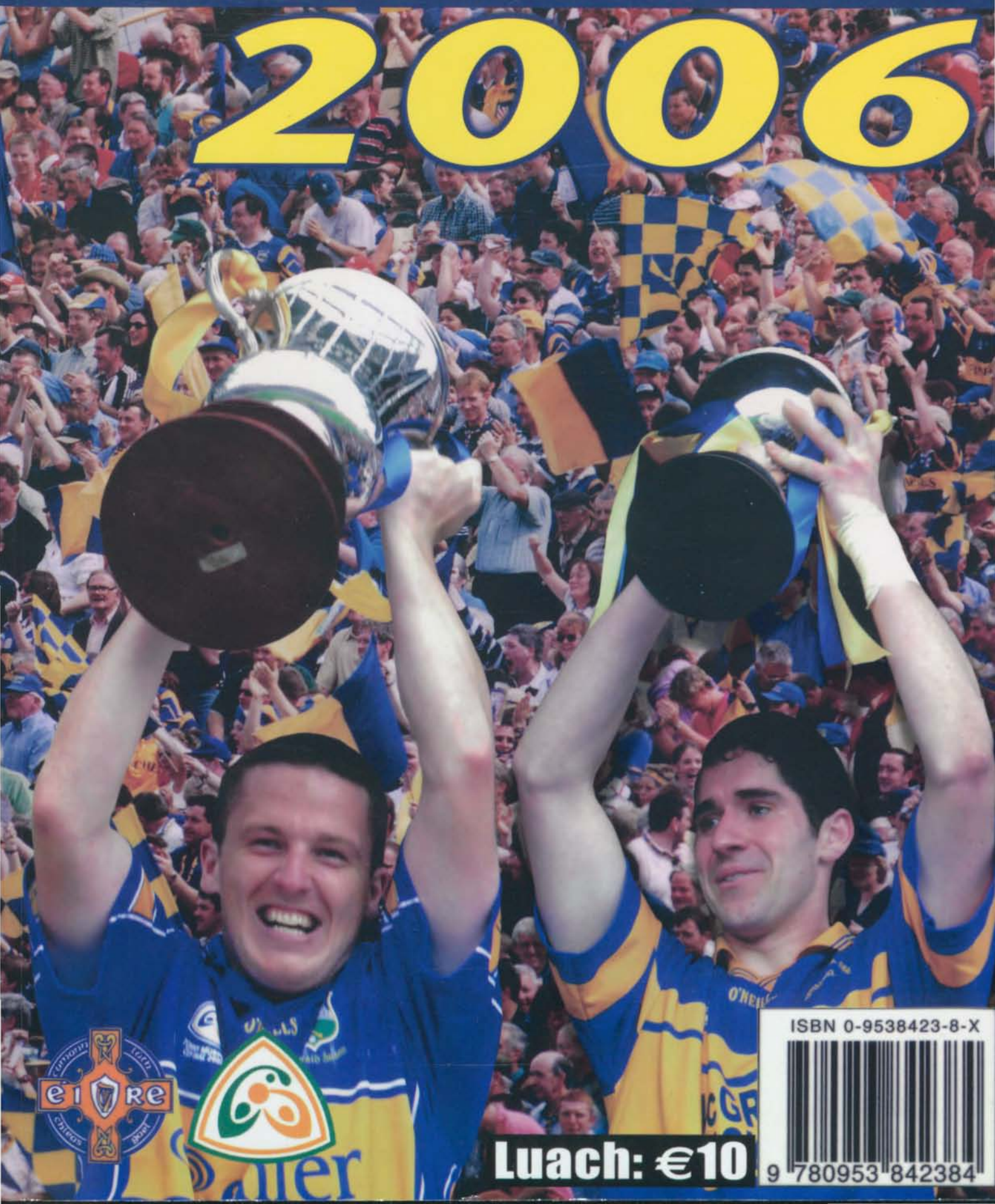


Bliainiris Thiobraid Árann



TIPPERARY GAA YEARBOOK

2006



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Kildangan

All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Club Champions 2005



Back Row, L to R: James Minihan, James Flannery, Wm Seymour, Art Flannery, Aidan Ryan, Brian Kelly, Patrick Lynch, Conor Hayes, Liam Kelly, Darragh Egan, Karl Hogan, Enda Nolan, Paddy Coen, Tommy Connors, Eoin Kelly, Sean Gleeson, Eddie Fogarty, Liam Karl Flannery.

Front Row, L to R: Roger Gleeson (S), Seamus Gleeson, John Slattery, Ger Slattery (Captain), John Maher, Dermot Hogan, Michael Ryan, Hugh Flannery, Brian Lawlor, Dan Hackett, Colm McGrath, Brian McLoughlin, Eamonn Kelly (Manager), Tom Freeman (S), Mascot Ben Banaghan
Front: Ciaran Kelly (Mascot)

TIPPERARY G.A.A. YEARBOOK 2006



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*Front Cover: Declan Browne raises the Tommy Murphy cup after Tipperary's victory over Wexford at Croke Park.
Ger Slattery Kildangan displays the All Ireland Intermediate Hurling Cup following his club's victory over Carrickshock (Kilkenny) at Semple Stadium.*

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Chairman's Address

Is mian liom failt a chur roimh bliainris Thiobraid Árann 2006. Is e seo an bhliain deireannach domsa mar cathaoirleach agus taim an-bhrodiuil as an sar obair ata a dheanamh bliain in ndiaidh bliaina ag an gcoiste foilseachain agus molaím sibh agus guim rath oraibh sna blianta ata romhainn. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh lucht a léite ard taitheamh as mara bhaineadar le breis is tríocha bliain anuas.

As another year ends it is time once again to welcome the latest addition of the Yearbook. This publication has appeared annually since 1970 and over the years it has become one the most outstanding publications in the country.

Traditionally success at inter-county level leads to a surge in sales but we should never overlook the work done by clubs, schools and colleges in Tipperary, which is in chronicle for prosperity every year.

As my last year as Chairman, I want to thank the yearbook committee led by chairman Seamus King and secretary Liam O Donnchú - most of whom have over twenty years service in collecting, publishing, editing the yearbook to a consistently high standard.

Congratulations to our senior footballers who won the Tommy Murphy Cup in Croke Park. This was a wonderful occasion and I thank the management and all members of the panel for their commitment and dedication.

I would like to thank the players who represented the county in all grades in 2005 and also to the management of their teams. Their efforts were no less than any of the counties that were successful, but all of us must work that bit harder in the coming year.

