undertaken by clubs, and these grants are a great help in meeting the costs incurred, as well as being an incentive to progress.

Rannóg Spóirt agus Ogra in the Department of Education a few years ago introduced a Youth Employment Scheme through which grants are made to clubs or groups undertaking projects in the interest of sport and recreation and many of our clubs have been given the benefit of this scheme to enable them to proceed with the work. Clubs may also benefit from the statutory provisions which enable Local Authorities to give grant aid under certain headings, and the Authorities in this county are sympathetic and anxious to help in so far as their resources allow.

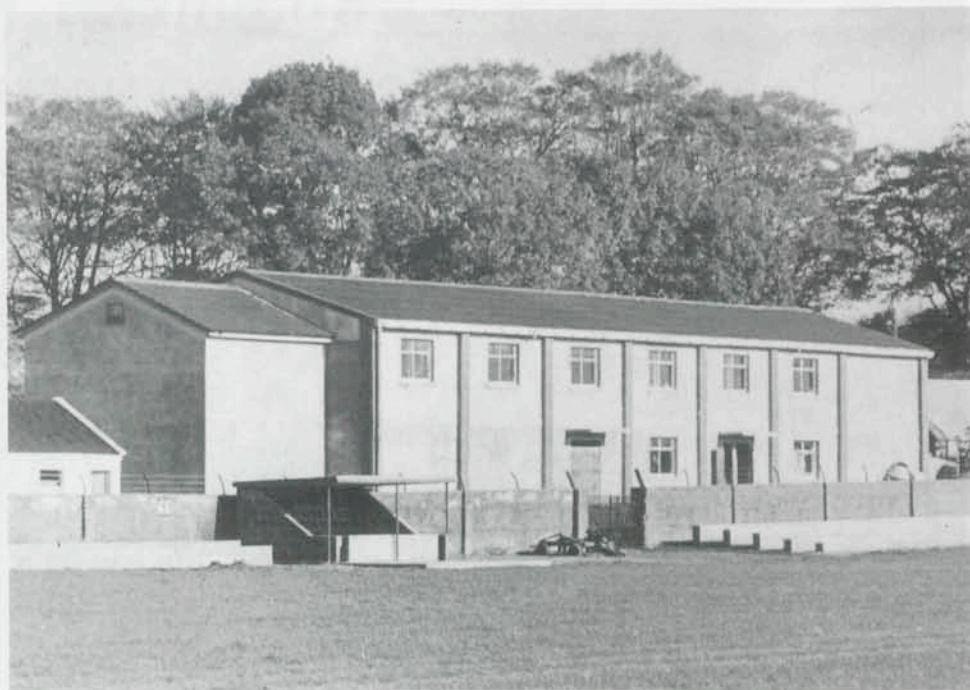
BIG CONTRIBUTION

It is generally acknowledged that our clubs have made a vast contribution to the health and well-being of our people in the past. In the great forward movement to meet the leisure-time needs of the community today, we are ideally placed to play a major role in view of the continuity which the Association assures and the support which it enjoys from the public.

The greatest need of the moment is for qualified and skilled personnel to give guidance and advice on how to control and manage the amenities provided, to the best advantage and in keeping with the real needs of the area.

I suggest that this service could be provided by the Local Authority. They have the qualified personnel familiar with the local scene, who through courses and lectures could inform guide and advise club officials and members to enable them to decide and plan the project most suitable to them and to manage and control it in the most beneficial way.

The parish club is a resource with enormous potential in the voluntary nature of its service for the welfare of youth and investment in it will repay.



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OPENING OF SILVERMINES HANDBALL ALLEY

The decision to build a ball court was taken at a meeting on 18th February 1978. Some of the 10 members present favoured the traditional 60 x 30 court while others felt the trend was towards the 'international' alley. So, in order to decide what type court would best suit, it was argued to make contact with the handball boards and others who would have a vested interest. "Costings" for both size courts were provided, and at a meeting on 30th March 1978, after a lengthy discussion, it was decided with a 9 to 7 majority on the 40 x 20 court. The same meeting decided to site the new alley so as to take advantage of the dressing facilities, showers, toilets etc in the recently erected dressing rooms in our playing field at Dolla.

Planning permission was sought. O'Dwyer Steel of Dundrum was contacted through former player Eamon Nolan and the alley was under way. First the iron skeleton of the alley was erected and covered as the club involved itself in raising the necessary finance. All the usual channels of income were tapped—

church gate collections, dances, silver circles, grants, hostess teas, loans etc and the parishioners responded with typical generosity. We were extremely fortunate to have been in a position to avail of the "Youth Employment Scheme" during two summers, as we were to have Pat O'Brien, Matt Hanly, Tim Butler and many others supplying voluntary labour when the need arose.

Sunday 19th October 1980 saw the culmination of many efforts for on that day the alley was blessed and officially opened. The blessing was done by Club President Canon Mullally, P.P. and opening ceremony was carried out by Co. Chairman of the handball board, Tom Ahearne.

During the opening day there were two under 11 hurling games among the youths of the parish, a senior hurling tournament final in which Silvermines defeated Shinrone and three handball exhibitions.

Under 16 Doubles: John Kelly and Morgan Spillane (Cork) defeated.

John Woodlock and John O'Donoghue (Tipp)

Novice Doubles: MI Gleeson and Jerry McKeogh (Ballina) defeated.

Oliver Cleere & Joe McCullogh (Nenagh).

Senior Doubles: Connie Cleere & Tom Morrissey, defeated.

Tony & Noel Ryan.

The people of Silvermines are proud of their alley and within weeks of the opening the alley which cost in excess of £16,000 exclusive of voluntary labour was cleared of debt. Presently the alley and handball activities are being managed by a handball committee which is an independent body though working in very close liason with the hurling and football club. The handball committee is Chairman: Matt Ryan; Secretary: Mrs Betty Gleeson; Committee: Paddy Collins, Ger Tobin, Jim O'Brien (Boolteeny), Jim O'Brien (Ballincur), Pat Fitzpatrick, John Forde, Pat Dunlea, Eamon Doherty, Michael O'Brien, Mrs Joan O'Brien, Andy Purcell.



Group taken at the Opening and Blessing of Silvermines Handball Alley.

FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES 1980

By John McNamara

The concluding stages of the 1979/80 League were but a mere formality as far as Tipperary were concerned. We showed no great improvement— if anything our displays deteriorated. We were defeated by Clare and Laois at home and by Meath away. Our only victory was over Limerick at Askeaton leaving us with 7 points out of a maximum of 16.

As a result of a Loughmore motion passed by convention, a meeting of all football clubs was called for Cashel Kings Motel on Sat. 15th March. The meeting under the chairmanship of Michael Maher, County Chairman, was addressed by Eamon Young of Cork. The county owe a debt of gratitude to Eamon Young for the interest he has shown in trying to improve football in Tipperary at all levels. The following personnel were represented.

County Board Members: T. O'Hara, Ml Maguire, Ml McCarthy and J. Kehoe.

County Senior Selectors: J. Phelan, Wm Robinson, J. O'Shea, S. Mockler and J. McNamara.

Under 21 Selector: J. Cummins.

Minor Selectors: H. Kennedy, P. Moroney P. Savage.

Minor Board Secretary: Wm Barrett.

The following clubs were represented:

Ardfinnan, Kilsheelan, Commercials, Newcastle, Fethard, Carrick Davins, Aherlow, Arravale Rovers, Lattin/Cullen, Rockwell Rovers, Templemore, Loughmore and Durlas Og.

Preparations commenced at the end of March for the Munster Championship. Training was arranged for Thurles and while attendances were above average we still did not have the type of turn-outs that insures outright success. We held out to beat Waterford at Dungarvan with a score of 1-15 to 2-10. In the next round against Limerick at Thurles we looked all over winners for most of the game, but were eventually beaten in the closing stages 1-11 to 2-7— a big disappointment to all concerned. For years Tipperary were always considered the best of the 'weaker counties', but this defeat showed that in recent years we have slipped very much down the ladder.

A further meeting of certain selected clubs was held in Sarsfield Social Centre on Saturday to discuss the problems of football within the county. Sad to relate not all the clubs invited sent representatives. Subsequently the following selectors were appointed for 1980/81: Messrs Sean Mockler, Seamus O'Donoghue and John McNamara.

We as is customary, participated in the Na Fianna 7-a-side in Dublin over the All-Ireland week-end. We received a bye to the quarter finals in which we defeated Donegal. However a very strong fit Offaly team, the eventual winners, proved too good for us.

A new format for the National Football League 1980/81 has been set up. We are now in a division 3 group with the following:

Donegal—	away
Sligo—	home
Wexford—	away
Cavan—	home
Louth—	away
Clare—	home
Fermanagh—	away

We at the outset made the long journey to Donegal and were convincingly beaten 1-15 to 1-5. For various reasons again we were short at least 6 players who would have been automatic choices for a 1st 15. The thinking behind the new league structure is tremendous but unless we can field full strength teams and win games and points it will be of no benefit to us. Players will have to be prepared to train individually and make sacrifices they never made before to



Tipperary team that played Limerick in Munster Championship at Thurles, 1st June 1980

Back row, l. to r.— V. O'Donnell, P. Ryan, G. McGrath, Ml Hanly, S. Sherlock, O. Maher, Ml (Babs) Keating.

Front row, l. to r.: K. Barron, A. B. Kennedy, E. Brennan, Ed. Webster (Capt.), C. O'Flaherty, Ml Downes, Ml O'Riordan, J. Keane.

ensure our success or else there is nothing facing us but demotion to division 4.

On the home front Galtee Rovers won their second title in five years when they overcame Loughmore in the county final played in Fethard. The game itself while finishing on an exciting note, left a lot to be desired standardwise and highlighted once again the headaches confronting the selectors. Full marks to Fethard GAA Club for the wonderful condition of the field and for the tremendous organization they put into county final day.

The following is a list of the county senior championship draws and results.

County senior football, 1st round:

Lattin/Cullen	v	Newport
Arravale Rovers	v	Mullinahone
Moyne Rovers	v	St Ruan
Cahir	v	Solohead
Multeen Rovers	v	Cashel
St Ailbes	v	Kilsheelan

2nd round:

Lattin/Cullen	v	Mullinahone
Galtee Rovers	v	Fethard

Golden/Rockwell	v	Silvermines
Solohead	v	Cappawhite
Loughmore	v	Kilruane
Kilsheelan	v	Cashel
Commercials	v	Ardfinnan
Templemore	v	St Ruan

3rd round:

Lattin/Cullen	v	Galtee Rovers
Golden/Rockwell	v	Solohead
Loughmore	v	Cashel
Commercials	v	Templemore

Semi finals

Galtee Rovers	v	Solohead
Loughmore	v	Commercials

County final

Galtee Rovers	v	Loughmore.
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Galtee Rovers go on to contest the Munster and All-Ireland Club Championship and we wish them every success in their quest for further honours. The four divisional representatives in the junior grade were—

Carrick Davins (South)	v	Moyne Temple-
		touhy (Mid).
Arravale Rovers (West)	v	Silvermines
		(North).

In a final of changing fortunes a draw proved the best result.

Arravale Rovers 1-7; Moyne/Temple-touhy 2-4.

In Intermediate we had Moycarkey (Mid) defeated Newcastle (South) and Moneygall (North) defeated Aherlow (West). In the final Moycarkey proved too good for a disappointing Moneygall team on a score 1-10 to 1-3.

Clubs throughout the county have a very important part to play in uplifting the standard of play which has dropped drastically in recent years. The standard of fitness of most club teams, if not all teams, leaves a lot to be desired. Individually players should be doing a lot more than they are. Thus when they are brought together all they should require would be the finishing touches. Clubs should also encourage their players to turn out for the county rather than opting out as is the case at times. No longer is it considered an honour to be selected on a county panel and until this attitude changes selectors' efforts will remain hopeless.



John Fleming, Chairman South Board presenting trophy to Tomas Sweeney, Captain Newcastle Inter Football team.



TIPPERARY ALL-IRELAND MINOR HURLING PANEL 1980

Back Row—M. McGrath, D. Finnerty, I. Conroy, P. Maher, K. Hogan, P. Kenny, P. J. Deane, P. J. Cavanagh, D. Fogarty, S. Leahy, G. Doyle, P. J. Stakelum.
 Centre Row—W. Peters, M. Conway, J. Hayes, E. Hogan, J. Maher, N. English, A. Brown, J. Darcy, G. O'Neill, S. Gleeson, F. Kelly.
 Front Row—J. Treacy, K. Collinson, V. Dooley, T. Kinsella.



TIPPERARY ALL-IRELAND UNDER 21 HURLING PANEL 1980

Back Row—D. Flannery, P. Brennan, P. Power, R. Coffey, M. Kennedy, D. O'Connell, J. Kennedy, V. Mullins, B. Heffernan,
B. Ryan, C. Bonner, C. Maher, M. Ryan, M. Gleeson.

Front Row—P. J. Maxwell, M. Murphy, P. McGrath, P. Foxe, J. O'Dwyer, P. Kennedy, M. Ryan, A. Buckley, A. Kinsella, M. Ryan, J. Sheedy.
Front centre—Stephen Fallon.

SOUTH TIPPERARY — A CLUB BY CLUB REVIEW

ARDFINNAN

Whilst the club did not enjoy a very successful 1980 there were signs that the eighties will see a return to former glory. The senior team was beaten in the championship semi-final by the champions Fethard after quite a good game but it was really in the minor and under 21 grades that much promise was shown. The minors had a good run in the championship which was again run on a league basis, and Stanley Barlow and Anthony Power won places on the County Minor panel. The under 21 fifteen gave the holders St Augustines a rare fright and many of these players are already in the process of establishing themselves at senior level. On the administrative side Club Sec. Willie Barrett is a most efficient secretary of the Co. Minor Football Board and has few equals as a referee in the division. During the year he was honoured with the South Senior and Junior finals and the County Junior final. Pete Savage and John Phelan were Co. Minor Football selectors but ironically were on opposite sides in the Divisional Intermediate final, Pete being coach to victorious Newcastle and John acting in the same capacity of Grangemockler.

BALLINGARRY made an auspicious return to senior ranks by winning the championship for only the second time. They gave some splendid performances in the League stages and having ousted Swan in the semi-final they went on to defeat Davins in the decider. Well trained by Billy Martin, whose refereeing capabilities were recognised in the Intermediate and Under 21 Hurling finals, the team showed quite a lot of skill and dash and players like Martin Brennan, Willie Hayes, Pat and Jim Ivors, Mick McGrath, Michael Sparrow and the Molloyes earned the applause of the fans. They went on to give a rather disappointing display in the County Quarter-final but will be better for the experience. In other grades the club did not enjoy much success but a lot of the younger players show considerable promise and it will be a disappointment if the club is not back among the medals in 1981.

BALLYBACON-GRANGE

At the beginning of the year few would have envisaged a championship success for this club. However they really buckled down and inspired by some brilliant performances from Michael Keating they advanced to the semi-final where they ousted a highly rated Killenale fifteen. The decider against Cahir was staged at Fr Sheehy Park Clogheen and proved one of the best games of the year with Ballybacon taking the title

by the narrowest of margins. Fittingly Michael Keating proved an inspiring captain whilst others to make notable contributions included Eamonn O'Gorman, Patsy Ryan, Jim Moran and Jimmy Duggan. Ballybacon went on to face Loughmore in the county semi-final but they found the eventual county champions too much of a handful.

BALLYLOOBY/CASTLEGRACE

In many ways 1980 proved a disappointing year for this club. Gallant runners-up to Cahir in the 1979 Inter Football decider it was confidently predicted that 1980 would bring compensation. The team failed to show their true form however and did not qualify for the semi-finals of a championship that was run on a league system. The minors once again teamed up with Fr Sheehy's and there was great rejoicing when they won an excellent competition by defeating Eire Og in a top class decider. Hopes of a county crown were high when Loughmore were defeated in the semi-final but the team failed to rise to the occasion in the Co. final and went under to Arravale Rovers.

BALLYPOREEN

No championship medals but a number of encouraging displays—that just about sums up Ballyporeen's year. They advanced to the semi-final of the Inter championship and seem headed for victory until two late goals stole the game for Grangemockler. In the under 21 grade the club teamed up with Cahir and qualified for the semi-final but went under to the eventual champions St Augustines.

CAHIR

Following their Co. Intermediate success of the previous year Cahir graduated to senior ranks and underlines their ability by qualifying for the South final where however holders Fethard proved too strong and experienced. Nevertheless Cahir lost nothing in defeat and they can look forward to a good future in the senior grade. Players like Colm O'Flaherty, Simon Sunderland, Tom Barrett, Con Murphy and Jim Doolin proved match winners during the year and the club is now looking for a win over Kilsheelan in the Senior League semi-final to end the year on a high note. The junior side advanced to the South final but were also defeated whilst in hurling the Intermediate fifteen gave some great performances in qualifying for the decider which however, as we already related, was lost to Ballybacon-Grange in Clogheen

CARRICK DAVINS

Once again the club's senior hurlers

advanced to the South Senior final but for once they had to give second best this time to Ballingarry. On the run of the play the Carrick men had no excuses and they received some measure of compensation when their junior footballers took the championship at the expense of Cahir. Rather disappointingly they lost the Co. semi-final to Moyne Templetuohy but they have had a useful run in the South League and look poised to add this to their championship success. Players like Tomas Foran, John O'Neill, Joe Kennedy, Sean Power and T. J. Lyons, more renowned as hurlers, proved themselves no mean footballers.

CARRICK SWAN

It was a disappointing 1980 for this club which seldom lets a year pass without winning at least one championship. Defeated in the minor and under 21 hurling deciders the club also had a good run in minor football whilst the senior hurlers gave a disappointing display in the South semi-final. The under age performances however gave promise for the future and it will not be long before the club again makes its mark in the senior grade.

COMMERCIALS

Another club with great success down the years which had a barren start to the eighties. The under 21s put up probably the best performance in drawing with St Augustines in the final but losing the replay by a three point margin. The senior footballers advanced to the County semi-finals going under to Loughmore whilst the Intermediates put up quite a few gallant displays and only lost by a point to eventual champions Newcastle. The minors lost a gripping semi-final to Fr Sheehy's/Ballylooby but the displays of Sean McMahon, Franny Kelly, Willie Peters on the county side gave considerable satisfaction.

