

Co. Tipperary G.A.A. Year Book



1982



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TIPPERARY G.A.A. YEAR BOOK 1982

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

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*The cover photo— The County Tipperary u-21 All-Ireland
Hurling Champions 1981*

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

Senior Championship Fixtures 1982

Iomáint

1st round	30th May	Tiobraid Arann v Corcaigh
semi-final	13th June	Luimneach v Port Láirge
semi-final	20th June	An Clár v Tiobraid Arann nó Corcaigh
	18th July	Cluiche Ceannais Iomána

Peil

1st round	9th May	Clár v Luimneach
	9th May	Tiobraid Arann v Port Láirge
	23rd May	Joe McGrath Cup final
		Clár nó Luimneach v Tiobraid Árann nó Port Láirge
Semi-final	6th June	Ciarraí v An Clár nó Luimneach
Semi-final	6th June	Corcaig v Tiobraid Arann nó Port Láirge
	4th July	Cluiche Ceannais Peile

Fé 21	28th July	Cluiche Ceannais Iomána
	4th August	Cluiche Ceannais Peile

Guimid gach rath ar obair C.L.G. i Tiobraid Arann.

EDITORIAL

Another year, another Yearbook. With due— and we hope not too many will say justified— humility the Committee offers this latest edition to the public. The ready sale of previous yearbooks indicates that when it comes to the end of the year very many people, in Tipperary itself and among its farspread exiles, do like to find within covers something of the homely essence of Tipp's G.A.A. persona.

The fortunes and misfortunes of our county teams in various grades and codes inevitably feature largely in the bill of fare. Without being at all chauvinistic in outlook, we Tipp folk like to have an image of some fairly regular success. This has been admirably realised in recent years by under-21 and minor teams. The senior story, apart from the League victory of 1979, has not given the writers much of triumphal nature to get their pens into; but we are presently nurturing the hopeful thought that a yearbook of no distant date may improve the reading menu in that respect.

The date 1984 at one time seemed remote and speculative. By now it has taken on a more tangible character and is no further away than round a corner or two. It has become a target year for the entire Association and in a special way for Tipperary. Plans and visions both on the field and in the facilities have been enlivened by that deadline. Here in Tipperary the greatest effort and the widest publication have centred on Semple Stadium and its expected adequacy for the Centenary Hurling



John O'Grady

All-Ireland— a position that will not be reached without the most widespread good-will among the people of our county, expressed in practical terms of support for financial projects. We are glad to lend our weight as a Communications Committee towards seeking and creating that good-will.

You will find here too, a reasonably comprehensive tale of club affairs. Inevitably the emphasis is on those who have taken honours— but a creditable pass

goes to all who competed. Behind all the glamour, the tumult and the shouting and the celebrating, lies the majority who have also kept the faith, and kept the games going; who will shrug off defeat, and line out again.

The past has its claim on our space, too. It can never be over-emphasised that we are the latest link in a long chain of continuity— so why not give retrospective honour to players of days gone by? All too often this has to be done in elegiac terms as famous old names demand respectful obituary. That much, at least, is over to them.

On a personal note I would like to thank my fellow-members of the Committee. As we all get a bit older this annual duty seems to come up that much sooner each season; but no slackening of energy is noticeable among our membership. Limited in numbers, it copes with all aspects of the assignment, from the soliciting of features to the winning of advertisements, from distribution of the published article to collection of the resultant revenue. On that score, our advertisers deserve no token thanks. Their role is a vital one; we heartily recommend that our readers should bear this in mind and patronise their goods or services in a practical way. Finally our appreciation to "your good selves", the buyers and the readers; we hope to have entertained you and given you something worth preserving in the homes of Tipperary. Our sincere wishes for a happy and successful 1982.

EDITOR

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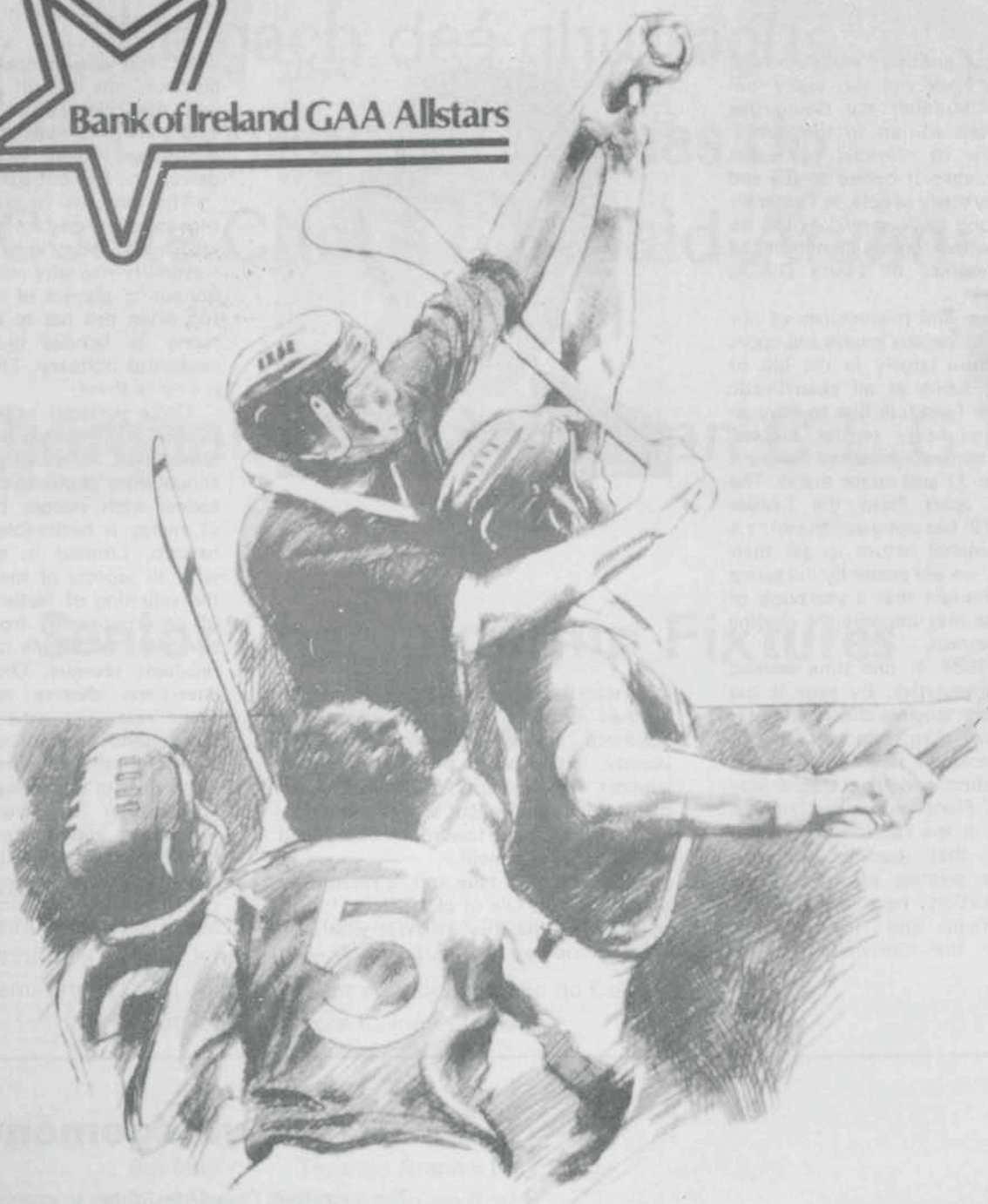
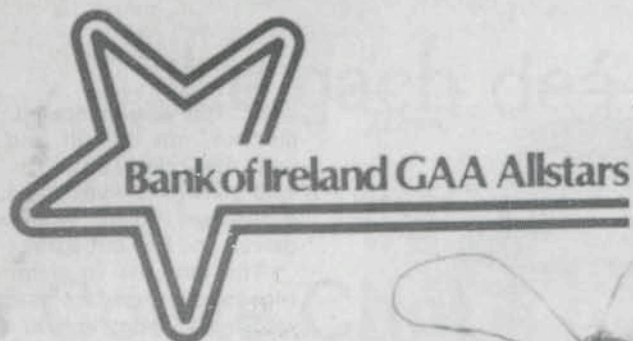
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THREE YEARS AS CHAIRMAN

by Michael Maher

I had an ambition to win county finals, All Irelands and trips to New York, but never at any stage had any serious desire to be County Chairman of the G.A.A. No one in particular asked me to go forward but some clubs must have nominated me. Anyhow, I soon realised that if I were willing to be a candidate no one would bother opposing me. To return in some way for which the G.A.A. had given to me in enjoyment I agreed to become Chairman and to contribute whatever I could to the running and promotion of G.A.A. games in Co. Tipperary.

Three years later I certainly know a good deal more about the problems and politics of this great organisation. A player's expectations from the G.A.A. is the County Board's full concern with and support for the team on which he plays. A Board member would hope for county success, be identified with it and look for favours and rights for his Division and Club. The Chairman must be concerned for inter-county success for all his county teams and be equally keen in having championships within his county properly run and completed in good time. He must be fair to footballers and hurlers and to all grades of each. A County Junior Football title is very important to its winners. They demand as much concern as is given to any other Championship winner.

Difficult Decisions

Each year brought its administrative problems. I inherited a Bord na n-Og problem concerning Thurles, which Huby Hogan had not sufficient time to resolve. I gave a ruling on it which I believed to be correct and one Co. Board member left the meeting in protest. The first year ended with the "John Moloney" case which held the headlines for months. The whole affair was the result of the irresponsibility of a player who should have known better. It should never have arisen but once it came to light no other decision could emerge.

The second year came to an end with a mini-revolt by U-21 and Minor Selectors. It was orchestrated through Convention and carried well into the following year. It disappointed me, particularly in the way it was conducted. Most problems complained of were imaginary and arose through lack of communication. I nominated a member from each Selection Committee—Minor and U-21 to County Board in 1981. It has worked very well.

Co. Board Meetings

Meetings of Co. Board were well attended. They started sharply at 8 pm and finished at 11 pm. I would have



Michael Maher

preferred to see more members take a look beyond their Clubs and Divisions. Some came and said little. Divisional Officers contribute most. I would suggest there should be an Executive of Divisional Chairmen and Secretaries together with County Officers—in all eleven—to make County Fixtures etc and give general guidance to Board members.

Clubs

I realised more than ever before the great volume of voluntary work being done by many workers throughout the county. We cater for many players. In fact on an estimation we have over 5,000 adult players playing over 600 games each year, with about 300 teams involved. This demands good organisation and puts a big demand on voluntary

workers. However, I fear club structure in many cases leaves much to be desired. Meetings are not on a regular basis. Records of meetings are not kept. There is more discussion than decision making and action. Some clubs are wonderful. Their enthusiasm is infectious, their standards are very high and they are a wonderful influence on their parishes. Our Development Committee has been trying to help other clubs to be as well organised. I would suggest that the Association should invest money in the employment of Development Officers. Over a number of years they are bound to show worthwhile results.

Bord na n-Og

Bord na n-Og is doing wonderful work in training and developing our juvenile members. Some of their workers are giving very generously of their leisure time. They are outstanding contributors and must be appreciated. However, the attitude of some of its administrators was difficult to understand. I believe either its Chairman or Secretary should be a member of the Senior Co. Board. It would in my opinion contribute to a much better understanding of each others work.

Seample Stadium

Over the years I have often wondered could any money be found to bring comfort to the Open Stand. Its design disappointed me. Now six hundred thousand pounds has been spent on it which included the building of a magnificent New Stand which is the centre-piece of a Stadium widely praised. Many committee members and Co. Board members have helped but pride of place goes to Rev. Pierce Duggan. Without him I doubt if the development would take place. It was a mammoth task undertaken by a brave, competent, big hearted, generous man. He deserves the Association's thanks and full support.

I end my term as Chairman with pleasant memories of a co-operative, supporting Board, an Executive Committee of wonderful loyalty. They could hardly be better. I had an efficient Secretary and a most willing Treasurer. I am conscious of many gaps in Club Organisation and I would like to see them supported with Development Officers. I would like to see all Sub-Committees represented on County Board. Otherwise our efforts are diluted and misunderstood. I would like to see a more widespread county support for the Seample Stadium Development. It is our contribution to the Centenary of the Association and all clubs must play a part in it.

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A POPULAR TRIUMPH FOR BORRISOLEIGH

by John O'Grady

"Success is counted sweetest by those who ne'er succeed"—according to Emily Dickenson. The statement is arguable. What of those who have known the satisfying sense of success and follow it with a long period of failure to repeat? It may well be harder to bear, for them, than for those who never scaled the heights. Take a certain parish called Borrisoleigh, for example— or even a certain county called Tipperary!

"Borris" failure was far from absolute in the years since 1953; most clubs would have gladly called it something else. North titles are no small items to win— the Division has easily been the county's most competitive, and best quality, since the later 60s. The ultimate county crown eluded them in the finals of 1955, 1972 and 1977 and that's why they and their followers came to the Stadium on 25th October passionately unprepared to endure another disappointment. They had paid their dues in might-have-beens and were entitled to a different outcome. The popularity of their victory indicates that outsiders felt the same about it— and that the image of Borrisoleigh hurling has always been a complimentary one.

Good to Watch

They've generally, win or lose, been

good to watch. Had they been tighter, safer hurlers over the years, more defensive and dour, they'd perhaps have won more. A penalty often has to be paid for style, for taking a chance maybe at the wrong time, for temperamental inability to seek success by complete dedication to training and fitness. In "Borris" they've always had time for the "crack"; there are other delights in life besides hurling— and a puritanical mentality is not the fashion among them. This has often been lamented, not least by themselves. "If they'd only mind themselves . . ." could have been their theme-song.

By association of ideas the parish name automatically brings onto your mental screen the names of Kenny, Ryan, Finn, Devaney; the thundering games of the 1949–53 period, with Boherlahan especially; the three lost finals in senior, the victory of the under-21s in 1969, the power-base for teams ever since. But these are only some of the Borrisoleigh story; from earlier times you may recall the names of such as Harty or Hammonds or Delaney— grandfather of Timmy, inheritor of the style if not the nickname. The three 1981 selectors in themselves embrace three eras. Philly Ryan— his shop trades in hurling talk as much as in ordinary

merchandise— takes one back to the late 30s and all the way up to 1951, where Timmy Ryan steps in as an All-Ireland forward with brother Ned— and there too, begins the career of the admired, artistic and nener-in-trouble Liam Devaney who won All-Irelands in '58, '61, '62, '64 and '65. Whoever combined the three as selectors had a sense of continuity.

Ways to Lose

There are many ways of losing a final and Borrisoleigh have in their time experienced most of them. The most obvious, and tolerable, is to be considerably below the level of your opponents. That was the case in 1955. Sarsfields were just too good that day, for all the gallant individualism of Devaney; they staged too good for everybody for a decade— excepting Toomevara in 1960. The 1972 final was a definite "possible" for Borrisoleigh, but on a day so wet that many thought postponement a sensible probability, Roscrea owing much to Cunningham's accuracy— took the title. The 1977 one was also within their scope but Kilruane's grit wore them down. One has never understood exactly why the losers saw any sense in putting T. F. Stapleton at full-forward that day; before



Borrisoleigh, County Senior Hurling Champions 1981

Back row: Brendan Kenny, Tim. Stapleton, Phil Kenny, Gerry Stapleton, Noel O'Dwyer, Timmy O'Dwyer, Pat Kavanagh, Pat Ryan.

Front row: Francis Spillane, Timmy Stapleton, Michael Ryan, Mick Coen, Bobby Ryan, Noel Walsh, Timmy Delaney.

Missing from the photograph is Timmy Ryan, who played in the final.



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and since, he has been a natural, and very effective, full back.

Looking back on it now, one is tempted to say that Borrisoleigh's name was on the 1981 trophy in the secret book of fate, which was intent on balancing up the injustices of the past. But it took skill and character to put it there. The first positive signs were seen in the North semi-final. Kilruane barred their way. Over quite a long spell the Mac-Donagh's had tantalised and outlasted them. It had become a recognised and influential burden on Borrisoleigh in any dressingroom prior to facing the relentless men in white and black. This year they broke the hoodoo, and did it in a game that far outshone the subsequent divisional final. If particular players have to be picked as leaders on that important day they could be Pat (F)lowery Ryan for mastering Seamus Hennessy and Frank Spillane for a sweeping wing-back performance.

The North final was not very good. Roscrea were extremely ineffective with the wind and Borrisoleigh, inspired by Coen's early goal, seemed to be in position for a positive victory. It did not come about so easily and Roscrea will argue for long the issue as to referee Nealon's decision on a Loughnane 'goal' after Owen Walsh had lost possession. Borriso-

leigh managed it ultimately through Pat Ryan's two finishing points; and were again North champions.

Nearly Wrong

As such they became automatic, if not overwhelming favourites for the county. It nearly all went wrong in the semifinal. Nine points down at half-time to a sharp and mobile Moycarkey-Borris, and victims of a three-goal burst late in the half, they were truly in trouble. And even when a fast retort reduced it to four— young Philip Kenny's goal very precious— they still had to wait a long time for the lead through Noel O'Dwyer's free, and had to survive a close call when John Flanagan might have earned a levelling free. But they were into the final and that, for them, was the basic aim.

So to the days of days. A disturbing mix of hope and fear must have ruffled and tensed them in the Stadium dressing-room. How great it would be if things ran right and Roscrea didn't make the necessary improvement to reverse a pair of North results. It must have been quite a strain on the older men, particularly knowing how seldom one gets such a chance. But they all gathered firm resolve and danced out into the cold wintry sunshine to do or die. What a

start they made— Tommy O'Dwyer bobbing with the sun and beating goalie Rowland; three sweet, quick points as well, all within minutes; could it come so smoothly as this? Not quite. The seven point lead— owing a deal to Noel's hands and class in late scores— would hardly last out if they didn't add to their total into the wind. The inevitable Roscrea push came. Goalman Walsh was faultless and needed to be, but Roscrea came within four and had time to do better. The tension tightened and the shouting more urgent. Noel and Bobby Ryan and Coen supplied valuable, steadying, reassuring points and the dying minutes became more relaxed and fluent for Borrisoleigh, shown in the striking of Delaney, Stapleton and Spillane out of half-back. "Flowery" won vital tussles at midfield; the rear defenders refused to yield a goal. Followers lined the pitch, watching for ref. Willie Carroll's gesture of closure. The great and long-sought time had come. Noel O'Dwyer celebrated with a towering toss of hurley to the sky. Soon captain Timmy Stapleton was responding to Co. Chairman Michael Maher's presentation— and Noel O'Dwyer was accepting "Man of the Match" status. Celebrations began and one is not sure that they have yet subsided.



Tipperary Minor Hurling team beaten by Clare in Munster final

Back row, l. to r.: John Flannery, Joe Hayes, John Cormack, Michael Cunningham, John Bergin, Eddie Hogan, Kenneth Hogan, Philip Kenny, David Fogarty, Arthur Browne, Anthony Waters, Pat Hayes, Paul Landers.

Front row, l. to r.: Dan Quinlan, John Leamy, Willie Peters, John Heffernan, Phil Hennessy, Bernard Ryan (capt.), P. J. Kavanagh, Gerry Ryan, Sean Nolan, Seamus Hammersley, Noel Sheehy.

Team spirit



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I Saw the Real Glory Days of Tipp Hurling ... but can that Glory be Recaptured in the Eighties?

by Raymond Smith
("Irish Independent")

Just over thirty years ago I joined "The Tipperary Star" as a cub reporter in a period when Tipperary's senior hurlers stood on top of the hurling world.

If someone had looked into a crystal ball at that point and come up with the prediction that by the dawn of 1982, the Premier County would have gone eleven years without winning an All-Ireland senior hurling crown, he would have been laughed out of court.

In 1951 when Tipperary won their third successive All-Ireland title by defeating an emerging Wexford side, we took it almost for granted that the county would be in contention at the ultimate stages of the Munster championship each season and that Cork were the only real barrier to reaching Croke Park.

Even when Tipperary's bid for the four-timer was halted in a controversial match with Cork in 1952 by two points—the referee changing his mind in a crucial incident after being spoken to by Christy Ring—we thought that the break in the successful run was only a temporary one.

Tipperary, at a time when National League honours meant far more than is the case today, continued to be the dominant force.

They took the National League crown in 1953–54, 1954–55 and after being defeated in amazing fashion by Wexford in the 1956 final (losing a fifteen points lead at half-time to be beaten by four points), they came back to win the 1957 final against Kilkenny and then took three successive titles in 1959, 1960 and 1961.

So even when failing unluckily at times to Cork between 1952 and 1957—leaving out perhaps the 1953 decider in which they were well and truly defeated by a superior combination—it could not be said of the Premier County that it had declined in hurling strength to any great extent.

Ring the Difference

Indeed, my own contention about those years is that Christy Ring more than once made all the difference between victory and defeat.

Tipperary set its standards so high in those years that it could afford to be ruthless in its approach in the dropping of players or punishing men who might be deemed to have erred in some way or the other. There were even instances when hurlers, who I have no doubt would walk on to the county team today because of their natural talents, were passed over for the championship side for reasons that could not be explained.

I was in hot water on one occasion with the Selection Committee in the

fifties for using the phrase "personal predilections". I suppose some of the readers of "The Tipperary Star" might not have understood the exact meaning—but they certainly got the message, and the selectors did.

The Editor, the late Bill Myles, told me that the selectors were threatening to send in a deputation to see him—but he had faith in me and courageously stood by me.

Passed Over

I, for the life of me, could not understand why Paddy Kenny and Tommy Ryan could be passed over for a Tipperary side against Clare. Kenny who had the most powerful shot of any player I have seen and who when he hit a twenty-one yards free, more often than not, struck from half that distance. In my mind's eye still is a picture of the sheer class of Tommy Ryan as he raced down the wing for Thurles Sarsfields in tremendous matches against Holycross—the way he matched pure skill and grace and balance and stickwork against the strength of John Doyle, as the Holycross supporters in the supercharged atmosphere of those matches cheered for their idol.

Of course, we knew that Tommy of the slight build and heart condition could not always be played for the full hour (the seventy-minute championship match had not yet arrived)—but what a weapon to have in the subs list. Jobie Callinan, one of the finest hurling judges Tipperary ever produced, used Tommy Ryan to deadly effect against Cork in the Munster final of 1950, as he did Jimmy Kennedy that day and the Tipperary attack cut the Cork defence to ribbons before spectators gathering around the goal and throwing orange peels at Tony Reddan created the atmosphere which produced a late but unavailing rally by the Leesiders.

Goalie Choice

The 1956 League debacle against Wexford saw the setting of Tony Reddan's star on the inter-county plane but yet he played in a trial game the following spring in which John O'Grady of Moycarkey-Borris was at the other end. Imagine after both of them had acquitted themselves well in that trial, the Tipperary selectors plumped for Michael ("Blackie") Keane of Sarsfields to play in goal against Cork. And yet the following year it was John O'Grady who kept goal for the county.

It was the season that I campaigned strongly for the inclusion of Larry Keane of Thurles Sarsfields in the team—the season when the powerful Jimmy Finn, Tony Wall, John Doyle half back line

was formed as a tremendous bulwark in defence, with Mickey Byrne, Michael Maher and Kieran Carey behind them. For a long time in the game against Cork it did not seem that Larry Keane was justifying the campaign I had waged to get him into the attack, and someone even remarked to me rather cruelly, I thought, in the stand "you're for the gallows after this defeat!"

Then Keane had possession right in front of us. He went to go one way and was blocked and then turning, he struck on the other side and a goal followed that put Tipperary on the road to victory. But not before John O'Grady stopped one low down from Liam Dowling that looked a certain goal; Ring rampaging in the last five minutes that seemed an eternity. The defence held and Tipperary survived. The Cork "hoodoo" in Munster that had lasted since 1952 was broken at last and Tipperary went on to win the All-Ireland and begin perhaps the most glorious period of all—a period that saw them contest nine of the All-Ireland finals played in 1958–71 era and win six of them.

Thurles C.B.S. the Source

Before I deal with the 1964–65 team let me say that Tipperary's power in the fifties was founded on the flow of minor talent that emerged from Thurles C.B.S. and, of course, on the strength of Thurles Sarsfields and the high standard that club hurling in the county reached in that decade and in fact from about 1948 onwards, when Holycross arrived on the scene.

I have never seen club games to match those between Borris-Ileigh and Boherlahan and between Holycross and the Sarsfields and Borris-Ileigh.

How is it that moments are still etched in my mind from the struggles between Borris-Ileigh and Boherlahan as if it was only yesterday I was watching them? I remember the impression of the beauty of his stickwork that Phippie Kenny left on me and I learned what captaincy was all about, as Sean Kenny led Borris-Ileigh with inspiring elan and the way Paddy and himself could lift club-mates of lesser hurling talent to heights we never deemed possible. How is it too that I remember classic duels between Paddy Kenny and Flor Coffey—I can see Paddy to this day tapping a ball on the ground in front of Flor and hitting it on the hop over the bar. A hurler meeting a hurler—and then the fierce tension when Sean Kenny and Sonny Maher clashed in one particular match and the crowds on the embankments were locked in those struggles in a manner that no club games since have matched.

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Then a day Holycross met Sarsfields in the Sportsfield (not Semple Stadium as yet) and the Blues looked hammered into subjection and who was it on the Holycross side that said: "we'll beat them down to Hanafin's corner". Pat Stakelum and John Doyle had come upfield like Rommel's panzers cutting through France to lead the final onslaught and suddenly Tommy Doyle, wise in hurling years and in the experience gained in subduing Christy Ring back in that great marathon match of 1949, hit a speculative shot towards goal and the green flag was flying.

Still Holycross did not see the danger or pull back their key men in defence to plug the gaps in the full-back line. They were caught on an emotional tide that spoke only of victory and impending defeat could not be countenanced in that atmosphere. But suddenly it all slipped away from them and they lost it—one of the most shattering defeats they suffered in that decade—when they should have won that match beyond any doubt.

Kenny With Sars

Paddy Kenny joined Sarsfields some time after he came to live in Thurles. A day he wore the blue of Sarsfields against Holycross out in Boherlahan in a championship test that had the Cathedral town humming for days in advance. Dark hints of what was in store for Kenny, for it is hard to imagine now how the dominance of the Sarsfields in the days of Bobby Mockler, Tony Wall, Jimmy Doyle, Sean McLoughlin and the Keanes stirred the other clubs in the county. They were literally hanging out of the branches and I see Paddy Kenny now going in and whipping the ball to the net and as he came out from the back of the net after following the ball in, there was a flurry of sticks but he stood his ground with courage that made us all marvel at the man.

What games! what memories!

Tim Flood said to me before the 1981 All-Ireland final that if there was one team that might have beaten the 1955–56 Wexford side at its best it was the 1964–65 Tipperary combination because this Tipperary team had an attack that brooked no holding when completing the League-Championship-Oireachtas treble in those two seasons. Great teams have forward lines that do not leave them in the position that they can be caught on the post when hanging on to a point or two points lead.

We were ruined in a way in the sixties with a surfeit of success. After winning 1961 and 1962, Tipperary threw away their crown against Waterford in Munster in 1963 with a spate of amazing misses by the best forward line in the land. But they were back to win 1964 and 1965, leaving no doubts at all and reached the All-Ireland finals of 1967 and 1968 (again throwing away the latter against Wexford).

Early Exit

I have heard it contended recently that Mick Roche and "Babs" Keating departed the inter-county scene too early, considering how men they had beaten easily enough when Tipperary were dominating Cork, later starred for the Leesiders. They were not in the team on June 13, 1976 when Cork began their three-in-a-row run by winning by a point in a dramatic finish, yet Cork had such men as Denis Coughlan, Gerald McCarthy and Charlie McCarthy, who would still be there for the completion of the three-timer in 1978.

Could not Roche have gone back to the full-back line if necessary and continued to star there in the Bobby Rackard mould? But maybe he lost his appetite for the game entirely and there was no point in trying to induce him to garner again the kind of brilliant hurling we saw him produce in the defeat of Limerick in the rain in 1971 in Killarney—his last season of true greatness. Keating maintained his appetite all and one wonders could Tipperary have made a place for him longer than they did to bring experience to raw forward lines?

It seems to me that the county produced teams in recent times that included men who would not have made good club teams when I was reporting for "The Tipperary Star".

A veteran Mick Roche, or "Babs" Keating or Francis Loughnane or John Flanagan in his best and fittest mood would still have outclassed any of them.

But that's in the past now. We are into the eighties and there is an increasing sense of urgency to get back on the winning trail in the senior championship, now that eleven years have slipped by since that last All-Ireland success.

The hurlers are not there, I have been told again and again.

Deeper Problem

I believe it goes far deeper than that simple statement. When I asked Sean Foley, Limerick captain in 1980, to try and explain why Tipperary lost a fourteen points lead in the 1981 drawn Munster championship match, he made the point that they lack a leader. And he stressed also that no side should lose that kind of lead in a championship match.

I thought Tipperary showed commendable courage and spirit in the first half. But once things began going against them in the second half, they had no answer. They have known defeat for too long.

The class is not there in key positions, neither the overall solidness. They make too much work out of even getting a simple point when built-up movements should be bringing goals.

I believe that Tipperary hurling sadly has not moved with the times and has not really adapted to the "modern game" and the new rules. Val Dorgan of the "Cork Examiner", author of the Christy

Ring biography, reckons the same has happened in the case of Glen Rovers.

Forward play requires a much different approach today than Tipperary have been showing and perhaps we must look now to the under-21 and minor teams to provide the missing dimension as new players emerge.

The stream of talent, cultivated and readymade talent, let me emphasise, is not flowing from Thurles C.B.S. and Thurles Sarsfields also as it did in my time in the Cathedral town and which helped form a nucleus of class in senior county sides. There has been a tendency to make judgments on players, especially from the North Division, in the mud of winter who I never saw as suited to a dry or a flying ball in summer.

Need For Plan

Even at the risk of being out of the honours list for another season or two, Tipperary should adopt a definite plan, aiming at winning Munster and All-Ireland honours in 1984, at the very worst. That means getting a panel of the best young material together now and grooming them with the Centenary Year of 1984 as a prime target and, let me add, giving them every chance to gain in experience and develop their team-work.

Success may come sooner. The draw for 1982 brings Tipperary into contention against Cork, who might be beaten more easily than Limerick. The Shannonsiders on their best form against Galway in 1981 still carry a lot of big guns and will not surrender their crown easily in the South. Victory over Cork could start, perhaps, another run as in 1949 or 1958.

But whether 1982 is to be the year or not, Tipperary must plan carefully and must try and build a team, meeting modern essential requirements, rather than depending on its luck turning, if the old glory is to be regained.



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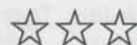
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THE ART OF HURLEY MAKING

The best way to get to know your hurley is to make your own

Anyone who has played our great game of hurling will agree that there is tremendous pleasure and satisfaction to be had from the practice of the skill that the game possesses. What additional satisfaction could be gained from being able to fashion your own hurley. One might well ask the question; How many of the hurlers of today can make their own hurleys. Very few I would imagine and this is strange because in days of old when implements were scarce and possibly crude also, every player of the game was able to make his own hurley, now when all the modern wood working machines are available and which should make the job relatively easy, the modern player seems to be leaving this task to the professionals.

Lovers of the game in the county and everywhere will be glad to hear that efforts are being made to rectify this situation. The South Tipperary Vocational Education Committee are to be complimented on including classes in hurley making in their Adult Education programme. Classes are at present being held in the Technical School in Clonmel and are being well attended. It is also hoped to hold classes in Tipperary town and Cashel after Christmas.

The Course instructor is Paddy Halpin who hails from Ballymacarbery in Co.