Our hurling and football championships were well contested and I congratulate all teams that achieved county honours. I also feel that our referee standards have risen considerably and our own Seamus Roche refereed the All-Ireland hurling final, the pinnacle for any referee.

Thanks also to the numerous volunteers throughout the county. In recent times we have seen the commencement of the "unsung heroes awards" which ensures a well-earned award for a local hero. Happily these "heroes" are to be found in every parish in Tipperary. Without them, Gaelic games would not prosper. Our structures are soundly based in our clubs and schools, long may that continue.

My thanks to all my fellow officers, divisional boards, sub committees and the representatives of all the clubs for their co-operation - that is something I much appreciate.

Thanks also to the media for the coverage of our games, in particular the local papers and local radio. Finally, thanks to our numerous sponsors, in particular Enfer, sponsors of our county teams and Cidona, sponsors of our county championships.

Donal O'Seanachain
Cathaoirleath

Tipperary GAA Yearbook Committee 2006

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Thanks to our photographers: Jerry Ring, Bridget Delaney, John Kelly, John Moloughney, Rose Mannion, Michael McDonnell.

BLUE IS THE COLOUR

SARSFIELD WIN AGAIN



Matty's Allstar

Matty O'Dowd, Thurles, a former star wing forward and midfielder with Thurles Sarsfields is now playing the ancient game in Kildare where he is attached to the Celbridge Club. And, he was named in the Championship 15 team after amassing a huge 2-39 in five games with Kildare in the Christy Ring Cup. Incidentally his club Manager with Celbridge is none other than Jimmy Doyle,

another former Sarsfields player and son of the legenday Tommy Doyle. Matty became only the second Thurles man to receive an Allstar - his former colleague Eddie Enright being the first in 2001.



Another Standstill Season for Seniors

By John O'Grady.

Honours, in any year, are a minority acquisition. Tipperary stayed among the have-not 'majority', while Cork and Kilkenny took All-Ireland and league. Advance hopes had been modest, and modesty prevailed. Even our statistical CV preserved a neat but unexciting symmetry. From thirteen games of competitive play – eight in the league, five in the championship – the record read: won six, drew one, lost six. The losses numbered among them the two biggest days of our season, the Munster final against Cork and the All-Ireland quarter-final against Galway. The latter game terminated our year while, ironically, our main 'victim', Clare, carried on to a battling semi-final. Along with our demise, a defeat sustained through erosion of a winning position, and all the worse for that, came a fairly prompt vacancy in team management and selection. Such is the severe way of things all over the general sports spectrum, whose emphasis is more and more on results and managerial responsibility. Ken, Jack and Colm have gone and we are adjusting, as the year ends, to Babs, John and Tom. Such changes are often a quest for better luck, as well as better judgment – let's hope the new cabinet displays both.

The second year of the now-departed trio offered a decent league schedule and, barring downright poor effort, something near certain Phase two qualification. We were to host Down, Wexford and Cork. The Ulster side should be no problem at home or away, while the Stadium should be worth something against the stronger visitors. The away matches were against Limerick – reasonable chance there, and the unthreatening Antrim. The cross border opponents duly yielded points, and so did Limerick, but defeats at home by Wexford and Cork were no evidence of Tipp progress towards finding a really competitive fifteen, or panel. We'd made it to the next stage and three useful pre-championship outings at somewhat raised profile. Ambition to win the league was hardly of crusading intensity – the trial aspect dominated.

League Starts

The league, low-key as it is, is hurley's second avenue to a trophy. Phase One, starting in unattractive February, by no means gave Tipp a facile pair of points against Down. It was the home side that bore the 'down' tag and into added time – of this there was a lot – fourteen minutes – due to a prolonged attention for Down's Coulter, Tipp were glad of the extension – we got all our three goals in that spell. Sweeney, Webster and Egan saved local blushes in a 3-17 to 2-12 victory. Had Eoin Kelly been able to play, we'd hardly have needed such late relief. Egan was at full-forward. Webster took that position to good effect when things were pretty serious at four down. It was to be a portent to Webster's rise to prominence – perhaps our best individual gain on the year's play. Less fortunate and less a later presence was to be his clubmate, Paul Ormonde of the 2001 champion side – this was Paul's only outing as injury problems recurred. We could have used him. Others who

Wexford Defeat

We didn't get it. Wexford silenced the home support – only murmurs of late irritation were to be heard – in a ten-points turnabout over the final quarter, 2-19 to 2-15. The last five minutes were particularly inept from Tipp as Wexford scored that many points without retort. Features of the lineout: Young in goal, Martin Maher at right-back, Moloney at wing-back in Corcoran's absence, Benny Dunne at wing-forward, an inside trio of Sweeney, Webster, Paddy O'Brien. Eoin Kelly opened his campaign as a reserve in the second half. A later, first choice player to come on was Diarmuid Fitzgerald. A winning position was eroded – an illustration of a problem that was at its most hurtful in the All-Ireland quarter-final against Galway at the end of July. John Conran must have despaired when Wexford were six down at the three-quarters mark. They hit their stride as Tipp slowed. Level at 2-14 each they flourished to the finish. Paul Carley had a personal eleven points. Our defence looked demoralised in that sharp decline. Wexford registered 2-13 in the second period and went away in pleasantly surprised mood. For us it was a hint that team-finding hadn't got far. No threat to a top-three place had actually appeared. Away to Antrim ought to get us into Phase Two. It did, and without a moment's unease at Casement Park. A scoreboard showing 6-21 against 0-10 tells all. We fielded a new midfield in Benny Dunne and Tom King. John Devane scored six points from wing-forward while others prospered on the easy harvest of flags.

The Cork match always holds special status but this one at the Stadium had its competitiveness dulled by mutual assurance of getting through – a win would give Tipp two home games. Pa Morrissey got a forward spot beside Devaney and Devane. In a tepid-tempo game it was all-square at the break – Tipp 1-6 Cork 0-9. Devane kicked in our goal off an O'Brien-Webster build-up. Ronan was Cork's main contributor while Eoin Kelly, as usual, stood out as a home prospect. Cork edged us out by the minimum, 0-16 to 1-12. Notable was the comeback of Tommy Dunne to second-half service, also Paul Kelly, while Conor O'Mahony replaced Paul Curran. The counties were to meet for far much larger stakes in late June and to play a far more colourful and fluctuating game.