FETHARD

It was yet another good year for The Blues. They took the South Senior Football championship for the third successive year and teamed up with Kilsheelan to take the under 21 title. There is no doubting the club's status as the leading senior side in the division and the only discordant note was their refusal to take part in the Divisional Senior Football League. Players like John Keane, Michael Downes, A. B. Kennedy, Paschal Hanrahan, Michael Fitzgerald, Joe Allen and Mick O'Riordan were the club's leading players whilst Jimmy O'Shea acted as a county senior selector.

In hurling the Intermediate side proved somewhat disappointing and



NEWCASTLE— SOUTH INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Back row, l. to r.: Fr Nugent, M. Purcell, N. Walsh, G. O'Shea, F. Hickey, M. Hallinan, N. O'Keeffe, M. Fennessey, J. O'Shea, M. Coleman, T. Moran, L. Condon, Pat Lonergan.

Middle row, l. to r.: T. Condon, N. Power, M. Morrissey, T. Sweeney, capt., P. Devaney, Joe Browne, A. Healy, M. Power, Tom Lonergan, M. Nugent.

Front row, l. to r.: A. Flynn, A. Cullinan, P. Kelly, John Devaney.

failed to reach the concluding stages of the championship.

FR SHEEHY'S

On the field the main success story concerned the minor combination with Ballylooby and the winning of an All-Ireland Hurling medal by Arthur Browne. The intermediate footballers disappointed whilst the junior hurlers had to face Marlfield without their All-Ireland medalist and paid the penalty. The performances of Michael Beston and Arthur Browne on the county minor side against Kerry drew favourable comment from all sides and with these and other good young players in the pipeline the club's future seems assured.

The club was honoured with the staging of the Divisional Inter Hurling final and no stone was left unturned in making the occasion one of the best of the year with many bouquets going to groundsman Bertie Sweeney for the immaculate state of the pitch.

GRANGEMOCKLER/BALLYNEALE

The club enjoyed a great run in the Intermediate Football championship. They displayed great spirit and no little skill in bravely overcoming the challenge of Ballyporeen (after a replay) to reach the decider and after a gripping tussle held Newcastle to a draw. They failed to

do themselves justice in the replay however and went under by a wide margin. Players like the Lanigans, Walter Crowley, Michael and Francis Murphy, Al Murray and Tom Cahill distinguished themselves in a very busy year for the club.

On the hurling front Ballyneale lost to Newcastle in the championship but had their revenge in the League. The final of this competition against Kilsheelan remains to be played.

KILLENAULE

The achievements of Joe O'Dwyer and Donie O'Connell in bringing All-Ireland under 21 medals to the club and the third successive under 21 championship success for the Killenaule/Mullinahone group team ensured that 1980 will come to be regarded as a very successful year for Killenaule. At intermediate level the loss to Ballybacon-Grange in the championship semi-final was a disappointment whilst in junior football the side progressed to the championship semi-final at which stage they went under to Cahir.

KILSHEELAN

The highlight of the club year was the notable success over Marlfield in the South Junior final. This proved a most entertaining tussle before a large and enthusiastic attendance and Kilsheelan

were full value for their success. They owed a lot to the performances of the Kehoe quartet James, John, Michael and Gerry as well as the Robinson brothers, Kevin Geraghty, Sean Nugent and Pat Larkin. They went on to record a good win over Holycross in the County semi-final but failed to show their true form against a useful Ballinahinch fifteen in the county decider.

On the football front the main success was recorded with the under 21 group team St Augustines. The seniors have qualified for the League semi-final against Cahir and are also due to meet Moyle Rovers in the replayed final of that club's tournament.

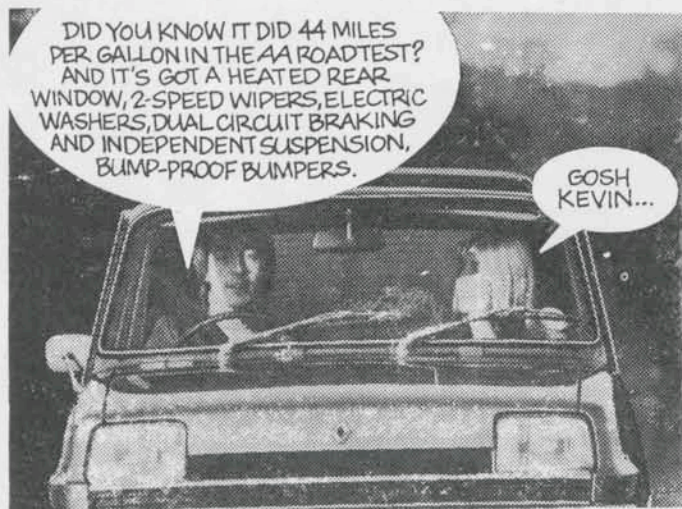
KICKHAMS

The 1979 junior football champions acquitted themselves well in the Intermediate grade without qualifying for the semi-final stages. The club supplies the Board with two very experienced referees in Arthur Daly and Joe Keane who had charge of the Divisional Senior Hurling final and the Co. Semi-final.

MARLFIELD/ST MARTINS

The dual club had quite a difficult start to the year but once their problems were sorted out they had a good run in the junior hurling championship ad-

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vancing to the decider by accounting for Moyle Rovers and Newcastle. They lost a gripping decider to Kilsheelan by a narrow margin and must have high hopes of compensation in the coming year. In football St Martins fulfilled all their fixtures without success but gave much promise for the future.

MOYLE ROVERS

Although 1980 did not prove very successful on the field for the Powers-town/Lisronagh men the year may yet prove to be of special significance. A very serious attempt was made to acquire a club ground and various fund raising activities proved most successful. It should not be long before this go ahead club can boast of its own ground. The senior footballers gave some useful displays without qualifying for the closing stages of the championships but hopes are high that they can end the year on a high note by defeating Kilsheelan in the Club's tournament and thereby become the first holders of the Michael McGrath Memorial Trophy. Club Secretary Jimmy McCarthy and Anthony Cahill are among the Division's foremost referees.

MULLINAHONE

Again their best memories of the past year will rest with the group team Eire Og. As well as their hurling exploits this team confounded the critics by qualifying

for the minor football decider which they lost only after a titanic tussle with Fr Sheehy's/Ballylooby. In senior football the side lost to Arravale Rovers in the County Championship and to Cahir in the south semi-final.

NEWCASTLE

The winning of the Intermediate Football championship was the highlight of the year for this club and this was a title that was certainly hard earned. In all their games however the fifteen displayed quite a lot of skill and many tributes were paid to coach Pete Savage for the manner in which the team was prepared. Players like Tom and Pat Lonergan, Finbar Hickey, Paul Devaney and Joe Browne emerged amongst the best footballers in the Division and it was a big disappointment that the team failed to eventual champions Moycarkey in the county semi-final. The club fielded a minor football fifteen which displayed considerable promise whilst in hurling they were rather disappointingly defeated by Marlfield. The year began on a high note when the club's extensive dressing rooms were officially opened by Co. Chairman Michael Maher, prior to a senior hurling tournament game between Tipperary and Wexford.

ST PATRICKS

This club had a rather disappointing

year and enjoyed little success. Club Secretary Billy Brett is prominent as a referee.

ST LUKES

The club was unable to field in the Inter Football championship and will have to reapply for affiliation in the coming year.

ST MARY'S

The minors took the glory here winning the South championship after a tough tussle with Swan. They went under gallantly to Thurles Sarsfields in the county semi-final and two members of the panel Willie Peters and Franny Kelly won All-Ireland honours. In under 21 Vincent Mullins brought further honour to the club whilst back room boys Bill Peters (minor) and Billy Carroll (under 21) contributed much to the All-Ireland successes. Billy Carroll was again much in demand as a referee and had charge of the county minor and intermediate hurling finals. In the senior grade the club's performance was disappointing but with all the young talent available a breakthrough for the club in this grade cannot be long delayed.

SKEHEENARINKA

This junior hurling club has enjoyed very little success over the years but it has continued to function against all the odds. Energetic club Secretary Eddie Maher is a leading referee.



John Fleming, Chairman of South Division presenting the Divisional Under 21 Hurling Trophy to Joe Dwyer, Captain of Eire Og.



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THE CAMOGIE YEAR

Bt Maol Muire Tynan

If 1979 saw our pride injured, this season just gone saw it bashed. Strange how one hour can put the death knell to fine aspirations of fluttering flags in Croke Park, and teach one that, in most instances, "next year never comes"! Not that we wallowed in confidence at the beginning of 1980 or anything. As runners-up in last year's All-Ireland final, though, we were entitled to little assumptions and assertions . . . little hopes.

After all, the senior camogie players of the county had defied the general attitude that only our masculine counterparts would make the grade. Judging from the miserable support meted out to the fairer sex, that is the only logical conclusion one can come to! we had all the required psychological ingredients for success . . . the will to win, competitiveness, a modest amount of aggression, confidence. Our sporting potential was quite impressive.

THORNY PATH

Alas, by the very nature of hurling and camogie success at senior level in Tipperary, we were bound for a thorny path. The severe limit of defeat was placed about us in the unkindest of fashions when Kilkenny— a team of remarkable talent— unleashed their wrath on us in the League final at Roscrea on the last Sunday in June.

To be beaten in a final is about the most bitter experience that any sportsman or sportswoman can endure. Though we had developed quite a habit of being beaten in finals, this was as rough as the rest and probably contributed more to our championship defeat than anything else. Mores the pity, because we did get off to an admirable start in the self same League.

Down came South, for the second consecutive year, to play us in the first

round in Moneygall. The outcome of that is obvious. We won well and took on Clare in a very poor pitch at Ennis. Not thwarted by the sorry sod, we sailed to victory and then headed South for Wexford. In Buffers Alley, we floundered through a dreadful first half, took a blush-inducing pep talk from trainer Timmy Delaney at half-time, and proceeded to demolish the Wexford lead without further ado. After that really happy win, we turned towards Dublin.

The city girls have the unhappy knack of making visiting opponents feel decidedly ill at ease on their playing pitches. This, of course, was no exception, but, with calculating insensitivity, we studiously ignored any mental barriers and played what must have been one of the most exciting games of camogie in the history of the Association. The physical demands of that game would make a trip to Everest look like a picnic. Both teams were remarkably well-matched; it was tit-for-tat from beginning to end and after seemingly unending moments of extra time, we crawled away winners.

HIGHLIGHT OF YEAR

But, it was an experience that made all other defeats worthwhile— the highpoint of the year, the game we will all remember with more than a little nostalgia when the North Wind savages the nights. But, of course, Kilkenny lurked in the shadows, and when it comes to finals, love of thy neighbour is one thing they don't remember!

Breda Kennedy, in goal, Monica Butler (always brilliant), Rosie Ryan and Maura Hackett— both outstanding wing backs— put up a marvellous line of defence. Siobhan McDonnell was providing her usual interminable resistance at centre-back; but Kilkenny scored and when that is done enough times, the team wins.

They stuck to the basic principle of the game— defend and attack— and gave us one of the most demoralising hammerings we ever dared to think about.

And that, is where the saga ended. When we returned to Dublin to play them in the first round of the Championship we were as good as them, but could not get the show on the road, and realised that this would be our last game in Dublin for the year.

The Munster Championship took a similar turn. We met Cork (no pennies for guessing) in Pairc Uí Caoimh (as usual) and were beaten by four points. Not a bad result, considering that they later won the All-Ireland title.

Bernie Carroll, a novice to centre-field had an extremely good year for someone so young who was thrown in at the deep end. The other centre-fielders Sheila Delaney and Agnes Brophy deserve their share of the usual back-slapping that goes on at the end of each season. All the girls tried so hard, including Deirdre Lane (who represents Tipperary with Maura Hackett on the Munster team), Mona Quigley (the life of the party) and Mary Griffin.

Our juniors, like the seniors, got off to a jolly start when they contributed to the demise of Waterford in Littleton in the first round of the championship and then whacked Kerry. Unfortunately Cork turned the tables, on their own territory, and so goodbye to any fading hopes that might still have flourished.

It wasn't the greatest year; it wasn't the worst. Club Camogie was interesting and St Cualans took the laurels. Let us not fret, however, because there is always next year.

By Maol Muire Tynan

Our Sports staff of the Sunday Press



Back row (left to right)— Margaret Hayes, Deirdre Lane, Sheila Delaney, Mary O'Brien, Margaret Brophy, Bernie Feehan, Ann Ralph, Pauline Starr, Monica Butler.

Front row (left to right)— Ann Gleeson, Agnes Brophy, Mona Quigley, Mary Griffin, Maureen Maher, Maol Muire Tynan, Rosie Ryan, Maura Hackett, Ban McDonnell.

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ARRAVALLE ROVERS— CO. MINOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 1980

By Gerry Ring

Arravale Rovers were worthy winners of the Minor Co. Football Championship this year adding to previous successes in 1934, '39, '59, '66 and '72. Their success was certainly a tribute to the hard work and dedication of the Juvenile Committee and players over the past few years. The club can be justly proud of this football panel. Their spirit and determination was sorely tested in the County semi-finals and also in the final. Yet they always believed in themselves and in their abilities and their success was truly a team effort.

Their campaign in West Tipperary was tough. Yet they improved with each match and they were quietly confident facing Fr Sheehys in Fethard on 31st August.

Fr Sheehys were the favourites. They settled down quickly and it was soon apparent that they had a few outstanding players especially the trio, A. Brown, M. English and M. Beston. These inspired Fr Sheehys in the first half and the Rovers side were certainly far better than they looked. They were led by five points at half time and indeed many thought, I'm sure, that the laurels would be going to Fr Sheehys.

LESSONS LEARNED

The Rovers players and selectors learned a lot from the first 30 minutes,

so in the second half they sealed off Fr Sheehys path to goal and with a few judicious positional switches the Rovers now began to penetrate the Fr Sheehys defence almost at will. The Rovers scored two goals and four points in the second half and Fr Sheehys were held to three points. The team captain led his team by example and the whole team responded and finally ran out worthy winners on the scores—
Arravale Rovers 2-6; Fr Sheehys 1-7.

WAY TO SUCCESS

Success doesn't happen, teams have to be coached and trained all through underage levels. The West Boards policy of running off the championship on a league basis gives regular games to youngsters and an opportunity to develop the skills in competitive media situations.

The club also organised challenge games for this panel. The team also benefited from having had three players who took part in the Minor Football coaching course in Clonmel. The team captain played with the Co. Minor Football team so narrowly beaten by Kerry. Finally the work of Seamus O'Donoghue and Kieran Maguire, in preparing this team, paid rich dividends in the end when allied to the spirit, dedication and determination of this panel of players.

Winning a County title gives great pleasure to any club but what more

fitting way is there to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the West Tipperary Board than by letting the county know that premier minor footballers of 1980 in our premier county come from West Tipperary. Go mbeirimid beo ag an am seo arís.

PATH TO THE FINAL

April 19— Arravale Rovers 0-13	
Lattin/Emly	2-10
May 3rd Arravale Rovers w/o	
Cappawhite/Multeen Rovers	scr.
May 10th— Arravale Rovers 1-8	
Kickhams	1-5
July 12— Arravale Rovers 1-6	
Cashel	2-6

WEST SEMI FINAL

July 22— Arravale Rovers 0-14	
Clonoulty	1-4

WEST FINAL

July 26— Arravale Rovers 2-4	
Cashel	0-6

CO. SEMI FINAL

August 17— Arravale Rovers 0-9	
Irane Rovers	draw 2-3
August 23— Arravale Rovers 1-5	
Irane Rovers	(replay) 0-5

CO. FINAL

August 31— Arravale Rovers 2-6	
Fr Sheehys	1-7



Back row, (left to right): Ger Kinnane, Francis Meagher, Dermot Honan, Brendan Fogarty, Thomas O'Dwyer, Vincent McMormack, Liam O'Connell, Paddy Culbert, Dermot Keane.
Middle row (left to right): James Kissane, Tommy Walsh, Dermot Maguire, Michael Duffy, Tony Meagher (captain), Martin Lowry, Christy Godfrey, Pat Richardson, Paul Landers.
Front row (left to right): Michael Dwyer, John Lohan, James Crowe, T. J. Hayes.

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ROSCREA — YEAR OF REVIVAL

By Tadhg O'Connor

Sunday 13th October 1968 Roscrea Hurling Club in winning their first county senior final swept away the year of frustration and bitter disappointment and elevated the image of the club to a previously unknown level. The following year the club won every award possible and joined the list of truly great hurling clubs. Individual players attained a new status, interest in the club was at fever pitch. The club was alive, vibrant and healthy and continued as one of the greatest clubs for six years. The years took their toll, players retired, emigrated, became injured and the club slipped into anonymity for a few years and we became just another club striving to re-establish ourselves. 1978 became a year when we once again seemed to be on the move. We became the team of the moment and the future looked rosy or did it? Many of our players were dissatisfied with the organisation of the club and began to make demands on our officials. Why should we tog out in our shed but with no running water or windows, in this day and age, etc. etc. was the question put to the officers of the club? This discontent proved to be our salvation, as an emergency committee meeting of the club was called which resulted in the formation of a Park Committee with instructions to provide a Club House which would cater for all the needs of our members and families during the 80s and onwards.

BIG CAMPAIGN

A massive fund-raising campaign was undertaken which included tournaments, pony racing, raffles, dances and most of all a £1 per week limited draw with £200 per week prizes and a bonus prize of a motor car every 13 weeks. The foundations for the building were laid on 26th Sept. 1978 and building commenced a while afterwards. Attention was now focussed on the overall appearance of our spacious playing field and spectator facilities, which now seemed primitive and unsightly and it was agreed by all that a general facelift was required. Once again the question of finance arose and a miracle in the guise of the "Youth Employment Scheme" materialised which contributed in excess of £9,000 to erect new goal-posts, repair and replace existing seating, provide covered dug-outs for two teams and improve the image of the park.

SPIRIT OF THE CLUB

The results of two years hard work and effort were unveiled to the public on 1st June with the staging of an inter county game between Offaly and Tipper-



ary. Now that we have our club house the task of forming a club in the true sense commenced. Young and old, friend and foe came together to wine and dine, whether after a game, playing squash, badminton or during training. A spirit of comradeship pervaded and this began to portray itself at all levels of the club. Under 12s, under 14s, under 16s, minor and senior reached the final. Not all grades achieved success but the spirit was there— players and officials returned to the club house and enjoyed tea, sandwiches, minerals etc. in a friendly atmosphere. Training now became a labour of love as players of all age groups enjoyed the luxury of a hot shower and a

cuppa afterwards, as they discussed games and training— agreeing and disagreeing with each other. More and more players gave total commitment to the game and consequently training improved with new players fighting for the positions of the more established ones. As the year progressed two teams seemed to be showing much improved form over last years, i.e. our minors and seniors.