Waterford. Paddy is a man steeped in the hurling tradition, having worn the blue and white of his native county and being involved in the art of hurley making all his life. Paddy starts off the course with a lecture on the raw material, the ash. He explains in detail the type of tree to cut, the right time to cut it, the proper method of storage when it is cut into planks in order to avoid warping. This interesting lecture continues with instruction on the proper tools to use on the various parts of the hurley and then on to the marking out of the hurley shape on the inch thick plank. On following nights the course takes in the cutting out of the hurley with the band saw and then on to the actual working to fashion out the hurley and put the finishing touches to it, all this done under the expert eye of Paddy Halpin. The course comprises of ten nights of two hours duration each night and this allows for plenty of time to study all the aspects and skills involved.

Chatting to Paddy Halpin on the subject of hurley making one finds a man deeply committed and concerned with the age old art. One aspect which worries him and many more is the scarcity of ash. He poses the question — are we doing enough in the G.A.A. to ensure that there will be plentiful supply

for the years ahead. He suggests that hurley making classes could be a very worthwhile winter project for clubs and also an expense saving exercise considering the cost of hurleys nowadays. He offers his services to any club who may be interested and will give them any help or advice needed.

As hurling clubs its over to you to respond and become interested in more than the actual playing of the game. It can only do good to have clubs and players interested and involved in hurley making and could raise the interest and standard of our National game.

The coaching experts tell us you must get to know your hurley. What better way to get to know it than to make your own.

Seán O Nuinseain

Names of those attending class in Clonmel Technical School.

Pat Brennan, Jimmy Doyle, Dominic Hearn, Martin Hickey, John Keyes, Michael Lonergan, Billy Stokes, Edmond Walsh, Sean Nugent, Timmy Bolger, Jimmy Ryan.



*Hurley making at Clonmel Vocational School
Paddy Halpin (teacher), Patk Brennan, Clonmel, John Keyes, MI Lonergan,
Ed Walsh, Sean Nugent, all from Kilsheelan*

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SENIOR FOOTBALL REVIEW 1981

by John McNamara

Activities re-commenced with a league victory over Sligo 3-9 to 2-8 at Emly. Defeat at the hands of Wexford 2-8 to 2-4 at Wexford was followed by a further win over Clare at Kilsheelan 2-5 to 0-6. However, a crushing defeat by Cavan 1-13 to 0-2 at Bansha put paid to all ideas of promotion.

January brought inter-divisional trials. Mid and North played a draw at Cloughjordan and South held a very successful trial game at Kilsheelan. A challenge game against Maynooth was held at Littleton prior to our 1st league match of the New Year v Fermanagh at Irvingstown, where we were defeated.

South overcame a strong determined effort by the West at Clogheen on Sunday 8th February, while Mid ran out rather easy winners in their replay with the North.

In our remaining league game the team showed their fighting qualities with a most deserved one point victory over Louth to avoid the possibility of being relegated. Following the inter-divisional final between South and Mid played at Cashel, in which South proved too strong the panel for the forthcoming championship was selected.

The Munster Council hit on a novel ideal for the championship in 1981. Tipperary were drawn against Clare with the winners to meet the winners of Waterford or Limerick in a special final for the McGrath Cup medals. Then Tipperary or Clare would meet Kerry in championship proper and Waterford or Limerick would meet Cork. Training sessions in preparation for game with Clare were held in Clonmel. A very good display against Cork in a challenge at Clonmel gave rise for hope when the team took the field at Limerick. Alas, after an excellent start we conceded two soft goals and were always labouring afterwards, being beaten in the end.

The following was the team who represented Tipperary on that occasion. MI Hanly, P. McCormack, P. Ryan, J. Sweeney, D. Maher, N. Meagher, S. O'Neill, G. McGrath, J. Dunne, MI O'Riordan, V. O'Donnell (capt.), A. B. Kennedy, B. Conway, H. Mulhaire, F. Kelly. Subs: D. Foley, I. Conroy, T. Hurley, MI Beston, P. Butler.

Congratulations are in order at this stage to Harry Mulhaire, our sole representative on the Munster football panel who regained the Railway Cup after a lapse of two years, by defeating Leinster in the semi-final and Connacht in the final at Ennis.

In the All Ireland county 7-a-side at Na Fianna Club grounds Mobi Road, Dublin, we were drawn in a tough group

with Roscommon and Fermanagh and suffered two defeats.

The 1981/1982 group 3 teams are as follows:-

Donegal	home	Emly
Westmeath	away	Mullingar
Wexford	home	Clonmel
Wicklow	away	Aughrim
Laois	away	Portarlinton
Antrim	home	Clonmel
Louth	home	Clonmel

Victories over Donegal 1-10 to 0-10 and Westmeath 3-6 to 2-7 gave rise to new hopes. However, a home defeat by Wexford 1-8 to 0-6 brought us back to reality. Our next venture to Aughrim to take on Wicklow resulted in defeat 1-7 to 0-7. However the display given by the team was one of great courage and spirit and if this effort can be sustained, come championship time there should be no reason whatsoever why the McGrath Cup cannot be won by Tipperary.

The following panel was chosen to represent us during league campaign. MI Hanly J. Ferris D. Foley J. Ryan P. Hanrahan G. Irwin V. O'Donnell P. O'Neill S. O'Neill, I. Conroy, N. Meagher, O. Maher, J. Dunne, C. Lowry, E. Dwyer, P. Dooley, T. Hurley, B. Conway, A. B. Kennedy, Jas Meagher, S. McCarthy (capt.), M. McGrath F. Kelly, D. Hickey, MI O'Riordan, S. Quinn, S. Butler.

On the senior home front Galtee Rovers made it 2-in-a-row or 3 in 6 years with a very easily won county final victory over Kilsheelan at Clonmel. Referee G. Ryan, Lattin. The county senior draws and results were as follows:

1st round: Ardfinnan v Chair

Mullinahone v Moycarkey

Cappawhite v Kilsheelan

St Ruan v Kilruane

The following received byes to the last sixteen.

Moyle Rovers, Arravale Rovers, Fethard Golden/Rockwell. Commercials, Templemore, Galtee Rovers, Lattin/Cullen, Silvermines, Solohead, Cashel and Loughmore.

2nd round

Arravale Rovers v Ardfinnan

Fethard v Commercials

Templemore v Kilsheelan

Cashel v Moycarkey/Borris

Moyle Rovers v Silvermines

Galtee Rovers v Solohead

Golden/Rockwell v Lattin/Cullen

Kilruane v Loughmore.

3rd round

Ardfinnan v Commercials

Cashel v Kilsheelan

Moyle Rovers v Galtee Rovers

Lattin Cullen v Loughmore

Semi-finals

Commercials v Kilsheelan

Galtee Rovers v Lattin/Cullen

County final

Galtee Rovers v Kilsheelan

Galtee Rovers achieved a great result for themselves and Tipperary football by travelling to Kilrush and holding the local club to a draw. In the replay at Bansha they failed to produce their real form and went down 1-6 to 0-3. The four divisional winners in the junior championship were as follows:

Moyle Rovers (S.) v Burgess North

Knockavilla Kickhams (W.) v

Moycarkey Mid.

In Intermediate Fr Sheehy's (South) v Borrisokane (North) with the winners to meet Moyne/Templetuohy Mid who defeated Rockwell Rovers West in semi-final after a replay, in the final.

This eagerly awaited game between two very good sides has yet to be played and is looked forward to by all football enthusiasts.

Efforts to come up with a coach for the county panel have so far proved fruitless but the effort still goes on; as does the effort of the selectors to improve the panel and give every player the opportunity to prove worthy of inclusion on the first fifteen. The main aims are to climb out of division three and to win the McGrath Cup. The spirit of this panel is the highest shown for a number of years and one is quietly hoping for a major success.



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A TRIP ABROAD

By Tomas O'Baroid

In the fifties, sixties and early seventies the Tipp. senior hurling team were a much travelled party, principally because of their success. A bonus in those years for the National Hurling League Home Champions was a trip to New York which on one occasion included a visit to Chicago.

In 1972 we were the first team to visit West America for some years when the All-Ireland champions of 1971 and the All-Stars travelled to San Francisco. All Ireland finalists also were invited to participate in the Annual Wembley Tournament which was a follow up to The Monaghan Cup Competition.

In latter years we missed all those trips but this year we had the honour of being invited to participate in a tournament v Offaly at Coventry. This game was to celebrate the twenty fifth anniversary of the foundation of the St Finbarrs hurling and football club in that city.

We travelled by air, leaving Dublin Airport Saturday 26th and in forty five minutes we were touching down in Birmingham Airport. There we were met by members of The Barrs Club and taken by coach to the De Vere Hotel Coventry.

The game was played at the Barrs field at Stoney Stanton Road, about three miles from the club on Sunday. Both teams contested the game with championship enthusiasm and at the end we were beaten by 3-8 to 2-10.

That night we were the guests of the club for a dinner at the De Vere Hotel and later at their Social Centre, which is one of the finest I have seen — a home from home for Irish exiles for many miles around Coventry. Here they come to meet each other exchange news, dance, play Bingo and enjoy a drink in



The Parade in Coventry

very comfortable surroundings.

Tipperary men played their part in this club both on and off the field since its foundation and the Manager of the Centre, Joe McCarthy from Ballina is one of the most respected men in this large city. Many of his friends from Ballina and the surrounding area travelled for the occasion and lent great vocal support to our team.

Monday was a free day and most of the party went their own way escorted by friends who had a knowledge of the city and a most enjoyable day was had by all.

We left Coventry at 6 pm Monday via Birmingham and arrived in Dublin Airport at 8.15 pm.

Our young team, some of them travelling abroad for the first time really enjoyed the trip and it is in this context that I say thank you to those who were responsible for making it possible.

I do hope that this is only the first

of many trips this team will make and I expect it will serve as an incentive to them to strive for success so that such outings like this will materialise in the years ahead.

The Tipp team was as follows:—

	V. Mullins	
P. Fitzele	C. Bonner	Enda Hogan
P. McGrath	M. Carroll	D. Cahill
J. McIntyre	P. Kennedy	
A. Kinsella	K. Fox	N. English
J. Kennedy	S. Bourke	E. O'Shea

Subs: J. Grace, T. Grogan, P. Brennan, C. Maher, S. Fox.

The large cup which was presented to the Captain of the Offaly team was presented by Rev. Fr Bourke, (Emly) Birmingham Tippetmen's Association, to St Finbarrs for an Annual Competition.

The cup was donated to them by the late Louis Maher, formerly O'Meara's Hotel Nenagh.

I would also like to thank Fr Bourke for his kindness during the visit.



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Gaelic Games in North Tipperary Vocational Schools

by T. J. Egan

Since the setting up of Vocational Education in 1930 Vocational Schools over the years have played a significant role in promoting Gaelic Games amongst the youth in their respective areas.

1980/81 was again a very successful year for North Tipp Vocational Schools. There were seven competitions in all—three hurling—two football and two camogie. They also competed in Inter county hurling and football and Tipperary post primary hurling competitions—Canon Fitzgerald Cup u-17 and Croke Cup u-16.

Results of Championships

	Winners	Runners up
Senior hurling	Nenagh	Thurles
Senior football	Borrisokane	Roscrea
Junior hurling	Borrisokane	Thurles
Junior football	Borrisokane	Roscrea
1st yr hurling	Borrisokane	Thurles
Senior camogie	Thurles	Templemore
Junior camogie	Borrisokane	Thurles

As can be seen from the results it was once again another great year for Borrisokane, winning five out of the seven competitions and also completing three in a row in both junior hurling and football. To round off a great year, the school won the Croke Cup Post Primary u-16 hurling for the first time at the first attempt. Great credit for these victories must go to Denis Kelly for the great work he has done for games in the school over the years. I wish to congratulate him also on his recent appointment as Vice-Principal of the school.

Senior hurling

After many years in the wilderness Nenagh finally made the breakthrough in winning the senior hurling championship after a lapse of twelve years.

In the Munster individual schools competition Nenagh had great victories over Borrisokane, Newport and Charleville before going down to a very strong Ennis team by three points in a thrilling final played in Limerick. The Ennis team fielded seven players who were later to help Clare defeat Tipperary minors in the Munster final.

Nenagh team:— Pat Haverty (Toomevara) Donal Cahill (Kilruane); Michael Helebert (Portroe); Noel Clifford (Silvermines); Pat Kelly (Kilruane); Philip Hennessy (Eire Og, Nenagh); Paddy Ryan (Silvermines); Joe Quinlan (Silvermines); Michael Murphy (Toomevara); Joe Harrington (Silvermines); John Ryan (Portroe); Ger Ryan (Silvermines); Paddy Kennedy (Toomevara); Seamus Morris (Eire Og, Nenagh); James Connolly (Toomevara).

Croke Cup

For the first time in its history vocational schools were invited to participate



BORRISOKANE V.S. CROKE CUP CHAMPIONS 1981

*Front row l. to r.: Paul Ryan, Martin Boyle, Paddy Burke, Declan Morris (Capt.), Martin McLoughney, Christy Hayes, Johnny Slattery.
Back row, l. to r.: Sean Morris, Ned Darcy, Michael Holland, Joe Burns, Paul Mulcahy, Tomas Quigley, Brendan Hogan, Tommy Hill, John Fogarty.*

in this competition. Two Vocational Schools, Nenagh and Borrisokane, entered the competition and both were drawn against strong opposition in their opening matches. Nenagh had a convincing win over Tipperary C.B.S. in the first round followed up by a great victory over the holders of the trophy Cashel C.B.S. to reach the semi-final. Meanwhile Borrisokane had a good win over Roscrea C.B.S. in the first round which left them opposing arch rivals and hot favourites Nenagh C.B.S. This was easily the match of the round. Right from the start Nenagh knew they had a fight on their hands as the Borris boys fought and chased every ball as if their lives depended on it. Borris led at half time by five points. The second half was fought at the same hectic pace as the first with neither side prepared to concede defeat. Borrisokanes all round team balance was the deciding factor in the end and they ran out easy winners by a twelve point margin. Nenagh V.S. received a walk over from Thurles C.B.S. in the other semi-final and this left the neighbouring Voc. Schools opposing each other in the final. In a one sided final Borrisokane were easy winners over an injury hit Nenagh side.

This was a historic win for Vocational schools hurling and augurs well for the future.

Team:— Martin McLoughney (Shannon Rovers); Paul Ryan (Knockshewowna), Joe Burns (Kilruane), Christy Hayes (Kildangan), Johnny Slattery (S. Rovers), John Ryan (Knockshewowna), Declan Morris (Borrisokane) capt; Paul Mulcahy (Kilruane), Tommy Hill (Borrisokane), Tomas Quigley (Moneygall), Brendan Hogan (Borrisokane), Michael Holland

(Kildangan), Michael Carroll (Borrisokane), Tony Carroll (Borrisokane), Ned Darcy (Kilruane).

Congratulations

To Phil Hennessy (Nenagh) and Eddie Hogan (Roscrea) on their fine performances for the Tipp. minors.

The North Tipp u-16 hurling team which won the Munster championship included five players from Borrisokane V.S.— Joe Burns (capt.), Declan Morris, Paul Mulcahy, Tommy Hill and Ned Darcy. Nenagh V.S. supplied James Connolly and Michael Murphy while Roscrea had Donal Kealy in defence. Well done lads.

Conclusion

Our thanks to Park Committees who regularly make their grounds available to us— Moneygall, Nenagh, Borrisokane, Templemore and Newport. To the Park Committees who consistently refuse to do so— we express our grave disappointment. To the many referees who made themselves available to us at all times especially during week days a sincere "thank you".

To the North Tipperary Board for their tremendous help and assistance— our sincere thanks.

Our aim is to continue to provide the opportunity for the young players of North Tipperary to perfect their skills so as to contribute to the future success of Tipperary hurling. A deep gratitude is due to all games masters— Denis Kelly (Borrisokane), Seamus Dennison (Roscrea) Mick Keeley (Templemore), Cyril Gleeson (Newport) and T. J. Egan (Nenagh).

May I conclude by wishing all a very successful and sporting 1982.

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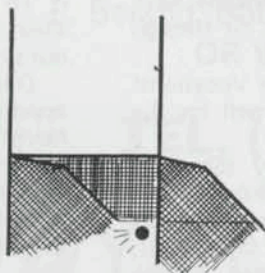
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A HISTORIC FIRST FOR CLONOUTLY MINORS

Just two years ago—in 1979—the parish of Clonoutly-Rossmore looked confidently set for a county u-16 hurling title. Two years previous they had recorded a memorable u-14 county triumph over Toomevara and so the expectation was not unreasonable. But their dreams were abruptly terminated in the west decider by a Kickham team that pulled off one of the major shocks of the 1979 season. Now just two years later the questions that then arose are emphatically answered as Clonoutly take their first minor title ever and confirm themselves as the true masters of their own particular age group.

If one considers the various under age championships as the multi-peaks of hurling progress then it could be said that Clonoutly scaled successfully an initial peak, floundered surprisingly on the slopes of the second and then hauled themselves gloriously to the summit of the third.

And ironically that defeat in 1979 may have been the greatest service done to Clonoutly, however difficult to accept at the time. For let there be no doubt about it they set their sights on this title from early season and pursued it with a determination that was as relentless as it was tenacious. With Borrisoleigh's Timmy Delaney at the helm—himself a stylish and fluent caman wielder—they embarked on the long road that was to end in Thurles with county honours. But on the way there was to be much work, trojan effort and a few anxieties. Always visible however at the end of the line was the sight of the treasure that made the effort seem minimal.

How the West was won

The first obstacle was back in early April but the combination of Cappa-white-Eire Og was as much out of its depth as donkeys at Aintree. Two league points collected and the campaign had been launched without a hitch. Next to fall in late April was Kickhams—a sweet and eagerly desired revenge for the theft of that u-16 title. Completing the league games was a date with defending county champions Cashel—more exploratory than vital. With tension absent the hurling thrived with class and thrills and a sharing of the spoils at the end. And so to Bansha for the semi-final with Kickham opposition and a haunting memory of 1979. But no mistake this time; like in April a clean comprehensive setting of the record straight and Clonoutly had booked their final place against reigning kings, Cashel. If their earlier encounter had been delightful then the final was equally so. Score followed score of prime quality as fortunes swayed. The minutes

passed; the tension grew and scores came in abundance. In the end Clonoutly points of vintage quality surpassed Cashel goals and the title went to the Challengers with the score of the match going to a youngster in the red of Cashel called Fitzell.

County Champions

With stage one successfully completed they were now in the straight for Thurles. Only Moycarkey lay in the way and their challenge was about as potent as a pothole on the road to Thurles—an unavoidable jolt but without the substance to cause a halt. With the mid champions ruthlessly demolished it was off to Thurles and a repeat of the u-14 final of four years previous against Toomevara. (In the interim the Northerners had used Clonoutly's u-16 lapses to take that title).

And a tough final it was. The dogged youths from the North clung furiously to their task and suspense remained to the last quarter. But in the end the cup returned West and Clonoutly and Rossmore were set ablaze to herald their first ever minor title.

A victory of unquestionable merit from a team of very even able and determined youths. A glorious moment for the parish, whose heroes we salute. In the lonely and vital net minding spot Andrew Fryday had a fine season. On the full back line captain of the forces Pat Hayes and his two flankers John O'Dwyer

and Niall Ryan stood firm and thwarted many an attack. On the half line David Ryan, Michael Keane and Sean Slattery combined intelligent defence with crisp deliveries to attack. At midfield, vital and dominant were the able pair of Seamus Hammersley and Joe Hayes. Forming the backbone of the attack the Heffernan brothers Michael and Seamus were strong and courageous while the other brotherly duo of Fitzgeralds, Joe and Niall also added their essential contribution to the team success. Completing the fifteen was scoring chief Paudie Ryan and the stylish John Kennedy.

A laudable history making achievement indeed by a team who we hope have merely written chapter one of a multi-volumed chronicle.

The Path to Glory

April 11th	
Clonoutly 9-20	Cappa/Eire Og 0-1
April 25th	
Clonoutly 3-12	Kickhams 1-4
May 9th	
Clonoutly 2-4	Cashel 3-1
Aug. 2nd, semi-final of west	
Clonoutly 4-9	Kickhams 2-5
Aug. 9th, west final	
Clonoutly 3-17	Cashel K.C. 4-6
Sept. 19th—county semi-final	
Clonoutly 3-8	Moycarkey 0-2
Oct. 25th—county final	
Clonoutly 2-10	Toomevara 2-5
Team selectors:— Jim Ryan, T. J. Ryan, Cecil Ryan.	



Clonoutly-Rossmore Team, County Minor Hurling Champions 1981
 Front row, l. to r.: T. J. Ryan (selector), Patrick Bourke, John Ryan, Michael Keane, Joe Hayes, Pat Hayes (captain), David Ryan, Michael Heffernan, Timmy Delaney (trainer)
 Middle row l. to r.: Cecil Ryan (selector), John Kennedy, Sean Slattery, Seamus Hammersley, Richard Keane, Pdraigh Ryan, Francis Kearney, Seamus Heffernan, Jim Ryan (selector).
 Back row, l. to r.: Joseph Fitzgerald, Francis Ryan, John O'Dwyer, Neil Ryan, Neil Fitzgerald, Jerry Kennedy, Paul Quirke, Michael Ryan.

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1981 IN NORTH TIPPERARY

by North Secretary Pádraig O'Meara

Bliain iontach a bhí ag Gaeil sa taobh seo den chondae. Mí Eanáir seo chaite bhí ar an Roinn Thuaidh gach ullmhúchán a dhéanamh i gcóir an Comhthionóil Bliantúil in Arus na mBráthar in Aonach. Is maith mar a dhein gach éinne. Le cabhair daoine ó paróistí éagsúla bhí cóir le hAifreann Sheáin Uí Riada ullamh i gcóir Aifreann na Comhdhála. Mo mhíle bhuíochas dos na fir is na mná a bhailigh le chéile don Aifreann sin.

The year 1981 is almost part of history. For me it was a memorable year. Borrisileigh won the North title by beating holders Roscrea in a very unsatisfactory championship system. Portroe were new champions also beating Toomevara by 1 point in a hectic finish. Borrisokane won the Junior Hurling championship by beating Roscrea 3-12 to 3-8. These were well deserved victories for the new champions.

Toomevara won the minor hurling championship and added another honour to all their under-age achievements this year. Borrisileigh added Nealon Trophy title to their senior hurling title. Shannon Rovers, after years of wonderful work at under-age level, saw their under 21

hurlers win the Walsh Trophy. The finalists are known for the under 21 hurling championship proper— Eire Og (holders) defend their title against strong challengers Erins Hope.

On the football scene Kilruane won the senior football title after a replay. Borrisokane won the Intermediate football title by beating Lorrha in a good hard game. Burgess won the North title in junior football and they have qualified for the county football title with Knockavilla. In the minor football championship Inane Rovers beat Kilruane by 6 points to 4 points. In the under 21 football championship Erins Hope meet Newport, Inane Rovers meet Silvermines, while Eire Og have qualified for the semi-final.

As I said it has been a wonderful year with many new champions. Besides, the year was very successful financially with an income in the region of £20,000.

The fixtures committee at North level did wonderful work, and were a great help to me.

The hurling enquiry continues and its findings will be made known at divisional and county level. Lets hope the clubs

respond by forwarding motions to improve our championships.

Scór 82 has been doing well and it is hoped that many of our winners will go further.

Bord na nOg, under Donal Shanahan and John Tierney, has done a great years work.

All in all it has been a great year with the North showing that it is truly part of the Premier County.

The referees seminar, sponsored by O'Mearas Hotel, at the suggestion of Gerry Long, was a tremendous success. John Moloney "The Knight of the Whistle", Neilly Duggan of Limerick, Tony Jordan of Dublin and our Donie Nealon, conducted proceedings.

30 referees from the North took part and enjoyed a sumptuous meal first of all. The Hotel Manager Mr Ray Verso looked after the welfare of all present.

It was a well worthwhile seminar, well organised, well attended and well conducted. It is well worth renewing next year. The referees in the North have responded to the first-class coaching provided by men like John Moloney.



Borrisokane North Tipp. Intermediate Football Winners

Back row: R. Donnelly, M. Houlihan, I. Conroy, T. Hurley, D. Sheahan, T. Donnelly, M. Darcy, D. Kelly, G. Carroll, G. Brennan, P. Moran, L. Kelly.
Front row: G. O'Sullivan, B. Dooley, J. McKenna, S. Donnelly, N. Comerford, N. Kelly, P. Dooley, V. Dooley.

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COMMERCIALS YOUTH POLICY PAYS OFF

by John McNamara

Pride of place in any club goes to the team or teams who win a county championship. In the case of the Commercials it is the minor team who proved successful.

The south minor championship is run on a league basis and Commercials were drawn in a group with Newcastle. Cahir/Ballyporeen, St Augustines and Slievenamon victories over all these teams left us in the south semi-final where we once again met and defeated Cahir/Ballyporeen. In an eagerly awaited south final with keen rivals Brian Borus, we took command from the throw in and ran out very impressive winners.

A very comfortable victory over Inane Rovers left us in a county final against Emly/Lattin/Cullen. Here the fighting spirit of this team was seen at its best. When having been jolted by two goals— one in each half, they fought back to finish the stronger and win deservedly by 1-10 to 2-5.

The following was the team and substitutes on the final day:—

	R. Gaffey	
A. Farrell	E. Wynne	N. O'Connell
MI Lynch	B. Boland	E. Lalor
	L. Fahy	P. McGabhann
J. Fanning	S. O'Keeffe	A. McCarthy
A. Dwyer	J. McNamara	W. Peters (capt)

Subs: B. Byrne for A. McCarthy. M.

Hickey, A. Hickey, A. Burke, D. O'Shea, D. Barrett.

When one considers the average age of the senior panel was 21 years, one realises the future of the club certainly lies with our youth.

Victories in the earlier stages of the county championship over Fethard and Ardfinnan augured well for the team. Drawn against Kilsheelan in the county semi-final at Kilsheelan proved a real stumbling block and alas defeat was our lot. Inexperience proved mostly our undoing and on the day chances that could easily have swung it our way were hastily squandered.

Mullinahone proved, as always, tough opposition in the 1st round of the south and old rivals, Ardfinnan, fairly put it up to us in the semi-final at Clogheen. So to the south final against reigning champions, Fethard, at Clonmel. In a game that finished in a welter of excitement the sides ended all square.

The replay again at Clonmel proved that this young Commercial team had at last began to mature and they threw down the gauntlet to Fethard from the throw in. Displaying great football skill in the first twenty minutes of the game they led at half time by 0-7 to 0-1 and eventually took the title by 0-11 to 0-5. The successful teams and substitutes were MI Hanly, M. Daly, E. Makem, M.



Hugh Kennedy, Minor Football Board, presenting the trophy to Willie Peters, captain of Clonmel Commercials, minor football champions.

O'Connell, B. Keane, S. O'Neill, P. O'Neill, G. McGrath, J. Kavanagh, E. Sinnott, T. Walsh, S. O'Keeffe, F. Keely, MI McGarry, W. Peters.

Subs— D. Mullins, S. Lonergan, D. O'Keeffe, T. O'Neill, J. McNamara, S. McMahon.

Victories over Fethard, Mullinahone, Moyle Rovers, Cahir and Kilsheelan with but one defeat by Ardfinnan, have left us in the semi-final of the league which will be played in the very near future and one would be hoping for further success.

The under 21s had victories over Ballingarry and Brian Borus and now face a very fancied St Augustines (Kilsheelan and Fethard) in the south final. With a big sprinkling of the senior team involved here we are hoping to complete a treble of south titles and if so create another piece of Commercials football history.

Our Intermediate team were in a very strong group with Fr Sheehy's (eventual winners) Grangemockler, Kickhams, St Patricks, Drangan and Ballylooby/Castlegrace. Reluctantly we had to withdraw from the junior championship as we found the commitment of fielding so many teams too demanding.

At juvenile level we did not have the successes of other years. Nevertheless our u 12 won the south final and were beaten by Durlas Og in county final. The u 14 were beaten in south final by eventual county winners Fethard and our u 16s for the first time since the competition was started failed to win the south, being beaten by Ardfinnan in the final.

Next year sees the 50th Anniversary of the club and already arrangements are going ahead to make this the most successful of years.



CLONMEL COMMERCIALS— Minor Football County Champions

Back row, l. to r.: D. O'Keeffe, H. Farrell, E. Wynne, L. Fahy, R. Gaffy, J. Fanning, A. Hickey, P. McGabhann, A. Burke.

Front row, l. to r.: B. Boland, MI Lynch, M. O'Connell, D. O'Shea, W. Peters, M. Hickey, B. Byrne, D. Barrett.

Seated l to r.: E. Lalor, A. McCarthy, Joe McNamara, A. O'Dwyer.

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COUNTY MINOR FOOTBALL BOARD AFFAIRS 1981

Liam O Baróid

The year 1981 will go down in history as yet another year in which Tipperary failed to make an impact in Munster football. After our good performances in 1980 in the Munster Minor Championship many felt that '81 would bring just rewards so the selection were in this frame of mind in October 1980 when they held finals and began preparing their panel for the year ahead. After the coaching course which began on 7th Feb. 1981 and ended on 28th March '81 training was held each Saturday with challenges being played against Offaly, Dublin and Cork. Included in the coaching course this year was a special competition for the weaker counties which in our case was a home and away game versus Waterford. We qualified for the final against Limerick which was played in Emly on 14th April and resulted in a Tipperary win 5 pts to 4 pts. However my own opinion of this Special League is that it should have been played later on when the final could have been played on Munster Football final day preceding the Munster Minor final. As well as raising the status of this competition it would have given players from two of the weaker counties the experience of playing before a large crowd on a very important occasion.

Kerry beat Clare in the first round of the minor championship so we travelled to Killorglin on the 10th July 1981. However on this occasion Kerry were well prepared and were convincing winners 2-13 to 1-4.

The team that played Kerry in Killorglin was T. Hubbard, Cahir; M. Joy, Emly capt.; J. McNamara, Ardfinnan; M. O'Connell, Commercial; M. Lynch, Commercial; B. Ryan, Cashel; M. Fitzgerald, A. Browne, Fr Sheehys; A. Waters Swans; D. O'Keeffe, Commercial; P. Hynes, Templemore; A. Healy, Newcastle; S. Barlow, Ardfinnan; P. Landers, Arravale Rovers, W. Peters, Commercial. Subs: M. McEniry, Cahir; D. Lanigan, Grangemockler.

Selectors were Hugh Kennedy, Arravale Rovers; Peter Savage, Ardfinnan; John Phelan, Moyle Rovers; Pat Moroney, Aherlow Coach/Selector.

Under 21 Football

The selection held a number of trials before picking a panel to commence training. Training commenced in June and was held weekly up to date of match. Cork beat Clare in the first round of the Munster Championship so we had the reigning All Ireland champions in Clonmel on 5th August 1981. A week prior to the game J. Dunne Moyne and S. O'Neill Commercial's received injuries and were ruled out of the game. In the first half of the match our backs played tremendously well but our forwards failed to capitalise on the few chances they got. Midway through the second half Tipperary were dominant but not until we converted a penalty did we look like causing an upset. In the end we were beaten by one point and anyone who was at the game will agree

when I say the least we deserved was a draw. Cork went on to win the All Ireland title in their stride and we congratulate them on doing so.

Case for Coaching

It must now be obvious to everyone that the talent in Tipperary is there. What we need is a little luck which in the past we have not had. We are unfortunately in a province which in Cork and Kerry have potential All Ireland winners in each grade of football each year. I feel we must continue with our coaching but one must raise the point should we not be coaching fifteen year olds rather than at a more advanced age? It is also very important for clubs to spend money on coaching boys at an early age and getting them games at club level against top class opposition, than when they take the field against Cork or Kerry they would hold no fears for them. The team beaten by Cork in Clonmel was M. Hanly Commercials; N. English, Lattin-Cullen; P. McGrath, Loughmore; D. Foley, Moyle Rovers; R. Lanigan, Grangemockler; M. Beston, Fr Sheehys; S. Quinn, Galtee Rovers; I. Conroy, Borrisokane Captain; E. O'Dwyer Rockwell Rovers; M. Ormonde, Kilshealan; C. Murphy, Commercials; F. Kelly, Commercials.