Phase Two

So it had to be two trips for Tipp in Phase Two. We got home venue for the first of the three ties but not home advantage as it proved – the Stadium is everybody's field. Clare had revived themselves in the preceding weeks. They had gone to Nowlan Park and handed the cats a thorough beating, and to Waterford for



L/R: Donal Shanahan, County Chairman, Seamus McCarthy Senior Football manager, Sophie O'Connor and Michael O'Connor, Enfer, Ken Hogan Senior Hurling manager, Michael Murphy, Enfer.

appeared against Down, and did not survive into more important clashes, were Shelly, O'Leary and Butler – significantly, attack was to be the most changeable zone.

Away to Limerick we had Cummins back in goal for Young, Hugh Moloney at right-back and otherwise the formation was as in the Down opener – Maher, Curran, Fanning, Kennedy, Corcoran, Morrissey, Slevin, Shelly, Devane, O'Leary, Sweeney, Webster, Butler. Victory and points came home with us – 4-14 to 3-11 – but even more comfortably than that. Contrasting with round one, Tipp had three goals on the board before half-time. Webster struck early, Egan and Devane followed, with Webster the provider. Sweeney endorsed the interim lead promptly on resuming with the fourth. Two late home goals came after Cummins retired with ankle trouble and Young came on. Limerick were a disappointment for new manager, Joe McKenna, but Tipp faced a visit to Thurles by Wexford in reasonable hopes of a third success.

almost as sweeping a success. So, coming to Thurles need not bother daly's men.. It didn't. They gave us a damaging loss by four points – 1-16 to 0-15, which made it three Stadium defeats in a row – not a sequence often suffered, one would think and certainly jeopardising our chance of being league finalists. Clare may have been the keener on that, with a bye into the Munster semi-final leaving space. Tipp and Clare league meetings have for years been restrained and fairly polite encounters compared to their intense battles in the main event. This one followed the subdued pattern with Tipp more subdued than we really liked. It took a face-saving recovery from nine down to minimise the margin to the concluding four. We were five adrift at the break, 1-8 to 0-6. Both panels had just come back from sunny holidays – we from the Algarve, they from La Manga.

Tipp lined out: Cummins, Curran, Maher, Moloney, Fanning, Kennedy Corcoran, O'Mahony, Paul Kelly, O'Leary, Devaney, Benny Dunne, Eoin Kelly, Webster, O'Brien. Clare got off to a more urgent start as befitted visitors and a Quinn goal on fifteen minutes was the main item of the half. We lost Kennedy to a groin strain, Corcoran going centre as Fitzgerald was called in – he played well enough to advance his claim. Also coming in was Tommy Dunne (for O'Leary), Buckley, Egan and Sweeney. We tried hard but failed to cope with the greater drive of Clare, who had it won at the three-quarter mark against an uncertain defence.

Off to Galway. Another loss would be terminal. Up against that stark fact, the team responded and did what Doyle's championship side had done in 2003 – win at Salthill 3-16 to 0-17. A lifeline had been gained for our last outing at Nowlan Park. A novelty in the choice was Pa Morrissey at midfield with Benny Dunne. Colin was on the 40 in another interesting pick. We had problems in the rear defence early on but got away with lapses in marking. O'Leary, early and late in the half, was a two-goal scorer – reminding Galway of the 2001 All-Ireland. Webster got the other, all coming pre-interval to set up assurance against a home recovery. Teamwork was well up on previous outings and the attitude was positive. Again Tommy Dunne was a recruit as the veteran was seen as an impact alternative rather than a starter. Nowlan Park

Kilkenny had to be the biggest obstacle imaginable to a side bidding for a win on their soil, though Clare had gone there and done the trick. We didn't. Nor did we shape like it, even after Devaney and the returned Corbett lifted spirits with goals to answer those from Larkin and Shefflin. The cats raised their game to go in six points up after those green flag highlights. We had Slevin back again at midfield. Webster was missing, and missed. Egan gave way to Tommy Dunne, O'Leary to Redser, Slevin to O'Mahony, Moloney to

Buckley, Devane to Paul Kelly. The quota of changes tells a tale of failure to restrict, or sty with, the capable Cats, who took it quite casually as no real danger threatened – Eoin Kelly was the main figure in keeping Tipp within reasonable distance.

League over, what had we gained or learned? Mentors had to work within the limits of available material, with little to chose between various candidates and the sum of any fifteen on a given day uncertain. There were signs too, that some of our leading lights in defence were losing pace and stamina. Midfield had been moderate, at best, and apart from Webster's emergence, there had been little assistance for Eoin Kelly up front. Public opinion veered from 'we're as good as any' to 'we're not good enough'.

The Munster draws gave Tipp the longest but hardly the toughest route to a provincial final. Cork and Waterford were on the other side of the schedule, and they rated one-two with the odds makers. Tipp's image lay between third and fourth vis-a-vis Clare, with Limerick reckoned fifth of the five. So a Stadium bout with McKenna's team was as promising as we could find in the hat – no guarantee, but feasible. On May 15th theory became practical in the H.Q. of hurling – and failed to yield an answer.

Devane's Goal

Up to the last minute, a disheartening negative was on the cards, and on the scoreboard. Pat Tobin's two fine points had Limerick poised to win, and send Tipp into the qualifiers. They had been five up. A goal was the only avenue for Tipp, and it came. Paul Kelly's line-cut lobbed into the Killinan square. It fell behind the competing ruck to Devane. The goal and the lead had come. Paul O'Grady evaded stretching tacklers and hit a vital equaliser. All still to play for on the following Saturday at the Gaelic Grounds. Tipp had lined out at Thurles with Martin Maher fit again for right back. Neither Webster nor Tommy Dunne goit starting places as the attack read: Devane, Devaney, Benny Dunne, O'Brien, Kelly, Corbett. A quick Tipp lead of three points was eroded by a Sheehan goal off O'Shaughnessy's break. Limerick half-backs dominated our outer attack. A T. J. Ryan penalty on resuming was a blow but Kelly frees kept us in touch. Redser redeemed some wides with a catch and a goal. Another recruit, Tommy Dunne, shared in our climb back to equality. Eoin Kelly hit a great score for the lead. In a finish that redeemed earlier slack play, Limerick levelled before the lively Tobin gave them the look of winners. Then came the Devane rescue and the Limerick response.