The spirit and character of the minor team was known since 1972 and since then they have won county championships at under 14 and under 16 level.

This we hoped would be their year and the form of so many of that team when helping the local vocational school to annexe the All-Ireland title for the first time ever when defeating Banagher V.S. was a joy to behold. This victory was followed by winning the Rathdowney tournament which afforded Roscrea the opportunity of defeating the Laois and Kilkenny minor champions of 1979 in fine style. Hopes were high at this stage that we could recapture the county minor championship for the first time since 1967 and everything seemed to be running smoothly as we qualified for the North final versus Toomevara.

TOUGH ONE WITH TOOM

Roscrea approached this game with great care, ever mindful of the fact that Toomevara had defeated a promising minor team the previous year at the semi-final stage. Training was hard, cruel and very intense as we prepared



PRESENTATION OF DAN BREEN CUP BY MICHAEL MAHER TO KEVIN BRADY, Captain Roscrea team.

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for a super effort from Toomevara. It's now a mere statistic that we won but congratulations to a very determined Toomevara team who controlled the game at vital stages of the match but missed good chances and hadn't always the best of luck.

With the North final behind us interest now focussed on our county minors appearing in the All-Ireland for the first time since that marvellous victory in 1976. Like that year we were well represented with Eddie Hogan, Joe Treacy and P. J. Deane bringing All-Ireland medals to the club after a very fine, hard, typical Tipp v Wexford game. This event brought a further awareness to the town that our club team was seeking ultimate success in attempting to restore the once proud name of Roscrea minor teams. Our semi-final opponents became known at a late hour and we set off for Thurles to do battle with Cashel K.C., a team that had almost deprived us of an under 16 success two years previous.

LOSS TO CASHEL

The evening was wet and miserable and totally unsuitable for our lighter forwards as we struggled to a slender half time lead. Cashel big and strong chased every ball as if the outcome of the game depended on it and showing scant regard for the reputation of our team. The early trend of the second half continued as before but Cashel now playing with a strong wind were getting the few scores that were important and were now looking like winners. The Roscrea defence were giving an exhibition at this stage and but for then the opposition would have been for more than three points clear with just minutes to go. A quick break up field saw Joe Treacy in a scoring position but unfortunately the width of the crossbar denied us a replay and Cashel had won what has since proved to be the county final. Roscrea were stunned—not because they were beaten but by virtue of the fact that we nearly won with most of the team playing so badly. This defeat I feel clearly illustrates the disadvantage of too much juvenile success as Roscrea were very lethargic and hesitant while Cashel played like a team hungry for victory.

The dream of all concerned with the club had been for a minor/senior appearance the same day as the county finals and it had now evaporated. Our only hope now rested with our senior team who had risen from the depths of despair twelve months previous. That we had done so with the same panel of players was truly remarkable considering that Kilruane were so intent on winning the four in a row.

SIGN OF HOPE

The first sign of hope came with our victory over Borrisoleigh early in the championship. This was followed by some indifferent performances in the following games yet our selectors were



ROSCREA COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS

Front row: J. Stone, G. O'Connor, J. Butler, V. Ward, L. Spooner, J. Spooner, L. Roland
Back row: T. O'Connor, L. Shanahan, P. Queally, B. Maher, K. Brady, Captain,
J. Tynan, K. O'Connor, F. Loughnane.

happy with the improvements in the team. Our defence settled itself after the semi-final match with Silvermines and Jackie Shanahan proved to be the ideal man on the forty distributing the ball magnificently and allowing Peadar Queally move to mid-field where his industry is really rewarded. Roscrea had been finding scores hard to get in previous years and the return to form of a truly confident Francis Loughnane remedied that disease. One other player who had a large influence on the teams improvement was goalie Joe Roland, a native of Roscrea but who had not hurled with the club for some years.

After our semi-final victory we prepared for the first true test of this team when we faced Kilruane in the North final. We had trained hard during the year and looked forward confidently to the game. Roscrea respected the opposition but did not fear them, did not feel inferior in any way. The trend of the game mirrored our thinking. Roscrea by playing a traditional game moved the ball on the ground and kept it moving to allow for our lighter players skill and ball control. A Roscrea victory seemed imminent but a late point gave the supporters another day and deprived us, at least for a while we hoped, of victory. By the time the replay took place both teams had qualified for the county final so it now assumed a greater importance. Roscrea adopted the same tactics as originally and gave probably the greatest

performance for thirty minutes that we had produced in years. As was expected of a team like Kilruane the second half was a completely new ball game as they attempted to whittle down our lead without fail and Roscrea had thus shown that the proud unbeatable team had its deficiencies.

The relief in our camp was unbearable as we celebrated but tried to keep things in their proper perspective. Victory was our lot but if we failed to win the county it would have been a pyrrhic victory.

THE COUNTY FINAL

Training was intensified, team talks assumed a new importance and fully prepared the big day dawned. The result is now history—Roscrea quiet early on springing to life to give an exhibition of hurling and lead by two points at half time. Kilruane resume in whirlwind fashion to forge a four point lead entering the last ten minutes. The character of the Roscrea team now surfaced and an absolute refusal to yield reduced the lead to two points and "enter the Roger" and with a broken arm most of the year to score a dramatic winner late in the game. Roscrea's year they said and surely it was as victories like that rarely happen unless faith decrees.

Once again Roscrea sit on top of the hurling world in Tipperary and are fully prepared to provide the leadership that is clamoured for in Tipperary provided we get the opportunity to do so. We feel we have a lot to offer and just hope we get the chance to do so.

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CASHEL'S MINOR KINGS

By J. J. Kennedy (West Tipp PRO)

The year just passed will be remembered by Cashel folk as their most successful one for quite a while. Their regaining of the county minor hurling title was undoubtedly the high point of their year and was made doubly important by Tipperary's All-Ireland success in this code.

However back at the beginning of the season nobody could have dreamt that Cashel would be the team to once again bring the minor title back to the west. Indeed their progress through the early stages of the west championship was none too impressive. They were one of four teams in Group A with three teams to go forward to the semi finals, where they would be joined by the winners of Group B. In their initial three games their record was as follows— one victory, one defeat, and the concession of a walk-over. However that one victory was enough to gain them a place in a three way play-off for two semi final spots. Kickhams had already made the semi-finals while Clonoulty and Cappa/Eire Og joined Cashel in this play off. Cashel now began to get down to work in earnest and from here on their story is one of continuous improvement reaching its climax on County final day.

THE PLAY-OFF

In the first game of the play off they quickly assured themselves of a semi final place by convincingly beating Cappa/Eire Og. In the semi final Cashels opponents were once again Cappa/Eire Og. This was the third meeting of the teams this year with the score so far one win each. However on this occasion Cappa/Eire Og had to field without county minor Ger O'Neill and Cashel went through to the final without too much trouble.

In the other semi final Kickhams, county finalists the previous year, met the winners of Group B, Arravale Rovers, Kickhams however strolled to the final and so the stage was set for a Cashel v Kickhams final.

FIRST MEETING

The final was the first meeting of these teams this year since Cashel had awarded Kickhams a walk over in the early stages of the competition. However in a game played the week after Tipperary's All-Ireland minor success Cashel proved much too strong for Kickhams. After a much tougher passage to the final with plenty of match practice Cashel were a much sharper outfit than the defending champions. Martin McGrath, hero of the Tipperary team and the one player who could lift Kickhams was still suffering the after effects of the injury that nearly

forced him to miss the All-Ireland. So Cashel regained the west title that they had won so often in the 70s.

AGAINST ROSCREA

Then to County semi final where they faced the formidable North Champions, Roscrea. This was the real test of Cashels ability. In a very close and exciting game Cashel emerged narrow but deserving winners. The commitment of players and mentors had brought Cashel from a rather shaky start to a position where they were once again in the county final. With Loughmore underage Kingpins in recent years, suddenly out of the competition, the way looked open for Cashel. It was a chance they were not likely to miss and the manner in which they demolished the historic Thurles Sarsfields was a tribute to their growing confidence and commitment. There was never only one team in the county final as the Cashel youths romped home the easiest of winners to regain the title they last won five years ago.

This Cashel success was a tremendous achievement for a team that had no representative on the county panel. It is a tribute firstly to the players themselves and their selectors. It is also a tribute to the Cashel club and to the Christian Brothers in Cashel. Speaking of the Christian Brothers let us also congratulate them for adding to Cashels historic year by winning the All-Ireland Colleges B Championship. Their contribution to

hurling not just in Cashel but in the division generally is enormous.

BRIGHT FUTURE

While Cashel produce teams like this the future name of hurling not just in Cashel but in the west generally is indeed assured. There are many names from this Cashel team that, if potential is realised, are sure to become well known in hurling circles in the future. Names like Slattery, whether the solid defender Gerard or the skilful younger brother Sean; Timmy Buckley whose speed, tenacity and skill worked many an attack during the year; John Jer Murphy whose display in the final left all and sundry amazed at his non appearance on the Tipp panel; Bernard Ryan whose workrate and general ability make him as valuable as an extra player or two; and his namesake Eddie whose effectiveness is no less. These are only some of the more prominent names from what was a solid and well balanced team. Bear them in mind and when you hear them in the future remember the 1980 minor final.

Cashel Panel— Eddie Wallace, Gabriel Irwin, Gerard Slattery, Joe Moloney, Timmy Buckley, John Barry, John Walsh, John Jer Murphy, Colm Bonner, Bernard Ryan, Eddie Ryan, Michael Fanning, Pat Walsh, Larry Shanahan, Sean Slattery, Eamonn O'Dwyer, Kevin Hall, Raymond Davern, Willie Fitzell, John Osborne, Michael Cantwell, Donal Fanning.



CASHEL MINOR HURLING TEAM

Front row: J. Osborne, R. Davern, T. Buckley, J. J. Murphy, C. Bonner, L. Shanahan, S. Slattery, B. Ryan, E. Wallace, W. Fitzelle.
Back row: D. Fanning, G. Irwin, M. Fanning, K. Hall, P. Walsh, E. Ryan, J. Walsh, E. Dwyer, J. Barry, D. Healon, G. Slattery, Cantwell.

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COUNTY TIPPERARY RESULTS

All-Ireland Minor Hurling final champions 1980

All-Ireland U. 21 Hurling final champions 1980

County Senior Hurling

Roscrea	3-11
Kilruane	2-13

Intermediate Hurling

Loughmore Castleiney	2-14
Kildangan	0-5

Junior Hurling

Ballinahinch	2-11
Kilsheelan	3-1

Under 21 Hurling

Eire Og, Nenagh	6-8
Killenaule	1-9

Minor Hurling

Cashel K. C.	2-11
Sarsfields	0-7

County Senior Football

Galtee Rovers	0-11
Loughmore-Castleiney	0-10

Intermediate Football

Moycarkey	1-10
Moneygall	1-2

Junior Football

Templetohy Moyne	2-4
Arravale Rovers	1-7

Under 21 Football; Minor Football

Arravale Rovers	2-6
Fr Sheehys	1-7

All-Ireland Hurling Final Minor

Tipperary	2-15
Wexford	1-10

All-Ireland Under 21 Hurling Final

Tipperary	2-9
Kilkenny	0-14

MID TIPPERARY RESULTS

Senior Hurling

Sarsfields	1-10
Drom Inch	1-6

Intermediate Hurling

Loughmore/Castleiney	0-12
Boherlahan Dualla	0-7

Junior Hurling

Holycross Ballycahill	2-8
Boherlahan Dualla	1-5

21 Hurling

Sarsfields	3-16
Holycross Ballycahill	2-5

Minor Hurling

Sarsfields	5-7
Moycarkey Borris	1-5

Special Minor Hurling

Holycross Ballycahill	2-11
Boherlahan Dualla	3-1

Senior Football

Loughmore Castleiney	2-7
Templemore Eire Og	0-4

Intermediate Football

Moycarkey Borris	3-4
Loughmore Castleiney	1-8

Junior Football

Templetohy/Moyne	2-9
Holycross Ballycahill	0-5

21 Football

Loughmore Castleiney	5-10
Drom Inch	0-2

Minor Football

Loughmore Castleiney	0-10
Templemore Eire Og	1-5

Senior Hurling League, Cahill Cup, 1979 Final

Loughmore Castleiney	0-17
Holycross	3-5

1980 Final

Sarsfields	3-16
Moyne Templetohy	0-2

WEST DIVISION RESULTS

S.H.C.

Cashel K. C.	0-15
Sean Treacy's	0-15

Replay & extra time

Cashel K. C.	2-13
Sean Treacy's	2-11

I.H.C.

Golden Kilfeacle	4-14
Solohead	0-2

J.H.C.

Galtee Rovers	3-8
Arravale R.	1-10

U. 21 H. C.

Cappawhite Eire Og	0-13
Cashel K.C.	3-2

M.H.C.

Cashel K.C.	3-8
Kickhams	2-3

I.F.C.

Aherlow	2-5
Golden Kilfeacle	1-6

U. 21 F.C.

Cashel	2-9
Kickhams	2-5

M.F.C.

Arravale Rovers	2-4
Cashel K.C.	0-6

J.F.C.

Arravale Rovers	4-14
Cappawhite	1-1

Croso Cup S.H.

Eire Og	1-3
Cashel K.C.	0-5

SOUTH TIPPERARY RESULTS

Senior Hurling

Ballingarry	1-3
Carrick Davins	0-5

Senior Football

Fethard	0-11
Cahir	0-4

Inter. Hurling

Ballybacon Grange	2-7
Cahir	0-12

Inter. Football

Newcastle	1-12
Grangemockler	0-1

Jnr Hurling

Kilsheelan	2-10
Marlfield	2-6

Jnr Football

Carrick Davins	1-9
Cahir	0-5

21 Hurling

Eire Og	1-15
Carrick Swan	1-5

21 Football

St Augustines	0-10
Commercials	1-4

Minor Hurling

St Marys	2-6
Carrick Swans	1-5

Minor Football

Fr Sheehys Ballylooby	1-9
Eire Og	1-7

NORTH TIPPERARY RESULTS

Iomáint Sinsearach

Roscré	1-9
Cill Ruain	0-12

(Ath-Imirt)
Roscré. 5-6
Cill Ruain 2-12

Iomáint Idirmheanach
Cill an Daingin 3-9
Cill Ruain 0-9

Iomáint Soisearach
Baile na hInse 2-15
Cill Ruain 2-7

Iomáint Minúir, Corn Uí Nialláin
Béal Ath Gabhann 2-9
Fanaithe na Sionainne 3-2

Iomáint Mionúir
Roscré. 3-12
Tuaim Uí Mheara 1-8

Peil Mionúir
Fanaithe Eidhneain 1-7
Béal Ath Gabhann 0-4

Peil Soisearach
Baile na hInse beat Béal Ath Gabhann

Iomáint fé 21
Eire Og 3-12
Lothra. 1-7

Iomáint fé 21; Corn Uí Bhreathnaigh
Port Rua 1-9
Fanaithe na Sionainne 0-7

Peil Idirmheanach Muine Gall

Peil Sinsearach Final to be played

Peil fé 21 Final to be played

BORD NA nOG TIOBRAID
ARANN THUATH 1980

RESULTS

U. 16 Hurling—Kilruane McDonagh
U. 14 Hurling—Rural, Kilruane McDonagh
U. 14 Hurling—Urban/Rural, Kilruane McDonagh
U. 12 Hurling—Roscrea
U. 16 Hurling—Section 2, Shannon Rovers
U. 14 Hurling—Section 2, Kildangan
U. 12 Hurling—Section 2, Burgeas
U. 16 Football—Borrisokane
U. 14 Football—Roscrea
U. 12 Football—Roscrea

County Bord na nOg 1980

U. 14 Hurling—Rural/Urban-Rural, Kilruane McDonagh
County Tipperary representatives
Feile na nGael 1980
Beaten in final.

HARTY CUP 1980

Senior Colleges Hurling

NENAGH C.B.S. QUALIFY FOR SEMI FINALS



NENAGH C.B.S. TEAM AND MENTORS

Front row: M. Reidy, J. Grace, L. Nolan, J. Grace, M. McKeogh, M. Spillane, D. Keating, J. Seymour, M. Ryan.

Middle row: J. Delaney, N. Sheehy, J. McKeogh, G. McCarthy, J. Flannery, Br. P. O'Madagain, Superior C.B.S. Nenagh, J. Heffernan, D. Kennedy, M. Morrissey, P. Gleeson.

Back row: P. Grey, M. Slattery, P. Connolly, L. Grace, M. Hynes, P. Corcoran, S. Kennedy, T. O'Brien, D. O'Brien, V. Kyne.

In 1980 four Tipperary Christian Brothers Schools took part in the Dr Harty Competition—Nenagh, Templemore, Thurles and Cashel.

1st Round

Nenagh C.B.S. beat Farranferris 4-11 to 1-5. North Monastery beat Thurles 0-11 to 0-7. Templemore C.B.S. beat Cashel C.B.S. 4-13 to 1-8.

2nd Round

Nenagh C.B.S. beat Templemore C.B.S. 2-10 to 1-10.

Semi-finals

Nenagh C.B.S. v Colaiste Criost Ri; St Colman's (Fermoy) v North Monastery.

FEILE 1980

By Paul Mulcahy,
Captain Kilruane-McDonaghs

I don't think I will ever forget the excitement and sense of pride I felt on Sunday 6th July 1980 as I marched with other members of the Kilruane team through the streets of Galway and into Pearse Stadium Salthill. The scene was unbelievable with teams from the 32 counties of Ireland dressed in their club colours and lined behind their club and county banners. Here we were as champions of Tipperary about to represent our club and county in the All-Ireland final of the 1st Division of 'Féile na nGael.'

We had come a long way since that evening in the pavilion at McDonagh Park Cloughjordan when our coach Gilbert Williams told us about the blitz competition in Nenagh on the following Saturday to decide who would represent North Tipperary in the county stages of the Féile. We won through with victories over Toomevara and Roscrea. I couldn't help wondering afterward why so few clubs took part when the prize was so great.

Our next outing in the competition was to Holycross where we defeated Carrick Davins in the Co. Semi-final and after a short rest and some refreshments we lined out in the county final against Templemore. This was our toughest match in the competition so far and when the final whistle sounded we were all thrilled that we had won through and earned our trip to Galway.