Subs: S. Butler Ardfinnan, S. Lonergan
Commercials.

Selectors were S. McCarthy, Galtee Rovers; S. Connelly, Kilsheelan, M. Darcy, Borrisokane and John Cummins Ardfinnan coach/selector.



Kilsheelan, South Intermediate Hurling Champions

Back row, l. to r.: J. O'Donovan, (selector), J. Larkin, J. Houlihan Ml Kehoe, B. Cahill, John Kehoe, Pat Keyes, W. Whelan, W. Robinson, Jas Kehoe, E. Larkin.
Front row, l. to r.: B. Aherne, L. Stokes, L. Corcoran, S. Nugent, Pat Larkin (capt.), P. O'Neill, Matt Cahill, C. Robinson, P. Moore, B. McNally.

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TOOMEVARA'S JUVENILE VICTORIES

Where does one start when reviewing the very successful year enjoyed by Toomevara in 1981.

To have a team appearing in a divisional final, though losing, would be regarded as an achievement. To have another team taking part in a county final, though losing, would be regarded as further achievement. But, in addition, to win three county championships, in the same year, must surely be regarded as an outstanding feat. The list of successes, all in hurling, reads— Divisional and county champions under 12, under 14, under 16, divisional minor champions and losing county finalists, and divisional Intermediate finalists.

Looking back on the year one must ask what brought about such remarkable success, and how did the club reach such heights of endeavour. The answer is to be found in the prodigious work-rate of all those involved in such achievements. It is to be found in the response, dedication and commitment of all the players, in the many months of hard slogging work put in by so many people in charge of the teams. There was also the hard work and co-operation of all the members of the club, many of whom committed themselves fully and wholeheartedly to

ensure success; the willing and enthusiastic encouragement of parents and people of the parish all wishing to see Toomevara reach new heights, and backing up their support through very generous contributions to club funds and through transport of players to matches often at great inconvenience.

Long Season

It has been a very long season beginning on a Saturday in January. The under 12 and under 14 players began training for a very important date in their young hurling lives. They had been invited to play famed Blackrock in two games in Cork on the day of the Tipperary-Cork National hurling league tie. These games were in return for a visit from Blackrock to Toomevara in 1979. The hurling year ended on Sunday 25 October when the Toomevara minors were beaten in the county minor final by Clonoulty.

The under 12 team started activities very early and played fourteen matches in all, between challenge and championship. They beat a very formidable Roscrea team in the North Division final and went on to meet Durlas Og in the county final. After an epic game the result was a draw, and many felt that

Toomevara had lost their chance, especially when Durlas Og were involved. The replay proved to be an even better game, of swaying fortunes with some brilliant passages of hurling. It was tense and exciting all through and the result was in the balance until the final whistle, when Toomevara emerged winners by a two points margin. A big factor in their success was their proficiency in ground hurling. For boys so young their tenacity courage and commitment throughout some tense games was remarkable.

Hopes for the under 14 team were less than sanguine, but they got down to the task in earnest, and though suffering reverses in the urban-rural championship, they still battled on, and defeated old rivals, Kilruane, in the north rural final. In the county rural final Moycarkey proved to be doughty opponents, but the Toomevara boys weathered their fierce onslaught and regained the county title, last won in 1979.

The under 16 team have been blazing a trail since 1977. In that year they won the county under 12 championship—the first county juvenile title to be brought to the parish. They followed up in 1979 by winning county rural and urban rural titles, All Ireland Community



Toomevara— under 12 County Champions
Front row, l. to r.: Joe Kennedy, Liam Hogan, William Ryan, Paul Kenneally
Micilin Delaney, George Frend, Kevin Kennedy.
Back row: John Maher, J. J. Ryan, Declan O'Meara, Martin Brislane,
Michael O'Meara (capt.), Seamas Brislane, Willie Quigley, Bill Carroll.

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Toomevara under 14 County Rural Champions

Front row, l. to r.: Martin Whelan, John Galvin, P. J. Connolly, Martin Hogan, Matthew Frend, Liam Hogan, George Frend, Kevin Delaney, Michael Nolan, William Delaney, Paul Meagher, Micilin Delaney, Michael Shanahan.

Back row, l. to r.: George Haverty, Martin Brislane, Noel Cahill, Gerry Ryan, Tim Gleeson, Michael O'Meara, Jody Grace (capt.), Kevin O'Meara, Kenneth McDonnell, Rory Brislane, John Kennedy, John Bourke, Seamas Brislane, Rory Farrell.

Games title, and falling to Glen Rovers, Cork, in the All-Ireland Féile na nGael Division one grade, by one point. Now they have annexed the first county under 16 championship, and thus remain unbeaten in championship games since 1977. Six of the players were members of the North Tipperary team which captured the inaugural Munster under 16 hurling championship.

Reaching a county minor final for the first time is also a milestone in the club's history. Though beaten by Clonoulty the minors gave a great display and could possibly have won with a bit of luck.

They delighted their supporters during the year, serving up some great fare, and the day cannot be far distant when a county minor title is brought to the parish.

Tough Luck

Surely the most heartbreaking result of the year was the loss of the North Divisional Intermediate final. Two goals conceded in the dying minutes turned seeming victory into stunning defeat. This defeat, disappointing as it was,

should rather inspire the players and urge them to go one better in 1982, and give a lead to the many young hurlers following in their footsteps.

So, the year 1981 has brought wonderful success, tempered with some disappointment. All the hard work of so many people has borne fruit and one hopes that success will breed further success. Even with highly talented material there is no short cut to victory; it comes only to those who work for it. As the old adage says "Tis too late to sharpen your sword for battle when the drums are out."

TOM FANNING

It was with deep regret that the Gaels of Tipperary learned of the death of Tom Fanning on the 20th July 1981. All who had the pleasure to know him knew that one of the great characters associated with Tipperary hurling had passed to his eternal reward.

Tom joined the Defence Forces as a very young man and served for many years with the 4th Battalion, Collins Barracks, Cork. The young soldier was soon to make a name for himself and his county by winning many army and international competitions in both cross country and long distance running. He loved the game of hurling and no matter where the venue Tom was always there



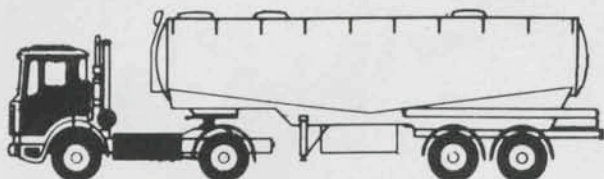
to encourage the wearers of the Blue and Gold, whatever the grade. He gave freely from his athletic experience and for many years was masseur to the Tipperary senior hurling team. In latter years he helped county minor hurling teams. His numble hands and ready wit made him a great favourite with the Templemore C.B.S. All Ireland winning team of 1978. His unexpected comments could always be counted on a welcome source of relief to dressing tension. His attendance at all league games in the season 1980-81 even though his health was rapidly declining, showed the depth of his love for the ancient game of hurling.

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THE HURLERS OF GLENN-ACOSLAN

This poem is taken from "The Patriotic Songs and Poems of J. J. Finnan" ("Myles"), published in 1913, the year of the author's death.

Myles was born at Ardvillane, Tipperary in 1842 and taught for some years. His Fenian activities forced him to go "on the run" and he found his way to America where he worked under John Boyle O'Reilly on "The Boston Pilot".

He returned to Ireland on a few occasions and finally in 1912 the year before his death.

In a footnote to this poem the author says that Glennacolsan was a celebrated hurling field near Bansha where eighty years previously former generations met and showed their prowess and skill.

*'Tis well I remember the good olden time,
When I was a fine strapping boy in my prime;
When young men had spirit and plenty of brawn,
Who belted the leather at Glennacolsan.*

*Of that famous spot I would have you take note
It might be the scene of "The Peeler and the Goat",*

*For it lies close to Bansha and Lowe's of Kilshan,
That "field of the hurlers" famed Glennacolsan.*

I knew the place well, I was there in my day,

*With caman well polished, prepared for the fray
For with "parish bullies" I then took my stand
Although you could blow me today from your hand.*

*Not mine to disparage, not mine to run down,
Our hurlers today of the country or town;
Nor say that the best is the merest sprisan
Compared to the hurlers of Glennacolsan.*

*We sported no tights, that pure modesty hurts,
But wore our knee-breeches and bandlecloth shirts,*

*With handkerchiefs over our nappers well drawn
To show our true colours at Glennacolsan.*

*Our rules were so simple that all understand,
Except some poor drone or a "stick in the mud"
"Twas shoulder to shoulder, 'twas brawn against brawn*

The sight was entrancing at Glennacolsan.

*There was Delany, the best known of all,
Whose duty was always to strike up the ball,
Whose cabin stood near on the slope of Kilshan
He was the old stand by at Glennacolsan.*

*And there from Kilfeakle, came Paddy Guilfoyle,
Who long felt to tyrants as sore as a boil;
With Kellys and Hogans, from Kyle and Grenane
And tested their mettle at Glennacolsan.*

*And from ancient Emly came Jacky McGrath,
And many bold boys who despised Saxon law;
The Finnans, of Latteen: Mat Ryan, of Kilross—
All stripped for the fray when the ball got the toss.*

*There were Ryans of Shronell, and Ryans from elsewhere,
And Caseys and Condons from Mitchelstown square;*

*While "Boland the fiddler" who hailed from Brockbawn,
Astonished the natives at Glennacolsan.*

*From nigh Ballineety came Kennedy Mor,
As strong as Cuchullin, that hero of yore,
With doughty Tom Bradshaw, from Cullen's green bawn,
To loosen their muscles at Glennacolsan.*

*Brave Bansha, Kilmoyher and Aherlow Glen,
Prepared for those meetings, the pick of their men;*

*Old Tubberadora sent Billy Marnane,
As dauntless as any at Glennacolsan.*

*To name all my heroes would make a big book,
Who went with their parties to goal or to puck;
Their deeds should be blazoned as bright as the dawn,*

*They honoured old Ireland at Glennacolsan.
But, alas! for our land, in those strenuous hours
We then could if only aware of our powers,
Have chased the false Saxon and all his vile spawn*

Like chasing the leather at Glennacolsan.

*So now to conclude and to finish my rhyme,
The "boys" were superb in your grandfather's time,*

*Then heed well the tales the old "Senachie" tells,
And treasure them all, while the heart proudly swells.*

THE DAVINS OF CARRICK

A famous athletic family

The Davins are probably one of the oldest families in Carrick-on-Suir, and in looking up athletic history I find that no less than six of Mr Pat Davin's ancestors have been remarkable in their day for feats of strength and activity, foremost of them being Denis Davin, Pat's great grandfather, who was born about the year 1740, and died about 1825, and also the latter's son, Maurice. Both were men of great strength and stature, and were, in their day, invincible at anything demanding strength of arm and fleetness of foot. In the seventies and eighties the world-famed trio of brothers (Maurice, at present residing at Deerpark; Tom, who was between the years of 1874 and 1890, when he died, solicitor in large practice in his native Carrick, and Pat, referred to above, also a solicitor) simply astounded the athletic world with their all-round athletic brilliancy—in fact, more than half the world's records for running, jumping, hurdle-racing, and weight-throwing were at one time held by those famous brothers, and some of their records are still unbroken. A fairly large-sized book could be written of their wonderful athletic feat, and they are and always will be accredited with the distinction of being the pioneers of athletics of Ireland, their famous athletic grounds at Deerpark being, as it were, a nursery to foster and encourage athletics which they loved so well. The Kiely brothers,

John Flanagan, Pat Harding and numerous other champion athletes, owe their successes to the influence and help of the Davins, and the present G.A.A. owes its origin to Mr Maurice Davin, who was its real founder, though the late Michael Cusack used to claim a share in that distinction.

Pat Davin began his athletic career in 1877 and retired an unbeaten champion in his own special events in the year 1888. He established a new world's record in the long jump in the year 1881 with a spring of 23ft 2 ins, from a grass take-off (a board take-off being unknown at that time, and which now means over a foot of an advantage), and it lasted until 1898, period of 17 years, when W. J. Newburn succeeded from a similar grass take-off in doing 23ft 3 ins, and which record is now held by Peter O'Connor at 23ft 10½ ins; and Mr O'Connor also holds the world's record from a board take-off, at 24ft 11¼ ins. It is a singular fact that the greatest long jumpers that the world ever produced were solicitors, namely, Pat Davin, whose record for several years stood at 24 ft 7½ ins, and the record of 24ft 11¼ ins held for the past eleven years by Peter O'Connor, now practising in Waterford city.

In the year 1881 Pat Davin crossed over to take part in the English Cham-

pionships at Birmingham, and he succeeded in doing what no athlete ever accomplished before or since, and, in the writer's opinion, never will. He won four championships, namely, the long jump, 22ft 1 in; high jump, 6ft ¼ ins; putting the 16 lbs hammer, and got second, after a desperate race, in the 120 yards hurdles. In 1882 he won the Irish championship belt as the best allround athlete in Ireland. He retired from athletics in 1884, but in 1888 there was an invasion of American athletes who came over to take part in the English Championships, and amongst them was one Malcolm Ford, the all-round champion athlete of America. He issued a challenge to all athletes in the United Kingdom for a contest comprising 12 events. Pat Davin was approached by leading Irish sportsmen to accept the challenge, and though he had not taken part in any contest for four years he agreed to do so and started training. Suffice it to say that Ford, Jordan and another crack American, Grey of Canada, and the Irishmen, Davin, D. Bulger, T. Donovan and J. Peare (I think the latter was a brother of Mr C. H. Peare and Mr W. F. Peare) entered the lists, and Pat Davin emerged victorious in a most decisive fashion.

Mr Davin was also a member of the Irish athletic team who went to America shortly after that contest, and again established his athletic prowess.

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THOUGHTS ON LADIES FOOTBALL

by Dermot Shanahan

With more interest and determination we can match the best but we will have to change our attitude that we had in 1981 as with clubs breaking up and lack of attendance at the games. It is very disheartening for a team to go out and play their best and maybe win and have a very small crowd to cheer them.

I have noticed as a selector that players just don't have the same interest in playing for their county. In 1981 we found it very difficult to field a senior team to defend our Munster title against Kerry—we had to rely on our junior players to make up the team.

Ladies football has at last been recognised by G.A.A. at the last G.A.A. Congress. This has been a great achievement for us after waiting seven years. We now qualify to play our All Irelands in Croke Park.

At our annual convention this year it was decided by members of Tipperary All Ireland team who were winners in 1980 to do a charity bedpush from Cork to Dublin, the funds to go to Tipperary Mentally Handicapped. This was highly successful and we were proud to be able to present the sum of £4,000 to this deserving cause.

With not such a good year to our credit in the championship we have done somewhat better in the league and have now reached the league final against Kerry which will be played at a later date.

Our under 16 players did very well. They retained the Munster title and went on to play Wexford in all Ireland but

lost to a more fitter and deserving team.

Encouragement Needed

I feel that if more encouragement was given at local level we could have more clubs. Last September I was requested to train some girls for a team arranged by Quinnsworth Clonmel for a tournament. There I found a group of girls from different localities, who had all the qualities needed for a good footballer but had never played with any club. This is where we are losing out. However now that I have found these girls, I will hope to see more of them on the field from now on. I must congratulate Offaly who beat Cavan in All Ireland this year by one point. Both Tipp and Cavan have won two All Irelands each.

Wishing all our ladies Footballers all over Ireland every success in 1982.

"OSSIE"

Osmond Bennett, now living in Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny, was born in Ballinhassig, Co. Cirk. He and his brother George were prominent athletes at sports meetings throughout the country for over twenty years. Today Osmond is known throughout the length and breadth of the country as an expert in physical training and coaching of Gaelic teams. "Ossie", as he is known, answers the call to assist in preparing club and county teams irrespective of their status and his successes have been exceptional.

Ossie is a born competitor. Any athletic event he took up he mastered it, ranging from running, jumping and weight throwing to boxing and cycling, winning awards in all of them and as an all-rounder at first class sports meetings. He also played with his local hurling team in the Cork Championships. His days in active athletics over, he made a study of physical fitness and in 1961 he was invited to come as masseur and co-trainer to the Tipperary senior hurling team. Immediately he had an uplifting influence on the players. His competitive



Ossie Bennett

spirit, his bouncing enthusiasm he succeeded in transferring to the entire panel of players and officials, and his contribution to the successes in the great years of the sixties has been generally acknowledged as a most important factor in preparing the team for victory.

His interest in cars and engines, ancient and modern, is well known and he is a familiar figure at steam-engine displays and vintage car rallies here and abroad. His home is full of trophies awarded in varied and widespread fields, and visitors are welcomed with traditional hospitality by Ossie and his wife Betty.

After twenty-one years of devoted service to Tipperary teams Ossie's enthusiasm remains undiminished. Despite the last lean decade he remains an optimist and his approach to Tipperary's young team of today is powered by the same bouncing confidence which marked his first appearance on the scene in 1961.

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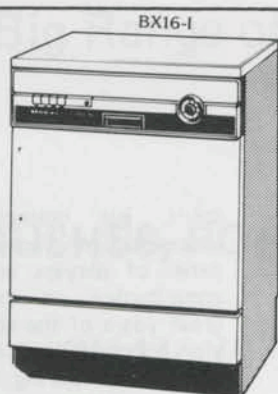
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A HOPEFUL LOOK AHEAD

by Mick Minogue

After Tipperary's recent victory in the 21 All Ireland I have been asked many times when will Tipp win a senior All Ireland. It's a difficult question to answer. Since 1976 Tipp have won two All Ireland minor and three under 21s, also National A League in 1979, so why have we failed to win a first round snr championship game since 1973. My view is our failure to win a minor All Ireland between 1959-'76 has not helped. Also remember the great minor teams of the 40s and 50s helped us to win '49-'50 -'51. All Irelands and our great senior teams from 1958 to 1968 when five All Irelands were won. Having won under 21 All Irelands 1964-'67 many of those on winning teams helped to win our last senior success in 1971.

During the 1960-70 period both Cork and Kilkenny have proved that the winning of their minor and under 21s have led to senior success. Nothing succeeds like success.

New Rules

It has been said change of playing rules hasn't helped. I believe we changed our style unknown to ourselves; gone from our play of the past, hip to hip and ground hurling to our present lift and poke. We need only look at our local championship games with players persisting in lifting every ball instead of hitting first time.

That brings up the word coaching or

trainer. It's important our young players should be taught how to play our great game of hurling that will serve them during their playing days. To our teachers, Christian Brothers, priests, schools and many loyal club officials we in Tipp are grateful. However there are many who were outstanding hurlers All Ireland winners who fade away after finishing playing; those people are required by club and county to help and pass on their vast knowledge of our games.

Every player selected to play for Tipp in any grade should be able to strike a ball on the ground when running at speed, same when striking from hand, or off the hurley. Blocking, double on high ball, passing, side step, swerve etc. players could put in hours each week trying to improve their skills. What about fitness? discipline is vital. You must forget about cigs and watch the drinking habit. A few drinks will not do harm provided you leave it at few. To bed early, proper food, mind your health. When a player gets fit early in the year he must be careful not to overdo training. Many players make this mistake. As the year goes on he will tire and not last 60 minutes. County players cannot train 2 evenings in Thurles and 3 evenings at home.

Home System Needs Change

This brings me to our local championships. Borrisoleigh played 11 matches to win county title. Offaly played 3 to win

All Ireland. I ask our clubs in the county and Board officials to have a serious look at our system of running championship. For a period of 2 years why not have knock-out. We can have our leagues and our players would have plenty of competitions. Our county players at present have too many competitions to cope with.

Now I come to selectors. You will not be popular if your team loses, even when on winning side you will be told of players who should have been on that team. For me it's the players that make selectors. I can honestly say selectors I worked with gave always of their best for Tipp. My present colleagues, Paddy O'Meara, Phil Lowry, Billy Carroll and Danny Morrissey are well aware of difficult task ahead. We will do our best. We must work together with County Board clubs in the county. Lets hope our supporters are patient and encouraging. We require discipline, dedication, determination, will to win by our players who will be selected.

For that vital first round championship v old rivals Cork, you may ask—will the age of players be under 25? Selectors will pick best available talent for that showdown.

Some of you may or may not agree with points mentioned in this article. I am sure we would all agree its time for Tipp to make a welcome return to Croke Park, first Sunday in September. In what year? with the help of God soon.



Tipp. Senior Hurling team which drew with Limerick at Thurles in the Munster Championship
Back row: P. Williams, M. Carroll, J. Grogan, P. Fitzelle, E. O'Shea, T. Barry, P. Ryan, J. Keogh.
Front row: G. O'Brien, D. Cahill, P. Fox, P. McLoughrey, P. Queally, K. Fox, T. O'Connor.

A favourite topic of mine is the "Rural Schools". I'm sure you have read in the "Tipperary Star" of the many journeys I made along the winding roads of Tipperary on my way to rural schools. This summer I visited over forty schools. I met the teachers, heard their 'tales', encouraged them, advised them and helped them, I hope, to bring back the "Spirit of Hurling" to these my favourite schools.

I have a soft spot in my heart for them, I must admit. I suppose its because I was reared in the country and attended a small rural school. There was a great hurling spirit among us and although hurling was not encouraged that much around the school, we succeeded in obtaining the "forbidden fruit" by hook or by crook (if you'll excuse the pun). It was the custom at that time to gather sticks at lunch-time for the school fire in the neighbouring farms. We made sure never to gather too many and to make haste in gathering the few so that more time would be had to have a game of hurling before lunch-break ended. The crows descending on the school-yard to pick up the 'crumbs' was the sign for us to cease play and return with our "gabháil" of sticks to the school, having made sure that our "crooks" and half-shaped hurleys were securely hidden for the next day's escapade.

On Sundays the schoolboys came to our field or a neighbour's field for a few hours hurling. At other times we ourselves arranged a match with the school at the other end of the parish or in the next parish. These were the "bloody" matches too and often we had to fight our way back home like the march of O'Sullivan Beara. Our hunger was deadened on these "enforced marches" (*itineribus magnis*) by the sweet taste of a turnip or by the flowery "heart" of a winter cabbage or in summer by the wild fruits provided by mother nature.

I still long for these great days when we would walk miles in order to play a match.

Tipperary was one of the first counties to organise the Rural Schools. At the 1930 County Convention, Father John Meagher, Chairman of the County Board spoke in glowing terms of the Primary Schools League. He said "The Contests and preparations for this league instil into the youthful hearts of the county a love for and a devotion to, the games of the Gael. Seventy two teams had entered last year (1929). I congratulate the teachers for their patriotic efforts."

Dr Harty's Wish

In 1931 His Grace, the Archbishop (Dr Harty) said: "I hope the schools will take up the National games, because if we wish to have Tipperary in front in the future, we must begin with the schools. The schoolboys are our hope and on them we must depend for the promotion of our National games. "Remember" says the Rev. County Chairman, "that Gaelic games will give our boys a

THE ROLE OF THE RURAL SCHOOLS

by Br. Seosamh Ó Páircín.

more patriotic love for the land that gave them birth. All should try and revive the old sports and amusements; the old beautiful home life—the meeting at firesides, telling stories, *seanchaí*, Irish dancing and Irish songs etc. These old customs are more than threatened by a foreign, unchristian and veiled paganism, strengthened by a foreign Press and foreign amusements. Let us try to rebuild the beautiful home-life on the foundation of faith, morality and refinement."

The teachers rallied to the call. They produced some great hurlers, and more important still, some great characters developed in mind, soul and body—a credit to our county.

Gradually Bord na nOg took over the great work of the schools. The club now became important and not enough of teachers were helping out with the development of these young men.

The importance of the teacher was not seen. He was needed now more than ever. We needed an educator still, the discipline, the respect, the good-behaviour on and off the field. More important that hurling matches were the spirit and love of hurling, of Ireland, of home, of tradition, of heritage, of culture etc. This could best of all be given in the home and in the school.

Tipperary missed the influence of trained teachers with a love for their faith and fatherland. We needed them!

An effort was made about five years ago (1977) to bring the Rural Schools together, even if it was for only one half day. Over twenty schools came together in Nenagh and about fifteen schools met in Semple Stadium. Friendly matches were played between schools of equal standing. This meeting or "get-together" was a great success. These friendly matches were continued in the following years. Last year small groups of schools had simple competitions with no great stress on winning. The movement is growing. Schools are becoming more interested. Parents, clubs, well-wishers are giving every help to their local schools to play hurling. The little fields beside the schools are kept cut, good posts are put up, hurleys and sliotars are supplied—sometimes helmets—and transport is available to the schools on the days of matches. Promotional material has been sent to the schools and teachers are glad of every help available.

A Cup from Cork

This year our good friends in Cork—The Tipperary Association there—have donated a magnificent trophy "The Knocknagow Cup" for competition

among the Rural Schools. Matches between the North, Mid and West Divisions were played in Semple Stadium and the North boys with representatives from twelve Rural Schools were presented with the Cup.

Dwans Thurles sponsored the badges which were given to the hundred boys that took part. Kevin Reynolds of Newry gave "Nuri-balls" to the victorious schools. The North Senior Board were so satisfied with the promotion that they treated the victorious schoolboys and teachers to a grand meal in Hayes Hotel. Tomás O Ciarba, Pádraig O Meachair and Tomás O Baróid were present at the game.

A new era had begun.

Future Hopes

What of the future? In 1982 we hope to have more 9-a-side, 12-a-side and 15-a-side schools—matches to suit the different schools. Promotion must be stepped up in the North, Mid, West and South Divisions. There is an amount of goodwill there. We ask the many clubs to adopt and sponsor these great centres of Gaelic Culture—the Rural Schools. Help them in every way possible, with every amenity possible.

We have in our Rural Schools a powerhouse of good, with men and women of whom any nation may be proud, and children the best in the world, striving to play the greatest game in the world. Here the "Spirit of Tipperary" and the "spirit of hurling" will be engendered. Here the seed is sown, the tree is planted. See to it that that tree grows and spreads its branches not only throughout a thirty-two county Ireland, but where Irish men and Irish women tread the paths of life that lead unto the path of glory and the level plains of heaven.

Advice from Canon Hayes

Let me finish with the words of our own Canon J. M. Hayes, Founder of Muintir na Tire, which were written on 16th July 1938.

"The greatest factors in the retention of Irish rural traditions are the National games. If ever our National games should die, then in truth, it may be said that Knocknagow would be no more and the spirit of Phil Lahy would have gone. Any attempt to keep our rural life vigorous, healthy and attractive must first of all take count of the grand traditions crystallised in the National games."

"In the work of Muintir na Tire the National games must have a place if the traditions of Rural Ireland are to survive. The work of the GAA and Muintir na Tire has much in common. Both are fighting for the retention of our National traditions. I hope there will be closer co-operation between them so that the men of the GAA will join the ranks of Muintir na Tire. Through this union we can, with God's help, build up a Rural Ireland strong in body and soul, bright in its social life, secure in its economic life, and faithful in its religious life."

THE LEAHYS OF TUBBERADORA

by Phil Dwyer

*"Oft at evening in Boherlahan round the cherry kitchen fire,
Will be told the deeds of Leahys, of the Walshes and Dwyers."*

This article, dealing with the Leahys, brings to our notice the only family in the county, and one of the very few in whole country, which has produced four brothers, all winners of All-Ireland senior medals, as well as a fifth, who rose to the rank of Brigadier in the Anglo-Irish war.

Mike Leahy, their father, was a member of Captain Tom O'Grady's Moycarkey team which beat Cork Nationals (Blackrock) in August '86 at Cork, the year before County and All-Ireland Championships began. He also helped this combination (21-aside) to win the County Final of 1889. The townland of Tubberadora was in the parish of Moycarkey at this period and did not become part of Boherlahan till 1903. This explains why Johnny, Paddy, Jimmy and Mick were all baptized in Moycarkey.

When the famous Tubberadora Club was founded in 1895, Thomas Leahy of Tubberadora Mill, a brother of Mike's, became President, and later on wrote two songs in praise of the achievements of this immortal combination. Mike was a member of the committee. Only a "bounds ditch" separated the two brothers' farms and the Tubberadora (Mill) Stream ran through Mike's land to join the Suir. Mike married Miss Mary O'Callaghan from Knockalough (Upperchurch). We can well imagine how the young Leahys listened in their formative years to the praises of their famous neighbours, being told and sung, and of ambitions being formed that they too would emulate their deeds on the hurling fields of Ireland.

School Days

In due course, the brothers went to school in Boherlahan, Johnny and Paddy at first, to be joined later by Mick and Jimmy. When Gaile school in Moycarkey opened in 1900 all the brothers switched from Boherlahan. This meant that they had to walk almost two miles across fields from home to school, but they "shortened" the journey by hurling on the way, reminiscent of Setanta of old. Tommy, the youngest of the brothers, attended Boherlahan school first also, but switched to Gaile towards the close of his academic career, at a time when his elder brothers were winning fame for themselves, their club and their county. Tommy now farms at Marlhill, New Inn, next door to the famous Educational Establishment of Rockwell College, where his nephew Séamus, a son of Jimmy's, is a Professor.

After leaving school Johnny and

Paddy remained on the family farm. At this period there was no hurling team (senior) in the parish of Boherlahan. Johnny assisted the Racecourse (Cashel) team to win a county championship (1910) only to lose it in the Boardroom on an objection. Johnny won his first Munster medal this year, when he was the only Boherlahan player on the Tipperary junior team which won the Munster championship. This was the inaugural year of the competition which was confined to the Province.

His first cousin, Tom, son of the Tubberadora President, was appointed hon. secretary. Paddy played with the Rapparees, a junior team in the Ballyine area of the parish. Finally, the historic decision was taken to form their own club, and Johnny was appointed captain from the outset. Some members thought the new club should bear the name of illustrious Tubberadora, but finally the name of the parish was adopted. Their jerseys, however, were those of Tubberadora.

1912 saw Johnny make his first appearance on the county senior team, when after beating Clare, they went down to Cork in Dungarvan. This was the last year of 17-aside teams.

First Success

1913 was an important year for the young club. It brought success for the first time in the Mid Division, then only six years old, with victories over Two-Mile-Borris, Emly and Horse and Jockey. It saw also the arrival of the first All-Ireland medal in the Leahy homestead, when Paddy helped the Tipperary Juniors to final honours. Arthur O'Donnell, Dick Walsh and Jack Power of Boherlahan won their first National honours also as members of this historic team which brought the Premier County its first victory in this series. This junior competition had started only the previous year with Cork emerging victorious. 1913 has gone into Irish history as the year of the foundation of the Volunteers. Paddy joined the Boherlahan Company at the outset and Johnny soon after. In the county semi-final, Boherlahan came up against Toomevara, then at the height of their fame, and after a ding dong struggle failed by four points. This was the first of the heart-warming encounters between two great teams in the 'teens of this century, and the county final between them each year was eagerly looked forward to by Gaels from Cork, Limerick and Kilkenny as well as from within the county.

Johnny was the sole Boherlahan representative on the Tipperary team which won the Croke Cup in 1913 and

was sub on the Toomevara Selection which won the Croke Memorial from Kilkenny in "Dungarvan town so fair."