McKenna's side had given one of Limerick's most positive performances in a number of seasons. At home on Saturday they might carry on from there, but Tipp mood wasn't pessimistic, either. We had, on the run of play, got away with it. Sure enough the replay reflected the level nature of quality –

it went to extra time before Tipp snatched it, 2-13 to 0-18, with the home side squandering enough late chances to have, at worst, forced a second replay.

Our selection reflected Fitzgerald's good work as a sub. at the stadium. He gained a wing-back place. Corcoran moved to right corner. Benny Dunne and Colin Morrissey exchanged places between wing-forward and midfield. Having played 'bit' parts till now, Tommy Dunne was chosen at centre-forward. Webster, gaining in rating, was at full-forward. Plenty of new power was employed over the prolonged struggle – we made eight substitutions! A Redser goal off a Morrissey shot was the basis of a two points interim lead, after Eoin Kelly and T. J. Ryan had been the main producers in the half. Corcoran, ill-suited to the corner, had switched with Fitzgerald. We hit a barren spell for eighteen minutes and got caught by a Donie Ryan equaliser to set up the extra session.

Sweeney's Score

It was won eventually through a Sweeney goal and some typical points by Tommy Dunne as we doggedly held out against the later attacks towards the Clare end. Limerick voices were ready a number of times to hail scoring efforts, but these went astray to our great relief. With admirable spirit, Tipp had come, played and conquered, winning a date with Clare on the same pitch. The return of John Carroll as a sub for Webster was a thing to note. Clare's sufferings at Kilkenny hands in the second half of the league final had somewhat reduced credit of their three late victories in the competition. Still, their known appetite for a tilt at Tipp, and their win at Thurles, made them a side to be feared, with manager, Daly, to urge them towards restoring their edge of the Loughnane era. Quite uncharacteristically in that context, they hit a disastrous day as regards finishing. While Tipp got two goals in an aromatic spell, Clare had already looked three 'gift' chances in the mouth, and efforts for points got into a parallel rut. Philip Maher could not play. Devane took number three. Tommy Dunne had re-established himself at centre-forward. Devaney was wing-forward. Corbett lasted fifteen minutes before injury cropped up. Those goals transformed the game and gave obvious confidence. Webster's success against Brian Lohan added to the mood. Benny Dunne, Eoin Kelly and Webster all combined to set up Corbett for the first one. Quick and welcome second helping arrived – Corbett to Webster, who drew 'keeper Fitzgerald, and coolly netted. We ended the half 2-7 to 0-7 and had a winning feeling. Clare got no nearer than four points subsequently. A bad Gilligan penalty, stopped by Cummins, was a token of their continued frustration. When Sweeney made it seven up all tension had gone – we were into the Munster final. It was to be our best day, that conquest of a puzzlingly off-colour Banner.

Three games under our belt as against

Cork's solitary outing – we might just have come on enough to venture into Páirc Uí Chaoimh in some optimism. The venue, indeed, had to be of some aid to Cork, who hadn't been in the habit of losing there for some years, while our record in that field was spotty. But to be in a final, anywhere, was ahead of most predictions after our league experiences.

Half-Time Gloom

At half-time on wasn't at all sure that it had been wise to get so far. Embarrassment not only threatened – it had more or less arrived. The scoreboard made desperate reading – 1-13 to our meagre 0-5. Eleven down! What a trimming to the tune of gleeful Leaside sounds. Corcoran had endured a troubled opening in the corner against Deane. Our early two points lead became a tantalising memory, a later four-all having deteriorated over a six-minute stretch a Cork flag-rising. A Kieran Murphy centre deceived Maher and Cummins for an upsetting goal. Eoin Kelly failed off a penalty. Cork half-backs – O hAilpin, Curran, Gardiner – blotted out our outer attack of Morrissey, Tommy Dunne and Devaney. Only the two Kellys scored in our 0-5.

Only pride was to be played for, it seemed. And so, thankfully, it was. Astonishingly, we got to the verge of doing more than that. Had Tommy Dunne been able to stretch an inch or two further to a breaking ball near the finish, we'd have been, perhaps, in line for a draw. A win would have been overdoing the wishing!

No immediate siege was forthcoming on the re-start. We still trailed by nine after eighteen minutes, so Cork had no great

game. We took a degree of comfort from the loss, in which Fitzgerald again raised his profile. A quarter-final beckoned and the draw ordained a clash with Galway along with Kilkenny and Limerick.

Selection Delay

What fifteen would we field? The question is generally answered by mid-week, maybe earlier for a big day. We sat in our Croke park seats without a definitive answer. The programme gave a lineout, which not everybody believed, for the delay had caused talk of disagreement. Not only was the choice but also the captaincy was said to be in question up to a late stage. The programme proved to be correct: Cummins, Moloney, Maher, Curran, Fanning, Corcoran, Fitzgerald, Enright, Paul Kelly, Morrissey, Devane, Benny Dunne, Eoin Kelly, Webster, Tommy Dunne. Both Dannes featured. Enright had returned. Corcoran was centreback after Kennedy's tenure up to now. The issue of the announcement of the side was to be highly controversial, with boardroom comment and, very likely, an impact on the matter of management and selection for 2006.

Giving strong competition as a post-mortem topic was Tipp's retreat from the brink of victory – we scored a Fitzgerald point against Galway's 1-6 in the last 'furlong' as stamina, concentration and confidence gave out. The loss of Philip Maher for the second half and his replacement by O'Mahony was to be a debated decision. So was the retention of some forwards who became increasingly invisible when the side needed a lift. Individually the 'on-off' for Redser and the

Maher was struggling after a collision. Conor O'Mahony was the choice to take over. A Forde goal ruffled us but a six-points lead was encouragingly re-built by substitute Redser, Webster and others. When Cummins stopped a Murray drive, it



John O'Grady receives his Sean Gael Award

looked our day, but the crucial episode followed. Hayes wrestled his way past Moloney for a goal. Galway were inspired. Kerins and Murray levelled. The momentum was theirs. Farragher gave them the lead. Though Fitzgerald responded, something had gone from Tipp's self-esteem. The tide grew stronger towards the Railway end. Tierney and Forde were running at us down the middle. Their backs were clearing with panache. Our forward shape had gone. Regan was coping better than Kavanagh with Webster. Even Eoin Kelly playing further out was



Front L/R: Hugh Moloney, Martin Maher, Tommy Dunne, Evan Sweeney, Benny Dunne (Captain), Diarmuid Fitzgerald, Eoin Kelly, David Kennedy, Paul Kelly, Damien Young, Pa Morrissey, Paddy O'Brien.