MUCH EXCITEMENT

The excitement in the club on the



Kilruane Mac Donaghs team parading past review stand in Salthill at the Galway Feile na nGael.

days before we left for Galway was fantastic. We had special training and meetings to make arrangements. We also received new jerseys, stockings, togs and kit-bags from sponsors. On Friday 4th July we set off by car from Cloughjordan for the official opening of the Féile at Ballinalsoe where we met our host club Turloughmore whose club colours were also black and white. We were split up at this stage and went to various houses in the parish. I was thrilled when I heard I was staying with Frank Burke the great Galway hurler.

Next morning after a special Mass we played our first game against Turlochmore. It took us a long time to settle and in the end we were lucky to win by 2 points. After the match we were assured by our hosts that they would support us all the way. This they did in no un-

certain manner in fact they were probably as excited as we were when we beat their county rivals, Castlegar by 3 points to 1 in the semi final at Loughrea, having first defeated Kilkenny champions, Gowran, easily in the quarter final earlier in the day. We left Loughrea for Turlochmore happy but very very tired having played three hard games on the same day. When we reached Turlochmore we had a meal and watched a video recording of our game against them that morning. We went to bed that night anxious to get a good night's rest to be fresh for our big game on the next day.

OPEN AIR MASS

On Sunday morning we attended an open air Mass at St Mary's College celebrated by Bishop Casey assisted by Fr Iggy Clarke. We marched from there to



The Kilruane Mac Donaghs team and officials photographed at Galway Feile na nGael with an tUachtaran Padraig Mac Floinn, Michael O'Kennedy, Minister for Finance, Sean Fahy, Coca Cola and Seamus O'Riain.



KILRUANE MAC DONAGH FEILE NA nGAEL 1980

Front row, l. to r.: M. Tooher, E. Coonan, M. Cahill, E. Kirby, J. Cahill, S. Hyland, M. Cahalan, M. Gaynor, P. Williams, S. Gibson.

Back row, l. to r.: T. Killackey, M. O'Neill, V. Mulcahy, D. Ryan, G. Maher, D. Cahill, P. Darcy, P. Mulcahy, (captain), N. Darcy, D. Quinlan.

Pearse Stadium and waited for the big moment to arrive. The final against Na Piarasigh from Cork was very special as

we were playing for the honour to be the first holders of the beautiful Christy Ring Trophy. In spite of our nerves we

FEILE NA nGAEL AG FAS

Séamus O Riain

Rinne iománaithe na Gaillimhe éacht mór i mbliana nuair a bhain siad amach Craobh na hEireann, rud nár éirigh leo a dhéanamh ón mbliain 1924 anuas. Traosluíonn lucht iomána na hEireann leo dá bharr. Ach rinne muintir na Gaillimhe éacht mór eile don iomáint le linn 1980 nuair a d'eagraigh siad Féile na nGael sa chontae i mí Iúil agus b'é breith gach éinne a bhí i láthair an deire seachtaine sin go raibh ard chreidiúint agus moladh tuilte ag Aubrey O hUigín agus ag Proinsias De Búrca agus baill an Choiste Gnótha de bharr a fheabhas agus a rinne siad a gcuid oibre ar son na Féile.

Ar na daoine go bhfuil baint acu le Cumann Lúthchleas Gael i nGaillimh níl éinne a shéanfadh ná gur imir Féile na nGael an-thionchar ar chaighdeán na h-iomána sa chontae agus gur mhúscail sé sprid nua sna clubanna éagsúla a ghlac páirt sna h-imeachtaí a ghabhann leis. O thus an earraigh bhí na fóirne ag ullmhú agus ag cleachta go dian i dtreo go mbeidís in ann dúshlán na gcuairteoirí a sháru cuma cad as a thiocfaidís. A chonach san orthu rinneadar gaisce nair a tháinig an t-am agus ní gan dua a buadh orthu má buadh orthu in aon chor. I ngach ceann de na ceithre ranna sa chomórtas iomána bhí fóirne na Gaillimhe ioncurtha leis na fóirne a tháinig ón taobh amuigh, fiú amháin ó na contaetha is láidre sa chluiche.

GACH CLUB GNÓTHACH

Chomh maith leis sin bhí na clubanna gnóthach ar bheallaigh eile a chuaigh chun tairbhe don chumann. Cuireadh feabhas ar na páirceanna imeartha agus ar na h-aiseanna a bhí ag gabháil leo sa chaoi go mba bhreá an radharc é dul isteach in aon pháirc acu agus súil a leagadh ar an slacht agus an mhaise a bhí ar gach ní ann, an féar bearrtha go h-íseal mar is gá don iomáint, na línte bána go sioléir agus bratacha ioldaithe ag séideadh le gaoth.

Ní raibh na mná tí diomhaoín ach an oiread. Bhí aoianna ag teacht chúchu ó

ghach aird sa tír agus níor mhór dóibh cóir bidh, cóir dí agus cóir leapan a bheith rompu nuair a thiocfaidís. B'amhlaigh a bhí agus b'é teist na mbuachaillí gur cuireadh fáilte Uí Cheallaigh rompu go fial flaithiúil mar is dual do mhuintir na Gaillimhe.

Taobh amuigh den iomáint bhí áit sa bhFéile do na cailíní mar do bhí comórtaisí camóguíochta ann a bhí ar aon dul leis na cinn do na buachaillí. Níor fágadh liathróid láimhe amuigh, agus éinne a thug cuairt ar na pionúirí breatha sa chontae d'fheicfeadh sé buachaillí ag léiriú go raibh scileanna an chluiche sin acu ar fheabhas. Ní dhearna siad faillí sa cheol agus rinne ach oiread mar bhí comórtaisí ar siúl a bhí ar aon dul leis an clár a bhíonn ag Scór.

TIONCHAR NA FEILE

Is fuirist a fheiscint go bhfuil fás tagaithe ar an bhFéile ó cuireadh tús leis i dTiobrad Arann deich mbliana ó shin. Cé cheapadh an uair sin go leanfadh sé ar aghaidh ó bhliain go bliain agus ó chontae go contae ag neartú agus ag leathnú amach mar atá déanta. An leanbh a rugadh i dTiobrad Arann tá sé in a bhuachaill breá scafánta anois agus beidh sé ag teacht ar ais chughainn arís i gceann cúpla bliain agus ní foláir dúinn bheith ullamh chun fáilte abhaile a cur roimhe.

Tá rud éigin ar leith ag baint leis an bhFéile agus b'éidir nár mhise é do rá anso. D'éirigh go geal leis na contaethe an fhaid a bhí Féile na nGael mar chúram acu, mar bhí nós acu Craobh na hEireann a bhuachaint. Féach mar a tharla:

Tiobrad Arann sa bhliain 1971;
Luimneach sa bhliain 1976;
Corcaigh sa bhliain 1976;
Cill Choinnigh sa bhliain 1979;
agus an Ghaillimh sa bhliain 1980.

Ní fheadar an mheidh orainne fanacht go dtí go dtiocfaidh Féile na nGael ar ais chughainn sar a n-éireoidh linn Corn Mhic Chárthaigh a thabhairt abhaile arís. Tá súil againn go léir nach amhlaidh a mbeidh.

started well, going 2 points ahead early in the game. Then all seemed lost when we conceded 2 quick goals. We rallied in the second half and were pressing hard when time ran out and we were beaten by 4 points. The disappointment was terrible and the runners up medals presented by the President of the GAA were a very poor consolation.

When I look back now though, I remember with pride the way we played on that weekend and the honour it was to represent our club and county in an All-Ireland final. Its true we didn't win but I feel it gave us the spirit and confidence to come home and win all our games and also the trip to the All-Ireland Hurling final.

We had a great weekend in Galway and also in Dublin where I sat on the Cusack Stand and cheered for my host in Turlochmore—Frank Burke.

Ní gá dúinn bheith díomách nuair a fhéachaimid ar chaighdeán na h-iomána atá le feiscine i measc aos óg sa chontae. Seachas na h-éachta atá déanta ag na fóirne mionúr agus faoi 21 le blianta beaga anuas féach mar a d'éirigh le Tuaim Uí Mheara i bhFéile na nGael anuraidh. Chuaigh siad ar aghaidh go dtí an cluiche cheannais i gcoinnibh Fánaithé an Ghleanna ó Chorcaigh agus ní raibh ach cúilín amháin eatorra ag deire an chluiche, agus bhí a lán den lucht féachanna den tuairim nach raibh an t-ádh leo an lá sin.

I mbliana rug Cill Ruan Mhic Dhonncha an craobh leo sa chontae agus chuaigh siad ar aghaidh go dtí an Féile. Arís d'éirigh leo siúd an cluiche cheannais a bhaint amach agus bhí fuireann eile ó Chorcaigh sa choimhlint leo. Sár chluiche a bhí eatorra. Bhí dhá cúilín sa bhreis ag na Piarasigh ag teacht chun deire agus Cill Ruan ar a ndícheall ag iarraidh an cúl sár-thcabhachtach sin a cur isteach agus cé nár éirigh leo bhí sár mholadh ag dul dóibh as ucht an cluiche iontach a d'imir siad.

FEILE AG TEACHT ABHAILE

Tá sé glactha go coitianta go mbeidh Féile na nGael i dTiobraid Arann sa bhliain 1984 nuair a bheidh céad bliain sáraithe ag Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. Dar ndó beidh bliain bhunaithe an Chumainn á comóradh go forleathan ar fuaid na tíre ansan agus go h-áirithe anso againne, agus beidh Féile na nGael mar gné amháin den chomóradh sin. Níor mhór do Bhord na nOg bheith ag smaoineadh ar an gcuram a bheidh orthu siúd nuair a thiocfaidh an t-am agus a bheith ag ullmhú chuige. Tá dualgas trom orainn a chinntiú go mbeidh riar agus eager ar gach ní agus go mbeidh caighdeán ard ag gach gné de Féile na nGael 1984. Tá mé cinnte dearbhtha go bhfuil na daoine againn chun an cúram sin a ghlacadh orthu féin agus é do chomhlíonadh ar bhealach a thuifidh moladh agus a rachaidh chun tairbhe don chumann i gcoitinne.

GREAT YEAR FOR BALLINAHINCH

By Dermot Burke

1980 will go down in GAA history as the most successful year in the history of the club. During the winter the club was visited by officers of the North Tipperary Board and after a full and frank discussion it was decided to seek regrading from intermediate to junior hurling.

This followed eight years competing in the intermediate championship and two unsuccessful appearances in finals following the club's junior championship success in 1971.

NEW FIELD

It will always be remembered as the year in which the club decided to purchase its own playing field and I am glad to say that we are negotiating with Pat Bray for his field at Shallee, paying for

which will be a massive undertaking for such a small parish, but having such a good year should be an added boost to our fund raising efforts.

The team and subs put in many evenings hard training in preparation for the championship with coach and trainer Cyril Gleeson and Anselm Walsh respectively and their efforts were rewarded on 28th September when we had a great 2-16 to 2-6 victory over Kilruane in the North final.

CO. CHAMPIONS AT LAST

This success brought us to our first appearance in a county semi-final against Galtee Rovers in Holycross, where we had an easier win than expected winning by 5-11 to 2-5. This left us through to

the final against Kilsheelan in Thurles, a game that was to generate great excitement in the parish and surrounding areas. The team put up a great performance and won in the end by 2-15 to 3-1.

Nine members of the 1971 winning teams were there to share the honours. They were J. J. Bourke, Michael Lenihan, Sean Ryan (Ban.), Sean Ryan (Shallee), John and Jimmy Ryan (Killoscully), James Ryan, captain of this year's team, Denis Gleeson and John Ryan, the present secretary of the club.

The junior football team have also qualified for the North final against Silvermines to be played at a later date.

Our congratulations to Michael Ryan who was a member of this year's Tipperary under 21 All-Ireland winning team.



L. to r.: Sean Ryan, John Healy, MI Ryan, MI Lenihan, MI Healy, James Ryan (captain), John J. Bourke (goalkeeper), Sean Ryan, John McGrath, MI Kelly (P. J. Kelly).
Standing: P. Collins, C. Gleeson, John Ryan, Martin Clifford, Dermot Bourke, Timmy Grace, Bill Lynch, Liam Ryan, John Ryan, Jimmy Ryan, Mick Lynch, Fr Morriss, John Ryan (Sec.)

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UNDER 12 HURLING

Semi-finalists

St Marys v Dúrlas Og
Toomevara v Knockavilla Kickhams

St Marys made history for Clonmel when they brought the first u-12 county hurling success to the town. Their achievement was great when one considers the high standard of competition in the county this year. There was at least a dozen clubs in contention for the title and the final which was played at Semple Stadium in July was an exhibition for the Code. Toomevara, the runners up, are continuing the great work being done by that club at under age level.

UNDER 12 FOOTBALL

Semi-finalists

Arravale Rovers v Roscrea
Dúrlas Og v Clonmel Commercials

Arravale Rovers and Commercials qualified for the final which was played at Bansha. This was a great game and both the under 12 hurling and football finals this year was evidence to show that the standards are continuing to rise in Tipperary. Commercials had a narrow victory in this final.

UNDER 14 RURAL HURLING

Semi-finalists

Holycross v Fethard
Kilruane v Knockavilla Kickhams

Holycross and Kilruane took part in what was, perhaps, the greatest game of hurling played at Semple Stadium this year. Kilruane were victorious but Holycross can be proud of their display.

UNDER 14 RURAL FOOTBALL

Semi-finalists

Cahir v Emly
Holycross v Kildangan

Cahir had a very successful year in under 14 football and had a good victory over Holycross in the final.

UNDER 14 URBAN-RURAL HURLING

Semi-finalists

Kilruane v Templemore
Davins v Kickhams

In the semi-finals Kilruane and Templemore played a stormer with the North boys winning by two points to average their defeat in the under 12 final of two years ago. Kickhams easily beat Carrick Davins at Boherlahan but the South boys left all their good hurling until it was too late.

The final between Kilruane and Kickhams was played at Holycross and was another good game. Kilruane were victorious and maintained their unbeaten run at under 14 hurling this year.

UNDER 14 URBAN-RURAL FOOTBALL

Semi-finalists

Cahir v Roscrea
Arravale v Dúrlas Og

Cahir and Arravale made their way through to the final. This game was played at Bansha with John Moloney refereeing. Cahir put in a tremendous final quarter to pip Arravale and climax a great year for the South champions.

UNDER 16 HURLING

Semi-finalists

Cashel v Holycross
Toomevara v Ballingarry

Cashel defeated Holycross in early September in a great game at Boherlahan. This was a very stormy day and Cashel were 21 points ahead at half-time. Holycross piled on the pressure in the second half but failed to pull down the big lead

and were 5 points adrift at the finish.

Toomevara had a close call with Ballingarry and a game inside the final stages saw them through by two points.

The final, played at Holycross, was a classic and Cashel and Toomevara were level on five occasions during the second half. The West boys came through at the finish with two points to spare. Toomevara will be a threat next year as most of their players are still eligible.

UNDER 16 FOOTBALL

Semi-finalists

Borrisokane v Cashel
Templemore v Commercials

Both Cashel and Templemore had easy victories in the semi-finals, and at the time of writing this competition is unfinished, even after 150 minutes of very good and sporting football.

DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS

	North	South	Mid	West
u 12 Hurling	Toomevara	St Marys	Dúrlas Og	Knockavilla
u 12 Football	Roscrea	Commercials	Dúrlas Og	Arravale
u 14 Rural Hurling	Kilruane	Fethard	Holycross	Kickhams
u 14 Rural Football	Kildangan	Cahir	Holycross	Emly
u 14 U/R Hurling	Kilruane	Davins	Templemore	Knockavilla
u 14 U/R Football	Roscrea	Cahir	Dúrlas Og	Arravale
U 16 Hurling	Toomevara	Ballingarry	Holycross	Cashel
u 16 Football	Borrisokane	Commercials	Templemore	Cashel
Féile na nGael	Kilruane	Davins	Templemore	Knockavilla
Turas na nOg winners were Kilruane				



CAHIR-COUNTY u-14 URBAN/RURAL & RURAL FOOTBALL CHAMPS

Back row, l. to r. : Richie Quirke, Philip Sheehy, John Costello, Ger Enright, Joe Devereaux, Tom Shine, Michael Kelly, Middle row, l. to r. : Johnny Kiely, Cieran, Costigan, Sean Condon, Dave McNiry, Frank Howlin Capt., Liam Enright, Donie Casey, Barry Condon. Front row, l. to r. : Des Kennedy, Don O'Brien, Cieran Costigan, T. J. Shine, Pat O'Brien, Philip Kiely.

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COLLEGES HURLING IN TIPPERARY

by John Costigan

It is a great source of pleasure for me to be able to relate that great strides is being made in Colleges hurling in Tipperary over the last few years. This is reflected in the fact for the first time in the history of the Harty Cup, Tipperary have four schools competing and it is my earnest wish that this number will be increased during the coming decade.

It gives me great satisfaction to relate that the past year was a very successful one for Tipperary schools in Munster and All Ireland Colleges competitions.

The 'Harty Cup', the prestige competition of colleges hurling had only two entrants from Tipperary. Thurles C.B.S. striving manfully under the guidance of Br. Perkins to regain former glory were drawn in the first round against St Colman's Fermoy and after giving a good account of themselves had to give best to the North Cork school.

Templemore C.B.S. striving to put together a team to rival the historic winning team of 1978 succeeded in overcoming Col. Iognáid Rís Cork in the first round on the score 3-6 to 0-12. In the semi-final however they had to give best to fine North Monastery team on the score 3-11 to 3-4. It was some source of consolation to the Templemore boys that the 'Mon' went on to capture 'Harty' and All Ireland honours.

In "Corn Phádraig" Munster Senior B Hurling the finalists were both Tipperary schools, Nenagh C.B.S. and Cashel C.B.S. After a hectic hour's hurling Cashel boys were worthy winners on the score 1-10 to 2-5.

CASHEL'S CROWN

Having captured the Munster Crown the Cashel boys entered the All Ireland series and brought the All Ireland trophy to the Cashel school for the first time. This surely was a very well deserved win as over the last decade great work is being done in promoting hurling in that school and this years success was ample reward for the great work being done there by Br Vaughan, Br Ryan and especially the teams trainers— John Gleeson and Matt Finnerty. One member of that famous Cashel team starred in Croke Park on the first Sunday in Sept. when the Irish Press Cup came back to Tipperary after a four years absence, namely Joe Hayes. He had fine players helping him on that Cashel team namely Johnny Hennessy, E. Wallace, Sean Slattery, M. Keane and E. Morrissey.

Cashel success story did not end there. They also captured the Croke Cup, Tipperary under 16 competition. The final of this competition was played at Holycross and their opponents were old rivals Templemore C.B.S. It took three and a half hours hurling before



C.B.S. CASHEL

Winners of All-Ireland Senior Hurling B. Competition.