Boherlahan retained the Mid title in 1914 with victories over Clodiagh Rangers, Thurles and Two-Mile-Borris. The game with the 'Blues in Cashel is still spoken of by old-timers as one of the greatest exhibitions of the code they ever witnessed. The match was preceded by a parade of the newly established Volunteers. There was no score at half-time and the final tally was Boherlahan 1-2, Blues 1-0. By their victory over Cashel (South champions), Boherlahan reached their first County final, only to fail to old rivals Toomevara. Johnny Leahy was unable to captain his side in this encounter, owing to illness. This year (1914) saw Mick and Jimmy Leahy help Thurles Emmets win the Mid junior hurling title. The two brothers had gone to business in the Cathedral Town soon after leaving Gaile school. In Thurles they joined the local Company of Volunteers at its foundation. Before the year was over, Mike Leahy had passed to his heavenly reward. Johnny, along with Jack Doherty and Dick Walsh, were the Boherlahan representatives on the Toom Selection well beaten by Limerick in the Munster championship.

In 1915 Boherlahan affiliated in South Tipperary and the change brought luck. In the County final at Cashel they defeated Thurles (Mid champions) to bring the parish its first county title since Ballytarsna did likewise in 1901. This year saw two further All-Ireland medals added to the Leahy collection when Paddy and Mick helped Tipperary defeat Offaly by one point in the Junior final, Mick as a member of the Thurles club and Paddy having Dick Walsh, Jack Power, Arthur O'Donnell and William O'Dwyer of Boherlahan to keep him company. The Tipperary senior team, beaten two points by Cork, included Johnny Leahy, Jack Power and Arthur O'Donnell.

In 1916

The historic year of 1916 saw Boherlahan back in the Mid Division again. With victories over Two-Mile-Borris, Cashel and Thurles, they became the standard bearers of the Division once more. The county final against the "Greyhounds" was a low-scoring game, featured by magnificent hurling. Final score: Boherlahan 2-2, Toomevara nil. For the first time Boherlahan had the selection of the County S. H. team and Johnny Leahy was skipper. In all their victories over Kerry, Limerick, Cork, Galway and Kilkenny they wore the old peaked caps of Tubberadora. The final



Boherlahan: Tipp. County Senior Hurling Champions 1941

Back row: Jerry Darmody, Tommy Leahy (R.I.P.), Ned Dwyer, Jer Looby (R.I.P.), Danny Maher, Jerry Coffey, Tom Power, Jackie Doherty (R.I.P.), Pad Dunne.

Middle row: W. O'Dwyer (Hon. Sec.), Jim Wade (R.I.P.), John Coffey, Tommy Wade (R.I.P.), Phil Dwyer (capt.), Jack Quinlan, Jimmy Maher (R.I.P.), Martin (Sonny) Maher, Dick Croke (R.I.P.).

Front row: Flor Coffey, Jackie Maher (R.I.P.).

Missing from photo: Mick Looby (R.I.P.), Dave Looby (R.I.P.), Paddy Dwyer.

In this, Boherlahan's last senior county success, they defeated West champions Annacarty Eire Og by 2-2 to 0-6.

against the Black and Ambers was delayed until January 17 when arrests and imprisonments were the order of the day. No trains were allowed, but still the crowds came. On the last two occasions in which the two counties had clashed in a final, the Noresiders had come out on top. Tipperary led at the break by 4 points but with ten minutes to go Kilkenny were 5 points ahead. Putting in a traditional finish, the men in the Blue and Gold pressed on to glorious victory on the score of 5-4 to 3-1. William O'Dwyer, still an official of the club, was presented with the new Railway Cup, as the captain had left the field in the excitement of victory. The team included six backs and three forwards from Boherlahan. Two of the team are still happily with us, Tom Dwan of Beakstown, Thurles, and Jack Power in New York. Three All-Ireland medals came to the Leahy homestead, because Mick was sub, with Johnny and Paddy playing. The team was: Tom Dwan (goal), J. Leahy, Jack Doherty, William O'Dwyer (Lisloran), A. O'Donnell, Jer Collison, Tom Shanahan, Joe Fitzpatrick, Jimmy Murphy, P. Leahy, Dick Walsh, Denis Walsh, Hugh Shelly. Denis Walsh had won his fifth National title just 20 years after winning his first with Tubberadora. This was the last final in which the famous Sim Walton assisted Kilkenny. When the final whistle blew he remarked to the Tipperary captain: "We were better hurlers than ye, Lahy." "Ye were" quipped Johnny, "but we were the better men."

Two More

After the final Johnny jotted down in an old copy-book: "Now for two more" his ambition being to win three All-Irelands, in emulation of Tubberadora.

In January 1916 Jimmy Leahy became a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. When the Rising took place in Easter Week he was one of a group of Volunteers who mobilised at Meagher's of Annfield. He was later to marry Miss Josie Meagher. After the Rising he was active in organising the Volunteers in the Thurles area.

Boherlahan won the Mid final of 1917 by a thrilling victory over Thurles at Coolcro castle, Two-Mile-Borris. Mick Leahy, helping Thurles, had his collarbone broken when he came in contact with his brother Johnny. Again the Boherlahan-Toom epic took place in Thurles Sportsfield, now Semple Stadium and Ireland's new Anthem—The Soldier's Song—was sung for the first time in the historic old grounds. Another low-scoring game saw Boherlahan emerge victors on the score 2-2 to 1-1. In the county final at Cashel, Emly failed to halt the champions. Clare were beaten in the first round of the Munster championship, but a hard-fought Munster final against Limerick at Cork ended in a draw. Tipperary won well in the replay, and were hot favourites to overcome Dublin in the final. The Collegians' Selection, which included four Tipperary men, confounded the critics, running out

winners by five points. For the first time, three Leahy brothers, Johnny, Paddy and Mick, assisted the county team in its fight for Munster and All-Ireland crowns. As they left for the final in October, news arrived of the arrest of Jimmy, who underwent hunger strike in Mountjoy until his release. Earlier in the year he was a member of the Guard of Honour at the funeral of that great Kerry patriot Thomas Ashe.

Boherlahan retained the Mid title in 1918 by beating Thurles. The county final between old rivals Boherlahan and Toomevara did not take place till the Spring of '19 when Toom surprised the champions, mainly through the efforts of a youngster called Martin Kennedy, who was to become one of Ireland's greatest forwards. There was a sequel to this game, when Boherlahan objected to the Moneygall section of the Toom team. The objection was upheld. In the Munster championship Limerick had revenge for the previous year, beating Tipperary in a replay by a goal.

Jimmy Leahy was imprisoned again in 1918, this time in Belfast Jail, where he took part in the great riot led by Austin Stack. The prisoners were overpowered after a week's fighting, when Jimmy was one of a group singled out for special attention. For ten days he was confined to his cell with his hands handcuffed behind him.

The three Leahy brothers were members of the Co. Board Selection defeated by Cork by one point in June 1919. The

county final between Divisional teams from Mid and North was not played till June '22 when the Toom-powered men won by a single point. Jimmy Leahy played his only game for the county side, when he took part in a National Aid game against Dublin this year ('19). After a meeting of high-ranking IRA officers, he accompanied Michael Collins to Croke Park on a side-car. Later this year he was forced to go on the run.

No county championships were played in the glorious years 1920–21, but Tipperary went down to Limerick in August 1920 at Riverstown outside Cork City, as the Military would not allow the game to be played at the Athletic Grounds. It should be remembered that Tipperary hurlers were not allowed to take part in the Munster championship of 1921, because the Munster Council decided that the finalists of 1920, Cork and Limerick, should meet to decide who should represent the Province.

With the Rockies

Mick Leahy moved to Cork in 1920. He was wounded when Crown Forces raided Wren's Hotel. Between that year and 1931 he helped the famous Rockies win seven county finals and collected two All-Ireland medals won by Cork.

The remote seclusion of the Leahy homestead made it an ideal refuge for "the Boys on the run," and an ideal venue for meetings of the IRA during the 'Troubles'. Pierce McCann was a regular visitor. Breen and Treacy stayed there after Soloheadbeg. Ernie O'Malley was no stranger. Neither was Liam Deasy with his Thompson gun. Brigade meetings took place. Officers of the 2nd Southern Division stayed there. One morning in 1921 Sim Walton arrived all the way from Tullaroan in a pony and trap with two prisoners who were after escaping from Kilkenny Jail. With Paddy and Jimmy on active service, Johnny had to hold the fort, with the house being used as a clearing house for despatches, but Tommy in his early teens played his part too. As O/C of the 2nd Tipperary Brigade, Jimmy took part in several engagements with the British Forces. A systematic campaign of attack was launched against RIC posts in the Brigade area, until at the time of The Truce only the larger centres had enemy personnel. In an engagement at Ballyboy he sustained a wound which cost him the loss of sight of an eye. He escaped from the RIC in Thurles on one occasion by jumping from the Suir Bridge into the river beneath. It was to him the British handed over the Military Barracks in Templemore after the Treaty. He was offered £1,000 and the position of Assistant Commissioner in the newly formed Garda force by Eoin O'Duffy if he would take the Treaty side but Jimmy's principles could not be bought.

Soon after the end of the Civil War the games resumed. The 1922 championships were disposed of first. Johnny Leahy captained a Mid Selection which beat North in the county final. Paddy

was missing as he was still on the run. After wins over Cork and Limerick, Tipperary was in the final again, against old rivals Kilkenny. Scores were level at the interval. Ten minutes from full-time it looked like a Tipperary victory, but putting in a great finish, the Nore-siders clinched the issue, winning by two points. This is still regarded as one of the great finals. To show the atmosphere of the time, it should be pointed out that Joe Nagle of Boherlahan was arrested the very week before the final, as he returned from training. Paddy Leahy was missing from the line-out too, for fear of being "picked up."

It was a pity that Jimmy's career as a hurler was cut short by the loss of his sight in one eye. Had he not been so engrossed with sterner duties he would probably have reached the heights attained by his brothers. No less an authority than the great Tom Semple used to say that Jimmy was the hardest of all the Leahys.

In the South

1924 saw Boherlahan in the South Division again. Again the County championship was played between Divisional teams. The South, powered by Boherlahan, defeated the Mid in the final at Fethard by a big score. With victories over Cork and Limerick, Tipperary were fancied to beat Galway, All-Ireland champions at the time, but went down by one point. Three Leahy brothers appeared on the Boherlahan team which won county honours in 1925, Tommy making his debut. Kerry, Cork, Waterford and Antrim were beaten to bring Tipperary and Galway face to face again. This time Tipperary had revenge to win the McCarthy Cup for the first time. It was the first year too that Tipperary teams wore the present style county jersey. Mick Leahy helped Cork defeat Limerick but did not play against his old comrades. It was truly a remarkable year for Johnny Leahy. As well as captaining his club to win county honours, and his county to win the McCarthy Cup for the first time, he was also Chairman of the County Board. I am not aware of another instance where a County Board Chairman led his senior county team to All-Ireland honours while still in office. But the Captain had more history to make. He was to lead his men in the first coast-to-coast tour of the US in '26. Paddy and Mick were on this tour also which was organised by Paddy Cahill of Holycross, a brother of Phil, also a member of the party. On their return, it took three attempts to settle the Munster final, which Cork eventually won when Tipperary were reduced to 14 men. Tommy won an All-Ireland medal with Tipperary juniors this year ('26).

Johnny, Paddy and Tommy won two further county finals together in 1977 and 1928, after losing the 1926 final to Moycarkey. Johnny was appointed Co. Secretary in 1927 and held this position standing game in this success was the

game against Dublin, powered by the Garda, reigning All-Ireland champions at the time. It was played in Thurles and saw Johnny have one of his outstanding games. He stepped down from the captaincy of the Boherlahan club early in 1928 but the honour was to remain in the family with the appointment of Tommy, for a record 21 years. It did not prevent him from leading Tipperary to its first success in the National League (1927–28), then in its infancy. Johnny's last appearance with the county side was in Cork in 1929 when he went in as sub, against the Rebels in the Munster final. 1930 was Tipperary's Triple Crown Year, and brought Tommy Leahy a senior All-Ireland medal. Both Johnny and Paddy played in their last county final that year when Toom beat Boherlahan in the replay. Johnny was then only a couple of months away from his fortieth birthday and Paddy was a few months short of 39. Both had given 20 years devoted service to club and county. Johnny toured the States again in 1931 as Manager of the Tipperary team. Tommy continued on to bring the last county medal to the Leahy household when helping to bring the Dan Breen Cup for the first and only time to the parish in 1941. He was well over forty when finally hanging up his camán.

County Secretary

During all his time as Co. Secretary and Munster Council delegate Johnny had no telephone facilities to help him. He had to cycle over eight long weary miles to and from Thurles to County Board meetings in all kinds of weather, but he was not the man to complain. During this period he played a leading part in securing playing fields for clubs all over the county from the Land Commission. While Johnny was chief executive Paddy remained in the background, but from 1949, the year of Johnny's death, until his own death in 1966, Paddy was a Tipperary selector and helped, in his own inimitable way, to bring no less than eight All-Irelands to the county. He succeeded his great friend Frank McGrath as representative on Central Council and retained this honour until his death.

In conclusion, I think it can be truly said that the Leahy brothers were the driving force behind the great Boherlahan teams of the teens and twenties. They were lucky to have great hurlers around them but they were great leaders and morale boosters whenever enthusiasm weakened. Johnny was a captain in every sense of the word. He trained his men; he met them after Mass to see that everything was ready for the fray; he placed them in the dressingroom and brought the blood coursing through their veins with his pep talk.

Johnny, Paddy and Jimmy lie in the family burial ground at Holycross Abbey; Mick lies in St Finnbar's cemetery, Cork.

Ní bheidh a leithéidí arís ann.

THE DURLAS OG STORY

by Michael Dundon

It has often been said that Tipperary's best hurling years were when the Mid division and Thurles in particular, was strong. The county's most recent run of success, 1961, '62, '64 and '65 and the 1958 triumph, all came at a time when Sarsfields were dominating the hurling scene in the county, and strengthening the belief that a strong centre of hurling in Thurles was a prerequisite for inter-county success for Tipperary.

Consequently, those with the county's interests at heart, must be very pleased with the transformation that Thurles has undergone in juvenile gaelic games in the past few years. Four or five years ago, juvenile hurling and football were virtually dead in the town. Each of the adult clubs registered teams, but few of them ever took the field. Interest was at a low ebb, as the St Patrick's Club, an amalgam of the adult clubs, had lost its impetus due to a combination of circumstances, and the future looked bleak indeed.

The darkest hour was before the dawn however, and the emergence of Durlas Og with the support and blessing of the three adult clubs in the town, has been a real "rags to riches" story for Thurles juvenile hurling and football. Where once individual clubs had difficulty in making sure of having a team for a game, now there are panels of up to thirty, with three sides, firsts, seconds and thirds, being fielded in under 12 hurling and football; two teams, As and Bs in under 14 and of course an under 16 team in both codes as well.

Where once a hurley in a boys hand on his way to school was a rarity, now it is common place, reflecting the tremendous progress the games are now making in the town. The transformation that has taken place is highlighted by the fact that while Thurles CBS cannot field a Harty Cup team because of the neglect of previous years, there is a wealth of talent available now for the Rice and Croke Cup teams, and the indications are that the progress of Durlas Og will see a return to former greatness for Thurles CBS also.

Multiple Honours

Many will gauge the success of the club by its achievements at inter-club level, and this year, these must have been the envy of many. In the Mid division, under 12 honours in urban-rural hurling and football were won, while the under 12 football team also contested the final. Durlas Og also dominated the under 14 competitions, winning the urban-rural under hurling and football championships. The club also won the u-16 urban-rural football title.

At inter-divisional level, the under 12 footballers won the county final, and the

under 12 hurlers, were beaten by Toomevara in a replay thriller at Templemore. The under 14 hurlers won the right to represent the county at Feile na nGael, but in the county semi-final of the championship lost to eventual winners St Mary's of Clonmel in a hectic game at Bansha, when the handicap of the absence of three key players on holidays proved too big an obstacle.

Likewise in under 14 football, defeat was the club's lot in the county semi-final but again the absence of more than half the team on a trip was decisive.

However, encouraging as the trophies won by the club are to club officials, the real success of Durlas Og is in the numbers now playing hurling and football in the town. Apart from the championship teams, the club caters for a wide selection of boys who are not up to championship class, through under 11 and under 13 hurling and football leagues which are proving a great hit in the town. The football leagues are played before Christmas and the hurling ones in the spring before the inter-club competitions.

And to ensure that there is a steady flow of talent coming on stream Durlas Og has a special under 10 section which gets together each week, winter and summer, and in the past year, because of the numbers attending and the diversity of the age-groups, an under eight section was formed.

Not only does the club cater for the sporting interests of the youth, but for the past three years it has successfully organised a juvenile Tops of the Town competition, the talent from which has formed the basis of club teams in the Scor na nOg competitions, and which has also led to greater involvement in club affairs by people who would not otherwise be attracted to a sports club.

Great Commitment

All of this requires a tremendous commitment from club officials and in this regard, Durlas Og has been most fortunate in having the services of people who are totally dedicated to the development of the youth of the town. The guidance of the Christian Brothers, and their willingness to place school facilities at the disposal of the club, has played a major part in the progress of Durlas Og, and the business people of the town too have shown tremendous good-will in their sponsorship of club activities.

Two men who captained Tipperary to All-Ireland senior hurling successes, Pat Stakelum and Mick Murphy are actively involved in the club, while chairman, Mick Carroll, played with Kilkenny, and is brother of well-known Kilkenny defender, Ted Carroll. Tom

Cahill from Mullinahone, is a former well-known inter-county footballer, while such as P. J. Grace and Dick Callanan have worn the county hurling jersey. This year the club was fortunate to have Fr O'Rourke, who did so much work for the promotion of the games in Loughmore-Castleiney, transferred to Thurles, where he has wholeheartedly given himself over to the cause of Durlas Og.

A solid base for juvenile hurling and football has now been established in Thurles and hopefully it will be maintained and strengthened in the coming years. There is still a need for further people who are interested in providing healthy outlets for the boys of the town to assist in the work of Durlas Og, and anybody anxious to assist will be more than welcome.

The Men in Charge

The following were the club's officers for 1981—

President Pat Stakelum
Vice-Presidents Rev. Bro. Lombard
Rev. Bro. Higgins
Chairman Michael Carroll
Vice-chairman Donal O'Grady
Secretary John Dunphy
Assistant Sec. Rev. Bro. Ml Keane
Treasurer Phil O'Meara
Registrar/PRO Michael Dundon

The committee includes Fr O'Rourke Michael Murphy, Tommy O'Dowd, Larry O'Connor, Dick Callanan, Charlie O'Brien, Seamus Maher, P. J. Quinn, Jack O'Brien, P. J. Grace, Sean Russell, Jimmy Coppinger, Peter Mullen, Padraic Stakelum, Ritchie Rossiter, Tom Cahill, Liam Hanrahan, Pat O'Shea.



COMPLETE TRIUMPH FOR SUPERB U-21 TEAM

by Michael Dundon, *Tipperary Star*

No matter how virile the association in the county; no matter how laudable the distinctions attained by the individual clubs; it is what is achieved at national level by a county that, in the eye of the public at any rate, determines the strength of the games, and in our case in particular, hurling, in the county.

Tipperary, without a senior All-Ireland success since 1971, is deemed to be "down", despite the fact that we have won three under 21 All-Ireland hurling titles on the trot, and have prospects for the future that are second to none. The pessimists say that it is a big jump from under 21 grade to senior, and they are right, but such has been the wealth of talent coming on stream over the past four years, that Tipperary cannot long more be out of the reckoning at senior level, and once the breakthrough is made we'll be there for a while.

The triumph in the under 21 championship this year was as complete as one could imagine. The statistics show easy wins over Kerry, Waterford, Cork in the Munster final; Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final, and lastly, Kilkenny in the decider at Walsh Park, Waterford.

In my own report for the *Tipperary Star* on the game I wrote— "To put it simply, they just did not win the championship; they stamped their authority on it from the very outset and swept aside all challenges, dominating the opposition and running up impressive scoring tallies. Eschewing the flamboyant, they adhered to basic hurling, doing the simple things so efficiently, expeditiously and well, that one is left to wonder why we have not seen this kind of play from our seniors for the past decade. It all seemed so simple".

Tales of the Gaels in the same issue of the *Tipperary Star* said: This team has everything that good Tipperary teams of the past had. It is not their hurling ability alone that is bringing them victory but their character. They have the right temperament and their conduct is exemplary. They have spirit; see how they back up each other; they hunt in pairs and are not selfish. None of them try to be stars but they all end up as stars. There will be room for some of the senior team on this team, rather than there will be room on the senior team for some of them — later.

Culbaire too heralded the victory— "There's no great excitement over the repeat victory but quite some satisfaction at what these lads have done for the Tipperary image, so badly dented by their elders' feebleness. This has been a grand, earnest team who play a very watchable sort of hurling, nicely meshed together as a tactical outfit. The same thing from a team a couple of stone



Jim Roche, former Leinster Council Chairman, presenting the All-Ireland Under 21 Trophy to Philip Kennedy, captain of the victorious Tipperary team.

heavier on average, and we'd be in real business."

These views generally reflect the attitude to Tipperary's third successive win in the competition. With the exception of the Munster final against Cork, Tipperary so dominated their opponents, that the issue was never in doubt. Against Cork, it took them forty minutes to wear down the Leesiders, but once they began moving, Cork's challenge faded quickly, as Tipperary went on to equal Cork's four Munster titles in a row in this grade.

And for three of the team, there was the added satisfaction of collecting their third All-Ireland medal in the grade— Pat Fox, Donie O'Connell and Brian Heffernan.

A Query from Byrne

I recall leaving Walsh Park after the All-Ireland final and chatting with former great Tipperary defender Mickey Byrne, winner of five senior All-Irelands. He echoed all our thoughts on that occasion with his question— what's wrong with our seniors that they cannot hurl like that.

Tipperary's display in that final was full of intelligent, skilful and courageous hurling. Defenders tackled determinedly, cleared their lines sensibly, using the ball to the best advantage. Midfielders played it in low to the inside forward line, where we had players with the speed and skill to turn possession into scores. Our half-forwards worked for their colleagues and had the ability to take their scores as the opportunities presented themselves.

With all due respect to the players who deservedly were lauded for their performance, a great deal of the praise should also go to the men who orches-

trated the performance— the coach and selectors. Many hours of practice, instruction, and experiment had gone into finding the right blend and selecting players with the proper disposition— willing to listen and to respond to advice. Not surprisingly, their achievements won them a massive vote of confidence in the shape of their appointment en-bloc to take charge of the senior squad for 1982.

Another to Come?

And what's to stop Tipperary retaining the Croke Cup again next year and equalling Cork's four All-Irelands in a row in the grade, achieved from 1968 to 1971? No fewer than eleven of the squad are eligible again next year, surely a strong nucleus on which to build a championship-winning combination. There is no room for complacency however, and if the successes in the under 21 grade have done anything, they have emphasised the necessity for complete dedication from players and mentors alike, and stressed the importance of such qualities as discipline, motivation, co-operation, team-spirit and belief in one's self.

The current league campaign will prove an adequate testing ground for determining how many are ready to step up to senior grade, but it would be foolish of supporters to expect overnight success. We must be patient. Given time and encouragement, Tipperary now has the material to make it to the top at senior level, and it will be a big surprise if less than half of this year's squad are involved in McCarthy Cup triumphs, because, without a doubt, of the four panels that contested All-Ireland finals, this year's was the most accomplished, and had the greatest potential.

SENIOR FAILURE COMPLETES BARREN DECADE

John O'Grady

The senior year is the brief I've been handed. And brief, indeed, was the year—as brief, more or less, as every single one since 1973. The same proportion gets tiresomely repeated—the League rota plus a game or two in its knock-out stage—and then June and its championship. We just can't reach July, or the second round. The year under rueful review was, if anything, more cruel in the manner of its disappointment than any since 1975, because Tipperary seemed for a short time at Thurles on 7th June to have crashed the barrier, and done it devastatingly. Tipperary people spent the interval that day in full conviction and delighted awareness that at long last we were going to come off a Munster championship pitch as winners. Alas, we did not.

But a tale, even a sad one, demands some chronological sequence, so let's return to the beginning the previous October at Walsh Park, Waterford. New League, new selectors: they've matched each others novelty almost annually. We fail in June; we sack the selectors around September, when somebody else is winning the All-Ireland. The new men begin with honeymoon-style good-will all round and with, I suppose and grant, absolute earnestness. No-one has a bigger vested interest than they in turning out a team to break the trend of defeat, though to hear some caustic critics, they overlook material under their noses. Anyhow Michael Maher, the county chairman; Len Gaynor, famous half-back in golden times and a big force in Kilruane's rise to power; and Jimmy Hennessy of Dundrum who had previous experience as selector—these three assumed office as the League began. Right now, as we approach Christmas 1981, they are ex-selectors; new men start out on the same rock-stream trail that might—just might—lead to Croke Park.

A Good Omen

The first omen was birght. Waterford were beaten, 5-8 to 1-10 by a team that revealed the first sign of new thinking in the choice of Tom Barry (Sarsfields), Liam McGrath (Toomevara), John Grace (Silvermines) and Bobby Ryan (Borrisoleigh). Only Barry was to be there for the championship, and even he was not to last out the ultimate bitter day of downfall at Limerick. McGrath got a bad leg injury before Christmas—in a soccer game—and was out of the picture.

Galway, the new All-Ireland holders, came to Thurles on a cold day. Our team had Kevin instead of Pat Fox. A draw was not unsatisfactory, especially as it was Galway who had to rescue themselves

with a Gantley point. So far, not too bad at all. We lay high up in the table. We went higher still after the third outing, in which we beat Limerick at their own headquarters, mostly on the shooting accuracy of Pat Fox. Some Roscrea and Kilruane players were missing from the team. Limerick lost Joe McKenna to an early eye injury—what a minor part for the man who was to be our major problem on a more important day. The spirit of Tipp. seemed quite up to requirements so far. "The selectors must be happy", read one local comment; Tipp. lay one point behind table leaders Cork.

Easy qualification for the top four appeared assured—till Offaly damaged our image by coming to Thurles and winning, 0-13 to 1-7. They out-staged a home team playing its weakest game of the series and shooting most inaccurately—a fault that led to the exit of the previous day's star, Pat Fox. Gerry Stapleton also departed during the hour, replaced by young Pat McGrath at mid-field.

No Trial Held

A trial game had been proposed and selections published. Weather caused its abandonment, never to be revived. Some observers were rather sorry that it wasn't held later, if only to ginger up several unimpressive players. A trip to Cork reopened the league and it provided a considerable boost by way of a draw secured by Seamus Burke's late free after Cork had wiped out a six-point gap. Cork were perhaps experimental and complacent as befits a team sure of qualification, but the result was welcome all the same.

Only the visit of Wexford remained. A draw would get us through, but draw we did not. A Wexford in dire need of the points secured them on Buggy's free. Goals by Burke and Queally had appeared to be enough for our purposes. The gloom was lifted fortuitously when other league results proved co-operative and we avoided a play-off.

A Bitter Defeat

Of the quarter-final with Laois at Nowlan Park it is difficult to write, even now, with much tolerance. An easy-going stroll to a nine-point lead, flattered by soft goals, was rudely reversed in the second half. Laois got going and we stopped going. They hit hard and strong, got back level against a reeling defence and then had the impetus to take it by a point, 4-12 to 4-11. Assumptions that we had found a reasonable defence were shattered—a foretaste of Munster troubles to come. The team lined out: McLoughney

Hogan, Stapleton, O'Connor, Barry, Williams, O'Dwyer, Pat Ryan, Pat McGrath O'Shea, Doyle, O'Brien; Pat Fox, Queally Grogan. Seamus Burke replaced Doyle and Fitzelle came on when Stapleton was replaced at full back by Williams as the storm gathered force. Ten of the team were to be still first choices when the championship came round—many thought the selectors too tolerant in that regard, but they could and did ask for alternatives. Mossie Carroll, waiting in the wings since his publicised declaration, was one automatic recruit. Jim Keogh, recalled to full back after popular speculation was another, and Fitzelle, not eager during the winter, made a third experienced addition.

Who that was among the near twenty thousand will forget the extraordinary character of that Munster opener. Tipp. came out like hungry greyhounds, chasing keenly, crisply, imaginatively. All eyes, some rather resentful, on Carroll at centre-back "with passion and purpose" as the "Star" report said—Grogan and Queally goaled at the Killinan end quite soon. Limerick were passive and bewildered as the tally grew to a stunning 2-10 against 0-3; thirteen points, and who'd be superstitious. It became fourteen on Grogan's early free. And that was high-water mark, followed by an ebb as fast as the bath-water leaves the tenant stranded.

Defensive Failings

The defence, in all conscience, was given no impossible task in being asked to preserve a lead. McKenna beat them three times—looking at the video of it, one could never see old-time Tipp backs quite so soft in their attitude to a man walking through for the third time. Most unexpected thing of all, to see Carroll limp off—sad end to an occasion that began so brilliantly for the expatriate defender. But another twist remained. Grogan goaled again as Tipp gathered themselves to fight. In the final tense moments came too long frees. Cashel-men Grogan and Fitzelle hit them well but unluckily—shades of Bennis and his "seventy" of 1973. So it was a draw, the worst of draws for a team that had led by so huge a margin—and yet not completely so, in view of Tipp's recovery of initiative near the end.

Hot day by the Shannon; slow queues, boiling tar, lively interest in the replay as 30,000 people splashed white-shirted colour in the bleaching sun. Same Tipp. fifteen rechosen to start the climb again after all but scaling the heights a fortnight earlier. Had the chance been there at Thurles? Could nagging suspicions be disproved? They emphatically could not.

Limerick took it clearly, 3-17 against 2-12. They were vastly improved, revitalised, helped by new arrival Mick Grimes at midfield; Tipp. took no real initiative, found no confidence. Down eight at the interval—Cregan and McKenna the goal-takers—no revival took

place. Barry and O'Brien were replaced; they could have had company. Twenty flags against our defence illustrated its openness. Ironically enough they omitted Burke came on to hit our two goals, the first a beauty and a brief hope arousing

flurry. The road back to the city was paved with sighs of regret for the loss of that golden opportunity at Thurles. And the period of senior deprivation in All-Irelands extended to a full decade, 1971-81.

1941—THE FOOT AND MOUTH YEAR

How time flies. Forty years have gone by since the famous (or infamous) year of the Foot & Mouth Disease, surely the most disappointing and frustrating in the whole history of Tipperary hurling.

Limerick were Munster & All Ireland Champions in 1940. On 22 June 1941 with the assistance of Jimmy Cooney of Carrick, then an Army Officer in Limerick they beat Clare decisively. When Waterford came to Thurles to play Tipp on 27 July they were hot favourites. "The Tipperary Star" had this to say:—"from Mid March up to some 3 weeks ago hardly a blade of grass was clipped by a caman in all Tipperary. The Co. Board called off all games, consequent on the outbreaks of Foot & Mouth disease in the county. Waterford was not affected. Tipp however rose to the occasion and won on the score of 4-7 to 3-4. The Tipp line-out was—

Jimmy Maher (Boherlahan)		
Dinny Gorman (Holycross)	Jer Cornally (Sars)	Phil Dwyer (Boherlahan)
Johnny Ryan (Moycarkey)	Capt. John Maher (Sars)	Tommy Doyle (Sars)
Wm O'Donnell (Golden)	Niall Condon (Killenaule)	
Mat Ryan (Moycarkey)	Tom Treacy (Young Irelands)	Tom Kennedy (Moycarkey)
Peadar Flanagan (Templederry)	Jim Heeney (Thurles Kickhams)	Paddy Ryan (Moycarkey)

Sub: Denis Doorley (Borrisokane)

Cork beat Limerick but the Munster final could not be played owing to restrictions of travel. Central Council, however insisted on the All Ireland final being played, as usual, on the first Sunday of September. The Munster Council nominated Cork and the Leinster Council Dublin. Cork won by a comfortable margin.