Back L/R: Mark O'Leary, John Devane, Eamon Corcoran, Francis Devaney, Micheal Webster, Colin Morrissey, Phillip Maher, Brendan Cummins, Declan Fanning, Paul Curran, Ger O'Grady, Darragh Egan, Tom King, John Carroll.

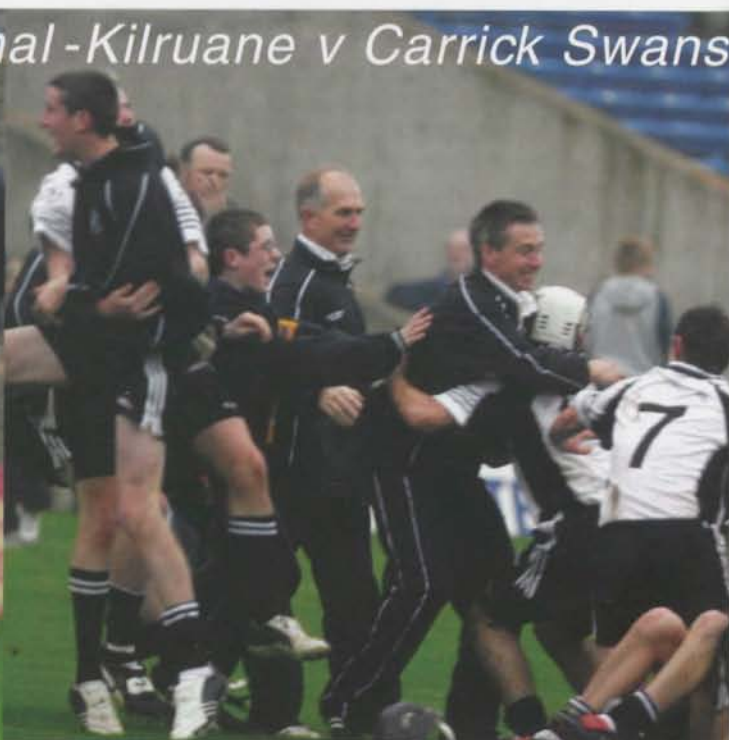
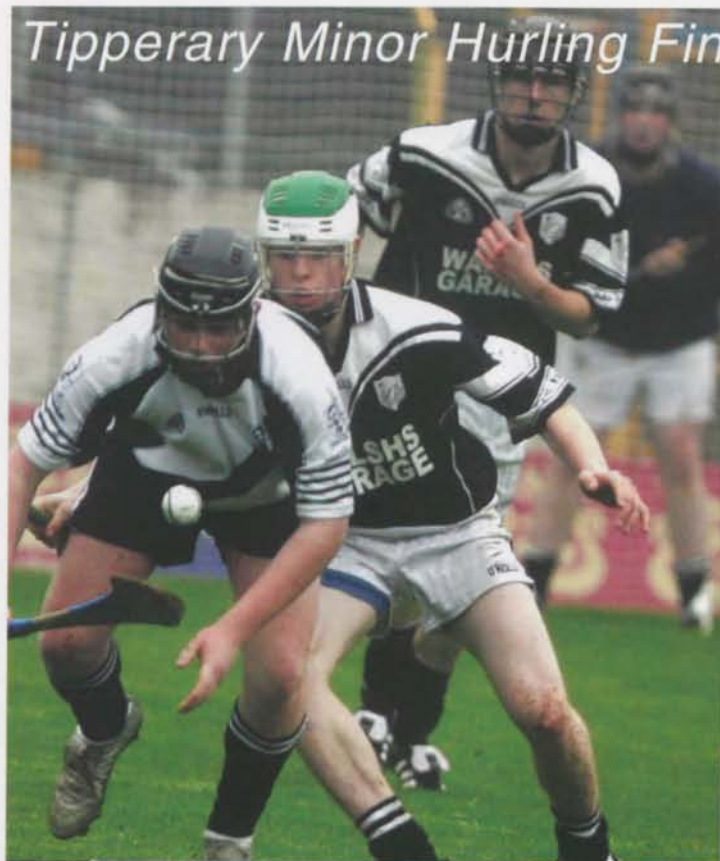
motivation to seek unnecessary extra flags. Whether complacency had set in or Tipp had found a rhythm, we proceeded to frighten them, on and off the pitch. John Devane, on at centreforward, checked their control in that area and took a few points also. Redser, another reserve, set up a few more, but it was Tommy Dunne's touch in a goalmouth scramble that ignited the match. The impossible had become at least thinkable. Webster, now troubling 'The Rock', had fielded a high centre to cause chaos for the goal. The eventual five-point defeat felt almost like a sort of plus. Pundits pondered a strangely-shaped

later-than-late call for Egan were much mentioned in the disillusion of defeat. As ever, losing mentors gain little applause though realists were willing to give Galway proper credit for a strong finish after wasting a lot of earlier possession. In a burst that recalled the Clare game, Tipp raised two green flags as the foundation of a 2-9 to 0-10 lead at half-time. Tommy Dunne rifled a rasper across O'Donoghue for number one. Fanning and Webster shared the build-up. Eoin Kelly's penalty got through the defensive line. We reached a healthy seven up, reduced to five at the break. Already, though, Philip

being checked. Forde hit a point to regain the lead. Farragher doubled it. All over; the year over. The thrust of Galway's younger forwards had breached our defence, which conceded 2-10 in the second period, while we added only 0-9 in a faltering up-front show.

Such is the chequered tale of the year. Another and hopefully better is to be told. Whether the new cabinet can discover untried talent and get more out of the material which we've already seen – and, in general, inject a sharper approach – is to be revealed in the coming season.

Tipperary Minor Hurling Final - Kilruane v Carrick Swans



Philip Maher

BY JOHN HARRINGTON.

There are few finer sights in hurling than that a powerful full-back bursting out of defence, leaving opponents scattered in his wake like bowling pins, before opening his shoulders and driving the ball downfield.

It's the signature move of players like Clare's Brian Lohan and Cork's Diarmuid O'Sullivan, and when in full-flight, Tipperary's own Philip Maher is just as inspirational.

He's an unusual combination of raw strength and smooth skills, and his ability to play from the front and consistently do the right things at the right time is his trademark.

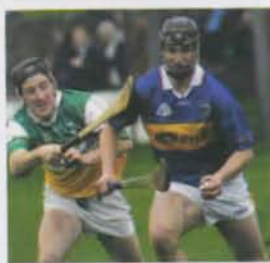
Sometimes you only fully appreciate a player's value to a team in his absence, and that was certainly the case as far as Maher was concerned in this year's All-Ireland quarter-final.