Cashel emerged winners of the second replay on the score 2-6 to 0-5. Cashel's match-winner was Sean Slattery who later in the year gave a great display in county minor final with Cashel against Thurles Sarsfields.

NENAGH'S DOUBLE

The hard work being done in Nenagh C.B.S. by Martin Slattery and Vincent Coyne is beginning to bear fruit. Last year saw the school capture the Kinnane Cup (Munster u-17 hurling) and the Pearce Cup Munster (u-15½) hurling. This was ample compensation for the defeat of their senior team. Players from both those teams form the nucleus of their Harty Cup team who had such a resounding success over Farranferris in the first round of the Harty.

The Canon Fitzgerald Cup which annually provides great hurling was a tremendous success again this year. At this juncture I would like to compliment those people responsible for instigating it as it provided a great awakening within the schools in the seventies and the great rate of successes recorded by many Tipp schools in various Munster competitions was due in no small way to this competition.

FITZGERALD FINAL

The final of 1980 was played at

Semple Stadium between Thurles C.B.S. and Cashel C.B.S. and after what I would describe as the best final for some years Thurles C.B.S. emerged winners on the score 1-11 to 1-8. Once again as has been the custom both teams were entertained by the Co. Board. This years final was refereed by that great friend of the Colleges John Moloney. I think I am expressing the sentiments of all school games masters when I say that the real life blood of the Gaelic Athletic Association is men of the calibre of John Moloney, Martin O'Grady, Pat Lonergan, Liam Ryan, George Ryan, Mick Minogue who made themselves available during week days to referee games. Without those men it would not be possible to carry one. "Lets show our appreciation to them."

ROSCREA IN RICE

The Rice Cup Munster (u-14) hurling this year saw a fine young team come out of Roscrea C.B.S. This team responded to the hard work of B. Madigan and Larry Ruane and after defeating the Jody Spooner trained Templemore C.B.S. in a thrilling semi-final at Nenagh, had to give way to Limerick C.B.S. in the final. When one considers that Limerick C.B.S. is five times as big as the Roscrea and Templemore schools one can appreciate their great effort.

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CISTERCIAN COLLEGE END LONG WAIT

by Pat Sheedy

After a lapse of twenty eight years Cistercian College, Roscrea won a Leinster Hurling Colleges title when they won the under 16 'B' Championship in May 1980. Many people seem to think of Cistercian College as a mainly rugby-playing school, but, in fact, hurling has always played a prominent part in the sporting life of the school.

This success was not unexpected. In 1978 and 1979 we lost three Leinster semi-finals and one Leinster final, all by narrow margins. This team showed promise early in the year when losing to Presentation, Birr, by only two points in a challenge. Under College President, Fr Peter Garvery, the team trained hard and easily accounted for Wexfore C.B.S. and Ballyfin College in the first two rounds.

Our toughest game was against Gorey C.B.S. in the semi-final at Nowlan Park. In the first half of this game, though facing a stiff breeze, we played brilliantly

and led by 2-2 to 0-3 at half time. When two more points were tacked on immediately after the re-start the game seemed as good as over. However, playing with typical Wexford spirit, Gorey stormed back, and, after scoring two fine goals, made us endure an agonising last five minutes. We survived by two points, 2-6 to 2-4.

In the final against St David's C.B.S., Dublin, played in Athy, we again played

our best hurling against the wind in the first half. St David's led by 1-3 to 1-1 at half-time. A fortuitous goal by Pat Malone, followed by an excellent one by John Tuohy sent us on our way to 3-3 to 1-4 victory.

Our most prominent players in an enthusiastic panel were Michael Tarpey, Sean Williams, Paschal Nugent, John Tuohy and Nicky Rackard, son of the legendary Bobby.

Team:

	Albert Purcell (Puckane)	
David O'Brien (Cashel)	Michael Tarpey (Ardrahan)	James Gleeson (Drangan)
Brian Harnett (Durgarvan)	Sean Williams (Kilruane)	Nick Rackard (Rathnure)
	Pat Malone (Rathdowney)	Peter Daly (Ballygar)
John Nolan (O'Loughlins)	Paschal Nugent (Roscrea)	Seamus Bergin (Galmoy)
John Cahill (Rathdowney)	Alan Carr (Ennis)	John Tuohy (Whitegate Clare)



ALL'S WELL ON THE WESTERN FRONT

By J. J. Kennedy

In a hurling sense 1980 will undoubtedly be remembered as the year that champions galore lost their titles. Whether it was Cork, Kilkenny, Kilruane or Sean Treacys the trend was the same. But in West Tipperary 1980 will also be remembered for two other reasons. Firstly it marked the 50th Anniversary of the divisions existence; and secondly it marked the first ever senior hurling decider in the history of the division that took 2½ hours to decide.

The senior hurling championship is the premier competition in any division. In the West the senior hurling competition of 1980 will be remembered mainly for the two and a half hours of hectic hurling that it took to separate Sean Treacys and Cashel V.C.

MEDIOCRE LEAGUE

With merely five teams playing on a league system for four semi-final places it is not surprising that many of the games were of a mediocre nature. If one looks at these league games for any discernible line of form one looks in vain. Cappawhite emerged with the best record to lead the table. From their four games they lost merely one point. Next came Cashel and Eire Og who went through with two wins and two

defeats each. That left Sean Treacys (champions for the previous three years) with one win and one draw getting them into the fourth semi-final spot. The fifth team was Kickhams who with merely one win failed to make the semi-finals.

SEMI-FINALS

So the stage was set for the semi-finals which brought top of the table Cappawhite and bottom of the table Sean Treacys together in one semi with Cashel and Eire Og in the other.

In the first of these semi-finals Cappawhite must have at last fancied their chances of beating the champions whose form so far had been none too impressive. However in a game more noted for things other than its hurling, Cappa' once again failed to lay the Treacy bogey.

The other semi final also promised good things. Cashel and Eire Og had met earlier in the season in the Crosco Cup decider and the Eire Og men had brought off an exciting victory. However in the semi final Cashel strolled to a very facile victory. So it was Cashel and Sean Treacys for the decider.

In the initial final at Dundrum disappointment was the dominant feeling. A tight and exciting finish had in some

compensated for the very moderate nature of the hurling. Treacys had gone into an early first half lead and should have had the issue beyond doubt at the interval. But Cashel came back in the second half and with seconds remaining Tommy Grogan got the point that left stalemate after an hours play.

RETURN TRIP

So it was a return visit to the same venue for another clash. Again the trend was much the same as the initial game. Treacys went into an early lead but again failed to get enough scores to make the title certain. Cashel again struggled back and again with seconds remaining got the equalising point. So to extra time in the replay. Not for the first time Treacys again made the pace. But before the first 15 minutes were up Cashel had pulled them back. Play entered the second 15 minutes of extra time and the team were still deadlocked. Then for the first and decisive time Cashel went ahead and clung desperately to a two point lead to the finish.

Like all teams at the top for so long Treacys found it difficult to maintain their appetite. It was the second time in the past decade that Cashel halted Treacys



Photograph taken on the arrival of Uachtaran, Cumann Luthchleas Gael
Padraig Mac Floinn in the West Division.
Left to right: Michael McGuire, George Ryan, An t-Uachtaran, V. Rev. Dean Lee,
Roger Kennedy, Jimmy Hennessy, Senator Willie Ryan.



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Back row, l. to r.: D. Moloney, M. McCarthy, E. McCarthy, J. J. Hayes, T. O'Dwyer, E. Hickey, J. Ferriss, S. McCarthy, M. Hickey, B. Whelan, H. Kennedy, Liam Bergin, Niall Fleming.

Front row, l. to r.: S. Grogan, V. O'Donnell, Captain, S. Quinn, M. McCarthy, P. Morrissey, M. S. O'Connell, B. Darcy, D. Hickey, Pat Bergin, C. Peters, M. Grace.

Acting selectors— P. Fanning, P. O'Brien, L. Roche.

progress and as a history making first ever 2½ hr final will long be remembered.

INTERMEDIATE HURLING

Just one step down from the senior ranks is the Intermediate code. Here a total of four teams were involved in a league competition with the top two to contest the final. Lattin-Cullen made an early withdrawal, which left Solohead, Golden and Clonoulty to do battle. Clonoulty went under to both their opponents so the final brought Golden and Solohead together. The game promised much but ended with a run-away victory for Golden.

JUNIOR HURLING

The junior hurling championship is again another step down from the Intermediate code. Here a total of eleven teams played off on a league basis. They were divided into two groups with the top two teams in each group for the semi finals. From group A Sean Treacys and Cappawhite emerged while Galtee Rovers and Arravale Rovers from group B completed the semi-final quartet. The semi final pairings were Cappawhite v Galtee Rovers and Arravale Rovers v Sean Treacys. In the first of these semi finals Cappawhite, competition favourites were shocked by Galtee Rovers. In the other semi final Sean Treacys rather surprisingly were second best to Arravale Rovers. So the unusual final brought the two Rovers, Arravale and Galtee together. The Tipp men already had a victory over their Bansha opponents but in a tough and very entertaining final that result was reversed. It was a fitting climax to a very exciting competition.

U 21 HURLING

Like the minor competition u 21 had

added interest because of the Tipperary All Ireland success. A total of seven teams took part in the West in a straight knock-out competition. After the initial first rounds the semi final pairings were as follows: the Cappawhite—Eire Og combination against the Lattin—Emly combination, and Cashel v Clonoulty. Cappa— Eire Og had their expected easy win over Lattin— Emly while Cashel had to battle harder to overcome Clonoulty. The final between Cappa— Eire Og and Cashel was indeed one of the best West finals of the year. While very few expected Cashel to win most people did expect them to put up an enormous fight. That they certainly did. It took all the vast experience and skill of the combo' to emerge victors by two points. They went on in the county semi final to put up a great battle before eventually loosing narrowly to Nenagh.

FOOTBALL IN THE WEST SENIOR

Unfortunately football in the West like the rest of Tipperary tends to take second place with the result that the senior competition is still far from concluded. A total of 9 teams entered the championship which is run on a knock out system. Golden— Rockwell have already earned their place in the final by shocking Solohead with a late goal in the semi final. A total of three teams have still to battle for the other place in the final. Cashel must play Galtee Rovers to decide who meets Lattin— Cullen in the semi final. In the senior league competition (O'Donoghue Cup) Golden/Rockwell will meet Galtee Rovers in the final.

INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL

The Intermediate Football competition involved four teams playing on a

league system. The two top teams who qualified for the final were Aherlow and Golden. Golden had won the Co. Junior title the previous year and looked set to make progress in the Intermediate code. However in a final in which they looked to be in control a couple of goals late in the second half enabled Aherlow to bring off a surprise victory.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

A total of 11 teams entered the Junior Football competition which was played on a knock out system. Arravale Rovers and Cappawhite won their way through to the final where the Tipperary lads had absolutely no problem in winning. They further went on to win the county semi final and hope to do what Golden did last year and bring the county title back to the West.

U 21 FOOTBALL

Nine teams entered the u 21 football championship which like the hurling was played on a straight knock out system. Progress was slow with a number of draws taking place before Cashel and Kickhams finally qualified for the final. In a very close and eagerly contested game Cashel emerged with a four point victory.

MINOR FOOTBALL

The minor football like the hurling was divided into two groups with three teams from Group A and one team from group B going into the semi finals. Arravale Rovers, Cashel, Lattin— Emly and Clonoulty made up the semi final quartet with Arravale Rovers and Cashel winning through to the final. In that final Arravale Rovers emerged as worthy winners and on to take the county title as well.

EIRE OG UNDER 21

By Gerry McLoughlin, Nenagh

Any reservations there may have been about Eire Og's chances of winning their second under 21 hurling title were displaced in no uncertain manner with a number of high powered performances that left Silvermines, Roscrea, Shannon Rovers, Lorrha, Cappawhite-Annacarty and Killenaule-Mullinahone trailing in their wake.

All the full hearted endeavour, courage skill and excitement that was evident in their championship winning run last year was again evident. They have shown themselves to be real champions by coming back against all opposition and with the pressures that being champions automatically bring they can walk tall as the year was a real glory one for the club who supplied five of the panel who powered Tipperary to an All-Ireland winning success in the under 21 grade.

The Nenagh team reached a new peak when taking the Hugh Burke Trophy for the second time. As Chairman of the Tipperary County Board presented the trophy to the winning captain P. J. Maxwell he was invited as a county selector to come to Nenagh where Maxwell assured him there was plenty of talent.

There was not a great deal of notice taken of Eire Ogs opening round games against Silvermines and Roscrea but when the news filtered through that they were given the fright of their lives against Shannon Rovers and only a finishing surge that was as productive as it was powerful gave them a seven points victory margin, it was hard not to blame people thinking that the title might not be retained.

Officials and people close to the team were not worried about the speculation surrounding their charges. They knew they were a good side with plenty of character and they faced Lorrha in the North final with plenty of confidence. Eire Og were anything but brilliant in the first half when they were sluggish and indecisive and they could only lead at the break by 1-5 to 0-5, thanks mainly to a brilliant goal by Jim O'Sullivan almost on the half hour.

There was a big transformation on the restart and they were able to produce the flashes of real quality that made all the difference. They hit some magnificent points and in the end were worthy winners by 3-13 to 1-7 but they had reason to be grateful to the first half consistency of Denis Finnerty, Brian Heffernan, Seamus Brereton and Roger Coffey.

In the semi final they came up against the Cappawhite-Annacarty combination boosting of the services of Pat Fox, Austin Buckley and minor starlet Ger.

O'Neill. A clash in the minor grade between these two teams had produced a game full of dynamism and drama three years back and once again they produced the goods with a display of scintillating hurling in conditions that were anything but good. In the first twenty minutes Eire Og looked a team of all talents with a combination of polished skill, tactical superiority and self assurance and they waltzed through the opposition to lead by 2-4 to 0-1 after twenty minutes.

Cappawhite-Annacarty staged a mighty come back that had the champions reeling but they were still ahead 3-5 to 2-3 at half time. Eire Og regained their composure after the interval and were catering like hurling thoroughbreds and appeared to have found a safe anchorage when they led by 4-6 to 2-4 at the three quarter stages. It was unbearably tense in the final minutes when the West champions got to within two points of the Nenagh side but Eire Og rode out the tide to qualify for their second successive final.

When Eire Og ran out on the green sod of Boherlahan on 2 November, fourteen of the team were starting in

their second successive county final. The odd man out was Seamus Brereton a nephew of the legendary Johnny Ryan 'Hyder' but the left half back was also a seasoned campaigner, who had made his appearance from the substitutes bench in last years final.

The final was not a game that memories are made of but it was a joyous occasion for the light blues who did as they pleased in the first half to lead 4-5 to 1-5. It was rank bad marksmanship by the North team that left Killenaule-Mullinahone in the game with a chance for most of the second half. They found their scoring touch late in the game when the return of 'mystery' man Sean Minogue broke the deadlock and in the end Nenagh were comprehensive winners by 6-8 to 1-9. Minogue had been taken out of the game late in the first half even though he led his opponent a merry dance. His re-appearance heralded the return of their scoring power and a second under 21 title.

What of the future? Team captain P. J. Maxwell has no misgivings and more than two thirds of the panel are eligible for next years championship and must stand a great chance of winning three-in-a-row.



Co. Chairman Michael Maher presenting the Under 21 Trophy to P. J. Maxwell, Captain of Eire Og, Nenagh.

ROSCREA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL— 1980 CHAMPIONS

By Pat Hennessy

Introduction

Roscrea Vocational School has been a great gaelic games nursery, ever since the inauguration of the school in 1931. Teams took part in friendly games against other schools, blooding many promising youngsters, who would later represent their clubs in Offaly, Laois and Tipperary championships. The fifties saw Vocational school competitions formally organised, receiving full GAA status. Roscrea produced splendid hurling teams in those years—although it is interesting to note, that in the succeeding decade, the school dominated the honours list in the Big Ball code. The seventies saw a revival in hurling fortunes and Roscrea won both championships more than once. All the while Roscrea had strong representation on North Tipperary teams in inter-county competitions. Indeed the record books show that North Tipperary hurlers monopolised the All-Ireland winners list through the sixties, with Roscrea contributing vitally every time. Worthy of mention too, is the fact that a North Tipperary football team, including four Roscrea players were Munster champions in 1969.

The foregoing introduction serves to underline the status and importance that has always been accorded to Gaelic games in the school. However, without taking an iota from all the previous distinctions achieved, it can be said without fear of contradiction that the 1980 All-Ireland Individual Schools win really put the icing on the cake.

Roscrea opened the campaign against Middleton in a Munster first round game played at Rockwell College. The Tipp lads had first use of the wind and utilised it well to chalk up an interval lead of 2-5 to 2-0. In the second half it was their turn to defend stoutly, when they held their opponents to level scores. Roscrea deserving winners by 2-9 to 3-1.

Scorers were Hilary Bevans 1-1, P. J. Deane and Joe Treacy 0-4 each and John Cunningham 1-0. P. J. Deane had an outstanding game with Pat Cleary a good back. Joe Treacy and Hilary Bevans were best in attack.

Team—Michael Scully, Donie Larkin, Eddie Hogan, Pat Cleary, Thomas O'Reilly, Val Ryan, Paul Minogue, P. J. Deane, Paddy Smith, Michael Rowan, Hilary Bevans, Joe Treacy, Eddie Ryan, John Cunningham, Des Shanahan.

interval lead of 0-6 to 0-3. The third quarter belonged to Ennis but after a half-time pep talk, the Roscrea backs were now equal to all demands. The turning point was a brilliant goal by P. J. Deane, entering the last quarter. In truth the Clare lads never gave up, but their goal in the last five minutes came too late to swing the game their way. Roscrea won by 1-9 to 1-5. Michael Rowan and Eddie Hogan took the defensive honours this time. P. J. Deane's goal earned him special praise with Joe Treacy best up front. Scorers were P. J. Deane 1-2, Joe Treacy 0-4, Hilary Bevans, John Cunningham and John Feehan 0-1 each.

Team—Michael Scully, Thomas O'Reilly, Eddie Hogan, Pat Cleary, Michael Rowan, Val Ryan, Paul Minogue, P. J. Deane, Paddy Smith, Joe Treacy, Hilary Bevans, Eddie Ryan, Des Shanahan, John Cunningham, John Feehan.