The Munster final was not played till 26 October and of course, Tipp were the under-dogs. The Premier County had a

resounding victory on the score of 5-4 to 2-5.

There were 3 changes from the Waterford game. On the Sunday before the final Phil Dwyer received a knee injury, which finished his hurling career, when helping Boherlahan defeat Roscrea in the County semi-final. Tom Kennedy and Paddy Ryan of Moycarkey could not train for the final because of shift work in the Sugar Company. They were replaced by Tom Hayes, Jerry Ryan and Jer Looby. Tom Hayes (of Ballyerck) Moycarkey came on as sub for N. Condon during the game.

Jimmy Maher		
Dinny Gorman	Jer Cornally	Tom Hayes
Johnny Ryan	John Maher (capt.)	Tommy Doyle
Wm O'Donnell	Niall Condon	
Mat Ryan	Jim Heeney	Peadar Flanagan
Jerry Ryan (Anacarty)	Tom Treacy	Jer Looby (Boherlahan)

The "Star" account of the game had the Headline: "The Sensation of the Gaelic Year. In an Editorial it said that the result "proved to sportsmen everywhere the absurdity of the decision which ruled this County and Kilkenny out of the running for the highest honour a hurling team can achieve . . . On the question of the final destination of the honours the Chairman of the Council ruled that the team that won the "half-baked" final would remain the year's champions whether they were beaten in the Provincial finals (still to be played) or not. That decision was palpably unfair at the time and it seems doubly unfair now. It was all the more questionable when it is recalled that another Central Council Chairman some years ago gave directly opposite ruling. Why these decisions are left to one man's ruling is sometimes difficult to understand.

So Cork retained the All-Ireland medals thanks to the ruling of Padraig

McNamee (Antrim) President of the GAA. It is the only case, that I know of, where a County has gone down in the record books of being All Ireland champions without being winners of its own Provincial honours for the same year. Cork get credit for being the only county to win four successive S.H. Championships but 1941 was the first of these, so I leave it to readers to judge how valid this four-in-a-row claim is. It was the first of Christy Ring's 8 All Ireland wins also but without detracting in any way from the record and worth of the Cloyne Maestro the fact remains that he has no Munster medal for 1941 to match his All-Ireland one. For everyone of John Doyle's 8 vicirooes he has a Munster trophy to go with it, so I think that any fairminded person would have to agree that the Holy Cross man's record is unique.

The reference in the "Star" editorial to "another Central Council Chairman" concerns 1925 and the Senior Football Championship. Kerry beat Cavan in the semi-final. Cavan objected and Kerry counter-objected. Both teams were disqualified. In the other semi-final Mayo was nominated to represent Connaught because the provincial final was not yet played against Leinster champions Wexford. Mayo won but were beaten by Galway in the delayed Connaught final. Not only did Galway become Provincial Champions by this victory but they became All Ireland winners as well. In fact it was Galway's first S. F. title. P. D. Breen (Wexford) was Chairman of the Central Council at that time. Which of the two Presidents P. McNamee or P. D. Breen, was correct in his ruling?

"The 1927 G.A.A. Congress by a big majority adopted the decision of Central Council and called on Connacht Council to hand over the medals for the 1925 championship to Galway." ("History of the G.A.A." by Phil O'Neill).

COUNTY TIPPER

SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Senior Hurling final	
St Marys	1-14
Carrick Swan	1-12
Senior football final	
Commercials	0-11
Fethard	0-5
	(replay)
Intermediate Hurling final	
Kilsheelan	3-6
Killenaule	2-4
Intermediate football final	
Fr Sheehys	0-9
Carrick Swan	0-7
Junior Hurling final	
Skeheenarinka	3-7
Marlfield	2-6
	(replay)
Junior Football final	
Moyle Rovers	0-6
Killenaule	0-3
21 Hurling final	
Ballingarry	2-8
Carrick Swan	1-7
21 Football final	
Commercials	2-7
St Augustines	2-5
Minor Hurling final	
Carrick Swan	5-8
St Marys	2-5
Minor Football final	
Commercials	2-11
Brian Borus	0-8

"Nationalist" Awards

Footballer of the Year	
Benny Conway	(Fr Sheehys)
Hurler of the Year	
Mossy Carroll	(St Marys)
Young Footballer of the Year	
Mark O'Connell	(Commercials)
Young Hurler of the Year	
Arthur Browne	(Fr Sheehys)
Footballer of the Past	
Mick Tobin	(Grangemockler)

WEST TIPP CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Senior Hurling	
Eire Og	0-14
Cappawhite	0-7
Minor Hurling	
Clonoulty-Rossmore	3-17
Cashel K.C.	4-6
Crosco Cup (S.H. League)	
Cashel King Cormacks [winning on pts]	
Senior Football	
Arravale Rovers	1-6
Solohead (replay)	0-3
O'Donoghue Cup (S.F. League)	
Lattin Cullen	1-6
Galtee Rovers	1-3
Minor Football	
Lattin-Emly	0-10
Cashel K.C.	0-6
Intermediate Hurling	
Solohead	1-9
Golden-Kilfeacle	1-8
Intermediate Football	
Rockwell Rovers	1-10
Aherlow	1-5
Junior Hurling	
Kickhams	2-4
Sean Treacys	0-9
Junior Football	
Kickhams	2-7
Galtee Rovers	1-4
u-21 Hurling	
Clonoulty-Rossmore	2-10
Cappa/Eire Og	1-7

U-21 Football and junior football league not completed at writing time.

NORTH DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS 1981

Senior Hurling	
Borrisoleigh	1-8
Roscrea	1-6
	<i>Referee D. Nealon</i>
Intermediate Hurling	
Portroe	2-10
Toomevara	0-15
	<i>Referee G. Long</i>

Junior Hurling	
Borrisokane	3-12
Roscrea	3-8
	<i>Referee Pat Dunlea</i>

Minor Hurling	
Toomevara	2-7
Roscrea	0-4
	<i>Referee G. Long</i>

Minor Hurling Special: Nealon Trophy:	
Borrisoleigh	4-6
Newport	1-4
	<i>Referee Mick Nolan</i>

Under 21 Special: Walsh Trophy:	
Shannon Rovers	5-8
Newport	2-8
	<i>Referee Tom Gleeson</i>

Senior Football	
Kilruane	0-9
Silvermines	2-1
	<i>Referee Pat Malone</i>

Intermediate Football	
Borrisokane	2-9
Lorrha	1-4
	<i>Referee Mick Nolan</i>

Junior Football	
Burgess	1-4
Silvermines	0-4
	<i>Referee P. McGrath</i>

Minor Football	
Inane Rovers	0-6
Kilruane	0-4
	<i>Referee D. Floyd</i>

Under 21 Hurling final to be played:
Eire Og v Erins Hope

Under 21 Football
Inane Rovers v Silvermines
Erins Hope v Newport

MID TIPPERARY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS 1981

Senior Hurling	
Moycarkey-Borris	3-10
Loughmore-Castleiney	2-9

Intermediate Hurling	
Boherlahan-Dualla	5-13
Clonakenny	2-9

Junior Hurling	
Sarsfields	1-5
Loughmore-Castleiney	1-13

RARY RESULTS

Replay: Sarsfields0-19
 Loughmore-Castleiney1-13
 2nd replay: Sarsfields.1-10
 Loughmore-Castleiney0-9

Under 21 Hurling
 Loughmore-Castleiney2-13
 Holycross-Ballycahill3-2

Minor Hurling
 Moycarkey-Borris3-10
 Loughmore-Castleiney2-9

Minor Hurling "B"
 Moyne-Templetuohy1-7
 Loughmore-Castleiney1-5

Intermediate Football
 Templetuohy Moyne1-8
 Loughmore-Castleiney2-5
 Replay: Templetuohy-Moyne . . .2-8
 Loughmore-Castleiney2-5

Junior Football
 Moycarkey-Borris2-2
 Drom-Inch0-4

Under 21 Football
 Loughmore-Castleiney2-2
 Templetuohy-Moyne0-1

Minor Football
 Eire Og Templemore4-3
 Moycarkey-Borris1-5
 Tomás O hEadhra Rúnai

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Senior Football, first rounds

Moycarkey-Borris2-14
 Mullinahone1-5
 S. O Ruadhans w/o to Kilruane
 Kilsheelan0-9
 Cappawhite0-5
 Ardfinnan0-12
 Cahir.0-5

Second Rounds

Commercials.1-10
 Fethard.0-9
 Kilsheelan3-14
 Templemore.2-5
 Loughmore/Castleiney1-9
 Kilruane0-5
 Ardfinnan0-12
 Arravale Rovers.1-4

Cashel.1-6
 Moycarkey Borris1-4
 Moyle Rovers.0-7
 Silvermines.0-2
 Lattin-Cullen0-8
 Golden/Rockwell0-5
 Galtee Rovers.0-5
 Solohead0-3

Quarter finals

Galtee Rovers.0-11
 Moyle Rovers1-5
 Kilsheelan0-3
 Cashel.3-3
 Commercials.1-12
 Ardfinnal.0-7
 Lattin Cullen2-3
 Loughmore-Castleiney0-6

Semi finals

Galtee Rovers.0-7
 Lattin-Cullen1-3
 Kilsheelan0-11
 Commercials.0-9

Final

Galtee Rovers.1-9
 Kilsheelan1-4

Minor Football County semi-finals

Commercials2-22
 Inane Rovers0-0
 Lattin-Emly4-14
 Templemore Eire Og2-1

Final

Commercials.1-10
 Lattin Emly2-5

Senior Hurling Quarter finals

Holycross/Ballycahill4-10
 St Marys0-14
 Moycarkey-Borris4-13
 Carrick Swans.1-16
 Roscrea1-12
 Cashel.2-8
 Borrisileigh.2-10
 Eire Og (West)1-7

Semi finals

Roscrea2-9
 Holycross/Ballycahill (draw) . . .3-6
 Replay: Roscrea1-15
 Holycross/Ballycahill2-6

Borrisileigh.1-15
 Moycarkey-Borris3-8

Final

Borrisileigh.1-14
 Roscrea.0-12

Minor Hurling County semi-finals

Clonoulty-Rossmore3-9
 Moycarkey-Borris0-2
 Toomevara.1-6
 Carrick Swans.0-4

Final

Clonoulty-Rossmore2-10
 Toomevara.2-5

Intermediate Hurling County semi-finals

Boherlahan-Dualla.2-14
 Solohead1-6
 Portroe1-9
 Kilsheelan0-10

Final

Boherlahan-Dualla.5-10
 Portroe4-8

Junior Hurling County semi-finals

Borrisokane3-15
 Skeehinarinka.1-5
 Sarsfields.2-5
 Kickhams West (draw)1-8
 Replay: Sarsfields6-7
 Kickhams West1-9

Final

Borrisokane4-14
 Sarsfields.0-5

Intermediate Football Co. semi-final

Templetuohy-Moyne2-6
 Rockwell Rovers (draw)2-6
 Replay: Templetuohy-Moyne . . .1-6
 Rockwell Rovers.0-3
 Fr Sheehys.1-8
 Borrisokane1-7

Final

Templetuohy Moyne v Fr Sheehys
 (not played as we go to press)

Junior Football County semi finals

Burgess0-8
 Moyle Rovers0-6
 Kickhams (West)1-5
 Moycarkey-Borris0-6

Final

Kicjham West2-5
 Burgess0-7

Under 21 Hurling and Football com-
 petitions not complete as we go to press.

MOYCARKEY & BOHERLAHAN RECOVER PRESTIGE MID TIPP. REVIEW

by John Guiton (Tipperary Star)

One of the most striking features of modern day hurling is the fact that many teams, particularly at club level, who have a tradition that spans almost the entire history of the Gaelic Athletic Association have been finding it tantalizingly difficult to make a real impact on the championship scene. There are many reasons put forward as to the causes of this trend. Many shrewd judges of our native sport give the simple answer that, combined with football, the standrad of the game has fallen considerably in recent years with the result that "unknown" clubs have come to the fore. Others would be more specific, and point the finger at the counter attractions of modern times, that have lured young men away from the game which was traditionally the exclusive pastime of the younger generation. Furthermore, it could be argued, that there is no longer room for traditions and that teams who are considered "strangers" to the championship and now enjoying much success, bring a welcome change to the scene. So, the debate goes on.

In this county, whatever argument can be made, for or against tradition, one clear fact emerges, that in Mid Tipperary it has certainly left its mark on G.A.A. affairs in the past year, with the return to the limelight of famed hurling clubs Moycarkey-Borris and Boherlahan-Dualla. The man from Tubberadora displayed the fire and fury reminiscent of teams of yesteryear to take the divisional and county Intermediate honours, and restore pride to the hearts of young and old in the parish of Boherlahan-Dualla. Leaving a barren decade behind them, Moycarkey-Borris took the long-awaited top prize—the senior hurling championship title. These were two highlights, of another successful year in which there was plenty of lively fare, some dramatic happenings, and many talking points. At the time of writing, some important games in the division have yet to be decided, but as in former years it is envisaged that all games will be finished before the end of the year.

With much effort invested in teams for all grades, it has been a memorable year for the Moycarkey-Borris club to date. In addition to taking the senior title they also added an attractive double by taking the minor final and the junior football title as well as reaching the minor football final. At the time of writing they have qualified for the Senior football final and also have an interest in the u-21 hurling campaign. Needless to say, the highlight of their achievements was the capturing of the senior title after a decade of unfulfilled promises. Nobody did begrudge sup-



Tom Maher, Chairman of Mid Board presenting the trophy to Jack Bergin, captain of Moycarkey-Borris.

porters of the Red and Gold brigade some minutes of wild enthusiasm after captain Jack Bergin had received the Johnny Leahy Cup from Mid Chairman Mr Tim Maher after their deserved victory over Loughmore-Castleiney. The presentation ceremony climaxed a championship campaign, where they had put in a sustained effort to regain the supreme title, they last held in 1971.

An Early Warning

The Moycarkey men sounded a warning to all other teams in the division early in the year when showing promising form they put paid to Holycross-Ballycahill; in the Mid League, after they had drawn twice in two cracking encounters, in the well prepared Gortnahoe sportsfield. Based on the quality and closeness of the hurling served up in those games there was a lot to look forward to, from a spectators point of view. In the first round of the championship they had matters their own way when they chalked up a facile win over Clonmore-Killea. Meanwhile in a mediocre game in Templemore, former county Intermediate champions Loughmore-Castleiney caused somewhat of a shock when they accounted for a struggling Thurles Sarsfields outfit well below expected form, paving the way for an attempt at their first ever Senior title. Now, Moycarkey intimated their desire to succeed when they qualified for the decider after ousting Drom-Inch in the other semi-final on the scoreline 4-8 to 2-9.

And so to D-Day Sunday 26th July. The host club Holycross-Ballycahill had the grounds in top shape for the occasion. A capacity crowd basked in the sun, of

one of the year's best days, in anticipation of an intriguing final. Seldom was there so much colour attached to such an occasion, principally because of the fact that Loughmore-Castleiney in their first ever final, might overcome the challenge of a team, well-trained by Paddy Doyle who were striving to restore lost pride and prestige in a famed hurling parish. As it emerged, the game lacked sting right through and generally speaking was a mediocre affair, redeemed only by a lively closing ten minutes. Ironically, it was a game, the young and eager Loughmore outfit should have won, had they taken their scoring chances, but the day belonged to Moycarkey, who by their overall competence and craft, took their sixteenth title in this grade on the scoreline 3-10 to 2-9.

With the much looked forward to celebrations now at low key, they now put emphasis on the county championship. Could they add to their Mid success by taking county honours, that had eluded them since 1940. Their preparation for a meeting with South side Carrick Swans in the County Quarter final was intensified. On the day, they were lucky to survive and had to fight diligently to dispose of a tough and sticky South side. So, to the semi-final and the prospects of defeating Borrisoleigh were daunting. After an impressive first half in which they led by nine points at the break, they allowed the margin to be whittled away in the second period before going down by a one point margin. A disappointing conclusion to the year, but nonetheless the much coveted Mid title was back in Moycarkey and a hurling revival was under way. A brief

recap of some of the performances that went a long way to achieving the title for them brings to mind players such as veteran John Flanagan, though unusually subdued in the Borrisoleigh game, showed his craft and alertness by notching up some impressive scoring tallies during the year. Jack Bergin played a real captain's part in defence at all times, the crisp striking and direct hurling of Eamonn Dermody was rightly lauded, and the reliability of goalie Tom Doran could not be questioned.

Double Success

As a further boost to the hurling resurgence in the parish the minors completed a well-deserved double success by defeating Thurles Sarsfields by a two point margin in the decider, on the scoreline 1-10 to 3-2. Ironically, Sarsfields had beaten Moycarkey earlier in the league and were fancied to retain the title. Subsequently, Moycarkey lost to Clonoulty in the county semi-final played in atrocious weather conditions in Semple Stadium. Most of the side also turned out in the football championship, but lost to Templemore in the decider.

Having put in an impressive run-up to the final the junior footballers brought the third trophy to the club, with a four point win over Drom-Inch in the final, at Holycross. All in all, full marks to players, officials and everybody concerned with the Moycarkey-Borris success story for 1981. The attention and commitment of all has brought about a rejuvenation of GAA affairs, and has done much in an effort to restore the club to its rightful place in the county GAA scene. Indeed their success in the

senior grade is a fitting tribute to the work over the years of among others, the late Rev. Fr Bobby Harkins to whose memory the club have erected a plaque on their dressing-rooms in Littleton.

Holycross Grit

Staying in the Senior ranks the other team to share the limelight was Holycross-Ballycahill who defeated Loughmore-Castleiney in the Mid losers group, to qualify as the second Mid side to

represent the division in the county semi-finals. After an indifferent start to the year, they became a totally transformed side towards the end of the championship and soon found themselves battling for county honours. With characteristic endeavour and tremendous grit they ousted St Mary's Clonmel in the quarter-final and after putting up a spirited fight in a drawn semi-final against Roscrea they were severely handicapped by injuries in the replay, when they went down to the Northmen by six points. Over the championship run they had creditable performances from John Ryan, Michael Doyle, Phil Lowry, Liam Gorman, Johnny Doyle and Matt Quinlan to mention but a couple.

Boherlahan Buoyant

Intermediate success . . . the joy and satisfaction that abounds in the Boherlahan and Dualla areas these days is quite understandable. After many frustrating years in this grade bitter memories of both narrow and comprehensive defeats, have been totally dispelled from the minds of young and old hurling

followers, following their divisional and county success at Intermediate level—the only team so far to bring county honours to the Mid division this year. Without going into too much detail, basically their well merited victory can be put down to dedication, cooperation between the players, intensive preparation, taking into account the expert advice of trainer Rev. Liam Ryan and perseverance. Indeed perseverance is possibly the key to their success. They were making their eleventh appearance, in the last fifteen finals, and were chasing the title that had eluded them since 1971. Despite the lean period in this grade, they were always to the fore and always adhered to the task of achieving Mid and county honours in this grade. It had been a keenly contested Mid championship that provided some fine clashes, but two teams stood out independently coming to the last round of the campaign—Boherlahan-Dualla and Clonakenny. Ironically, Clonakenny had beaten Boherlahan in the league series but the final proved a different kettle of fish, and the Boherlahan lads had the upperhand, emerging victorious by a thirteen point margin, though the scoreline did not do adequate justice to the determined efforts of the Clonakenny side. The winners, however, had one vital advantage in former u-21 county player Pat Power, for whom the game was a personal triumph, and he finished with a scoring tally of 2-4. But it was far from a one man show, and they displayed great courage and skill, totally committed to their objective from the very start.

Now they were bidding to add a county title to the divisional pennant,



Moycarkey-Borris, Mid Tipperary Senior Hurling Champions 1981
Front, l. to r.: J. Caesar, D. Quigley, L. Bergin, J. Bergin, J. Flanagan, E. Dermody, J. Flanagan, T. Quigley.
Back, l. to r.: W. Ryan, T. Mullins, N. Bergin, R. Hayes, M. Bourke, J. Hackett, T. Doran.



Boherlahan, County Intermediate Hurling Champions
Back row, l. to r.: Liam Ryan, trainer, Pat Power, Sean Gleeson, Paddy Flanagan, Gerard Maher, Jim Maher, Liam Maher, John Devane, Canon Mirrossey, P.P.
Front row, l. to r.: Benny Ryan, Seamus Power, Martin Ryan, Tommy Hayes (captain), Gerry O'Dwyer, Martin O'Dwyer, Billy Maher, Connie Hayes.

and they took a further step in their desire to achieve it, when they beat Solohead convincingly in the semi-final at Cashel. So, to the final against a strong Portroe side, at Semple Stadium. While having led by a massive twelve points at the break, after putting in a marvellous first half performance, they had to withstand a courageous second period fightback from Portroe, before moving out safely with five points to spare at the end of the day.

The True Spirit

A fitting end then to a reproductive and progressive year. An appropriate result too for a well-balanced team, who in the true spirit of Boherlahan hurling fought tooth and nail to achieve their aims. They were so many stars of both victories but one will be forgiven for singling out one player for special mention—former county player Seamus Power whose contribution to his club over the year is widely recognised. Like many other team members, with little to show for his efforts at club level over the year, this years success serves as a fitting reward for Power, who gave outstanding displays at centre-back throughout the championship.

Thurles Sarsfields . . . the quiet if somewhat premature departure of Thurles Sarsfields from the senior ranks, was ably compensated for by the junior hurlers who after a lapse of more than a score of years brought the title back to the Cathedral town. For abundance in excitement and hurling thrills, the junior competition could not be surpassed. It will be well-remembered how the Blues

and Loughmore-Castleiney served up a total of three and half hours of tough and uncompromising hurling when it took three games to decide the issue after draws in extra time, twice. While the hurling may not have been from the top drawer, the excitement and fervour of the clashes was something never to be forgotten. Competition in this grade was keen throughout the championship, but it was the final showdown that drew the crowds. The Blues thoroughly deserved to take the crown on the score-line 1-10 to 0-9 but a combination of poor finishing, and the commitment and **never-say-die** spirit ordained that the issue was in doubt to the final whistle.

They had to play two games too, in the county semi-final before accounting for Knockavilla Kickhams, thereby qualifying to meet Borrisokane in the final. Alas, that's where the tale of success ends as the Blues went carshing to a well-balanced eager, and more competent Borrisokane outfit. Yet, they have a lot to be proud of in their Mid success, and who can say they did not earn it, after three and half hours hurling!

Templetuohy-Moyne always a force in footballing circles fielded a strong side when defeating keen rivals Loughmore-Castleiney in a tough close and high standard intermediate final. Their commitment and earnestness in approach, earned them the honours, and with players in the calibre of Ger Ely, Phil Bowe, Jody Sweeney, the Kelly's and James Dunne, the possibility of achieving county honours is now distinct. The clubs young footballers were less fortunate though, when they went down

to Loughmore-Castleiney in the u-21 grade, marking a continuance of Loughmore's dominance in this competition. Templemore, with a great footballing tradition deservedly took the minor title at the expense of Moycarkey-Borris, but later succumbed to the challenge of Lattin-Cullen in the semi-final.

It is impossible to record in depth all of the games played in the championship in the various grades, but as can be seen from this synopsis of the major events, there was plenty to enthuse about in the division in the past year. As these notes are penned, the concluding games in the u-21 hurling championship, Cahill cup competition and the Senior football final have yet to be staged. Apart from those clubs already mentioned, others such as Knock Thurles Fennellys, Gortnahoe-Glengoole and Thurles Kickhams and Upperchurch Drombane though not among the title winners, made an equally valuable contribution to the championship, by their participation in the various grades.

Courteous Officers

Any account of Mid GAA affairs would not be complete without acknowledging the hard work, commitment and courtesy of Board officers: Chairman Tim Maher, Secretary Tom O'Hara, and Treasurer Billy Sweeney, who on the administrative end of things have worked diligently, with the cooperation of the Board and all concerned in the smooth running of divisional activities over the past year. They have contributed much to keep the Gaelic flame wholesome and respectable in the Mid division.

SCOR IN NORTH DIVISION

With 16 clubs participating at both levels, Scór 81 was once more an outstanding success in the North Division. The North final of Scór na nOg was held on Sunday, 7th December and as usual attracted a capacity attendance. A very high standard pertained in all competitions and the following winners were the choice of the adjudicators from Galway.

Rince Fóirne:Borrisoleigh
Aithriseoireacht: . . .Celine Healy, Eire Og
Amhránaíocht Aonair: Bernadette Ryan
Toomevara
Tráth na gCeistPortroe
Nua Chleas.Newport
Ceol UirliseToomevara
Bailéad Ghrúpa.Borrisokane
Rince SeitBorrisoleigh

On the following Friday night in Thurles, Celine Healy, Bernadette Ryan and the Newport Novelty Act were chosen to represent the county in the Munster semi-final. Our two solo performers went on to compete in the Munster final where Bernadette Ryan was placed 2nd in the Amhránaíocht Aonair.

Scór na Sinsear had its final on Tuesday 10th February and was hosted most

efficiently by the Moneygall and Kilruane clubs to whom must go full credit for excellent organisation. The adjudicators from Clare were loud in their praise of the high standard in all competitions. At the end of the night, Portroe took the lion's share of the trophies when they were adjudged winners in Amhránaíocht Aonair (Martin Gleeson), Nua-Chleas and Ceol Uirlise. Moneygall followed closely on their heels with two wins in Tráth na gCeist and Rince Seit. The Eire Og Rince Fóirne group, Eamonn Butler of Templeberry (Aithriseoireacht) and the Kiladangan Ballad Group completed the list of North winners.

On county final night, five titles went to the North Division when the Eire Og Dancers, Eamonn Butler, Moneygall Tráth na gCeist team, Portroe Instrumental Music group and the Kildangan Ballad Group came out on top in the face of stiff opposition. All except the ballad group survived the next hurdle and advanced to the Munster final where the Portroe musicians were winners for the second successive year. The Eire Og Dancers and Eamonn Butler also did us proud by being placed 2nd in Munster.

So Portroe had the distinction of being Tipperary's only representative in the All Ireland finals for the second year in succession. We congratulate them on their achievements and wish them All Ireland success in 1982.

New Incentive

Clubs in the Division have been given an added incentive since 1979, when the Slevin Trophy for the best Scór club in the Division was presented to the Board by Gerry Slevin (formerly of Borrisokane). In assessing entries for this trophy the Scór Committee take into account all aspects of club effort at juvenile and senior Scór level. The Scór Club of the Year award is presented at the North final of Scór na Sinsear. Borrisoleigh were the first winners of this lovely trophy in 1979 and they retained the title in 1980. In 1981 it was Portroe's year and for them it was a fitting reward for many years of great effort at both levels of Scór.

Now at the beginning of another Scór season we appeal to all clubs to keep up the good work, and we wonder where the Slevin Trophy will go in 1982.



*Cutting the cake, Newcastle Junior Set Dancers who won the All-Ireland Scór na nOg Finals in 1981
Left to right: James Coleman, Geraldine O'Gorman, John Corbett, Colette Hackett, Maurice Hallahan, trainer,
Miriam O'Shea, Sean Lonergan, Rose Lonergan, Bernard O'Gorman.
Newcastle also won the All-Ireland in Scór na nOg 1978 for set dancing.*

POST PRIMARY HURLING IN TIPPERARY

by Seán O'Costagáin

In the late sixties and early seventies when the state of under age hurling within the county was at a low ebb the County Board in its wisdom initiated the Canon Fitzgerald Cup hurling competition for all post primary schools in the county. The Tipperary Association in London donated a trophy which perpetuates the memory of a famous Boherlahan clergyman who spent his priestly life ministering in a London parish.

The competition for this prestige trophy is in being now for eleven years and it is my pleasure to relate that it has gone from strength to strength and that the competition for the trophy and plaques is very keen between the post-primary schools of Tipperary. As it is an under 17 competition it helps county minor selectors in picking players for the following years county minor team.

Last years competition produced hurling of a very high standard and when the semi-final stages of the competition was reached the pairings consisted of Nenagh C.B.S. and Cashel C.B.S. in one semi-final with Templemore C.B.S. and Roscrea C.B.S. contesting the second semi-final.

The first semi-final was played in Nenagh and as the Nenagh boys had contested the Harty Cup semi-final many expected that this would be their year to put their name on the trophy

but the Cashel C.B.S. boys had other ideas and after a rousing struggle Cashel C.B.S. emerged winners by 2-6 to 0-5.

Roscrea C.B.S. who captured the week section for the first time faced Templemore C.B.S. in the second semi-final at Moneygall and despite a determined effort failed on the score 4-10 to 3-4.

The final matched Templemore C.B.S. and old rivals Cashel C.B.S. at Semple Stadium Thurles and after one of the best finals since the competition commenced Cashel C.B.S. emerged victors on the score 2-7 to 2-5. The game was played in a fine sporting manner in keeping with all Cashel Templemore clashes. The following is the winners of the competition since it started. Cashel C.B.S. head the list having won the competition on four occasions. Templemore C.B.S. and Thurles C.B.S. have each won the trophy on three occasions with Borrisokane V.S. winning the inaugural years competition in 1971.

In winning the 1981 competition Cashel had many stars but their most impressive players were David Ryan, John Kennedy, Colm Bonnar, Sean Slattery and John Leamy.

Best for gallant losers Templemore were John Bergin, John Ryan, Declan Russell and John Cormack.

The Cashel boys were forced to compete in final without their captain

Ray Davern and Denis Harding while the Templemore boys sorely missed the services of two star players Aidan Ryan and Denis McGrath, who received a nasty injury in semi-final which, Thank God, has completely healed.

Croke Cup

Heretofore the Croke Cup was an under 16 hurling competition for Christian Brothers Schools but in keeping with the directive from Croke Park which encourages integration between all post primary schools for competitive purposes we this year opened the Croke Cup competition to all post primary schools in the county and a very encouraging fact emerged that the two Vocational Schools that participated Borrisokane V.S. and Nenagh V.S. contested the final in which the Borrisokane school emerged victors. It should be a source of encouragement to all post primary schools within the county to see what a bold determined approach like that of Borrisokane's can achieve. It is a source of great pleasure to the organisers of those two post-primary hurling competitions that they are so successful and it is our ardent desire that they will long continue to be so. I think if the hard work of the schools continue they will help to put Tipperary back in its rightful position at the top of the hurling world.



Cashel C.B.S. Fitzgerald Cup Team 1981

Back row, left to right: David Ryan, Paudie Slattery, Pío Delaney, Paul O'Donoghue, Colm Bonnar, Michael Hennessey, Pat O'Donoghue
Middle row: Mr J. Gleeson (team coach), Denis Harding, Niall Ryan, John Leamy, Sean Slattery, Sean Bradshaw, Paudie O'Dwyer, Donal Fanning, Pat Moloughney, John Kennedy, Mr M. Finnerty (team manager).

Seated: Andrew O'Dwyer, Liam Devitt, Raymond Davern, Pat Walshe (captain), Gerry Ryan, Jimmy Bergin, Tommy O'Dwyer.

The one disappointing factor in connection with those post-primary hurling competitions is that some of the very large schools in the southern part of the county do not participate and I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to one and all to organise and participate and that Tipperary hurling will be all the better as a result of your active participation.

Harty Cup

Undoubtedly the prestige competition for post-primary schools in Munster is the Harty Cup competition. Last year for the first time ever we had four Tipperary schools participating which proves that our standards are comparable with the best in Munster. It was disappointing that three of the Tipperary schools were in the one section with the result that they were paired against each other in the early rounds.

In the first round Cashel C.B.S. played Templemore C.B.S. and it was a game that the Cashel boys did not do themselves justice with the Templemore boys emerging victors on the score 3-9 to 1-4.