In the first half of against Galway he was quietly efficient without being spectacular, but after a shoulder injury forced him to retire at half-time, the marrow was sucked out of Tipp's defensive spine for the second half. Situations that wouldn't have been threatening in the first half were now laced with peril. It's hard to imagine that Damien Hayes would have scored that match-changing goal if Maher had still been manning the danger-zone in front of Brendan Cummins.

Not only did the shoulder injury he sustained against Galway end his year with Tipperary, it also meant he'd miss Borrisoleigh's North championship final against Nenagh Eire Og.

The fact that his team-mates went on to win the match without him eased the pain somewhat, but missing out on the club's first North title in seventeen years was still a bitter pill to swallow.

"It was really hard to watch it from the sideline," admits Maher. "It was the same story when we were in a county under-21 final before and I missed another North



senior final in '97 with another shoulder injury. "It would have been nice to be able to play in the match, but it was still a great

moment to see the team win a North Final because we hadn't won one in seventeen years and I was delighted for all the lads because we'd put in such a big effort.

"When you part of a winning team that's made up of your brothers, friends and your cousins who you've been hurling with all your life, it's a special feeling to finally win something you've been striving for, for so long.

"There were mixed emotions too though, because I wasn't involved in the win myself."

After finally ending their North title famine, Borrisoleigh were most people's favourites to get the better of neighbours. Drom-Inch in the county quarter-final, but didn't live up to their billing on the day.

The only silver lining was the impressive return to action of Maher, and though he admits it was a disappointing way for the club's year to end, he believes that Borrisoleigh can go on to build on this year's successes.

"We've always been saying that if we could get that North title monkey off our backs, we could build from there.

"Winning the North championship was our aim at the start of the year, so even though we were disappointed to lose to Drom, we can still regard the season as a successful one.

"We hadn't lost a match all year until Drom got the better of us, so you have to take the positives from that. "The weight of going that seventeen years without a North title is gone now, so there shouldn't be as much pressure to succeed any more, and we can hopefully go on to build on what we achieved this year.

"We can go out next year, believe in ourselves that bit more, and hopefully go a

little bit further."

The same sentiment holds true for his inter-county ambitions for 2006. Like the rest of the Tipperary team he was gutted by the manner of the All-Ireland quarter-final defeat to Galway, but he doesn't believe this current panel is far off the standard required to emulate the 2001 All-Ireland triumph.

"Any year that Tipperary don't win the All-Ireland is regarded as a bad one by the general public in the county. Regardless of how we've gone for the last few years, there's still always an expectation to do well there every year," says Maher.

"We've got the players to do it, there's just something small stopping us from fulfilling our potential.

"Maybe we're missing a bit of self-belief at the moment. We're half expecting not to do so well when we play the likes of Cork or Kilkenny, when we should really be fearing no-one.

"I don't think there's any major flaw with the team, we're not far off the standard required.

"What we need is that attitude and bit of luck you need to win tight matches the way Cork did this year, and the way we did ourselves in 2001.

"Hopefully it'll all come together for us in 2006."



Philip accepting the man of the match award vs. Clare in 2001

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League Foretaste of Championship Fate

By: J.J. Kennedy.

Tipperary currently tops the National Hurling League roll of honour with eighteen titles, four ahead of nearest challengers Cork. Our last hurrah was in 2001 when Nicky English plotted a conquest of hurling's twin peaks, league and championship. Since then our graph has been on a downward dip, a trend that wasn't arrested in 2005.

The league is a curious entity, at times dismissed as inconsequential, on other occasions cited as a valuable springboard to championship success. I suppose if you have the All Ireland tucked away the league becomes an insignificant sideshow – note Cork's blasé attitude to the competition in recent years. If, however, you are struggling to build a viable championship team then the league can be an essential breeding ground where players are blooded and blended for bigger days.

Last spring Tipperary stuttered and stumbled through the league, unsure of either form or formation. If you read the league as a predictor of championship outcome then the omens were against us from the start. We began on February 20th and played our last game in the competition on April 24th. Our league run featured two months of non-stop activity involving eight games, four wins and four defeats. We had the odd encouraging day, such as April 17th in Pearse Stadium, but overall we were left with few pretensions for the championship. And so it came to pass.

My brief then is to chronicle a poor league run. The function of this piece is surely to record rather than celebrate. It won't make for satisfying reading but I suppose posterity needs to know how our team of hopefuls fared in the preamble to championship 2005. So here goes.

As ever the season starts before the league, though in this case there was little pre-league activity of any significance apart from the drudgery of training. In their second year of command the management team of Ken Hogan, Jack Bergin and Colm Bonnar opted for a quiet lead in to the league. The one exception was the St. Mary's tournament in Clonmel on February 6th, just a fortnight before league launch. The match marked a belated celebration of the 75th anniversary of the local St. Mary's club, the proceeds

being donated to the South Tipp Hospice Group.

Waterford provided the opposition and they out-hurled Tipperary for most of the match. The visitors went eight-one up in the first quarter and we were always chasing the game thereafter. Ultimately a late spurt of scores left Tipperary just one short by the end, 0-18 to 1-14, but in truth an experimental Tipperary formation was second best for most of the contest.

Our line out was trialist in nature but there were hints of what would follow in the league. Cummins in goal was fronted by Paul Curran, Philip Maher and Hugh Moloney. All were destined to feature during the summer championship. The half line involved Eamonn Corcoran, David Kennedy and Evan Hanley from Lattin/Cullen. Already the mentors had decided on Kennedy as resident centre back; it was a judgment that wouldn't survive the summer.



Pamela Miscall is surrounded by two Muster hurling All-Stars Eoin Kelly and Brendan Cummins at Munster Council Award Ceremony in Southcourt Hotel, Limerick

Midfield had a novel pair of Tadhg Slevin and Ritchie Flannery – neither would survive for the championship. The half forward line comprised Donal Shelly, Colin Morrissey and Mark O'Leary. The inside line had Seamus Butler, Micheal Webster and Simon Everard of Moyne. Webster opted for hurling despite the fact that the footballers were launching their league against Cavan at Ardfinnan on the same day; it was the start of the best story of the summer.