The All-Ireland semi-final against Loughrea was played in Portumna. A goal in the first few minutes by Des Shanahan gave Roscrea a tonic start. However, though they had what wind advantage there was, and held sway territorially, they wasted many scoring chances. The Tipp boys had only themselves to blame when they could only show a meagre interval lead of 1-3 to 0-3 for all their superiority. The second half saw Loughrea come well into the game, drew level at the three-quarter

stage and when they took the lead with ten minutes remaining, they appeared to be coasting home. Roscrea who had failed to score since the interval, kept plugging away— even though defeat stared them straight in the face. In one last despairing onslaught, Joe Treacy went through for a spectacular winning goal to leave his side luck victors by 2-3 to 1-5. In a game that many Roscrea lads might have preferred to forget— particularly if they had lost— Eddie Hogan and Joe Treacy took the honours. Scorers were Joe Treacy 1-2, Des Shanahan 1-0, John Cunningham 0-1.

Team—Michael Scully, Thomas O'Reilly, Eddie Hogan, Pat Cleary, Michael Rowan, Val Ryan, Paul Minogue, P. J. Deane, Paddy Smith, Joe Treacy, Hilary Bevans, Eddie Ryan, Des Shanahan, John Cunningham, John Feehan. Substitute: David Minogue for Des Shanahan.

THE ALL-IRELAND

At long last Roscrea had qualified for the All-Ireland final in a game that had been fixed for Croke Park initially. The mere fact of playing at head-quarters was sufficient to satisfy the ambitions of most of the Roscrea players, regardless of the result. Imagine, then, their disappointment, when, with Leinster champions Banagher emerging as final opponents, the game was switched to Birr without consulting Roscrea interest. The venue controversy robbed the game



ROSCREA—ALL-IRELAND INDIVIDUAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONS 1980
Back row, left to right: Pat Cleary, Joe Treacy, Eddie Hogan, John Franks, John Cunningham, Thomas Cunningham, Donal Kealy, P. J. Deane, Paul Minogue, Christopher Dooley, Donie Larkin, Thomas O'Reilly, Hilary Bevans.
Front row, left to right: Oliver Egan, Michael Scully, David Minogue, Michael Rowan, Michael Ryan, M. O'Connell—Principal, D. Shanahan, John Feehan, Eddie Ryan, Paddy Smith. Val Ryan (captain) missing from photograph.

CLOSE CONTEST

The Munster final against Ennis in Limerick was a closely contested game. In an even first half the accuracy of Joe Treacy kept Roscrea in the game. With the back rather shaky, the Tipp lads were extremely lucky to have an in-

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of the pre-match build-up it deserved and did a great disservice to Vocational schools games from a public relations point of view.

In the game itself Banagher had first use of a diagonal wind, but surprisingly, it was Roscrea who carried the game to their opponents. Two early Roscrea goals were the body-blows from which Banagher were sent reeling. The Offaly boys missed many scoring chances from play and frees, leaving Roscrea half-time leaders by 2-1 to 0-4. True enough Banagher stepped up the tempo in the second half but when it came to scoring, Roscrea taught them a lesson. A well worked goal by Michael Scully from a pass by Joe Treacy finished the game as

a contest, leaving only the victory margin to be decided. The final score was 3-5 to 0-5. The changes on the Roscrea team for the final all worked wonders—Donal Kealy and David Minogue were drafted into the back, to allow the two Michaels Rowan and Scully go into attack. In a defence that covered itself in a glory, Paul Minogue and Eddie Hogan were outstanding, while Michael Scully, Joe Treacy and John Cunningham took the scoring honours.

Scorers were Joe Treacy 1-2, John Cunningham 1-1, Michael Scully 1-0, P. J. Deane and Hilary Bevens 0-1 each.

The team were Donal Kealy, Pat Cleary, Eddie Hogan, David Minogue, Thomas O'Reilly, Val Ryan, Paul Minogue,

Paddy Smith, P. J. Deane, Michael Rowan Hilary Bevens, Michael Scully, Eddie Ryan, John Cunningham, Joe Treacy. Substitute Des Shanahan for Eddie Ryan at the interval.

An All-Ireland victory in any competition is always sweet, particularly so in Tipperary right now. Lets hope that the achievement of Roscrea Vocational School will act as a spur to other teams in the county. Worthy of note too is that the Roscrea captain was centre half-back Val Ryan. Wal who is son of Dinny, and nephew of Mick, Jack and Roddy is carrying on a great family tradition.

Well done to everybody involved.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MICK BROPHY, LORRHA

By Hubie Hogan

When we laid to rest Mick Brophy on 14th September the historic parish of Lorrha and Dorrha had lost one of its noblest sons. From the broad confines of his native county, from the clubs of his beloved North Tipperary and from the bordering counties of Galway and Offaly sportsmen of every class and creed, and especially GAA people came to bid farewell to this gentlemanly Gael. For not alone was he a GAA personality first, last and always, he was a sportsman in every sense of the word.

Mick Brophy's reputation for integrity loyalty and hard work went far beyond his native county, and he was held in affectionate respect at the highest level by members of many organisations which benefitted from his contributions.

His achievements were of a very high order. During his hurling days he had the unique distinction of winning North Tipperary honours in junior hurling 1966, intermediate and county junior 1946, north senior 1948 and '56 when he captained the Lorrha team that defeated Borrisoleigh in the divisional final.

He represented his county in three different activities, hurling in 1947 when he played centrefield against Clare. He won two All-Ireland medals with the Lorrha dancing troupe at the Fleadh Rinnce in Oldcastle, Meath in 1961, when the Lorrha branch represented Tipperary; He was also a keen horseman and he represented Tipperary in the National Ploughing Championships in 1974.

He had a deep love for everything Irish and laboured diligently in the local branch of Conradh na Gaeilge which he himself founded. In recent years he was



Front row: B. Harding, J. Larkin, P. O'Meara, S. O'Meara.
Second row: Rev. Fr Keating, CC, Rip, W. Hogan, M. Meara, P. Slevin, RIP, Mick Brophy (Captain, RIP), F. Larkin, W. Duffy, J. Molloy, F. Spain.
Third row: H. Hogan, P. Guinan, D. O'Sullivan, J. Maloney, Tony Reddan, P. J. Slevin, P. Madden, P. McIntyre, Very Rev. D. Corcoran, PP, RIP.
Back row: R. J. Bracken, NT, RIP, R. Young RIP, Rev. J. Neylon, CC, P. Sullivan, J. O'Meara.
Insets, left: S. King; right: E. O'Meara.

actively associated with the Lorrha branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoire Eireann and was their representative on the Tipperary County Board. Even during the past year in spite of his illness he was deeply interested in the progress of its members and attended the recent All-Ireland finals held in Gort.

If one could presume to speak for all, it might be said that no more courteous, friendly and loyal colleague could be wished for than Mick Brophy. One was sure of a welcome in his home from himself and his family at all times. He never hesitated to take on a respon-

sibility and was a really kind and obliging neighbour. As we turned away from his graveside his many comrades who had come to pay their last respects, paused for a moment to honour the man who had introduced the Under 21 championships. It was fitting that Tipperary should complete a unique double by winning the Under 21 All-Ireland on the day that Mick was laid to rest.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family. In iothlann Dé go gcastar sinn.

His son Michael is a regular member of present Lorrha senior hurling team and represented Tipperary in under 21 and senior levels.

TOM DUFFY : LORRHA VETERAN

By Seamus King

One of the few remaining members of the famous Tipperary team that toured America in 1926 is Tom Duffy of Lorrha. Tom is 86 years old since May 4 last and is still mentally and physically active. A favourite occupation of his during summer is sitting on a small tank at the end of the house with the gun on his knees, waiting for the occasional pigeon or crow. He follows the GAA games as avidly as ever and was in Thurles for the Tipperary-Cork match and for the Munster final. "It's not hurling at all now. You can't draw your breath or you're pulled. You can't knock a man down on the broad of his back anymore. These lady rules have ruined a man's game." According to Tom there is an awful shortage of skill. So many players today don't know how to rise the ball. "If you can't rise it the first time, hit it on the ground. There's a trade in rising a ball and, if you haven't got it, don't try it." Something else is necessary. "You need a head. Horgan's got a head. He's my kind of man, always knowing where the ball is going to be."

HURLING CAREER

Tom's career with Tipperary was from 1924-26. He would have been on in 1923 but he was serving time in jail. Altogether, he spent 18 months behind the wire. He was a member of the Fourth Battalion, Offaly Brigade. His prison time was spent in Birr Castle, Templemore, eight months in Maryborough and three months in the Curragh. He thought he would be released for the 1923 championship which Tipperary lost to Limerick. Tom was in great form at the time as he hurled every day in the Curragh. He believes that had he been there that day Tipperary would have won.

He got his chance in 1924. Tipperary beat Kerry in the first round by double scores, 6-2 to 3-1. They overwhelmed Cork in the semi-final and beat Limerick in the Munster final by two points. Tipperary played Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final in November 1924. Galway had played Limerick in the 1923 All-Ireland, played two months previously. According to the press "Tipp's display was a poor contribution to the traditions of a historic county. They never had such a bad defence and Galway might have won by fifteen points to one." In fact they won 3-1 to 2-3. To add salt to Tipperary wounds Galway were beaten by Dublin in the final.

FIRST HURLING

Tom was born in Graigue, Rathcabbin on 4 May, 1894. He was one of two boys and went to school to a Mr Cahill in Rathcabbin N.S. He played hurling and



football in school and hurled his first senior match for Lorrha in Borrisokane against Toomevara at the age of 17. Hurling was much tougher in those days. The hurleys were better also. "A rounded boss was great for ground hurling. There's no balance in a hurley now. The weight isn't in the boss. It's more top heavy than boss heavy." Tom's favourite position was right half-back though he did play wing-forward in 1925. He won two North Tipperary divisional championships with Lorrha in 1914 and 1924.

INJURIES

I asked Tom did he ever get injured. "No. I never let anyone hit me." He did admit he got a belt on the left knee from Mooney of Cork and had to go off. "But I came back on later in the game." He suffers a slight pain in that knee in the winter. "Paddy Leahy hit me in the eye in a trial in Nenagh. I was beating the socks off Paddy, especially in the second half with the wind. Off the ball he gave me a belt over the eye which necessitated five stitches. Ever after that day whenever I met Johnny Leahy he would say 'I don't think Paddy struck you deliberately.' 'Oh! I used to say, 'maybe so, maybe so.' This used to happen occasionally. Eventually, about two months before he died, I met Johnny in Thurles. 'Do you know something, Tom. I think Paddy meant to get you that day in the trial.' 'Did it take you over forty years to find that out?' said I. And I walked out." Later he added. "But the Leahys were great lads to be with. And they never let me down. They used always come down for me."

ALL-IRELAND

1925 was the high point of Tom Duffy's hurling career. Tipperary accounted for Kerry in the first round and had their toughest encounter in the semi-final against Cork, eventually winning by 5-3 to 5-1. The Munster final was easy against Waterford and they eliminated Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final. For the All-Ireland against Galway there was collective training for a fortnight at Mount St Joseph's, Roscrea. "I trained at home. I couldn't afford to be away from here for two weeks. I used to hurl with someone in the evening or just puck the ball against the gable wall. Training isn't everything. If the stuff isn't in you no training will bring it out. I played with fellows who smelled a lot. But embrocation isn't enough. If you work hard and are young you don't need any training. In fact you should lay off the hurley for a week before a match. Put the hurl under the bed and when you get it in your hand you'd be mad for it."

All-Ireland day was September 6. Tipperary won comfortably by 5-3 to 1-5. According to the report the following day in the 'Irish Independent' "Galway were outclassed in nearly all the strategy of hurling and the performances of the Tipp team were frequently bewildering in their brilliance." The band of the Artane Industrial School marched through the streets to the grounds about 2 o'clock and gave a display of physical drill. Thirty special trains brought 14,000 from the south and 10,000 from the west. Tipp supporters shouted Galway which "was a testimony to the popularity of the Munster team but also to the immense proportion of the Tipperary players resident in Dublin." The Liam McCarthy cup was presented for the fifth time by Mr P. D. Breen, President of the GAA to Johnny Leahy, the Tipperary captain. The rest of the team was: Paddy Leahy, Arthur O'Donnell, Paddy Dwyer, Jack Power, Paddy Power, J. J. Hayes, Bill Ryan, Martin Mockler, Martin Kennedy, Stephen Hackett, Mick Darcy, Jack Darcy, Tom Duffy, Phil Cahill. Tom had a fine game scoring a total of 2-3.

AMERICAN TOUR

Tom had a fine puck of a ball. He scored a couple of goals against Clare in Nenagh and Tommie Daly reported to his local curate after the match: "I'll tell you the truth, Father, I never saw them." For Tom, Martin Kennedy, Phil Cahill and Stephen Hackett were outstanding players, the last "the best corner forward of them all. They were all good or we wouldn't have won anything at all." Of his opponents he reckons

Bob McConkey to be the smartest man of the lot. And Dinny Barry Murphy was a 'grand hurler.'

The Tipperary team went to America in May 1926 on an eleven weeks' tour, during which they played six games, two in New York, one at each end of the tour, and one each in Boston, San Francisco, Buffalo and Chicago. They were victorious in all and attendances were big with 30,000 in New York and 15,000 in San Francisco. The aim of the tour was to popularise Irish games in the U.S. and to try to internationalise the game of hurling. Tom doesn't remember much about the games but recalls prohibition and the speakeasies. He remembers fun and games with Jim O'Meara on Coney Island and a mystery tunnel tour with Stephen Kenny. "We nearly died from the heat. I remember us sitting on the verandas with our mouths open panting like dogs. 'Twas too hot to put our coats on our shoulders."

TOUR BOOK

Tom Kenny wrote an account of the tour and Tom Duffy features more often in it than any other member of the party. There are about twenty references to him. He was the life and the soul of the party. In one place the party plan to take over the ship. In the plan Duffy is to be Captain. In another place "the

wit and humour of most of them, especially Duffy, is most enjoyable." The entry for 7 June reads: "Tom Duffy is singing that song 'The next I met was a fairhaired lady, standing at a cottage door'." And on 9 June there is a discussion between Jack Power and Tom on the state of the country. "A crock of a country", says Duffy. "Sure we haven't seen a tram of hay, a ditch, nor a hedge since leaving the old country, but it is a fine country in other ways, Jack— they do everything the big way." Duffy thinks the Yanks made a mistake to set the country dry. "That hooch is rotten stuff, Jack, and if it continues as plentiful as it seems to be it will make mad men, blind men or dead men of all of them that drink it." On 19 June there is a party on the train and Duffy dances a jig. Later Paddy Leahy and Tom try to sing the last verse of the Star-Spangled Banner at the Eucharistic Congress in Chicago. Later still we learn that five hurlers are found in Duffy's Chicago hotel room saying the rosary. On the ship home he is constantly playing his favourite deck game and won 'Chalking the Pig's Eye' in the ship's sports. Truly a man of many sides!

FINAL APPEARANCES

Tom was among the reserves for Tipperary in the 1926 championship.

There were three games against Cork that year, the first in the Athletic Grounds and the others in Thurles. Cork finally won with a score of 3-6 to 2-4. His final appearances were in the early league games that winter. He got ill and was dropped for the final games and so missed getting a medal. "Only one point was scored off me during my years with Tipperary." He continued to hurl for Lorrha. "I was going on for forty before I retired." Later he acted as a club officer and was on the selection committee when Lorrha won the North championship in 1948.

A farmer by occupation Tom got married in 1924 and had nine children, six boys and three girls. One of the boys was killed in England. He's interested in cards, especially '25. "I won four turkeys last year in Birr Golf Club. If we hadn't turkeys I wouldn't have won at all." He has always enjoyed everything sporting. A serious fowler all his life he remarks how "everyone tells you what they shot, not what they missed." He kept greyhounds in his time and had some successes. He smokes and takes a pint. "I never drank to do myself harm." He goes out for the pint still. In fact Tom is amazingly active and interested in life and time sits very lightly on his stout shoulders.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN KAVANAGH, Clonmel Commercials

Johnny Kavanagh was associated with Gaelic games all his life. Born at Ballymore, Gooldscross he was a keen supporter of Boherlahan in its balmy days in the forties. He spoke of Philly O'Dwyer The Wades, The Mahers, The Coffeys and The Loobys with great intimacy and the late Paddy Leahy was a great friend of his.

For awhile he left the county and went to work in Kildare but when he came to Clonmel in the fifties he was soon to become active in Gaelic games again.

He was particularly keen on organising and helping the young boys. He looked after their games and their injuries. He talked with them and guided them where needed.

His work for Commercials was endless and he was one of their most avid supporters. He could have a very positive



view on the sideline and could express it with clarity and forcefulness. He gave willingly in time and money in establishing Clonmel GAA Centre and was equally generous in contributing to the development of Semple Stadium.

He worked for many years in St Joseph's Hospital. He was highly valued for his intelligence and reliability at his work. He made numerous friends with the professionals, with his fellow workers and with the patients. He kept in touch with all those hospitalised and was especially watchful to meet patients from the Boherlahan area.

He did not enjoy the best of health for some few years. He had just retired from his work and was having a well earned rest when he passed from us. He was laid to rest in Ardmayle cemetery amongst the remains of those with whom he worked and played in his earlier years.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

IF THE CAP FITS

By Séamus O Riain

When helmets for hurlers were introduced in the sixties it was thought that before long every hurler would be wearing one. Certainly there was a great run on them in the early days, they were new, they were attractive and there was a natural wish to try them on. Young people in particular thought they were a great idea, making a fellow look tough and formidable. But as the novelty wore off many players discarded them for one reason or another so that now it is unusual to see more than two or three on a team wearing helmets. In fact in this year's county senior final no more than two of the thirty wore protective headgear. This is a pity and some doctors feel rather strongly about it. A few have even called on the GAA to make it compulsory for hurlers, and especially for young players to wear some form of head protection, on the score that any head injury may have serious effects.

Yet the majority of players make light of such warnings. 'Head injuries are not all that common', they say, 'and are rarely more than slight skin wounds.'

At one time, that is in the early years, every hurler wore an ordinary peaked cap on the field of play just as he did going about his day's work. It was the custom and he was not fully clothed without it.

A new fashion was brought in near the end of the last century which added a touch of style to the team. It was a light jockey-type of cap probably in the club's colours and the great Tubberadora champions were among the leaders of this innovation. Even football teams came under the influence. The Meath team of 1905 wore little skull caps something like the ones college boys had to wear to let people know they were attending a fashionable academy.