Templemore had good displays from John Bergin, Noel McDonnell and Philip Kenny while Cashels most prominent players were David Ryan, Sean Slattery and Pat Walshe.

Thurles C.B.S. who are in the process of team building under the guidance of Br. Perkins failed to overcome the first round.

The quarter final paired Templemore C.B.S. with Nenagh C.B.S., who had a very impressive first round win over St Finbarrs Farrangerris. This game was played in Thurles in early November before a fine crowd and it provided a typical Harty Cup contest. From the outset the Templemore boys appeared best and were enjoying a four points lead when an injury impaired their star midfielder Phillip Kenny. At this stage Nenagh gradually crept back into the game and by half time led 1-8 to 1-5.

Shortly after the interval Nenagh hopes received a great boost when they scored a goal. Gradually the Templemore boys reduced the leeway but no matter how hard they tried they failed to break down the resistance of the North Tipp

boys and in the end Nenagh had three points to spare 2-10 to 1-10.

Nenagh thus qualified for the Harty Cup semi-final against Coláiste Chríost Rí, Cork with the good wishes of all Tipperary with them. Despite a tremendous effort by them they were defeated by three points. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Nenagh boys on their wondrous effort and if they continue to show the same commitment and determination the day cannot be far away when that prestige trophy will find its way to that North Tipperary town.

Once again I would like on behalf of the schools of the county to pay our most sincere thanks to the Grounds Committees who made their fields available to us for games during the past year. I think we can without any doubt say that the standard of hurling pitches within our county far surpasses any other county in Munster. And to conclude I would like to pay thanks to all our fine referees without whom the standard of games within the county by our colleges would not be of the standard we now have.

CONGRESS 1982 GLENEAGLE HOTEL KILLARNEY



County Tipperary Delegates at Congress 1982:— from left: Martin O'Connor, Tommy Barrett, Tom O'Hara, John Hennessy, Phil O'Shea, Michael Frawley, J. J. Kennedy, Michael McGuire, Paddy Maher, Tom Kirby, Fr Duggan.

Co. Tiobraid Arann had the following motion before Congress, that the 1984 All-Ireland Hurling finals, Senior and Minor take place at Semple Stadium, Thurles. The motion was carried by a big majority.

NORTH TIPPERARY HIGHLIGHTS

Honours Well Divided

by "An Sliotar" of "The Guardian"

1981 was an eventful year for Gaelic games in North Tipperary. It was a year which saw history made in some grades, with titles regained in other cases for the first time in many years. Every supporter has his or her own special highlight of the year. What I intend to do here is to put together the main events of the Gaelic year in the division. Lets hope your own memory is included.

Senior Hurling Championship

Seven teams set out in quest of the title, including defending champions Roscrea, and three in a row winners, 1977-1979, Kilruane McDonaghs. The system of running the championship was similar to the 1980 system. This meant that all teams would play six games on the league system and the four top teams would then qualify for the semi-finals. Roscrea, Kilruane and Borris-ileigh were confidently expected to qualify but it was really anyone's guess from Silvermines Lorrha Moyeygall and Eire Og for the last place.

Big surprise of the early rounds was Borrisileighs fourteen point win over Roscrea. Lorrha caused a mild surprise by beating last years semi-finalists Silvermines in early May. Roscrea suffered a seven point defeat at the hands of Eire Og and the championship opened up. Lorrha after losing to Borrisileigh recovered to beat Roscrea in Borrisokane

at the end of June in a great match. So my early July it looked like Kilruane, Borrisileigh and Lorrha for the semi finals. The fourth place was up for grabs. Roscrea beat Silvermines in Nenagh on Munster final evening thanks mainly to the accuracy of a recently returned Francis Loughnane. Moneygall and Borrisileigh played a thrilling draw in Roscrea which kept Moneygall's hopes alive. An attractive double bill was set for Nenagh. Borrisileigh met Silvermines, who needed a win to stay alive. Roscrea faced Moneygall in the second game. Borris made a great second half comeback while keeping 'Mines scoreless to earn a draw. This result finished Silvermines' hopes for 1981. The second game then was an all or nothing game. Both teams needed to win. After a close first half, Roscrea, with Francis Loughnane in superb form turned it on and "The Reds" eventually won by twelve points. We now had our semi finalists Kilruane and Lorrha, who played a thrilling draw in Borrisokane, topped the league table with nine points each. This meant they would be guarded in the semi final draw. Borrisileigh were third on eight points while Roscrea just made the 'cut' on six points. The semi final draw resulted Borrisileigh v Kilruane, Roscrea v Lorrha.

The semi finals

The two matches were played over

the same weekend in August. The Borris/Kilruane game was first on the Saturday evening in Nenagh. The biggest crowd of the season turned up to see it. After a tremendous game Borris broke an eight match unbeaten run which Kilruane had over them. After leading by 2-5 to 2-3 at half time Borris eventually won by 2-12 to 2-3 at half time Borris eventually won by 2-12 to 2-7. Outstanding in a memorable win were Gerry Stapleton, Francis Spillane, Pat Ryan, Timmy Ryan, Noel O'Dwyer and Pat Kavanagh.

The arrival of the new team and the hope that another i.e. Lorrha would join them in the final ensured an even bigger crowd for the second semi final in Borrisokane on the Sunday evening. Many people fancied Lorrha to repeat their group win over Roscrea at the same venue six weeks earlier. Older wiser people made the point that Roscrea are very hard to beat with the chips down. In my opinion this was the game of the year. Lorrha got away to a great start with goals from Joe Kennedy and Brian Mannion and led by eight points at one stage in the first half. A flash of brilliance from Francis Loughnane and Captain Roger Ryan saw two green flags raised in reply. Lorrha's minimum half time lead was wiped out early in the second half with another Roger Ryan goal. From then to the finish it was a superbly contested game and if Roscrea were let



Portroe, North Tipperary Intermediate Hurling Champions

Back row: Jim Hughes, Martin Gleeson, Jerry O'Brien, Jimmy Sheedy, Michael Gleeson, Tom Keating, Paddy Conroy, John Sheedy.
Front row: Michael Moloney, Michael Sheedy, Brendan Kennedy, Jimmy Ryan, Liam Kennedy (Captain), Michael McKeogh, Wm Ryan, Jimmy Creamer.



Borrisokane 1981 County Champions Junior Hurling

Back row: J. McKenna, P. Morris, I. Conroy, P. Brophy, B. Hogan, J. Reddan, J. Karney, S. Darcy, J. Hogan, D. Kelly, B. Keeshan, P. Moran, D. Heenan, V. McKenna, M. Murphy, W. Starr, N. Morris, S. Dunne (Sec.)

Front row: F. Daly, N. Fogarty, N. Comeford, G. Brennan, E. Brennan, P. Dooley, J. Moran (Capt.), N. Touhy, T. Donnelly, S. Donnelly, G. Carroll, V. Dooley, D. Kennedy, M. Comeford.

off the hook on occasions they finished stronger with some great points from John Stone, Joe Tynan and Liam Spooner giving them a 3-10 to 2-10 winning margin. Everyone went home happy that they had seen a great game.

The Final

For the first time in ten years then the senior hurling final was between Borrisileigh and Roscrea. It was a pairing which promised much and the crowd of 6,000 bore testimony to the great drawing power of these great rivals. Roscrea sadly for them made little use of the breeze in the first half and after missing many chances they held only a one point advantage for the second half. However a marvellous second half performance by their defence meant that Borrisileigh had to work harder than expected to achieve victory. But win they did by two points, 18 to 16 and so the Frank McGrath Cup went to Timmy Stapleton and Borrisileigh for the first time since 1976. Noel O'Dwyer, Mick Coen, Pat Ryan, Gerry Stapleton, Timmy Stapleton and T. F. Stapleton were the Borris heroes. Roscrea surrendered their title after a brave second half effort, which saw a Francis Loughnane 'goal' disallowed for a prior infringement. It was the turning point.

The championship ended then with Borrisileigh champions. It wasn't a great final or ended a great championship. At the years end many people yearned for a knock out championship next year. My two most memorable games in the championship were the semi-finals and they compensated for some lack lustre stuff in early season. The north final did not mark the end of Borrisileigh/Roscrea rivalry for 1981 but their next meeting is another story.

Intermediate Hurling Championship

The Inter competition again provided many enjoyable games and a final which is never likely to be forgotten. Ten teams entered the competition and they were divided into two groups of five teams to play on the league system. There were some excellent games in the league

section with perhaps the Portroe/Temple-derry and Toomevara/Shannon Rovers games the pick. The six qualifiers were Shannon Rovers, Toomevara, Ballinahinch, Portroe, Temple-derry, Burgess. In the Quarter finals Toomevara, who had just made the 'cut', beat Burgess and Temple-derry got the better of Ballinahinch in a replay after a thrilling draw.

This cleared the way for the semi-finals in which the draw was Toomevara v Shannon Rovers and Portroe v Temple-derry. Both games were repeats of earlier group games so exciting fare was expected. Toomevara repeated their earlier success over Rovers, whose play deteriorated after Pat McLoughney had been forced to retire injured. The final score was 2-10 to 1-7. The other semi-final was just as thrilling and indeed was a continuation of the drawn game between the sides back in April. In a very high scoring game 2-17 to 2-11, Portroe reached their first final for a number of years. Brendan Kennedy was the hero scoring ten points.

Victory for Portroe

A strong breeze threatened to spoil the final which was played in Nenagh as a curtain raiser to the senior final. Toomevara had first use of it and at half time thanks mainly to Joe McGrath, Michael Delaney and Sean Nolan, they led by 0-12 to 0-1. Portroe were forced to introduce Gerry O'Brien, who had been doubtful for the final, in the second half. Several Brendan Kennedy points kept Portroe's hopes up but Toom had managed to clip over a few points and with time running out the Greyhounds still led by five points 0-15 to 0-10. Those final minutes though will never be forgotten in Portroe. Gerry O'Brien, the then Tipperary centre forward, struck home two goals. Portroe had won by a point but the margin was irrelevant. So Jim Donnellan, Vice Chairman of the North Tipp Board had the undoubted pleasure of presenting the Hewitt Cup to Portroe captain Liam Kennedy. For the first time since 1950 Portroe were champions in this grade. "The Quarries" celebrated in style! Their subsequent

bid to become county champions failed at the final hurdle to Boherlahan. Still it was a great year for the little village—1982 can hardly come soon enough for them.

Junior Hurling Championship

1981 was the year this championship came to life again. For many years this competition was not rated too highly by many people but such was the splendour of most contests that by final time this year quite an interest was taken in the proceedings. Eighteen teams set out in quest of glory divided into four groups. Two teams qualified for the quarter finals from each group and those pairings resulted—

Borrisokane v Shannon Rovers;
Knockshewanna v Kilruane;
Moneygall v Toomevara;
Roscrea v Silvermines

Borrisokane showed great form in their league games so it was no surprise when they scored a big win over Shannon Rovers. Moneygall had a very difficult game against neighbours Toomevara and won in the end by two points in a high scoring game. Knockshewanna were extremely lucky to beat their neighbours Kilruane by just one point in a very tough game. Roscrea made a comfortable ten points win over Silvermines to complete the semi finalists. The draw threw up two local derby games. Borrisokane who by now were most peoples favourites were drawn against Knockshewanna while Roscrea were fitted against Moneygall.

Roscrea made a good second half recovery to draw with Moneygall 1-7 to 0-10. Borrisokane made no mistake against Knockshe' winning by 2-10 to 0-10, although it might have been closer. Roscrea played much better hurling in the replay and in the end Moneygall trailed them by eight points.

Borrisokane Supreme

The final at Cloughjordan in late September drew a fine crowd. Borrisokane hadn't won the title since 1965 while Roscrea hadn't won it since 1946. The teams were level at half time 2-5 all. Borris took over after half time and

despite a late rally they held on to win the O'Keeffe Cup by four points 3-12 to 3-8. Seamus Hogan, who won an All-Ireland senior medal ten years previously had the dual satisfaction of training the team and playing a leading role at centre back. The team captain was Sean Moran. After beating Skeheenarinka in the county semi-final in early November and brought the county title to the club for the first time since 1940, their win brought to an end a super year for them and no doubt 1982 will see them doing well at inter level.

Under 21 Hurling Championship

This championship yet again was played too late in the year to attract much attention or support. Eire Og Nenagh were this year trying to win the North and County titles for the third year in a row. They could be considered fortunate to score a single point over Roscrea in the semi-final and now meet Erins Hope in the final.

Minor Hurling Championship

We again used the comparatively successful two group competition. Borrisileigh won the 'B' competition Nealon Trophy beating Newport in the final at Dolla. Both sides advanced then to the quarter finals proper and met with mixed fortune. Roscrea hammered Newport while Borrisoleigh pulled off the shock of the championship by beating Eire Og. The way was clear for the semi finals which had the following pairings Toomevara v Borrisileigh, Roscrea v Lorrha. Borris gave Toome a



County Chairman MI Maher, presents trophy to Sean Moran, captain of Borrisokane County Junior Hurling winners

fright but in the end were forced to concede defeat. Roscrea (defending champions) met even stiffer opposition from the Lower Ormond men inspired by Ken Hogan. Ros triumphed in the end by a couple of points and so ensured a repeat of the previous years final pairing. This year the venue, the referee and the result were indifferent and at the end Toome had repeated an early season win and emerged rather easy winners on a 2-7 to 0-4 scoreline. Sean Nolan, Liam

Flaherty and Liam Nolan did most to bring the Monsignor Hamilton Cup back to Toomevara for the first time since 1956. They subsequently made a brave bid for county honours but after beating Carrick Swans they failed narrowly to Clonoulty/Rossmore.

General

Other highlights during the year included the victory of this divisions u-16 team and the Munster championship. Our success included wins over West Tipp, East Clare, Limerick city, West Limerick and West Waterford. Team captain was Joe Burns of Kilruane. Other players to the fore were Donal Kealy (Roscrea), Paul Mulcahy (Kilruane), Aidan Ryan (Borrisileigh), Liam Nolan (Toomevara) and John Prior (Borrisileigh).

North Tipp supplied many players to the Tipperary minor panel for this years championship. You remember that Clare beat us in a thrilling final in Thurles back in July. Among those players were John Heffernan, Philip Hennessy (Eire Og), Philip Kenny (Borrisoleigh).

The County u-21 team too got a lot of help from this division. It was with great delight then that the county's third title in a row was received with Philip Kennedy of Eire Og again the captain. Other players from North Tipp who were part of the action — Mick Ryan (Borrisileigh), John Mc Intyre (Lorrha), Ian Conroy (Borrisileigh), Alan Kinsella (Silvermines), Bobby Ryan (Borrisileigh).

Those then are some of my 1981 memories. Readers will note that I haven't considered football at all. That is correct but my name is "An Sliotar"! and besides as you well know, football in any part of Tipperary is a story in itself!

Happy Christmas everyone.



North Tipperary Under 16 Hurling team, winners of the special Munster Competition.

THE PLOUGH & THE STARS OF FIFTY YEARS AGO

by Seamus O Riain

It was haytime in the summer of 1931 and Tipperary were meeting Cork again in a Munster semi-final in Thurles Sportsfield as it was then called. All such games are special but this one had an extra appeal.

Tipperary were All-Ireland champions of 1930 and Cork had won the title of the previous two years, 1928 and 1929. This was to be the great show-down, the clash of champions. Between them the two teams included an exceptional number of players who would be listed among the great stars of hurling. Tommy O'Meara, Phil Purcell, John Maher, Garret Howard, Tommy Treacy, Phil Cahill, Mick Cronin, Martin Kennedy and Tommy Leahy were in the Tipperary line out while in the 'opposition' were 'Fox' Collins, Jim Regan, Dinny Barry Murphy, Jim Hurley, Tom Barry, the Aheranes, 'Balty' and 'Gah' and Eudie Coughlan.

Tipp had scored an eleven point win over Limerick in the first round and Cork had eliminated Clare. 'The match' was the only subject of discussion at forge and fair, at the creamery and in the hayfield. Everyone was going and it was thought that Thurles would not hold the crowd.

It was typical Thurles weather on the day. Fleets of cyclists took off from every quarter, shirt sleeved and the coats rolled up on the carriers. Motor cars were few. We could boast of only two in our village but Billy, our neighbour, owned one of them and he gave us a lift.

We set off in style, waving with a touch of superiority at the puffing cyclists as we sped along at thirty or maybe thirty-one miles an hour, raising a cloud of dust from the untarred road that bothered the men on the bikes.

As we roared up Honeymount hill

we met with trouble that put a halt to our gallop. The driver in front of us had trouble with the gears on the incline, a complaint not unusual in those days. His car stalled and then began to roll back towards us. Billy swerved to avoid impact, but too late. Our left front wheel crashed into the rear of the other car and both came to a standstill.

Damage Repaired

Billy surveyed the damage. The front wheels were askew, the axle bent. We were stranded. My first thought was of regret at not having gone on the bike. But there was a match in Thurles and we had to get there. Billy got to work dismantling the axle. To straighten it some kind of leverage was needed. 'I have it', he said, heading for Tim Doyle's farmyard where a single plough stood in a corner. There on the handles of the plough with much grunting and a few expletives, the axle was straightened.

Soon it was replaced and we were on our way again. The 'curtain raiser' was over when we reached the sportsfield. Every embankment was packed and many people sat around on the grass having given up hope of seeing the game. We got a toe-hold at the Kilinan end and caught a glimpse of the teams parading behind the band. We saw flashes of red and blue and gold 'anois is aris' but for the most part we had to rely on those in front for information on the progress of the game. A resounding cheer signalled a goal for Tipp, and as the crowd swayed and surged with excitement we were dislodged from our position and sent rolling down the bank.

We decided to try our luck at the town end. My father bought a timber box from

one of the hawkers for a shilling. We found a spot for it on the edge of the bank right behind the town goal. Each standing with one foot on the box our view was good but the news was bad. While we were making the change from one end of the field to the other Cork had taken a six point lead, which they held at half time. With Tipp playing into the town goal in front of us, and the home crowd urging them on, we looked forward to better things when the teams came out for the second half. But Cork had the bit in their teeth and every score by Tipp was countered by a like score by the men in red to maintain their lead.

Tipp Response

As supporters encouraged, pleaded, remonstrated and called for a last great effort to save the honour of the county, the players responded and mounted a sustained attack on the Cork posts. Cahill racing in from the wing pulled first time on a low ball that flashed inches wide to the right of the post and Cork had weathered the storm.

Defeat does not come kindly to young people and I found it strange that the rival supporters mingled so freely and with such good humour as they moved through the streets or stood round the open doors of public houses and restaurants after the game. Later years brought appreciation of the friendly rivalry based on mutual respect which finds its expression once the game is over.

It was many years before I saw Tipp and Cork again in a Munster championship game, being away in school whenever they met. So that their meeting of fifty years ago, though not the happiest memory, has remained a vivid picture in my mind and I always recall it as the year of the plough and the stars.



Moyle Rovers, South Junior Football Champions

Back row, l. to r.: Matty Boyle, T. Maher, J. Russell (capt.), L. Looby, L. Phelan, J. Garrett, H. McCarthy, O. Fitzpatrick, D. Looby, T. Acheson, P. Fahey, J. Boyle.

Front row, l. to r.: B. Phelan, T. Harvey, N. Maher, B. Fitzgerald, J. Purcell, C. Ryan, T. McGrath, Joe McGrath, P. Boyle, N. Conway.

THE FIRST IS THE SWEETEST FOR A TEN YEAR OLD

by Gerry Slevin

Much has been made of the fact that an All Ireland senior title has eluded Tipperary since 1971. Indeed we hear so much about it, that we are inclined to shrug our shoulders and keep on hoping. But the impact of it wasn't really brought home to me until quite recently when a ten year old boy told me how much he would love to see Tipp striding out on All Ireland final day and winning the Liam McCarthy Cup. No doubt his feelings were influenced by the spectacle in front of the Hogan Stand in September when Offaly supporters celebrated their historic victory.

Afterwards as I thought over his comment, I realised that there was indeed a vacuum in his young life. He is one of hundreds of ten year olds in Tipp who have not experienced the joy and thrill of seeing his county win an All Ireland. The more I thought about it, the more my mind turned back to when I was a ten year old and what the 1949 final meant to me. There was nothing to compare with it and while the final itself may have been something of a let down in terms of an evenly matched struggle, that could not take away from the build up, the excitement, the anticipation of a first All Ireland final.

I was too young of course to have paid any great heed to the 1945 final and the following three years were indeed depressing ones for Tipp. After the league final win over Cork in 1949 things began to happen and this ten year old was about to be caught up in a scene that would have everlasting memories.

Yet another Tipp/Cork clash in the first round and what a start to a campaign. A draw. A replay and then extra time and the abiding memory of the recalled Tommy Doyle holding Christy Ring scoreless throughout the 150 minutes it took to decide the issue in Tipp's favour.

The Munster campaign was successfully traversed with wins over Clare and Limerick and the shock march of Laois through Leinster and then their defeat of Galway in the All Ireland semi final brought about a pairing of neighbouring rivals that few could have expected. Tipp and Laois, and the Tipp minors there also for good measure, ably led by the man responsible for putting this Year Book together, John O'Grady.

A Boy's Impressions

What an impressionable occasion it all was on a ten year old. Of course there was no television build up as today. Nor was press coverage as intensive as now, but for all that it was so easy to be caught up in the swell of enthusiasm.

Memories of the day keep coming back. The early rise and drive to Dublin in my father's black Ford Prefect. The stop off in Newbridge for Mass and out to my uncle's house for breakfast before he joined us for the remainder of the journey. I can recall seeing the first issue of 'The Sunday Press' that morning and the photograph of Tipp captain, Pat Stakelum as he sat in a Dwan's van, smiling out with elbow extended through the open window. Little was I to know that many years later, I would sit around a table with the same Pat, as members of the Tipperary GAA Commission.

But one name seemed to have a special if tongue-twisting ring about it, Laois captain Paddy Rustchitsko, abbreviated to Rusty. Years later, I was to see the same Paddy in quite a different role when he played leads with Portlaoise in 'The White Horse Inn' and 'Showboat'.

Arrival in Dublin, my first visit there and a breathtaking scene that was almost too much for one of such tender years. The blue and gold hats and flags vying

with the Laois blue and white and a spattering of Kilkenny's black and amber for the minor game. On to Croke Park and up to the Cusack Stand— my father, God rest him had managed to procure a couple of tickets — and what a sight as the panoramic view of the famed stadium rolled out in front of me. The Artane Boys band and the minor game as Tipp become first holders of the 'Irish Press Cup'. The adrenalin begins to flow swiftly as the crowd erupts with the entry of the main gladiators. Tipp led by Pat Stakelum and followed by idols all, Tony Reddan, Tommy Doyle, Jimmy Kennedy, Mick Ryan, Phil Shanahan, Tony Brennan, Sonny Maher and the rest. Paddy Rustchitsko leading Laois with Harry Grey, Joe Styles, Bill Bohane, Tommy Fitzpatrick, all ready to dash the fond aspirations of an eager Tipp team.

But it's Tipp all the way. Not a lot to remember about the actual game. Paddy Kenny's goal just before half time, of course; Tommy Doyle flying around the field as though his very life depended on his performance. In the end a 3-11 to 0-3 win for Tipp and for me the thrill of my first All Ireland final and a Tipp win to boot.

Going home that night there was that fierce thunder and lightning as we hit the Curragh and later, the flood under the bridge in Portlaoise and the unholy fright, when, while waiting for cars to pass through, the lit up train flashed across the bridge like a fireball. Home at last and a marvellous occasion to talk about, ponder over and even write about for many a year to come.

Yes, the first is the sweetest for a ten year old. Maybe the Tipperary nine year olds will have reason next September to stock up memories as I did. And those of us who have seen eight All Irelands won since 1949 wouldn't be averse to another one either.



John Fitzgerald, Skeheenarinky captain, receiving the South Division Junior Hurling Trophy from John Fleming, Chairman.

"A DEPRIVED CHILD"

by Seamus Leahy

"What do you mean do I think Tipp will ever win an All-Ireland again; Just because your're nine and haven't seen Tipp win in Croke Park doesn't mean it's the end of the world, you young pup!" said the man with the large bottle and the small glass to the young lad with the lemonade. It was the evening Tipp beat Clare in the League and a time for reminiscence. "Will I tell you something? I was three when Tipp won the All-Ireland in 1937 and being so young I didn't know anything about it. And do you know what age I was when they won again?? Eleven! Just think of all those years without ever seeing the McCarthy Cup in the county. It made a mark on me that I'll take to the grave. I grew up like a deprived child".

When I was seven and just beginning to understand these things (he continued) we were diddled out of the 1941 All-Ireland— we weren't allowed out of the county on account of the Foot and Mouth disease. That was all codology, of course. Every second official in the Department of Agriculture was a Corkman and they knew that if they played Tipp that year they would never get to Croke Park. So they got out a government order preventing Tipp from travelling outside the county and Cork were nominated to represent Munster in the All-Ireland. Cork won the All-Ireland and when they had the McCarthy Cup safely back home Tipp gave them the father and mother of a hammering in the Munster final. It was hard luck, wasn't it? To win the Munster championship and have to see the team you beat by 5-4 to 2-5 hawking the All-Ireland Cup around every greasy dive in Cork city. You'd think that Jack Lynch and those fellows would be ashamed of themselves and would put away the Cup and say nothing about it, but not at all! They carried on as if they were entitled to have it.

They had to the first one so easily that they went on to win four in a row and when I was a young fellow it was Cork this, Cork that, and Cork the other. My favourite reading was an old Gaelic Echo, brought out on the even of the 1941 final, showing the count of All-Ireland winners, with Tipp and Kilkenny level at twelve each and Cork running behind with eleven. Those were the days, I used to think to myself. But the good old days were dead and gone and by the end of 1944 the count stood at: Cork— fifteen; Tipperary—twelve; Kilkenny— twelve. I could never imagine Tipp catching up with them again and people started talking about the Unlucky Thirteenth.

Summer of '45

Maybe it was the war that had some-

thing to do with it, but when the summer of 1945 came we thought that maybe this year we would stop them. John Quirke and Jack Lynch, Jim Young and Con Cotrell, Christy Ring and Paddy Donovan, Con and Willie Murphy and Din Joe Buckley— they were all great but, after all, Hitler was dead and Mussolini was dead and Tojo was on the way out and in that sort of atmosphere anything was possible.

In the days when you had to travel by bike or by pony and cart, Fermoy was a long way off so there weren't too many there to see the first round of the championship, but the ones who went came home saying that Tipp weren't too bad at all. They beat Waterford 3-6 to 0-3. Imagine that! A Waterford team that had Jim Ware in the goals, Andy Fleming, Mick Hayes, John Keane, Christy Moylan and Willie Barron. Do you know something? That Waterford team would beat any of the teams going nowadays with their caps! And they could only score three points against Tipp that day.

But the real thrill was on the July day when Cork came up to Thurles for the semi-final. It was a sunny day like all July days were sunny at that time and when we were walking home from early Mass along the road from Boherlahan to Tubberadora we had to keep in to the side of the road because of the droves of bicycles going towards Thurles. And they all seemed to be Corkmen— every one of them. "How far to Thurles?" they'd shout and at first we'd shout back "six miles!" in imitation Cork accents. But then one of the lads said that many of them were probably from Cork city and they must have been on the road since shortly after midnight, so we kind of lost heart and didn't bother even to shout "Up Tipp!" after them.

But when we got into Thurles ourselves we found our tongues again. You know what your man the poet said— "Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, but to be young was very heaven." I think it must have been that day he was talking about because it describes it down to the ground.

It's a long time ago but I can see it as clearly as I can see you now, John Maher pointing the first seventy; and Flor Coffey stepping out from behind John Quirke to meet a flying ball first time; and Tommy Purcell holding the young Christy Ring to a single point; and Jim Devitt catching a ball only inches off the ground and driving it to the sky; and Johnny Ryan at cornerback beating Joe Kelly, the Irish Three-Hundred-Yards champion, to every ball because he knew where the ball would come every time and Joe Kelly didn't and Johnny would be on his way to it before the 'Flyer' took off; and Jimmy Maher

in the goals stopping them high and low; and Mutt Ryan tearing down the wing and lobbing the ball into the centre for Tommy Doyle to bury it in the net. 'Twas grand! And when the final whistle blew we were ahead by 2-13 to 3-2 and we felt in our hearts that nothing would ever stop us again.

A Near Thing

And nothing did stop us that year, though Limerick nearly did. The Mackeys and Jackie Power and Dick Stokes and that crowd— if you ever saw them in a Munster final you'd know what I mean when I say that hurling isn't the same nowadays. But 'twas a blazing hot day again in Thurles— every Sunday then used be blazing hot— and our lads stood the pace better. John Mackey was like a big blonde giant pounding around the Square with Ger Cornally hanging out of him and Little Jimmy trying to keep out of his way. And Mick Mackey was near the end of his day but he was still the most dangerous man you ever saw at centre-forward. At one time he pulled the whole Tipp full-back line out to one corner and then turned and flashed the ball back in front of the goals for someone to ship it in, but Little Jimmy stopped it. Then Jack Dwyer came on as sub and when he got the winning goal we let a roar that was like the roar we let when we beat Cork.

The Americans dropped the atomic bomb in August and the Japanese surrendered but it was Johnny Ryan's injury that was the main subject of conversation for the whole month long. We weren't a bit happy facing Kilkenny without him but Mick Murphy, a Clareman working in Thurles, was brought in at wing-back and Jim Devitt moved into the corner and Sweeper Ryan came in at corner-forward. Kilkenny looked great on paper but Tipp were too long without an All-Ireland to think of losing and anyway Little Jimmy couldn't let in goals that day even if he tried. Every time he put up his hurley the ball hopped off it and the best that Jimmy Langton could do was to bring Kilkenny within two goals of them.

There were other All-Irelands that might have been better, but for me there was never another like that one. If you reach the age of eleven without having seen Tipp win in Croke Park, you'll know what I mean. But you're only nine yet (said the man with the large bottle and the small glass) and by the time you're eleven you'll see this under-21 crowd that are playing senior now bringing home the bacon for us. And when they get off the train at Thurles on the first Monday in September and get up on the lorry for the drive down the town, with the McCarthy Cup held up for us all to get a good look at it again after all these years, you'll think it was all worth the waiting.

At least that's the way I felt the evening John Maher brought it home when I was eleven.

Seamus Leahy

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ST MARY'S, CLONMEL

by Billy Doyle

St Mary's Hurling Club was founded in 1929 by Mr Tom Maher and other G.A.A. Supporters in Clonmel, chiefly because, at the time, there was no hurling club or otherwise in a town which needed to attract Inter-county hurling games to their sportsfield. That they succeeded is now history.

Up to the current year, 1982, St Mary's Hurling Club had won every title in hurling that South Tipperary had to offer, with the exception of the senior title. However, this is no longer the situation as the club succeeded in capturing its first ever South Senior title this year when at Kilsheelan on 16th August, 1981 we defeated Carrick Swan by two points. This indeed was a very

historic occasion for St Mary's Hurling Club. This success came about as a result of a lot of hard work and effort put in by the players themselves and particularly by the tremendous coaching done by former Limerick and All-Star hurler, Mossy Carroll, who came to our club in 1981 and who captained the team on that historic occasion.

St Mary's Hurling Club has also succeeded in winning a number of county titles in recent years: County Junior Title in 1975; County U-12 Title in 1980; County u-14 Title in 1981.

Quite a number of the present senior panel who played in the South final are products of the Club Juvenile Nursery

and only three of the first fifteen did not come through this system but came to the club recently as senior players.

The Club has also contributed players over the years to Tipperary County teams at one grade or another. In fact, nine of the present senior team have worn the Tipperary County jersey at one or another grade of hurling.