For the purpose of completing the record Tipperary used four substitutes that day against Waterford. Loughmore's Tom King replaced Evan Hanley, Noel Moloney was introduced for Colin Morrissey, Evan Sweeney replaced Simon Everard and Colin Morrissey returned in place of Paul Curran who was sent off by Willie Barrett as part of the new experimental playing rules, rules which would irritate us throughout the entire league.

Down Scare

It was on to league launch then on February 20th and the first round at the Stadium, a visit from Down, which should have been routine. It wasn't. Nearing the end we went three points behind and the sensation of defeat was only avoided in a prolonged period of added time during which we scored three goals – Micheal Webster was the chief architect.

But before the match details our starting line out needs recording. Our league began as follows: Damien Young; Paul Ormond, Philip Maher, Paul Curran; Declan Fanning, David Kennedy, Eamonn Corcoran; Colin Morrissey and Tadhg Slevin; Donal Shelly, Micheal Webster, Mark O'Leary; Seamus Butler, Darragh Egan, Evan Sweeney. Eoin Kelly was originally named at full forward but was unavailable, his place going to Kildangan's Darragh Egan. The Toomevara players, still involved in the

All Ireland club championship, were rested and others such as Eddie Enright and Diarmuid Fitzgerald were injured. John Carroll had yet to decide his attitude and Lar Corbett was then in Australia.

It was an experimental side and we very nearly paid the price of an embarrassing defeat. On a bitterly cold day only a few hundred followers turned up and Tipperary laboured throughout. The home team led by 0-8 to 0-7 at the end of an uninspiring first half. Twice in the second half Down found the Tipperary net and only a smart save from Damien Young prevented a third. Twice we went behind as the mother of all upsets stared Tipperary in the face.

An injury to Down full forward, Martin Coulter, resulted in a long delay before he was removed from the pitch; eventually fourteen minutes of added time was announced. We needed it all to rescue this disaster of a game; it would be four minutes into added time before we regained the lead. And it was Micheal Webster who saved our blushes when he engineered three injury-time goals out of three characteristic catches. He fed Evan Sweeney for the first, scored the second himself and supplied Darragh Egan for the third.

In the end we won 3-17 to 2-12, a score line that was most unjust to Down's brave effort. For Tipperary it was a sobering experience. Clearly this type of line out would not suffice, even in the league. On the positive side Micheal Webster had arrived; summer events were already signposted. For the record we introduced three substitutes in the crisis: Francis Devaney for Seamus Butler, Hugh Moloney for David

Kennedy and Paul Kelly for Donal Shelly.

Better Against Limerick

The following week Tipperary were off to Limerick to face a Shannonside team in the throes of depression after a humiliating first round defeat by Cork. Despite the Down scare Tipperary made only modest adjustments to the line-out. Brendan Cummins was back in place of Damien Young. Paul Ormond was named again at corner back but was replaced before the start by Hugh Moloney. It was to be the end of Ormond's season – if not his career?

The only other alteration from the side that beat Down was in attack where Darragh Egan didn't start. His place was taken by Francis Devaney who came in at centre forward with Webster moving to full.

This game was a dress rehearsal for a championship clash between the sides later in the year. There was nothing championship-like in the hurling here, though. Limerick were utterly inept, the result speeding the departure of coach Pad Joe Whelehan. For Tipperary the story was brighter. An improved showing from the Down match saw the side collect its second brace of league points without over exerting.

Three first half goals sped Tipperary on their way. Micheal Webster tapped in the first after a goal keeping error. Darragh Egan replaced an out of sorts Seamus Butler and goaled on his first touch. Webster put Francis Devaney through for the third goal to give Tipperary an interval cushion of 3-6 to 0-7.

Any hope of a Limerick revival was rocked early in the second half when Evan Sweeney careered through for an excellent goal. Midway through the second half Limerick were handed some encouragement when a Paul O'Grady rocket from 40 yards found the net; Brendan Cummins was injured in attempting a save and had to be replaced by Damien Young. Late in the game Limerick managed two more consolation goals from Andrew O'Shaughnessy (free) and Donie Ryan but it was mere damage limitation at that stage. In the end Tipperary won by a mere six points, 4-14 to 3-11, a score line that did not reflect the one-sided nature of the game.

So after two games Tipperary had maximum points, but everyone accepted that the real tests still lay ahead. For the record Tipperary's substitutions on the day were: Darragh Egan for Seamus Butler, Benny Dunne for Darragh Egan, Damien Young for Brendan Cummins and Paul Kelly for Tadhg Slevin. Encouragingly Diarmuid Fitzgerald was sufficiently recovered from injury to join the Tipperary bench for this match. The following week there was a lull in league activity and Tipperary played Kilkenny at Semple Stadium in a

tournament game in aid of Thurles C.B.S. Zambian Immersion Project. Kilkenny, with D.J. Carey playing centre back, led at half time by 1-12 to 0-9. The visitors were always in control, though Tipperary did have consolation goals from Francis Devaney and Pat Shortt. It ended, Kilkenny 1-23, Tipperary 2-15.

For the record Tipperary fielded as follows: Damien Young; Martin Maher, Paul Curran, Eamonn Buckley; Tom King, Declan Fanning, Evan Hanley; Tadhg Slevin and Eoin Brislane; Seamus Butler, Donal Shelly, Benny Dunne; Paddy O'Brien, Micheal Webster, Pat Shortt. Subs: Colin Morrissey for Donal Shelly, Mark O'Leary for Benny Dunne, Diarmuid Fitzgerald for Evan Hanley



Attending Munster Council awards night out Southcourt Hotel, Limerick ace Ken Hogan. Declan Browne (Munster Football All Star Recipient) and Tom Collum

and Francis Devaney for Eoin Brislane.

First Setback

The following Sunday it was back to Semple Stadium for the visit of Wexford in round three of the league. There were a few changes in line out from the side that defeated Limerick. Brendan Cummins was still out injured since Limerick, his place once again going to Damien Young. Eamonn Corcoran too was injured, his wing back slot going to Hugh Moloney while Martin Maher made his return at right corner back. In attack Benny Dunne and Paddy O'Brien replaced Donal Shelly and Seamus Butler.

The game brought Tipperary's first league setback. We led at half time by 1-8 to 0-6, Mark O'Leary the goal scorer. Evan Sweeney had a second Tipperary goal six minutes into the second half. At that stage we led by 2-10 to 1-7 and seemed to be heading for another brace of league points.