The Two-Mile-Borris team of 1900 had no place for new fangled ideas in dress and proved that they could take the All-Ireland title while remaining faithful to the traditional cap. But the new fashion did get some support even at club level. An invoice dated 1905 which is preserved in my own club, was issued by Lawrence, Sports Outfitter, 19 Grafton St for what they described as a set of 'football caps'.

If we can go by the evidence of the well-known photograph taken at the replay of the All-Ireland of 1908 in Athy, the famous 'Blues' also scorned the new style and established their place in history wearing the old peaked caps. Tradition had won and ousted the newcomer from the field after a brief but colourful existence. One last fling was to be made in 1916 when the victorious



Cork send wide in the 1941 All-Ireland final against Dublin. On the ground are the Dublin full-back, Mick Connolly, and Cork's "Micka" Brennan. On the right is Dublin's Donal Nicholls, while in the far background is Charlie McMahon of Dublin. Cork won by 5-11 to 0-6 and so began the first four-in-a-row.

Boherlahan selection donned the jockey-style caps again, perhaps the very ones worn by Tubberadora seventeen years previously and brought out to revive the old spirit.

THE PERSONAL SLANT

The peaked cap stood the test of time, survived and was honoured by many of the great hurlers and not a few footballers in the years following the 'Trouble'. Whether it was a local junior game or an All-Ireland final it was all the same, most players favoured the cap as part of the essential attire. Individuals could give it a distinctive slant so that a player was easily recognised from the characteristic angle at which he wore it.

The most unusual headgear of all was the soft hat. Very few players chanced it because only the odd one could manage to keep it in place amid the ups and downs of a game. Some very distinguished

exponents of both hurling and football did succeed. Among this select company were two noted goalkeepers, Johnny McDonnell the Dublin footballer and Jack 'Skinny' O'Meara of Toomevara, and the Galway centre-field pair of the twenties, Ignatius Harney and Ned Guilmartin a native of Toomevara. A Tipp goalie of the late thirties, Willie Ryan (Borrisoleigh) was another hat-wearer.

Gradually and inevitably the cap lost its honoured place on Gaelic fields as new hairstyles came into fashion. It went earlier in football, although 'the man in the cap' from Meath, Peter MacDermott wore it to good effect into the fifties. Even the goalkeepers have left it one side now in favour of the long-peaked import from the golf course which adds a touch of colour as well as giving protection from the sun, on the few occasions that it is necessary in the almost sunless summers of recent times.

WEST BOARD JUBILEE YEAR 1930–1980

Early in 1979 a committee was formed to make plans for the celebration of the West Board Golden Jubilee year. The following people were appointed.

Chairman— James Hennessey; Secretary— Michael McGuire. Committee— George Ryan, Roger Kennedy, Michael Frawley, Senator Wm Ryan, Bill O'Donnell, NT, RIP., Mortimer O'Connell, Brendan Ryan, Michael Maxwell, John Treacy.

There were many meetings held to plan a proper programme which would do justice to the men who had set out on that long hard struggle back in 1930. The first stage of the commemoration was the Annual Convention which it was decided to hold in Knockavilla on 13th January as it was in this parish that the first convention was held.

The Ard Stiúirthóir Liam O'Maolmichill attended the Convention as did the surviving members of the first meeting held who were— Tom Duggan, Knockavilla, C. F. McCarthy, Dublin, Mick Kelly, Donohill, Mick Ryan, Ballagh, Dave Carew, Shrivaralla.

George Furlong Cappawhite was unable to attend due to illness and has since passed to his eternal reward, RIP.

The County Convention was held in Rockwell College as part of the Jubilee celebrations and was very successful.

On the following day the enjoyment we had got from the hosting of the County Convention was numbed by the sudden death of our PRO, Willie O'Donnell. For us in West Tipp it was like the end of the road, as Bill was the leading light on our Jubilee Committee having done all the research and was in the process of writing the Boards history and also compiling the history of the clubs of the division.

Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.

When the sadness and gloom has erased somewhat we realised we had now an enormous task ahead of us as we wanted to do only the very best as would have pleased Bill.

We held a Jubilee dinner and had present as our guest, Pádraig Mac Floinn Uachtarán Cumann Lúith Chleas Gail. This was held in the Golden Vale Hotel Dundrum. There were 200 invited guests which again included the founder members and they were presented with plaques suitably inscribed.

The President arrived in Division the morning of the dinner at 9 am and visited the Post Primary schools and also all the clubs that day. This was a huge success.

The next venture was an Inter County senior hurling tournament— Limerick v Tipperary. This was played in Emlys magnificently laid out pitch. We thank both counties, their players and officials and also the Emly club for all their help, not forgetting Des Mulhall, proprietor of the Golden Tatch who provided a fine meal for teams, officials and mentors as well. Mr Mulhall made a presentation to the teams to mark the occasion.

Bord na nOg held an u 15 hurling blitz as part of the Jubilee celebrations and Knockavilla, Kickhams and Emly reached the final which was played before the Inter Co. Senior Hurling tournament, and after a splendid game of hurling. Emly were the victors. The Chairman of the West Board Seoirse O Riain presented the Emly team with trophies after the game.

Prior to the start of the West Senior Hurling Championship final, a parade of all the clubs of the division took place



Photograph taken following the presentation made to the founder members of the West Division Board
Front row, l. to r.: Charles McCarthy, David Carew, Mick Kelly, Pádraig Mac Floinn, Uachtarán C.L.G.),
Pat Furlong (deputising for George Furlong RIP), Michael Ryan, Tom Duggan.
Back row: George Ryan, Michael Maxwell, Senator Willie Ryan, Very Rev. Dean Lee, Denis Tuohy, Michael Maher, Donie Nealon,
Pat Rice (Co. Manager), Bill Hayes, Roger Kennedy. Inset Michael McGuire and Jimmy Hennessey.

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behind the Donaskeigh Juvenile Band.

The club banners were carried by the older members of the club, the people who had helped down the years to keep the games alive in the division.

Special trophies are being presented to the championship winners of 1980. A plaque suitably inscribed will be erected on the wall of the Golden Vale House to mark the Jubilee year.

The histories of all the clubs are presently being compiled and also the history of the Board.

The following were the officers from the foundation of the Board to the present day.

Chairmen

1930-34—Wm O'Dwyer, M.C.C. RIP
1935-69—Sean O'Dwyer, RIP.
1970-72—Anthony Doherty, RIP
1973-75—Michael Frawley.
1976-78—Senator Wm Ryan, M.C.C.
1979—George Ryan.

Secretaries

1930-32—D. B. English, RIP.
1933—mid 34—James Ryan, RIP.
1934-35—Mick Kelly
1935-59—Jerry O'Dwyer, RIP.
1960-70—James Hennessy
1971-76—Michael McGuire
1977—Roger Kennedy.

Treasurers

1930-59—Wm O'Dwyer, N.T. RIP
1960-70—Jerry O'Dwyer, RIP
1971-73—James Hennessy
1974-76—Brendan Ryan
1977-79—Mortimer O'Connell
1980—Michael Maxwell

Registrars

1930-34—C. F. McCarthy
1935—Wm Hayes.

Michael McGuire

BORD NA nOG: WEST TIPP.

1980 was a very successful year for Bord na nOg in West Tipperary with all the competitions more keenly contested than ever before. All this resulted from grading which was introduced this year for the first time. The first competition was the u-13 Football Group A which was won by Arravale Rovers. The B Group was won by Clonoulty-Rossmore and the C Group by Rockwell Rovers.

The u-12 hurling Group A was the next competition, which was won by Knockavilla Kickhams. The B Group

winners were Clonoulty-Rossmore; Golden won Group C. The next competition was Urban-Rural u 14 football, won by Arravale. The rural u-14 football was won by Emly. A great contest took place for the u-14 football Group C, with Eire Og Annacarty the worthy winners. Rural u-14 hurling was keenly contested, won by Knockavilla, who also took the Urban-Rural hurling competition. The final of under 16 was between Clonoulty-Rossmore and Cashel King Cormacs, won by the latter after a great game.

The u-16 football was won again by Cashel against a fine Arravale team.

With all grades completed, efforts are being concentrated on Scor na nOg, which promises to be the best yet, with all clubs taking part. A special word of thanks to our referees who are always ready to help out; also to our clubs and team managers for their co-operation. Finally a special word of praise to the Bord members and C.B.S. Tipperary, whose premises are placed at our disposal for Bord meetings.



Liam Hennessy, Chairman of Moycarkey/Borris Club unveiling a memorial plaque to Father Harkins in the Club's Centre.

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CO. MINOR FOOTBALL BOARD AFFAIRS 1980

By Willie Barrett, Ardfinnan

The year 1980 when recalled in the future will be spoken of as the year of what might have been had we beaten Kerry in the Munster Football Championship.

The selection began their preparation in October '79 when they held trials to pick forty players to attend the Munster Council 6 week Coaching Course in Clonmel. After the coaching course finished the selection selected their panel to commence training for the championships. Training was continued right up to May with a series of challenge games played in Arpil namely v Cork, Dublin, Galway and Wexford. The second round of the Munster Minor Championship (Kerry beat Waterford in first round) was played in Clonmel on Friday night 16 May '80. A fine attendance was treated to an outstanding first half that saw Tipp lead by seven points at the break.

Kerry came at us in the second half and reduced our lead but with ten minutes remaining on the stop watch we had built up an eight point lead but then Kerry came at us and scored 2-4 without reply.

The final score being Kerry 4-8, Tipp 3-9, with Kerry going on to win the All Ireland Championship. One can only ponder as to what might have happened had we beaten Kerry but I have no hesitation in saying we would have won the All Ireland.

Although we failed to Kerry in the Minor Championship a few important points have emerged.

(1) That the whole status of football in the county has been raised.

(2) That the Munster Council Coaching course in conjunction with the Co. Board is proving a tremendous success and must be continued.

(3) That forty players who are attending this coaching course are learning good football and bringing back to their clubs the knowledge they have gained throughout the six week course.

As a result of the coaching the standard of minor football has improved tremendously. The South Championship which was played on a league system this year was of a very high standard and all these matters taken into account cannot but benefit Tipperary football.

Minor selectors H. Kennedy, Pete Savage, J. Phelan, Pat Kiely and Pat Moroney—coach.

Team: Sean McMahon, Commercial; MI Joy, Eml; G. Irwin, Cashel, P. Cleary, Rockwell Rovers; N. English, Lattin-Cullen, MI Beston, Fr Sheehys, G. O'Neill, Cappawhite, S. Lonergan, Commercial, Capt.; Dan Sheehan, Borrisokane, A. Power, Ardfinnan; I. Conroy, Borrisokane; F. Kelly, Commercial; A. Browne, Fr Sheehys; A. Meagher, Arravale Rovers; L. Peters, Commercial; Subs: J. McDonnell, Templemore; M. McEnery, Cahir S. Barlow, Ardfinnan; A. McNamara, Cashel; E. Larkin, Kilsheelan, T. Kinsella, Silvermines; L. Corcoran, Kilsheelan; Martin O'Connor, Golden; Eamon English, Fr Sheehys and John Darcy, Burgess.

u 21 Football

The u 21 football selectors held a trial on 17 March '80 in Cahir. After a further trial a panel was selected for the championship. Nine of these panel were also on the senior panel and not until the selectors got their panel together on their own did all the panel commence training. Three challenge games were played prior to our first round championship game v Waterford in Clonmel on 11 July '80. We made heavy work of beating Waterford on the score 3-5 to 1-6. In the semi-final we played Clare in Clonmel on 25th July '80 losing on the score 1-7 to 0-5pts. Both our performances were poor with no real penetration particularly in the forward line.

u 21 Selection.

D. J. Gleeson, Sean Connelly, Billy Sweeney, Moyne and John Cummins Coach.

Team beaten by Clare: MI Hanly, Commercial; Pascal Hanrahan, Fethard; Noel Guiney, Mullinahone; Tom Ryan, Loughmore; Sean Hennessy, Cappawhite; Cormac Bonner, Cashel; E. Brennan, Loughmore, Capt.; Pat McGrath, Loughmore; MI Leahy, Lattin-Cullen; B. Hennessy, Cappawhite; R. Lanigan, Grangemockler; M. S. O'Connell, Galtee Rovers; L. Maher, Boherlahan; K. Geraghty, Kilsheelan and M. Ormond, Kilsheelan. Subs: N. Farrelly, Templemore; James Dunne, Moyne; W. Crowe, Arravale Rovers; Tim Hanley, Borrisokane; F. Kelly, Commercial; Joe Kiely, Loughmore; T. London, Kilsheelan, Pat Lynch, Loughmore; Pat Treacy, Loughmore.



TIPP MINOR FOOTBALL TEAM

Narrowly beaten by Kerry in the Munster Championship

Back row, l. to r.: J. McDonnell, Martin O'Connor, G. Irwin, Ian Conroy, F. Kelly, S. McMahon, MI Beston, D. Sheehan, Tony Maher, A. Browne.

Middle row, l. to r.: E. English, MI Joy, A. Power, Ger O'Neill, S. Lonergan, N. English, P. Cleary, Willie Peters.

Front row, l. to r.: M. McEnery, L. Corcoran, Tom Kinsella, S. Barlo, E. Larkin.

Missing from panel and photo owing to injury, A. McNamara and John Darcy.

LOOKING AT TIPPERARY FROM OUTSIDE

By Libby Howard

Living outside Tipperary one can afford to be more objective. Also, it's easier to be idealistic. No parish boundaries to cloud the issues. Local rivalries are far removed from the Metropolis. The internal 'politics' don't touch one. Maybe all these aspects are necessary. You know the old cliché about opposition being the spice of life!

There are some things on the Tipperary scene which need to be looked at. The time is now. In ways we are way behind other counties. The attitude "if it was good enough in my day it's good enough now" is out of fashion. The rural way of life has changed enormously. No longer is the GAA the only attraction. If our Association is to grow and continue to be attractive to young people, there needs to be a greater awareness of the requirements of its playing members. If it means change and flexibility, then let's have it.

I feel that parish rule should be abolished. Rarely have I heard a good reason for its retention. 97% of the players will probably stay with their own club, but the minority must never be forgotten. There are players who for very valid reasons wish to play elsewhere while continuing to live in their native parish. At present theirs is a lost cause. Unless they can produce "a home" in the parish with which they wish to play they are lost to our games. At times mentors have almost fallen into the "peeping Tom" category trying to establish where a player lives. Does it really matter? This small-minded approach is so futile. Better to have a player giving of his best to some club than leaving the GAA with a sour taste.

We have to admit the standard of senior club hurling in Tipperary is poor. There are too many clubs of senior status that don't merit it. Even the few top teams are mediocre. The present championship system whereby in early summer half of them are eliminated in the first. What awaits them? A long wet summer as spectators! Wouldn't it be better to have fewer senior teams of better quality. Divide them into two divisions and run the championship on a double round basis. The top two teams in each division to go forward to the semi-finals.

Let the intermediate and junior championships continue as they are. But why not let the better players have a chance in the senior championship also. Amalgamations could provide this. Consider three small parishes forming one senior team. Probably the greatest opposition to this would come from existing senior teams. Why? In case they fell victims. I'm convinced it would give a greater interest in the championship and

more important a higher standard. Ultimately, Tipperary would benefit. Also, look at Kerry!

Staying with players for the moment, why don't they all wear correct club (or indeed county) colours. I'm sick of 'odd' socks and togs. It's indicative of the mental approach in many cases, sloppy and careless. Punctuality or lack of it is another failing. How often do we see lads strolling into the dressingroom minutes before the game is due to start. It's up to each club to ensure that the team is on the field at the appointed time.

Bad language is no ad for our games. Now admit it, most of us let out the odd swear sometimes but foul language used during a game is appalling. There are other ways for youngsters to pick it up without our players giving them free lessons. So, cut it out now.

Kerry are recognised as the complete footballers. A number of the panel is based in Dublin. They train in Belfield during the week, and travel to Kerry for team training each week-end. Now, last summer the Dublin-based Tipperary contingent travelled to Thurles during the week for training. After work or lectures they rushed to Semple Stadium, hungry and already tired. A couple of hours hard training, a quick bite to eat and back to Dublin. I question the value of such a schedule. Doesn't the Kerry method make more sense. It definitely produces the results.

"Junk" food for players preparing for the championship is not good enough. Hamburgers and such like is neither sufficient or nutritious. Chatting to my Dad he told me that steak was the order of the day in his time. Now we could compromise— it needn't be steak all the time, but an improvement is required. Don't tell me the cost is prohibitive. Cut out the 'trimmings' and provide good quality meat, a fresh vegetable and milk.

If our players are well treated, Tipperary will get it back in terms of commitment and pride in the Blue and Gold. All too often we forget that without them our coffers would be considerably poorer. Each person deserved to be treated with respect. If a player is being dropped from a panel, tell him privately. Also, let him know before he reads it. If, during a game, a player is replaced don't ignore him. One of the selectors should have a quick word with him and provide a tracksuit if required. Another point, let the players air their views. Real communication is two way, and has tremendous value.

Senior Inter-County team knocking is bang in fashion. I have contributed

myself. Who didn't after the dismal display against Cork? Now that we have new selectors and a new panel, let's give them a chance. Don't expect instant results. Let the new players make mistakes. Confidence and maturity take time, so too does morale. It would be unrealistic to expect the McCarthy Cup come September 1981, however by 1982 it could be a reality. The game of hurling has changed, hopefully the selectors are aware of this. Now is the time for the use of video equipment. Used properly, it has tremendous value. Better for a player to see his own weaknesses on film than a month's talking from a selector or coach. The opposition can also be studied!

The attention paid to injuries is all too scant. Unless the already overworked County Secretary takes action, chances are no one does anything. It's up to selectors to see that the players are well looked after— that includes treatment of injuries. Too few General Practitioners know anything about serious sports injuries. Usually, specialist treatment is required immediately. Let this be the specific task of one selector.

In our youth lie the hopes and dreams of tomorrow. There are many dedicated people working with them, but a lot still remains to be done. There is only one Br. Perkins, he is totally committed. Yet he can only do so much. Camp Rockwell is something we've all heard about. I wonder if we could organise something similar for our juvenile hurlers and footballers during the summer. A week of intensive coaching, matches, films of matches, use of video for the youngsters to see their own performance would add up to an entertaining and beneficial course.

The time to go forward is now. We have a great county, let's make it the best.

"With hope unquenched, with faith unshaken in something yet to do."



SEMPLE STADIUM : TRIBUTE & CHALLENGE TO TIPP.