The success of the club in recent years is due mainly to the work that is being done at juvenile level by some very dedicated people who have a keen interest in promoting and fostering the game of hurling among the youth of Clonmel. On this basis, it is safe to say that St Mary's will continue to be successful in all grades of hurling in the years to come.

ST MARY'S H. C. CLONMEL (Juvenile)

by Mick Forde

With our 1981 programme completed our juveniles have achieved unprecedented success with all three divisional titles and a county title for good measure.

As in 1980 the preparations for the 1981 season were made at a very early stage. All through the winter our loyal mentors and eager lads suffered in cold and wet. At times they were scoffed at by those staunch fireside Gaels. Come championship time all teams were "rarin to go". Under 12s were first in the field when we held our juvenile hurling tournament. Our guests in Clonmel for a weekend in March came from Cork, Wexford and Castlegar Galway. In the final we were narrowly beaten by a strong "Cashle" fifteen. Our lads were now right for the south championship. This they took to make it three on the trot at this age group. In the county semi we came a cropper against Toomevara, not without a titanic struggle I might add.

The u-14s skated through the South Championship. In the County semi-final we played a thriller in Bansha against Durlas Og. Our lads that night covered themselves in glory. It was a humdinger of a game but St Marys won their ticket to the County final against Kilruane. This is all heady stuff when one considers St Marys are rubbing shoulders with the mighty names of Tipp hurling and not being one bit daunted at the prospect. On the night in Thurles St Marys gave a super display of hurling against Kilruane. It was a team effort all the way.

At u-16 level the spade work was done and the team completed the threesome for the club. All three juvenile titles now lie on the side board of St Marys. The

under 16s were unlucky to run up against a physically stronger Emly fifteen in the county semi-final.

All round then a splendid years work. The operative word here is work, for it entails long hours of sweat in the field. Its an all year round job in charge of juveniles but St Marys are lucky they have capable men to lay the foundations.

The hard working committee is—
Chairman— Martin Deeley; Secretary—
Mick Forde and Rev. Br. Brett, Paddy

Coyne, Mick Ryan, Dan Kavanagh, Seamas Leahy, Tom Hill and Paddy Mullins.

In conclusion our deepest gratitude to the kind people of Clonmel who provide accommodation each year for the running of our tournament; to the parents and friends who provide the wheels, so necessary to transport our lads to matches both championship and practice. Finally let the message go out from here hurling is alive and well in Clonmel.



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SOUTH TIPPERARY ROUND UP

by Michael O'Meara

Clonmel Commercials proved the "club of the year" in the South Division, winning a hat trick of football titles. The club's minors were early in the field and soon showed that they would be a force to be reckoned with by coming through the league stages of the championship with an unbeaten record. Brian Borus the holders proved to be their final opponents but Commercials were not unduly pressed to win. A runaway win over North champions Inane Rovers followed and Commercials had home advantage for the county final which was staged as curtain raiser to the senior decider. Commercials were hot favourites to take the title but what a shock they got from a young Lattin-

Emly side who pressed them all the way and were only narrowly defeated after a gripping tussle. Billy Peters, Mark O'Connell and Donal O'Keeffe were three Clonmel stalwarts who later made valuable contributions to the winning of the senior and under 21 finals.

The Commercials senior team faced holders Fethard in the final and the teams finished level after a fine game that produced a high standard of football. The replay proved disappointing however as Fethard never really showed their true form and Commercials went on to a comfortable success. Gene McGrath, Franny Kelly, Ben Keane, Paudie and Shamie O'Neill as well as goalie

Michael Hanly proved the match winners for Commercials.

The clubs under 21 side went on to bring off the treble by defeating holders St Augustines in a hard fought decider at Kilsheelan.

St Marys Breakthrough

St Marys made it a great year for Clonmel by recording their first ever success in the senior hurling championship. Inspired by the brilliant Mossy Carroll St Marys defeated Swan in a great final which was watched by a record attendance at Kilsheelan.

Kilsheelan Again

In Intermediate hurling Kilsheelan



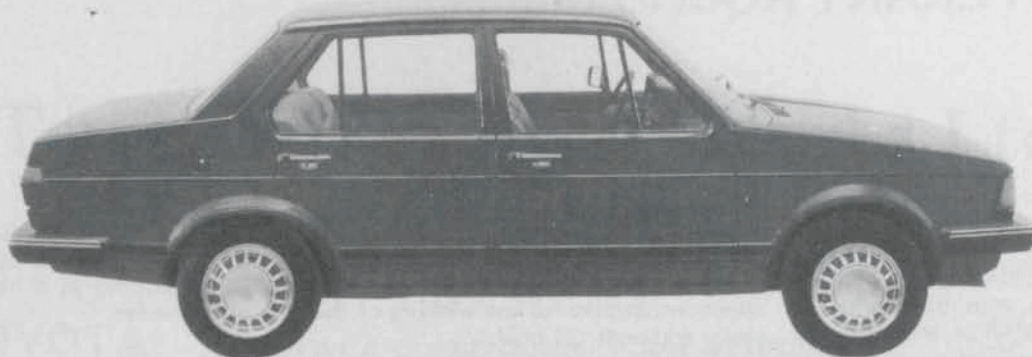
Clonmel Commercials, South Senior Football Champions

*Back row, l. to r.: S. O'Keeffe, E. Mahern, H. Daly, G. McGrath, M. Hanly, F. Kavanagh, B. Keane.
Front row, l. to r.: W. Peters, S. O'Neill, P. O'Neill, M. O'Connell, E. Synott, T. Walsh, M. McGarry, F. Kelly.*



St Mary's Clonmel, South Senior Hurling Champions

*Back row, l. to r.: B. O'Shea, M. Guiry, P. O'Neill, Mossy Carroll, T. Cronin, S. Mullins, B. McCarthy, P. Butler, S. Walsh, M. Fitzgerald, M. Kelly, J. Ryan
Front row, l. to r.: W. Peters, S. O'Neill, D. Mullins, G. McGrath, T. Walsh, T. O'Neill, J. Guidera, P. Fahey, T. Smith, J. O'Donoghue, F. Kelly.*



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Skeheenarinka, South Division Junior Hurling Champions

Back row, l. to r.: J. Goff, J. O'Brien, M. Feeney, D. Cahill, T. O'Gorman, E. Slattery, J. O'Gorman, S. Fitzgibbon, J. Hyland, J. English, W. Ryan, L. O'Gorman, E. O'Gorman, E. McCarthy, G. Crotty, E. Carey.
Front row, l. to r.: T. Maher, J. Landers, V. Crotty, M. Ryan, M. Hickey, J. Fitzgerald (captain), E. Maher, E. Cahill, J. Feeney, J. O'Donovan, J. McDonnell, E. Carey, J. Fitzgerald, K. Goff. Kneeling: E. Maher, M. Carey, J. Maher.



Ballingarry, South Division Under 21 Hurling Champions

Back row, l. to r.: S. Barrett, J. Dalton, J. Kerwick, T. Pollard, W. McGrath, T. Butler, P. Maher, M. Sparrow, D. Keogh.
Front row, l. to r.: M. Shelley, P. Ivors, S. Touhy, M. Fitzgerald, K. Shelly (captain), J. Teehan, J. Brennan, P. Aherne, T. P. Maher, S. Doheny.

showed tremendous spirit in overcoming numerous difficulties to gain a final place. Their opponents Killenaule were defeated also however and whilst the decider suffered as a result there was no denying the merit of Kilsheelan's success.

Great Victory for Skeheenarinka

Perhaps the most popular victory of the year was that recorded by Skeheenarinka in the junior hurling championship. This club had never before won a championship or indeed reached a final so it was to be expected that the entire parish would turnout in Clogheen for the decider against Marlfield. After one of the best games of the year Skeheenarinka

had to be satisfied with a draw but they made no mistake in the replay and the scenes of delight and emotion that greeted the presentation of the trophy just had to be seen to be believed. Happiest man in the Division was veteran goalie club Secretary and referee Eddie Maher who more than anyone else proved the man responsible for his clubs year of glory.

Glory for Ballingarry

There was glory too for Ballingarrys under 21 hurlers who came from behind to beat Swan in a rousing decider. The Carrick men were compensated by taking the minor crown at the main expense of St Marys.

Fr Sheehys footballers, led by five young players of the calibre of Michael Beston, Arthur Browne and Benny Conway proved worthy winners of the Intermediate title and there are high hopes that they can go on to take the county crown.

The junior football title went to Moyle Rovers who defeated Killenaule in a disappointing final.

A grand total of 219 games were played in the Division during the year and all championships were completed in good time. The Board is indebted to club officials and players, referees and patrons for their cooperation, help and support during the year.

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A CLUB BY CLUB REVIEW OF WEST TIPPERARY

by Donal Kennedy

Aherlow

The year that was will probably not be remembered with any great relish by the Aherlow Club. As defending west Intermediate football champions this predominantly football club probably viewed that championship as their best hope of success. And indeed for much of the year they looked as if set to retain their title. By the time they reached the final in late September against Rockwell Rovers they had two victories and two draws to their credit—one against their final opponents. But in the decider it was Rockwell who proved the more adept footballers on the day and so Aherlow surrendered their title. In the underage competitions the Aherlow club combined with Solohead but with little success. Their minor hurlers and footballers failed to make much of a showing as did their u-21 hurlers although the u-21 footballers have reached the west final. Their junior hurlers failed to make the final shake up as was the case with their footballers in the junior football league.

Arravale Rovers

The Arravale Rovers club will remember the 1981 season as the one in which they regained the west senior football title. Enroute to the final they had memorable victories over Cappawhite and Galtee Rovers the defending county champions. In the final they had to endure two hectic struggles with Solohead before finally emerging as champions. In other competitions the Tipperary club will probably view Kickhams as their bogey team. They drew with Kickhams in the 1980 junior football league final and lost the replay; they drew with Kickhams in the 1981 junior football championship semi final and lost the replay; and again their u-21 footballers drew with Kickhams before losing the replay. A remarkable record of draws and lost replays. At minor level their hurlers fared badly but their footballers reached the west semi-final before bowing out to Cashel. While in both the junior football league and senior football league (O'Donoghue Cup) they failed to figure prominently.

Cashel King Cormacs

After making 1980 a memorable year the Cashel K.C. club not surprisingly had to be content with lesser success in 1981. In the senior hurling championship they fell victims to Cappawhite in the semi final but had some consolation in taking the senior league competition and the Crosco Cup. And of course the county quarter final display in holding Roscrea to a single point will be warmly remembered as a highlight of the year. Their clash with Clonoulty in the West

minor hurling final will also be warmly remembered as possibly one of the finest minor finals ever seen even though they did of course lose. In other competitions they failed to collect any honours but success for Cashel is never very far away and they are sure to bounce back in the coming year.

Cappawhite

What can one say about Cappawhite after 1981 except that they never cease to amaze. Just when one begins to think that the men from the village are at last putting it together and about to make a senior breakthrough they astound all the commentators by slumping at the final hurdle. This year just gone their form was brilliant. Twice they defeated Sean Treacys and then they lowered the red of Cashel. Everything was set for the final and there was simply no way they could fail. But the old disease of finalities returned and Eire Og strolled to a West title. How can one explain why in the past four years Cappawhite have been beaten in three West finals, one semi-final and a Crosco Cup final. Are they prone to an attitude of over confidence or do they prepare over ardently I am sure not even they can explain their amazing failures. And then failure was not confined to senior ranks. Their u-21 hurlers—combined with Eire Og—were firm favourites to retain their title but a gallant Clonoulty outfit ended that hope in the west final. Other competitions also failed to bring any success and at the time of writing their last hope of a title in 1981 is in the u-21 football final.

Clonoulty-Rossmore

The parish of Clonoulty-Rossmore certainly has every reason to be optimistic and indeed elated following the '81 season. Phoenix-like they have risen from the ashes of defeats and near anonymity in the past decade or so and suddenly they are a club with one of the brightest futures in West Tipperary. Their seniors took a bold initiative in entering senior ranks after a barren spell at Intermediate level. And while they never threatened to win at senior level they put up very creditable performances and are obviously senior to stay for some time. The real success came though at under age level where their minors captured the county title and their u-21s have just taken the West title. The minor footballers it must also be said gave eventual champions Lattin-Emly one terrible fright in the west semi final. A club to watch in the coming year.

Eire Og (Annacarty)

The parish of Annacarty-Donohill may

be small area wise and is certainly small population wise but in terms of heart its hurlers certainly compensate. After a long absence from the honours list its seniors bounced back with a performance of grit and determination to capture another west title. On their way they had to survive two hours hurling against Kickhams but in the final they duly availed of Cappawhites fallibility and recorded the major surprise of the year. Their performance in the county quarter final against eventual champions Borrisoleigh may have been below par but that will hardly worry a club that has regained the west championship and has fine ambassadors in the Fox brothers. In other competitions things were not so rosy as a lack of up coming talent made things very difficult. The u-21 players joined with Cappawhite were shocked by Clonoulty in the West final but they have a chance to atone in the football of the same grade. Still any year you take the major prize you worry little about who takes the lesser ones.

Emly

As the last outpost on the western margin of the division the parish of Emly may be unrepresented at senior level but if present under age success is maintained that situation cannot long last. Joined with neighbours Lattin-Cullen at under age level but having the majority in the combination they went all the way to the minor football county final and were somewhat unlucky to fail by two points with a fine young team. En route through the west they had to survive some tough battles before eventually taking Cashel in the decider. An unwanted surprise however was their defeat by Solohead-Aherlow in the u-21 football championship after a great victory over Kickhams. Elsewhere Cashel will have every reason to remember that they can also play hurling for in the minor semi final they were the most unlucky team of the year to be put out by a single point after a great display. And as the year draws to a close they still have one other chance of a title with their Intermediate footballers paired against Rockwell in the junior football league final. No it is not a misprint Intermediate teams are allowed in the junior football league following a motion at last convention. All in all plenty for the Emly club to anticipate in the future.

Galtee Rovers

The famed Bansha club has had its problems but has certainly shown remarkable resilience by hitting back powerfully to retain their county senior football final. And it wasn't easy; they had some tough battles notably against Lattin Cullen before defeating Kilsheela



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Arravale Rovers, West Senior Football Champions 1981, beat Solohead at Emly in replay
Back row: T. O'Donoghue (selector), W. Crowe, N. Donovan, D. Kenneally, W. Cronin, T. Toomey,
M. Crowley, T. Crowley, P. Kelly, T. J. Hayes, P. Maher (selector).

Front row: J. Kearns, T. Meagher, J. Browne, J. Conroy, T. Richardson, K. Lowry (captain), E. Maguire, E. Jones, P. Landers, F. Kennedy.



Eire Og Annacarty, West Tipp Senior Hurling Champions



Lattin-Emly Minor Football Team

Front row, left to right: Mike Dwyer, Paul Creamer, Tom Joe O'Brien, Liam Casey, John McGrath, Sean Dunne.
Centre row, l. to r.: Mike Joy, Liam Bourke, Donal Heffernan, Jimmy Russell, Pat O'Hallornan, Mike Corcoran, Pat Bourke, Mike Cunningham, John Buckley
Back row, left to right: Eamonn Crowe, Andrew English, Paudie Loneragan, Joe Hickey, Joe Buckley, Martin Corcoran, Seanie O'Brien,
Kieran Condon, Eamonn Daly, Francis Condon, Martin Heffernan, Anthony Bourke.

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Knockavilla Kickhams— West Junior Hurling Champions 1981



Rockwell Rovers— West Champions Intermediate Football 1981



Knockavilla Kickhams— West Junior Football Champions 1981

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Knockavilla Kickhams— West U-14 Hurling Champions 1981

by a five point margin in the county decider. Elsewhere success was not to come. Surprisingly for the past two years they have failed to be in the shake up for west honours. In the divisional championship it was eventual champions Arravale Rovers that put them out in no uncertain terms and in the O'Donoghue Cup their fortunes were little better. In the junior grade they managed to reach the final but were second best to Kickhams. Still being county champions is an admirable achievement for the club that has provided the famed referee John Moloney.

Golden—Kilfeacle

No titles this year unfortunately for Golden. Their hurlers as defending Intermediate west champions, failed to top this time in their yearly duel with Solohead. In Intermediate football it was Aherlow who finally put them out while their senior football partnership with Rockwell this time failed to come up trumps as they surrendered the west crown that they captured the previous year for the first time. Their luck was no better in other competitions to leave 1981 one of the less memorable years in their history.

Kickhams

The year that saw the Kickham club emerge as masters of the junior grade in both codes. The hurlers had a memorable victory over Sean Treacys in the final after coming through a group which included Eire Og, Golden and Aherlow. For the footballers the year was doubly memorable. Early in the season they captured a belated '80 junior football league title and then went on to take the '81 junior football championship for the first time ever. A

victory made all the sweeter by victories over Arravale Rovers and Galtee Rovers on the way. But at senior level success still remains notable by its absence. Eire Og were their conquerors in the senior hurling semi-final replay. At minor and u-21 level they also failed to figure prominently but overall those junior successes will have made 1981 a year more memorable than many other.

Lattin-Cullen

The Lattin Cullen club will long bemoan their one point defeat by Galtee Rovers in the county senior football semi-final. It was a game that they will with justification claim they threw away and it is no secret that they would have felt confident against Kilsheelan in the county final. They had some consolation however when late in the year they had a good win over the county champions in the O'Donoghue Cup final. In other championships their minor footballers of course in unity with neighbours Emly reached the county final. No doubt they look forward to 1982 for yet another crack at the county football title that was so near their grasp last year.

Rockwell Rovers

For the New Inn club Intermediate football is undoubtedly their premier championship. This year after a tough series of games they eventually outplayed Aherlow in the final to capture that major prize. And the same footballers must be favourites to add the junior football league title when they meet Emly in the decider. Elsewhere in combination with Golden they failed to retain the west senior football title and

in other competitions also failed to figure prominently with the same partners still our title and the possibility of a second is no mean achievement for this small but enthusiastic club.

Rosegreen

In their first year of existence Rosegreen affiliated junior teams in football and hurling. While no success was recorded they acquitted themselves quite well for newcomers with their junior footballers in particular having some narrow defeats.

Sean Treacys

Not the most historic year for the Sean Treacy club. Defeat in the senior hurling championship was at the hands of Cappawhite but characteristically they did not die easily. Elsewhere their junior hurlers reached the west final but were pipped by Kickhams, while in other grades they failed to make the final shake-up. Still for a club that has been so much in the limelight for the past decade such a slump to quietness is understandable and in no way disastrous.

Solohead

The Solohead club hit back on the winning trail in 1981 by recapturing the Intermediate hurling title from arch rivals Golden. It was their second victory over the defending champions in 1981 and no doubt duly atoned for their disastrous defeat by the same opposition in the 1980 championship. In underage competitions they joined with Aherlow and their major defeat of Lattin-Emly in the u-21 football semi-final. This now remains their last chance of a further title.

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BORRISOLEIGH ARE BACK

by Timmy Delaney

Perseverance and patience, no matter what goal is being sought, must surely be the two most important ingredients in eventual success. For Borrisoleigh the year that brought to the parish its fourth senior hurling co. final honours. For 28 years the golden era of these years have been savoured and talked about in the constant hope that each year would bring back these former glories, but each year failed to bring these much hoped for honours; and despite continued efforts and performances of great promise, one disappointment followed another. Some of the parishes greatest Gaels had often expressed the heartfelt wish that they would live to see the day when old glories would re-awaken in their beloved Borris, but alas, their wish was never fulfilled, and the great master blew their 'last whistle' denying them a share in our moment of glory.

In this our year of triumph— let us spare a silent thought and prayer for these departed Gaels who no doubt are with us in spirit. To find the origin of this year's success we must undoubtedly return to the juvenile days of this team. From the older members right up to the minor players on the panel each hurler was introduced to the game as juveniles, coached, encouraged and trained by our departed hero Mick Prior. They turned out to be true to our hurling traditions; skilled ball players; true sportsmen,

displaying a flair and uniqueness that endeared them to all followers of the game throughout the county. In 1970 success appeared at hand when many of the present squad had a hand in winning an u-21 county final at the expense of Thurles Sarsfields. 1972 saw Borris in their first senior county final for many years, but old rivals Roscrea took the honours and dashed our hopes for the time being.

Borrisoleigh were now the team to beat; but that little mentioned and very vital element of luck never seemed to favour Borris when they most needed it. The 1973 county quarter final against Drom/Inch cost them dearly. Most recently in the county final of 1977 in the drawn game in particular and again in the replay Borrisoleigh were considered unlucky. Constant defeat and disappointment takes its toll on the staunchest of hearts and 1978, 1979 and 1980 were not years that stand out as beacons in our immediate past; but the darkest hour comes before the dawn, and like the Phoenix of old; from the ashes of defeat and disappointment our finest hour was born.

The early stages of this year's championship showed nothing unusual in their promise of a county title.

Then the scene for the eventual showdown was set in the North semi-final against Kilruane. The outcome of this

game is thought by many to have had the necessary inspirational effect on Borrisoleigh to spur them on to a training schedule that was unprecedented amongst the present team.

The approach to training possessed a dedication and commitment that would do justice to any county team.

The driving force behind this renewed vigour in approach and effort was our redoubtable Chairman Tom Tierney. When Tom took the bit between his teeth as trainer and coach to the team, his own personal enthusiasm, thoroughness and boundless energy began to rub off on every member of the panel.

It can be unquestionably stated that Tom's contribution to Borrisoleigh's success was as great, if not greater, than any member of the playing 15. This indeed was a 'marathon' year for our Chairman, trainer and coach. The three men at the helm of our team, Philly Ryan, Tim Ryan and Liam Devaney formed a united, shrewd and inspiring trio who tolerated nothing short of the highest levels of commitment and co-operation. Indeed, their almost prophetic distinction of having played in Borrisoleigh's 1953 county final success must surely link the past with the present in a most unique way.

Philly possesses a lifetime of hurling experience both on the field and off.

Tim Ryan never lost the determined



Borrisoleigh, County Senior Hurling Champions 1981

Back row: Timmy Delaney, Brendan Kenny, Noel O'Dwyer, Tim F. Stapleton, Gerry Stapleton, Timmy Ryan, Tommy O'Dwyer, Pat Kavanagh.
Front row: Noel Walsh, Francis Spillane, Pat Ryan, Timmy Stapleton, Michael Ryan, Mick Coen, Bobby Ryan.

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directness of his hurling days and his insistence on discipline showed itself not alone in the "on the field" performances of the team, but in a remarkable way in the "social, off the field" performances of many players also.

Liam Devaney, the most highly honoured Borrisoleigh man ever; holder of 5 All-Ireland medals, contributed an immeasurable amount throughout the year. Though living in Thurles, he made light of the journeys out to training, and his shrewdness and vast experience was seen to effect at all times.

The team:— Borrisoleigh have been lauded far and wide as a team of great names, renowned for their skill and flair. The criticism however has frequently been levelled that this bunch of players were mostly individual performers, who didn't seem to blend together as a unit, and who lacked proper teamwork. This fault was indeed recognised within the club, and corrective measures were applied and practiced consistently in training. There is ample evidence of first rate teamwork in the calmness with which they reduced Moycarkey's lead in the second half of the semi-final in Templemore. Also in the county final their first half performance of teamwork brought down Roscrea, as they swept upfield like a whirlwind in one raid after another.

The bringing of county honours to Borris this year coincides in a remarkable way with the first phase of development in the town park (Bishop Quinlan Park). This ambitious development by the people of the parish will surely be complemented by the hurling club's success. Although the club had no field of its own to train in for the North and County Championships, they were generously given the use of various club fields in

the locality. Indeed the Borrisoleigh club gratefully uses this opportunity to appreciate and thank publicly the Temple-derry, Templemore and Drom/Inch clubs for allowing the players the use of their fields. This spirit of goodwill and neighbourliness is the hallmark of rural Ireland's co-operation down the years.

The local support of the loyal followers of Borrisoleigh's fortunes got an overdue reward this year. To win a county final as North champions is the only true measure of worthy county representatives in the views of most of these supporters. In the build up to the county final the interest and enthusiasm shown by the people of Borris was reminiscent of the early 50s. For days before the game, it was the topic of discussion among young and old throughout the parish.

As the bonfires blazed and welcomed the victorious homecoming, the scenes of emotion will long be remembered in Borris. The cavalcade of hurlers were met by throngs of supporters who lined the road from Rathmoyne Bridge to the Village. Young and old came out to welcome their heroes as the strains of "Lovely Fair Ileigh" filled the night air. Mothers and Fathers held children in their arms as this scene would live in their minds forever.

Now that Borris are champions let us rally round them and uplift Tipperary hurling to its pedestal of greatness from which it has long been dethroned. Borris did it before, they will do it again for the honour of Kickham's immortal "Little Village".

Neddy Ryan, R.I.P.

Most moments of victory at some stage cause us to look back over our

past and recall former such memories. This brings the inevitable sadness and sentimentality as all our pasts hold loved ones no longer with us.

Hurling, essentially because of the nature of its victories and defeats brings us down memories lane when the excitement of success dies down. We talk of former victories, of the "great days" when the simple unsophisticated way of life favoured closer personal awareness of kindness and sincerity of the Gaels of a parish.

In thinking such thoughts I recall with sadness the passing of Neddy Ryan.

Would that he could have been with us in Borris as we brought home the Dan Breen Cup in 1981. To win again the county final was without doubt the wish that was nearest to his heart. Neddy was part and parcel of Borrisoleigh hurling all his life. He was especially associated with the 'great' Borris team of the fifties; and thus had every cause to recall Borris glories.

Though overshadowed by the hurling colossus that was his brother Philly; Neddy Ryan was regarded as one of the shrewdest and most genuine of all Borrisoleigh followers. He loved the game and loved all Borris men who played it. He yearned for Borris to bridge the 28 year gap and bring back county honours.

What a great sadness that he and all the departed gael of Borris could not have a share in our success. But such is the nature of things, and we console ourselves in the knowledge that Neddy Ryan may now reminisce old glories in far greater company than this world could ever offer.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhílis.

Timmy Delaney, N.T.



Fr Shreehys, South Intermediate Football Champions

Back row, l. to r.: F. O'Brien, P. Blythe, P. Flynn, P. Murphy, J. O'Brien, M. Beston, A. Browne, T. Quirke, D. English, P. McGrath, F. Hally, S. Conway, S. Murphy, M. Lonergan, T. Cusack, P. Fehilly.

Front row, l. to r.: S. Maher, F. Conran, D. Maher, P. Maher, M. Pyne, B. Conway (capt.), M. O'Connor, D. Maher, B. Quirke, M. Norris.

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le hEamonn De Stafort

I mí Lúnasa 1982 a d'éag Cathal Ciocam in aois a chaoga ceathar, agus i mblíana beimid ag comóradh céad bliain a bháis. Mar is eol dúinn ba Thiobraid Arannach é Cathal Ciocam a bhain clú agus cáil amach dó féin ina lán slite. Rugadh i gCnoc Moicléir é, gar do Chaiseal Mumhan in 1828, cé gur dógadh é i Muileann Na hUamhan áit n' bhfuil sé curtha. D'éir na leachta atá suite ós cionn na huaighe i reilig Muileann na hUamhan tá cuimhne againn air mar Iriseoir, Urcéalaí, File, ach thar aon rud eile mar Laoch, rud a léiríonn an éagsúlacht a bhain leis an bhfear uasal seo.

Níl sé i gceist agam cur síos ar a shaol san alt seo mar tá a chuid staire scríobhtha go maith is go minic cheana féin. Ba mhaith liom díriú ar conas is fearr ceangal a neartú, idir a shaothar agus cúrsaí an lae inniu. Ar nós aon chomóradh tugann an comóradh seo spreagadh dúinn, chun a fhealsúnacht, a aidhmeanna, a uaisleacht agus a thréithe a fíorbairt. Ba dhuine uasal é Cathal Ciocam, agus is léir óna chuid scríbhinní go raibh idir grá agus tuiscint aige do Thiobraid Arann ach go háirithe. Cé gur ceannaire náisiúnta é in ngluaiseacht na bhFinníní, ba chóir go mbeadh tuiscint sa bhreis ag muintir Thiobraid Arann air de bharr an dlúth bhaint atá ag a chuid amhrán agus ag a chuid filíochta leis an gcontae, ina measc siúd, Sliabh na mBan, Rory of the Hill, Patrick Sheehan agus go háirithe a phríomh úrscéal Knocknagow a foilsíodh don chéad uair i 1873. Bhí tuiscint, grá, agus mothú ag Ciocam do Thiobraid Arann, agus muna ndéanfadh an comóradh seo ach na smaointe seo a athmhuscailt b'fhiú go mór é.

Cheana féin tá coiste comórtha bunaithe i Muileann na hUamhan agus go



leor tuairimí agus moltaí á gcóiradh acu, d'fhoill aitheantas agus ómós ceart a thabhairt don laoch. Sílim gur chóir do mhuintir iomlán an chontae tacú leis an gcomóradh seo. Tá ceangal éigean ag Cathal Ciocam le go leor bailte móra agus bailte beaga sa chontae. Is cinnte gurb é Ciocam, an Tiobraid Arannach is mó cáil atá againn, agus le blianta anuas tá baol ann go bhfuil cúlú taghta ar an gcáil sin. In ainneoin go bhfuil cló leathan ar a chuid scríbhinní do b'fhiú go mór cnuasach díobhtha a athfhoilsiú i bhfoirm leabhráin maraon le giotáí óna chuid úrscéalta, a chuid filíochta agus a chuid amhrán— leabhrán

chomórtha a bheadh ann. Tugann an comóradh deis dúinn chomh maith roinnt mhaith ócáidí a eagrú tríd an chontae ar fad. B'fhiú dúinn cuid de na sean imeachtaí a athbhunú i.e. aeríocht mhór a reachtáil i Muineann na hUamhan féin, lá spóirt a thionól.

Smaoiním siar ar an chéad Chuimhneachán Chois tSiúire a tionóladh i nDúrlas Eile in 1974, nuair a bhí an Ciocamach féin mar phríomh théama don ócáid. D'fhéadfaí cuid de na himeachtaí chéanna a reachtáil arís, agus cur elo, ar nós éigse, léachtanna, síomposium, comórtais scol, taispeántais drámaíochta, turasanna stairiúla, aeríocht & rí. Ba thábhachtach an rud é go mbeadh dlúth cheangal ag na scoileanna leis an gcomóradh chomh maith. Bíodh sé mar phríomh aidhm aige suim a mhúscailt i measc an phobail, agus deis a thabhairt do mhuintir Thiobraid Arann leas a bhaint as an ócáid.

Fiú amháin i measc na loach uilig, tá iomhá speisialta ag Ciocam agus cuid mhaith dá scríbhinní an-ábharthach don lá atá inniu ann. Tá dualgas orainn is dóigh liom aitheantas caoi a thabhairt don Chomóradh.

Tá súil agam go mbeidh Cumann Lúthchleas Gael páirteach go mór sa chomóradh seo, agus leis an ngreasán de chlubanna atá ag an gCumann tríd an chontae b'fhiú fó-choiste faoi leith a bhunú d'fhoill iarrachtaí an eagrais a chomheagrú. B'fhéarr fós dá mhunófaí coistí beaga i ngach baile sa chontae, lena chinntiú go mbeidh léiriú ann ar gach gné de shaothar Chathal Ciocam. D'fhéadfadh na coistí seo díriú ar thréithe éagsúla an laoch.

Tá Thiobraid Arann agus muintir na hEireann faoi chomaoín ag Cathal Ciocam as ucht na hoidhreacht a d'fhág sé linn.

LATE PHIL FARRELL

(Drom and Dublin)

by Bill Cashen (Faughs & Dublin)

As a teenager in 1945 I won my first Dublin Championship. I was overawed that day as the team contained such famous names as Phil Farrell who was captain, Harry Grey, Terry Leahy, Ned Wade, Mick Butler, Mick Gill, Dan Devitt and others. In all there were ten Tipperary men on the panel. Phil Farrell left Drom as a young man in the early thirties to seek his living in Dublin. He quickly rose to the top in hurling winning one All Ireland with Dublin in 1938 at centreback, three Leinster Championships and seven Dublin Championships. A great opponent of his at club and county level was the famous Tommy Treacy. They had many a hectic hour. He was in bad health for a number of years and returned to live in Clonmore Templemore some years ago. He leaves his wife Lilly to whom sympathy is extended.

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The awards scheme is organised jointly by Allied Irish Banks and an Ard-Choiste Forbartha, the G.A.A. Central Development Committee and its main objectives are to give recognition to the voluntary efforts of Club Officers and Committees throughout the country. It also gives an added incentive to clubs to fulfill their role in the promotion of our Irish language, culture and our National games. This award scheme could not have come at a better time as with but three years to go to our Centenary celebrations it can play a vital role in having all our clubs functioning properly for this historic occasion.

Changed Format

The format of the club of the year awards scheme has changed and been improved since its inception in 1979. Allied Irish Banks have more than doubled their sponsorship since the first year, it now stands at \$15,000 in development grants. The new structure which has been developed this year includes 32 county awards, 4 Provincial awards and the All Ireland award. Clubs will be divided into four divisions. Division A include the larger and well developed urban clubs. Division B includes most medium size clubs. Division C is for the smaller and the rural clubs. Division D is for either new clubs or for smaller clubs with some potential for development. The clubs will be graded by the Board of assessors, but the overall county

winners, Provincial winners, and the All-Ireland winner can come from any of the four divisions, therefore any of the clubs, big, small or medium could come out on top for a county, provincial or All Ireland award. The 32 county winners will go on for the Provincial awards and the All Ireland winner will be selected from the four Provincial winners. There will also be a special handball award for the club doing the most for handball. The handball club of the year will be judged among G.A.A. clubs playing field games as well as handball.

What will the Assessors Look For

The assessors will of course judge club improvement taking account of location, local population, actual development potential and recent track record. They will be looking at the way clubs are run, their management and sub-committee structures, and at the ways the clubs go about getting more of the members involved in the organisation and activities of the club themselves. The clubs performances on the field and their promotion of hurling, handball, football and camogie. The involvement of women members and efforts in regard to the youth area of the club will be taken into account as will the promotion of the Irish language, and finally they will be looking at the clubs overall contribution to the community in terms of their contribution to the quality of Irish life in their locality.

The Response so far in the Country and in the County

Over half the number of all the G.A.A. clubs in the country have entered since the awards were launched, including clubs from every county in Ireland. In

the first year Tipperary had 25 entries and in 1980 17 clubs entered, 11 of the first year entries re-entered in 1980, the nett decrease in entries being 8. The successful clubs in the Tipperary entries in 1980 were in category B. Moneygall 3rd in category C. Kilsheelan were the most improved club. Five clubs received certificates of merit. They were Moycarkey-Borris, Roscrea hurling club, Templederry, Loughmore/Castleiney, Arravale Rovers. Those clubs who entered and those who had success are all to be complimented on their efforts, nevertheless the entry figures from the Premier County Tipperary are a disappointment. Surely we can do better and we must do better. The objectives of the awards scheme are worthy of a far greater response than this and remember that only continued and improved support will encourage the continuing sponsorship and growth of the project.

Clubs are advised to make an early start in their preparations to take part in the project. The matter should be raised at your club committee meeting and if possible a sub-committee formed to take charge of your entry. Working from there a presentation on your club can be built up which can include photographs, newspaper clippings, copies of clubs annual report and financial report together with official entry form. The closing date for 1981 entries is the 31st January 1982. There is plenty of time to have everything on your club prepared and ready to enter to ensure that where the A.I.B. club of the year awards scheme is concerned we will be entitled to be called the Premier county.

Seán O Nuinseain



An t-Uachtarán, Ard Stiúrthoir and Minister Jim Tunney with Kilsheelan officials at A.I.B. presentation.

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TIPPERARY FOOTBALLERS— The Challenge of the 80s

Not being satisfied that the time available to compile an article on Tipperary Football was sufficient to research and produce a comprehensive indepth analysis and outline a development plan, the aim of this article is to provide some thought provoking personal reflections on the structure and organisation of football within the county.

"I often get the impression that the powers that be in the G.A.A. would not be over-worried if the game of football was to be no more". The above statement was made by Dublin inter-county footballer David Hickey in the course of an article for the yearbook "Dublin '81". This begs the question is there evidence to suggest that this view would also apply to the Tipperary County and Divisional Boards.

Tadhg O Meachair writing in the Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook of 1965 in an article entitled "Mol an Oige" about the juvenile affairs of the same year seeking a reason for the failure of the North Division to run a juvenile football competition asks "what is the reason for this omission? Have the boys of North Tipperary not got hands and feet too . . . Mol an Oige agus tiocfaidh sí is a true saying but unless the opportunity is provided the Oige might easily slip away or lie dormant."

I would say that the drift of the youths who are interested in playing football is away from the game towards codes of football other than Gaelic. We see this in the mushrooming of soccer and rugby clubs in numerous parishes, villages and towns of Tipperary.

The reason for this is that the development of football in the county is being hindered by a number of factors.

1. The opportunity for regular football games is not being afforded to players between the ages of 16 and 21 years. Other codes are providing this facility and thereby attracting the players. A survey of this years minor football teams showed that the players had an average of six competitive games at club level, contrast this with their counterparts in soccer who have a guarantee of twenty or more games.

2. The football championships are not being run in an efficient manner in some divisions. Teams have to be nominated consistently to contest the county semi-finals in various grades.

3. The apathy of a number of the traditional football clubs as evidenced by (a) their lack of support for the minor football board. Not more than a dozen clubs have been represented at any of its A.G.Ms over the past three or more years. Even county champions have been conspicuous by their absence. Complete

divisions have been unrepresented on the board. (b) at minor level the failure of divisions and clubs to appoint selectors, hold trials or put forward players for trials.

(c) The lack of thought by football clubs and boards into the improvement of the standard of the game both within the county and at Inter county level. The poor attendance at the special meeting organised by the County Board to discuss the state of football within the county. By our lack of policy we have allowed the Munster Council to perpetuate a system whereby the stronger teams have been advantaged in Munster Championships resulting in the almost perpetual meetings of Cork and Kerry. Offaly have shown in Leinster what a county committed to the development of a sport can achieve.

(d) Clubs did not support the Munster Council Club coaching course organised through the county board held at Clonmel in 1979.

(e) Finally the clubs have demonstrated their apathy by failing to put forward players for trial games to select inter-county teams.

At primary school level their has been a drop off in participation. Where participation is not the problem there is too much emphasis on competition and winning to the detriment of the development of skill.

In the second level schools the situation regarding participation is even worse. The majority of the student population are not genuinely interested in playing Gaelic football or hurling for that matter. No secondary school North of Cashel entered the Tipperary Post-Primary football competitions under 15 or under 17 for the past two years. This is particularly alarming in view of the fact that the county under sixteen football champions 1980 have two schools in a traditionally strong football area and yet no team was entered to provide football competition for these players.

There are however some positive aspects to the organisation of football within the county:

At County Board level: 1. The efficient running of the county senior football championships over the past three years. 2. Their commitment financial and otherwise to the Munster Council coaching course for players under eighteen years. 3. The backing which they have given financially to the intensive preparation of the county minor football teams for the past two years.

The board has however, been found wanting in a number of aspects regarding football development not least of which has been its attitude to, or concern for, the encouragement of football in all

clubs and divisions to the same degree as for hurling. It would need (1) to build an overall consistent policy for the encouragement and development of football. (ii) to provide the proper competition for players throughout the county. (iii) At intercounty level to create a situation which gives a reasonable hope of success to players interested in trying to win honours that have not come the way of the blue gold for a long time. All this would need a special structure within the county board to achieve this end.

Another positive happening in the football world presently is the re-awakening interest in the game in the North Division as indicated by the success of Borrisokane at club level and the organising at minor level of a coaching course by the divisional board.

The improvement and strengthening of football in towns like Thurles and Cahir where it competes with other codes is another encouraging development.

As a result of coaching at minor level the west and south minor football teams would seem to have increased the gap in standards between themselves and the other divisions who have not really participated in the coaching scheme up to this. Evidence of this can be seen in the results of the county minor football semi-final this year.

North and Mid football teams have had a greater success relatively at juvenile level than at the adult stage due to the fact that players have not the same opportunity to play the game as in the other divisions.

Coaching and regular matches would seem to me to be the basis of the way to make a significant improvement in the future. Have we got the interest and commitment to take up this challenge in the county board, divisional boards, clubs and schools?



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COUNTY BORD NA nOG, REVIEW OF 1981

by Liam Mac Craith (Rúnaí)

All Bord na nOg competitions were completed in good time this year. There was some excellent competition in both hurling and football. All divisions reported an increase in players. Sales of hurleys through the Bord were up on the previous year. Most important, though, attendances were up and a lively interest in juvenile affairs was evident.

On the club scene, St Mary's Toomevara, Fethard, Emly, Clonoulty and Dúrlas Og were involved in many inter divisional competitions.

Toomevara must rank as an outstanding hurling club, winning under 12, under 14 and 16 competitions.

The following is a summary of the various competitions.

HURLING: Under 12

The divisional semi-finals were played in Holycross. We had two exciting games. Dúrlas Og beat a good Cashel side and Toomevara were victorious over St Marys (the holders).

The final was played at Templemore and after a tremendous game both sides finished level.

Dúrlas Og and Toomevara met again at the same venue and this time the North boys had a two points victory. Dúrlas Og will no doubt be heard of in the future.

Under 14:

Féile na nGael— This was the first under 14 competition of the year. The final was played in Thurles as curtain raiser to the drawn Tipp v Limerick Munster Championship. Dúrlas Og defeated Roscrea by two goals. This years Féile na nGael was in Galway, Dúrlas Og were hosted by Castlegar who had a strong team and proved too good for the Thurles boys. Compensation was at hand, however, and Dúrlas Og won first prize for the best turned out team, and evidence of the fine work being done for juveniles in Thurles.

Willie Skehan, of Holycross was our Skills representative and he finished in seventh place.

Rural Hurling

Toomevara defeated Knockavilla Kick-hams at Semple Stadium and Moycarkey were victorious over Fethard, at Gortnahoe.

The final, at Templemore, was a high scoring one with Toomevara emerging as champions. A notable scoring feat in this game was the display of Pat Cahill (grandson of the legendary Phil) who scored 5-1 for Moycarkey.

Urban-Rural Hurling

St Mary's of Clonmel won their first

ever under 14 hurling title to prove themselves the number one under 14 hurling team in the county. In the semi-final they had a one point victory over Dúrlas Og at Bansha in a rip roaring game.

Kilruane and Cappawhite contested the other semi-final at Holycross. The North boys qualified for the final which was played at Semple Stadium on a bright summers evening. St Marys played some beautiful hurling to record an historic success. Last year they won the under 12 title and with practically the same panel available for next years under 14 competition they should be stiff opposition.

Under 16 Hurling

After Toomevara's great display in the All-Ireland final of Féile na nGael two years ago they were favourites to take this competition. After a tough North Tipp Campaign they played Mid Champions Eire Og, Templemore at Moneygall. This was one of the best Bord na nOg games of the year and Toomevara were lucky to come through with a two points victory.

Emly the West Champions accounted for St Marys at Holycross.

The final was staged at Holycross and the spectators were served up with some fine hurling. Some great individual displays from Emly, good goalkeeping and sound teamwork from Toomevara. The North boys lived up to their fighting qualities to capture their first under 16 county title.

Special Munster Under 16 Divisional Competition

Congratulations to North Tipp under 16 team who won the first Munster under 16 competition, played before the Munster Minor final in Thurles. Our thanks to all involved in this success. Mid Tipp's team reached the semi-final of this competition.

FOOTBALL: Under 12

Dúrlas Og, Roscrea, Arravale and Commercials played the semi-finals at Holycross. The Mid and South champions were successful. The final was played at Bansha and Dúrlas Og recorded their first success in this grade.

Under 14 Rural and Urban Rural

Fethard and Clonoulty contested the finals of both these competitions.

In the Rural semi-finals Clonoulty-Rossmore defeated Holycross-Ballycahill and Fethard were better than Kilruane. Fethard ran out easy victors in the final played at Boherlahan before a fine attendance.

In the Urban-Rural competition Clonoulty-Rossmore defeated an understrength Dúrlas Og easily. Fethard had a big victory over Roscrea. The final was again played at Boherlahan with the South champions confirming their superiority. Success in both competitions brought them the added bonus of a trip to the All-Ireland football final in Turas na nOg. The under 14 competition produced some fine football.

Under 16 Football

There was some excellent football in this grade. Emly accounted for Dúrlas Og and Eire Og Borrisokane beat South Champions Ardfinnan.

The final was played in Holycross and Emly emerged victorious over Borrisokane following an excellent second half display.

COUNTY CHAMPIONS & RUNNERS-UP 1981

Under 12 hurling

Champions—Toomevara; Runners up—Dúrlas Og

Under 12 football

Champions—Dúrlas Og; " Commercials

Under 14 Rural hurling

Champions—Toomevara; " Moycarkey-Borris

Under 14 Rural football

Champions—Fethard; " Clonoulty-Rossmore

Under 14 Urban-Rural hurling

Champions—St Marys; " Kilruane

Under 14 Urban-Rural Football

Champions—Fethard; " Clonoulty-Rossmore

Under 14 Féile na nGael

Champions—Dúrlas Og; " Roscrea

Under 16 Hurling

Champions—Toomevara; " Emly

Under 16 Football

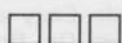
Champions—Emly; " Borrisokane

COUNTY FINAL REFEREES

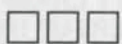
Under 12 football Patsy Lonergan
Under 12 hurling Brendan Ryan
Under 14 Rural football . . Tom McGrath
Under 14 Rural hurling . . . Sammy Ryan
Under 14 U/R football . . Eamon Brennan
Under 14 U/R hurling . . . Liam McGrath
Under 16 football Tom McGrath
Under 16 hurling Donal O'Gorman

The Bórd also wished to thank the following referees who officiated at semi-finals— Wm O'Grady, Tommy Lonergan, Billy Carroll and Willie Barrett.

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DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS 1981

	North	South	Mid	West	
u12 hurling	Toomevara	St Marys	Durlas Og	Cashel	
u12 football	Roscrea	Commercials	Dúrlas Og	Arravale	Rvs
u14 rural hurling	Toomevara	Fethard	Moycarkey	Kickhams	
u14 rural football	Kilruane	Fethard	Holycross	Clonoulty	
u14 U/R hurling	Kilruane	St Marys	Dúrlas Og	Cappawhite	
u14 U/R football	Roscrea	Fethard	Dúrlas Og	Clonoulty	
u16 hurling	Toomevara	St Marys	Templemore	Emly	
u16 football	Borrisokane	Ardfinnan	Dúrlas Og	Emly	

SCOR NA nOG 1981

County Champions

Rince Foirne— Newcastle—James Coleman, Bernard O'Gorman, Sean Lonergan,

SCOR NA nOG 1981

County Champions

Rince Foirne— Newcastle—James Coleman, Bernard O'Gorman, Sean Lonergan, John Corbett, Miriam O'Shea, Rosaleen Lonergan, Colette Hackett.

Recitation— Celine Healy— Eire Og, Nenagh.

Solo Singing— Bernadette Ryan— Toomevara

Question Time— Newcastle— John O'Loughlin, Marie O'Loughlin, Joan O'Loughlin.

Novelty Act— Newport— Paul Harvey, Denis Ryan, Denis Collins, John Coffey, David Duggan, Michael Collins.

Instrumental Music—Templemore— Anne Coffey, Mary Frances Coffey, Pascal Coffey.

Ballad Group— Fethard— Eddie Sheehan, Mary Meagher, Linda Kane, Deirdre Barrett, Kay O'Riordan.

Set Dancing— Newcastle dancers as in Rince Foirne.

Conclusion

Finally we take this opportunity to thank all those who helped in any way during the year. Team officials, teachers, sportsfield committees, referees etc. 1981 was a good year for Bord na nOg activities in Tipperary. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year.



Michael Maher, Chairman County Board, presenting the county senior football trophy to MI Hickey, Galtee Rovers captain.

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Presidents: Revd Fr T. O'Brien, C.C.

Revd Fr M. Holoway, C.C.

Chairman: Larry Roche

Vice Chairman: Tim Ryan, Mossy Tierney
Ned Bourke.

Hon. Secretary: Conor Peters

Hon. Treasurer: Seamus McCarthy.

P.R.O.: Mrs M. Wims

The club has a long and illustrious past dating from the pioneering days of 1885 when it was first affiliated to the County Board. As with most clubs, the history of the early days is somewhat sketchy. However, there is evidence to

suggest that football was the predominant game in Bansha from the beginning. The tradition has been nurtured and successfully carried on right up to the present day.

The present senior football team has appeared in six successive county finals—winning three. Their first win came about when they defeated Aravale Rovers in Thurles in 1976. There was great jubilation in the parish on the occasion—it being twenty six years since the club had achieved this honour. The following year they went down to Loughmore/Casleiney in a replay. In 1978 they were narrowly beaten by Fethard and in 1979 they were victorious once again when

they defeated their old rivals Loughmore/Castleiney by just one point—being the outsiders on the day. Later that year they were defeated by the Waterford county champions—Stradbally in the Munster Football Club Championship in a replay. In 1981 they had a most convincing win over Kilsheelan at Clonmel to make it two-in-a-row. At the time of writing, they are facing the replay of a drawn game with Clare county champions—Kilrush Shamrocks—also in the Munster Club Championship.

The junior football team also put in a very creditable performance this year by reaching the west final of the championship.



Galtee Rovers— St Pecauns G.A.A. Club; Senior Football Team— County Football Champions 1981

Back row, l. to r.: M. S. O'Connell, Eamon McCarthy, Michael McCarthy, Jimmy Ferris, Sean Quinn, Conor Peters, Seamus McCarthy, Vincent O'Donnell

Front: Declan Hickey, Billy Whelan, Liam Bergin, Michael Hickey (captain), John O'Dwyer, Pat Bergin, Billy D'Arcy, Michael Trace

Subs: John J. Hayes, Michael McCarthy (Ballycarron), Hugh Kennedy, David Moloney, Johnny O'Connell, Brendan Hoare, Ian Murphy, Tim O'Dwyer

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LIEUT. COL. TOMMY RYAN, R.I.P.

Lieut. Col. Tommy Ryan as he was later known to us also died at Christmas and he too played a major part in the successes of Tipperary in the football world of the twenties.

He was a member of the Tipp 1920 and the Bloody Sunday teams.

Some years ago Tommy Ryan gave his own story to "Caman" of the Limerick Leader. Here are some extracts from it.

Tubrid, situated centre in the valley between the Galtee and Knockmealdown Mountains, was my birthplace.

My football career began in rather a strange manner—the result of a challenge—my youngest brother being indirectly responsible. He was away from home undergoing education in Mount Melleray Seminary, where Gaelic games had pride of place. When summer holidays came round, he, in conjunction with other Melleray boys from our parish, organised a junior team, and a challenge was sent forth to the local village. Ard-finnan, a team of renown then and later county champions.

The match duly took place and terminated in a draw, and the replay became the local topic of the day. Contrary to expectations, however, Ard-finnan fielded five of their senior team—they were seeing to the honour of the village.

An objection was raised by our boys, and I was appointed spokesman. I endeavoured, with all the power of persuasion I could command, to smooth over the difference, but it was a council on the field, where everybody had their say. The village supporters raised the cry: "Why don't you and others of your size take part with your team?"

My decision was made for me—and so began my first match. I must confess now I was unable to kick or catch a ball, but I shielded the boys who were able to do both. To our surprise we carried the day. The game gave rise to weeks of discussion, and so the seed of football ambition was sown in me and the thought of becoming a first class player.

A Great Football Final

To return to Gaelic affairs a parish team was formed in 1917 and we affiliated and entered a fifteen for the junior football championship of South Tipperary, only to suffer defeat in the second round.

The following season saw Tipperary senior county football team on the upgrade, and they created a first class surprise by defeating Kerry in the final of the Munster championship. But even a bigger surprise awaited me. A re-shuffle of the county side was found necessary



Lieut. Col. Tommy Ryan

through the retirement of a great mid-fielder named Sheehan—a student called for ordination. I got a notice saying that I was selected on the Tipperary team to play Mayo in the semi-final of the All-Ireland. The match took place in Dublin and we emerged winners. I was then but 20 years of age—the youngest, yet the heaviest, member on the Tipperary side.

Opponents

Now for the All-Ireland final. Our opponents were the famous Wexford team who had won the three previous All-Irelands, and were all out to set a new record of "four in a row". The match, as the Press stated, was a cracker from start to finish. Tipperary proved the faster team, but lacked the experience of their opponents. Wexford achieved their ambition, winning by the odd point in nine, the victory score coming at the last moment.

Bloody Sunday in Croke Park

The young Tipperary team of 1918 had developed into a seasoned first class side by 1920. It was sought for everywhere for challenge and tournament games. All going well, no fifteen seemed capable of standing in the way of their gaining the elusive football blue riband. But Martial Law again intervened and the All-Ireland was postponed after Tipperary

qualifying. Not until 11th June 1922 was a decision possible, and, after a memorable game at Croke Park, Tipperary won from Dublin, the score being Tipperary 1-6, Dublin 1-2.

That final was unforgettable, but, was only in the shade compared to the challenge match between the self same teams on Bloody Sunday, 20th November 1920. The date will be found in any book dealing with modern Irish history, and the facts are well known. The I.R.A. had accomplished the most useful work in its career that morning. Revenge was in the air. Armed forces of the Crown descended from all angles and entered Croke Park, opening fire as they did so. They shot down two hundred defenceless people and made vivid for us the dark days of penalism.

We were lined up against the Railway wall at Croke Park for a period of an hour while the field was being searched for arms. Opposite us was a firing party. The officer in charge had his orders—three of the team to be shot for any men of theirs shot. Fortunately, for us, there was no shooting.

Gaelic Games in the Army

I venture to say that, had we been living in normal times, the Tipperary footballers would have annexed the All-Irelands of 1920 and 1921.

My National Army career began in 1922. I was a member of the first Army Athletic Association Executive which decided to cater solely for our Gaelic pastimes.

I was transferred to Kilkenny in 1924, and, whilst there, entered a team called Ye Faire City, which won the county championship that year. We were entrusted with the selection of a county team, which was defeated in the semi-final of the Leinster championship.

Selected

I was selected on the Longford team while stationed in Athlone, and was captain of a command team which won four All-Army championships.

In Limerick I was chairman of the City G.A.A. Board, and a trophy I then offered for competition was later one of the most coveted prizes in the division. During my term by the Shannon what was then known as the New Barracks was renamed Sarsfield Barracks. The suggestion came from me.

One time secretary of the Army Metro Club in Dublin, I was secretary of the Army Athletic Association from 1929 to 1942. Treasurer of the I.A.B.A. for a number of years, I was Army representative for ten seasons on the Standing Committee of the N.A. and C.A.

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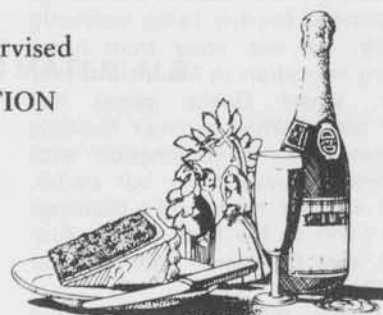
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The Late Tommy Leahy— An Appreciation

On Saturday 17-10-'81 we heard the sad news that Tommy Leahy had died unexpectedly. Tommy seemed in his usual good form in the previous days and so his death was a great shock to all his many friends.

Tommy was the "Benjamin" of the Leahy family and, in a way, had been dwarfed by the deeds of his more illustrious brothers. Johnny was the great organiser and leader. He was the main organiser of that meeting on a winter's night way back in 1912 in Dwyer's barn at Boherlahan when our club was born. He was to lead Boherlahan and Tipperary to many a great victory. His contribution to parish and county both on and off the field is now history. Paddy was the man of craft and motivation and will probably be best remembered for his part in the great Tipperary victories of the fifties and early sixties.

But many will tell you that Tommy was probably the sweetest hurler of them

all and his many honours from the playing field bear ample witness to that.

His first victory was in the county senior final of 1925 when, in hallowed company and scarcely out of his teens, he was a member of the team to conquer over arch-rivals Toomevara Greyhounds in one of their many epic encounters of that time. 1926 and Tommy won a junior All-Ireland medal with Tipperary. 1927 and 1928 saw him win two further county senior final medals and in the latter year he had the added distinction of captaining Boherlahan to victory over next-door neighbours and good friends Clonoulty.

Tommy's growing prowess was bound to bring him further honours and in 1930 he was a member of the Tipperary senior hurling team in that glorious year of the Triple Crown. He won a Munster Railway Cup medal in 1931 and continued in the county colours up to the mid thirties.

But his contribution to the club was

far from over and he was once again on the Philly Dwyer led Boherlahan team of 1941 when county senior hurling honours last came to Boherlahan. And that was not the end as I can well remember Tommy in a Boherlahan jersey as late as 1947, some 22 years after his first county final victory. Tommy's love of the game was intense and one of my last meetings with him was in Croke Park in September at the All-Ireland final.

He was a grand character— a man of the earth who made friends wherever he went. As a young man he went to live at Marlhill and the great turn-out of neighbours at his funeral bore ample proof of the high regard in which he was held in this parish of his adoption. We offer deepest sympathy to his heart-broken sisters, Mrs Maggie Donnelly and Mary; to his bereaved nephews and nieces and to his many relatives and friends, R.I.P.

Philib O Riain

JIMMY DORAN, R.I.P.

Christmas 1980 saw two of our last All Ireland winning team go to their eternal reward.

Jimmy Doran, Mullinahone who died in the U.S.A. was one of six members of that once great football stronghold who played in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday. He was also at half forward on the 1920 All Ireland winning team.

He continued with his club and

county until 1926 in which year he won a senior football county championship with Mullinahone and was a member of the Tipp team beaten by Kerry in the Munster Senior final.

He emigrated to America at the end of that year where he played with the Kilkenny team for a number of years. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

THE LATE BRIDIE COLEMAN—NEWCASTLE

Bridie Coleman died on the morning of the 31st August, 1981 in St Joseph's Hospital, Clonmel, following a short illness. The death of Bridie— as she was affectionately known by all her friends has brought a great and deep sense of sadness and loss to the whole area.

Bridie was a wonderful mother and also deeply involved in the activities of the local community. She was Secretary of Newcastle Muintir na Tire, a trustee of the local Hall, Secretary of Newcastle Ceili Club, Treasurer of the local N.A.C.A. a member of the Church Choir, of the St Vincent de Paul, and also an ardent follower of the local G.A.A. and of all other organisations in the area.

Caislean Nua has lost its finest lady and its greatest Gael. To the Ceili Club and the Set Dancers she was everything. She motivated and guided them and was indeed the force behind them in their greatest honours, especially their two great All Ireland Scor na nOg victories. However, success was not Bridie's greatest



achievement, it was indeed her great love of everything Irish and her willingness to help all others that made her the wonderful leader and christian that she was.

To her broken hearted husband Jimmy, to her bereaved family and friends we tender our sincerest sympathy on this their saddest hour. To the people of Newcastle we say the example has been given, the seed has been sown and the wonderful work, which she has started must be continued.

Ba ghearr a saol ach ba mhor an tairbhe a bhí leis an saol céanna. Rinne sí gach dícheall beart a dhéanamh go fíal ar san na gcarad agus ar san eag-raíochtaí timpeall uirthi ina ceannair.

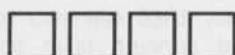
D'fhág sí ina diaidh paróiste a bhfuil ord agus eagar níos fearr air agus a bhfuil lán de bheocht is de churam.

"Maireann an chraobh ar an bhfal, ach ní mhaireann an lámh do chuir."

Ar dheis lámh Dé go raibh a hAnam Dílis.

Muiris O hAllacháin

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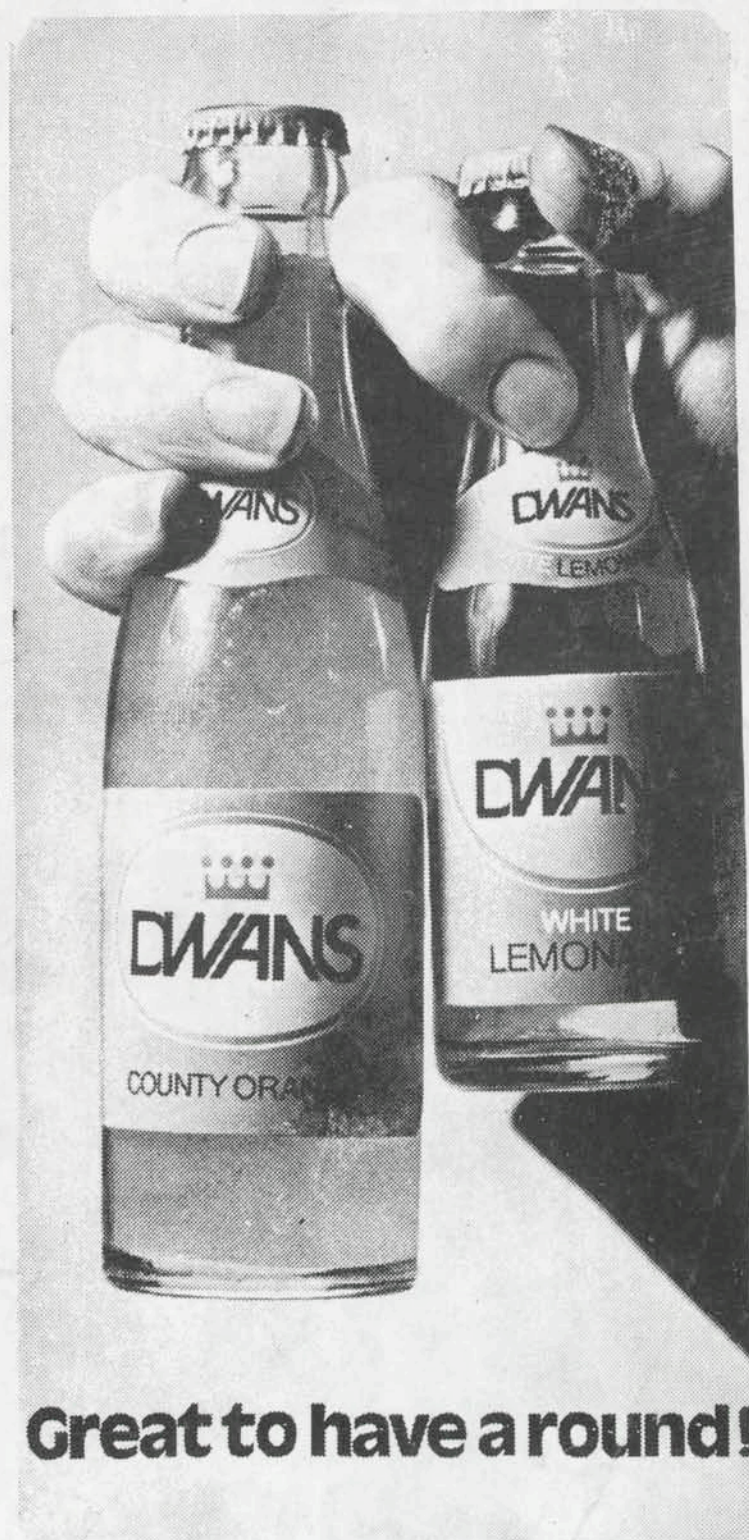


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