22nd June 1980 was a red letter day in Tipperary for two very contrasting reasons. We saw the rising of the new Ardán O'Riain at Semple Stadium, contrasting with the sinking of the blue and gold in the sea of red from Cork. While it was not a day of success for our senior hurlers, we saw in our minors a glimpse of the glory which lies ahead for our county. The development of Semple Stadium is a vote of confidence in the future of our hurlers and our games.



Left to right: M. O'Connor, L. Mulvihill, Fr. Duggan, Libby Howard, T. Barrett, M. Maher and J. Lanigan.

The now reconstructed Stadium highlights the greatest challenge ever faced by the Association or by any other voluntary organisation in this county to date. The reconstructed stadium will be a lasting tribute to the gael of Tipperary, to the strength of its members, and to the goodwill which exists for the Association within the county. The stadium has already lifted the image of the Association within the county and will no doubt prove as it has in the past to be a distinct advantage to the economic life of the town of Thurles. The development, including the building of the new stand has been carried out by a local firm of contractors (Duggan Bros Templemore) employing Tipperary workers, many of whom are members of the Association in the county.

In the new stand the followers of the game have a degree of comfort which the public now demand and are entitled to get at our games.

We have faced up to a great challenge, success has been achieved, there remains much still to be done. 1984 is but a short distance off when we must be prepared to celebrate in a stadium worthy of a

100 years of hurling. We the members of the Semple Stadium Committee have every reason to be thankful for the support we have received for the project, the expressions of goodwill as well as the financial support for the "Ten Year Ticket Scheme". The debt on the Stadium now stands in excess of £25,000 which still must be raised through local effort.

To reduce the crippling factor of interest payments, our committee intend to launch a loan scheme in the near future and we are confident that because of the support we have received in the past, the success of this scheme is already assured.

To our commercial patrons we extend an invitation to avail of our advertising facilities which this great stadium affords.

The face of Semple Stadium has changed over the decades. Earthen banks have given way to covered stands and terraces but the atmosphere remains the same. Thurles has been the scene of many great games and stirring occasions in the past.

That it remains so in the future is but a consequence of the efforts of us all, players and spectators alike, in insuring that the spirit and traditions of the men of the 1900s will echo loudly in Semple Stadium long after the year 2000.



ARDAN O RIAIN, taken during the minor game as Tipperary forwards move into the attack against Limerick.

LOUGHMORE-CASTLEINEY— CO. INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONS 1980

There is an old saying that "long threatening comes at last." This certainly proved true for Loughmore-Castleiney in 1980 when the club won the County Intermediate Hurling title for the first time.

Historically Loughmore-Castleiney was always regarded as a football club mainly because all its success was achieved on the football field but hurling was always played in the parish but with very little success. The exceptions were the winning of a Mid Tipperary No. 1 Junior Hurling title in 1940 and No. 2 Junior Hurling titles in 1946 and 1952. Since that last success the club has been striving for success in the No. 1 Championship but were unlucky to come up against exceptionally good teams from Upperchurch-Drombane and Clonmore. Things were not helped however by the fact that very little preparation was done for those games due to the clubs involvement in the football championships which always seemed to get priority. One glimmer of light appeared at the end of the tunnel on a wet September evening in 1974 when the clubs minor hurling team defied all the odds by winning its first ever Mid title. The spark has been lit and this was fanned by further minor successes in 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1979 crowned by County Titles in 1976 and 1979. Another notable first was achieved in 1979 when a first ever Mid u 21 Hurling title was won. After such a run of success it was only reasonable to have high hopes for success in the shape of a County Intermediate title in 1980. Meanwhile the Club had qualified for the semi-final of the Cahill Cup (Mid Senior Hurling League) against beaten County finalists Thurles Sarsfields. In a hectic game played at Holycross, Sarsfields were defeated by 4 points. Inspired by this success, Holycross-Ballycahill were defeated in the final by 3 points.

After their historic victory in the Cahill Cup, Loughmore-Castleiney were installed as favourites to win the Mid Intermediate title. This tag proved a bit of a burden in the early stages of the championship which was played on a league system. The team drew with Thurles Kickhams in their first game and had to pull out all the stops to beat Thurles Sarsfields next time out. Further victories were secured over Clonakenny and Gortnahoe-Glengoole. This brought the team to the final match of the group against old rivals Boherlahan-Dualla. In a hard fought encounter we emerged victorious by 6 points despite having a player sent off in controversial circumstances after 15 minutes of the first half. This victory qualified us for the Mid final against Boherlahan-Dualla who de-

feated Gortnahoe-Glengoole in a play off. In a very disappointing game played in Holycross on 28th September, the gap which was widening since 1940 was finally bridged when we emerged victorious by 5 points. The first part of our ambition for 1980 had been realised and we were in no mood to let Ballybacon Grange thwart up in the county semi-final which was played at Cashel. We cruised to an easy victory without playing as well as we would have liked. This brought us to the county final against Kildangan who had come impressively through the North championship and defeated Golden Kilfeakle in the semi final after a replay. This game was played in Thurles on Sunday 26th October and will go into the record books as Loughmore-Castleineys proudest moment on a hurling field when after a cautious opening we got on top in most departments and cruised to victory by 15 points. This was a margin which even the most ardent of our supporters would not have predicted before the game.

When one reflects on the years happenings within the club, it was only right that the great detailed preparation done by the team and its selectors should be rewarded by reaching the goal that had been sought for so long. Prior to the mid final, training took place four times per week and in all 25 training sessions were held. Tactical talks were held on the night before the last vital matches. A video tape recording of the Ballybacon Grange game was shown and commenced on in no uncertain manner by Liam Devaney whose part in these famous victories was immense. His shrewd hurling mind and ability to assess situations meant that players know a lot about their opponents without ever actually seeing them in action. Great

credit is also due to our selection committee of Andy Brennan, Pat Cullen, John Fitzpatrick, Joe O'Grady and Mickey Walsh for their dedication which was justly rewarded. Our thanks also to our never failing band of supporters and also those people who have coached our players while they were still at school. Thanks also to our splendid juvenile committee, especially Fr J. J. O'Rourke, who did so much during the 1970s in particular, to ensure that Loughmore-Castleiney would be a force to be reckoned with on the hurling fields as well as the football fields. This they have done in no uncertain manner and is something which I have no doubt, will be always appreciated in the parish of Loughmore-Castleiney.

Mar a dúirt an tseanfhocail "Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh siad", moladh ógán-aigh Luach Magh— Caisleán Aoibhne ó bliain míle gcéad is a seachtó agus do tháinig siad mar fir cróga sa bhliain míle naoi gcéad is a hochtó.

The following are the results of the various games played throughout the championship.

Loughmore-Castleiney	2-9
Loughmore-Castleiney	5-9
Loughmore-Castleiney	3-5
Loughmore-Castleiney	0-17
Loughmore-Castleiney	1-13
Loughmore-Castleiney	0-12
Loughmore-Castleiney	2-16
Loughmore-Castleiney	2-14
Thurles Kickhams	3-6
Thurles Sarsfields	4-4
Clonakenny	0-1
Gortnahoe Glengoole	2-7
Boherlahan Dualla	1-7
Boherlahan Dualla (mid final) . . .	0-7
Ballybacon Grange(Co. s.f)	1-3
Kildangan (Co. final)	0-5



Tim Maher, Chairman of Mid Division presenting the Trophy to John Treacy, Captain of Loughmore-Castleiney Mid Senior Football Champions.

DEATH OF HILARY BARRY

On the morning of 28th July 1980, a final stillness descended on one of the great preaching voices of the Passionist Congregation when Father Hilary Barry, C.P., passed to his eternal reward. He died in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, where he had been a patient for the final fortnight of his life.

Some months previously, in that same hospital, Father Hilary underwent major surgery for cancer. It was thought at the time that the operation had effected a cure but, alas, it was not so. After further treatment at Montgomery House in Belvoir Park Hospital had failed to remedy matters, Father Hilary resigned himself to the inevitable and, although in great pain, prepared for his death in a manner that, to his Passionist brethern, was the greatest sermon of his life.

Born John Barry in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, he was educated by the local Christian Brothers who, as well as imparting knowledge and faith, gave him a taste for the two great loves of his life, the Irish language and hurling. He entered the Passionist Congregation and was professed on 2nd September, 1927. He was ordained a priest by Archbishop Downey of Liverpool in the Passionist Monastery at Sutton, Lancashire, on 29th June 1933.

He soon made a name for himself as a preacher of missions and retreats. He had a commanding presence, a strong physique and a voice of rich resonance that needed no electrical amplification. His style was grandiloquent: he combined the best of oratory in his more formal sermons with the intimate, light humorous touch on talks of more instructive nature. He never shirked long



hours of patient labour in the confessional.

His work in this field was mainly in the South of Ireland and especially among the people of Cork, whose characteristics he was often heard to praise . . . except, of course, on the days of hurling matches involving his native county of Tipperary.

During the forties he was mainly resident in Ardoyne, Belfast. At this time he wrote a Passion play and was much involved in its subsequent production and performance. He also undertook a most arduous missionary journey to Nigeria at the request of the Bishops there. He travelled over 6,000 miles preaching retreats and missions to the people, clergy and religious of the country. This interest in things missionary continued in the fifties when he was Procurator for the Passionist Overseas Missions in Botswana and Paraguay. Together with his lay helpers he was

responsible for a number of experiments in fundraising that were the foundation for the very successful work still being carried on. The Passionist Missions owe him a great debt.

During the seventies, Father Hilary worked in a number of parishes in the United States, especially in Florida where he found that the climate gave great relief to the emphysema from which he suffered. While working there he studied part-time to the extent of achieving a Master's Degree in History.

He returned to Ireland in 1978, his 70th year. He spent his final two years in Ardoyne, Belfast. Although preaching styles had changed, he was still a most popular preacher at the Sunday Masses and, in preparation for the Papal Visit to Ireland, Father Hilary conducted what was to be his final mission, in Ardoyne. During his last illness, he made two journeys that say something of the kind of man he was. Although weak and in great discomfort, he was delighted to attend the opening match of the new Semple Stadium in Thurles. The joy of the visit was dimmed by his having to endure looking at a Tipperary defeat. On his way back to Belfast, he visited his sister, Sister Gabriel in Tipperary Mercy Convent. His final journey was to attend the ordination and preach at the first Mass of his nephew, Father Oliver Barry, O.M.I., in Dublin.

After that journey was over, the voice would preach no more. At the end of that final mission in Ardoyne, the people gave him a standing ovation. May it be an echo of the greeting that he has received from the heavenly host. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis crodha.

THE LATE PADDY HOGAN TEMPLEDERRY

On the second Monday in September a gloom was cast over his beloved village and parish and indeed the entire county when the news spread around of the unexpected passing of Paddy Hogan, R.I.P.

Pad as he was better known was from a great hurling and gaelic family, was a man of sterling qualities, and possessed many fine traits of character.

He played his early hurling with a local team Clodia Rangers, who were a very successful team in the late twenties,

and then with his brothers Gerald and Hugh, played a prominent part in helping his team Templederry to win its first Intermediate title in 1931. He also played senior for his club and later in the thirties he donned the blue and gold jersey of Tipperary in the Munster junior hurling championship.

In later years he kept up his great love of the national pastimes. He was a keen and shrewd judge of hurling, a loyal supporter of his club and county, and

above all a sincere gael and a true Irishman.

Pad was predeceased about two years ago by his brother Fr Tom Hogan late P.P. of Castleconnell, who in his student days was a brilliant Tipperary minor. He is survived by his wife Maura, daughter Elizabeth, his sons Fr Tom now C.C. Roscrea, Jim, Frank, Michael and P. J., his brothers, nephews and nieces, to whom we extend our deepest and sincere sympathy.

Go ndéanfaidh Dia trócaire ar a anam.



TEMPLETUOHY-MOYNE CO. JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

*Back row, l. to r.: L. Everard, M. Ryan, P. Bowe, J. Dunne, J. Sweeney, P. Henneberry, D. Kelly, G. Ely, M. Kelly, D. Leahy, M. Taylor.
Front row, l. to r.: J. Sweeney, S. Kelly, Jim Sweeney, E. Kelly, M. McCormack, D. Kelly, Tod Sweeney, M. Fogarty, L. Kelly.*



EIRE OG, NENAGH UNDER 21 HURLING COUNTY CHAMPIONS



KILSHEELAN— SOUTH JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS AND COUNTY FINALISTS 1980

*Back row, l. to r.: MI Kehoe, G. Kehoe, P. Keyes, J. Kehoe, W. Walsh, W. Robinson, D. Strang, Jas Kehoe.
Front row, l. to r.: K. Geraghty, P. O'Neill, C. Robinson, Martin Cahill, Pat Larkin, Sean Nugent, Peter Moore, Captain.*

MR PATRICK BUTCHER O'BRIEN ARDFINNAN

The sad and untimely death of Mr Patrick Butcher O'Brien earlier this year removed from our midst one of the county's best known and admired gael. He dedicated his entire life to the furtherance of the games in his native Ardfinnan and shaped in the many successes both as a player and later as mentor. The most notable of those achievements as a player were the winning of the Co. Junior Football Championship in 1934, and the Co. Senior Football Championship 1935, with the Tipperarymen's Cup also won in 1934/35. He was a member of the 1935 Co. Senior Football team



that contested the All Ireland semi-final against Cavan, when the controversial last minute goal from a '50' gave Cavan victory and denied him and his teammates an opportunity of appearing in the All Ireland final. In later years he was deeply involved as a mentor and played a big part in Ardfinnan's successes particularly in 60s. His sportsmanship and prowess on the field of play and his unassuming disposition will always be remembered by the galls of Tipperary.

Go ndéanaí Dia trócaire ar a nanam dílis.

[illegible]

MICHAEL McGRATH— MOYLE ROVERS

Michael McGrath of Moyle Rovers was killed in a road traffic accident during the year. He was bringing his children to their home from school to lunch when it happened. He looked after his family well and was most anxious to help them. He helped his little boys to play football and his daughter to become involved in brownies and his wife and himself worked like trojans at farming.

He played a sturdy game of football himself with Moyle Rovers and was with them in their Co. Junior winning football team of 1959. Though silent by nature



he loved to talk GAA with those whom he thought were in his wavelength. With him there was no half measures. You played football or farmed whole heartedly or not at all.

He was generous to any worthwhile cause whether sporting or charitable, provided he had confidence in those

who organised it and one of his last gestures was to break from a busy farming schedule to apply fertilizers to Clonmel sportsfield. He did it willingly and for nothing but because he believed it was worthwhile and he was doing it for a cause and a friend he respected.

His life was short but very full. He left after him a great home, a well developed farm, memories of an uncompromising fullback, a tearful mother and a heartbroken wife and young family.

We laid him to rest on a bright spring morning in Powerstown he loved so well.
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



Michael Maher Chairman of County Board presenting the trophy to Eamonn Kelly, captain, Templetoohy-Moyne Junior Football team.



Brian Boland, receiving the Bord na nOg Cup on behalf of Fethard u-16 Commercials

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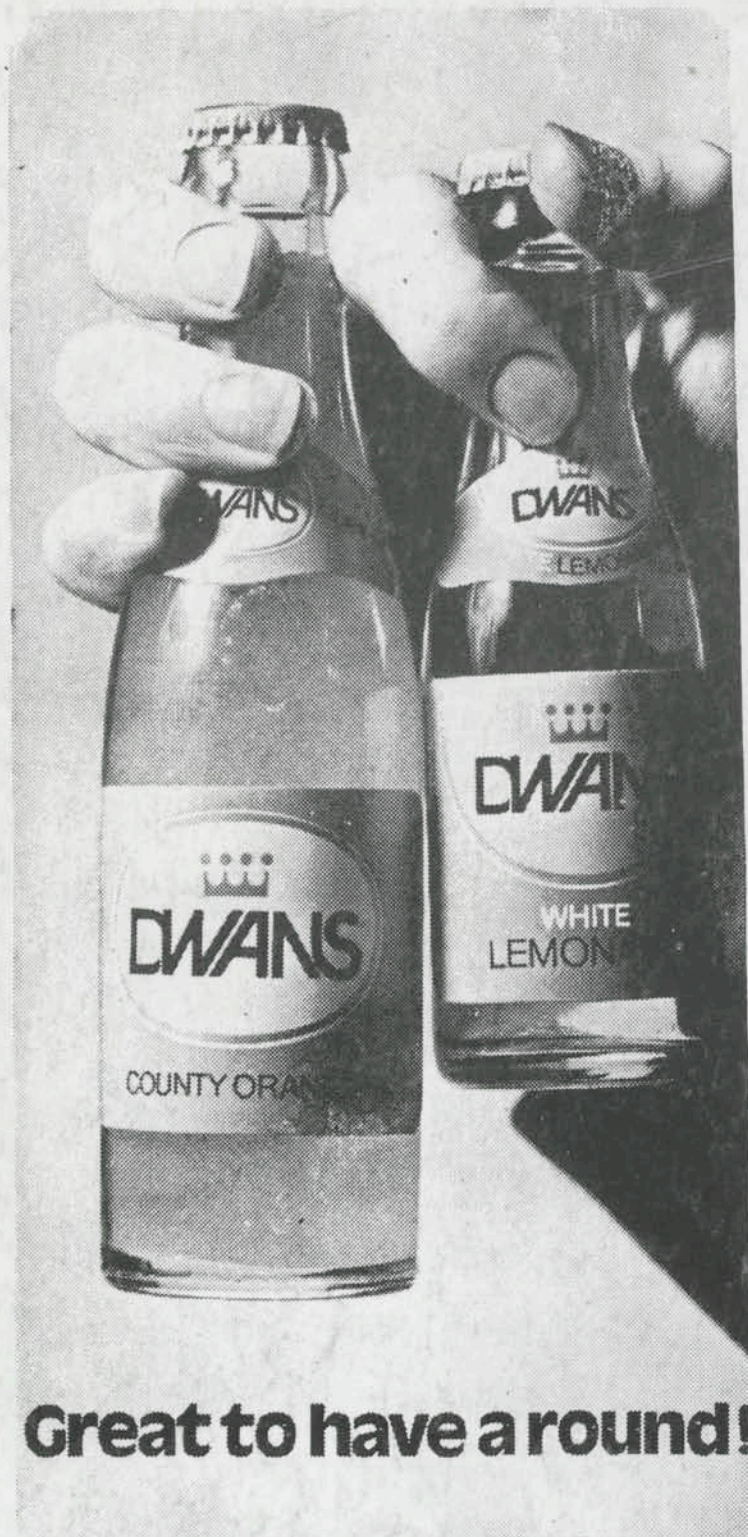


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