However, what followed was worrying. Wexford rallied to cut the lead. They kept in touch until the final minutes when they over-ran Tipperary with a closing burst of scores to claim a 2-19 to 2-15 win. Tipperary's cause wasn't helped by the dismissal of Philip Maher in the first half, though Wexford had two players sent off under the same experimental rules. Surprisingly the

selectors replaced David Kennedy despite the general view that the centre back was having one of his better days. We lost Colin Morrissey too to injury in the first half and when the crunch came in this game we had problems all over the pitch. Goalie and defence looked porous. In three league games we'd now conceded a massive 7 goals and 42 points – and that against weak opponents. Hints of summer fate already evident in March.

We introduced five substitutes against Wexford. John Devane replaced Philip Maher when he was sin binned in the first half. Tom King, Loughmore, came on for the injured Colin Morrissey. Encouragingly Diarmuid Fitzgerald made a comeback, replacing Tadhg Slevin who took a heavy knock. Eoin Kelly made his first league appearance of the year when replacing David Kennedy and Seamus Butler came on for Evan Sweeney.

No Contest

The following week Tipperary travelled to Casement Park, Belfast, to face Antrim in round four of the league. There were a few changes for the trip North. Brendan Cummins was back

between the sticks despite not being fully recovered from the ankle injury sustained against Limerick. The full back line had Hugh Moloney beside Philip Maher and Paul Curran. Halfback had the familiar look of Fanning, Kennedy and Corcoran. There was a new midfield partnership of Benny Dunne and Tom King. John Devane found a half forward slot beside Francis Devaney and Mark O'Leary. Eoin Kelly, Micheal Webster and Paddy O'Brien made up the full line.

It was an improved line out, reflecting the urgency of the game and perhaps also the lessons of the Down match. This was one that Tipperary had to win in order to be assured of progress to phase two. In the event there was no contest. Tipperary led by 3-11 to 0-3 at half time and eventually won by a whopping 29 points, 6-21 to 0-10. Six substitutes saw action: Damien Young for Brendan Cummins, Seamus Butler for Eoin Kelly, Diarmuid Fitzgerald for Eamon Corcoran, Aidan Fitzgerald (Fethard) for Francis Devaney, Tadhg Slevin for Aidan Fitzgerald (yellow card) and Conor O'Mahony for Benny Dunne.

Pipped by Cork

Given the resounding nature of the win it was no surprise that the selectors again opted for the same starting fifteen for the visit of All Ireland champions,

Cork, to the Stadium on the following Sunday. However, on the day Mark O'Leary was a flu victim and his wing forward place went to Pa Morrissey, Galtee Rvs.

The fact that both sides were already through to the next phase of the league robbed the game of some 'bite' and the exchanges were pedestrian for much of the contest. Tipp had the better of the first half. They led by 0-5 to 0-1 at one stage and again after Cork had pulled back the lead they went four up, 1-6 to 0-5, following a John Devane goal. However, by the interval Cork had levelled, 1-6 to 0-9.

The second half remained tight but in the final quarter Cork did just enough to edge the verdict by a single point, 0-16 to 1-12. Francis Devaney and, controversially, Micheal Webster, were yellow carded in this half. Some crucial misses by Tipperary against slicker Cork finishing was a decisive element in the outcome.

Overall it wasn't a bad day for Tipperary in a game where there was little at stake. Significantly Tommy Dunne made his first league appearance of the spring when he came on for Francis Devaney. Conor O'Mahoney replaced the injured Paul Curran while Paul Kelly made an entry for Webster. In other substitutions Tadhg Slevin replaced Tom King (injured) and Evan Sweeney came on for John Devane.

Series 2

With three wins and two defeats from series 1 Tipperary had done enough to qualify for series 2 of the league together with Cork and Wexford. Three testing assignments awaited in series 2 but with a fortnight's break before a resumption of action the team headed off to the Algarve for a bonding session. Back from the sun they prepared for a visit by Clare to the Stadium on April 10th.

Once again Tipperary took a familiar shape for what promised to be a probing engagement. Cummins was fronted by Curran, Maher and Moloney. The half line was again the familiar Fanning, Kennedy and Corcoran. With Colin Morrissey unavailable there was a new move at midfield where Conor O'Mahoney partnered Paul Kelly. In attack John Devane was selected at centre between Mark O'Leary and Benny Dunne. The full line had Eoin Kelly, Micheal Webster and Paddy O'Brien.

Tipperary trailed at the break by 1-8 to 0-6, Andrew Quinn slipping Paul Curran for the goal. Twice Eoin Kelly had goal attempts from frees stopped by Clare's defensive wall. David Kennedy had started in fine fettle but twenty minutes into the action was forced off with a groin strain. Diarmuid Fitzgerald came on wing with Corcoran going centre - it was a formation that would repeat itself in the championship.

In the second half Tipperary eventually faded out to a nine-point deficit. Our best spell was the final quarter when we rallied to cut the lead to just three points. However, that was as good as it got, Tony Carmody scoring the insurance point for Clare near the end. It finished 1-16 to 0-15 for Clare. Micheal Webster and Frank Lohan were yellow carded in the second half after an off the ball disagreement. Brian Lohan was also dismissed for a foul on Paddy O'Brien. Tipperary made five substitutions against Clare. Eamon Buckley replaced Paul Curran, Diarmuid Fitzgerald came on for David Kennedy, Tommy Dunne for Mark O'Leary, Darragh Egan for Benny Dunne and Evan Sweeney for Micheal Webster (yellow carded).

Best Performance

With the top two qualifying for the final of the league we now needed to win our next outing to have any hope of making the decider. Next up was a trip to Pearse Stadium in Galway and a clash with the Tribesmen. It was a daunting prospect in advance. Paul Kelly cried off the selected team and was replaced at midfield by Pa Morrissey. In the reshuffle Benny Dunne partnered Pa at midfield with Colin Morrissey playing centre forward and John Devane at wing. The half back line was as it finished against Clare, Kennedy still unavailable.

Torrential rain over the weekend put the game in doubt but a clearance came and it went ahead, albeit on a pitch that was waterlogged in places. In defiance of pre-match expectations Tipperary roared into this contest and had a fancied Galway side in trouble from the start. The visitors had an immediate goal, Mark O'Leary finishing after a Colin Morrissey effort was saved. That score set the first half trend. Before half time Tipperary raided for two more goals, Webster and again O'Leary the finishers. Despite facing the wind Tipperary led by 3-7 to 0-11 at the interval.

In the second half as Tipperary's radar went on the blink Galway stormed back, the lead dwindling to a mere two points. But the visitors to Salthill responded to the threat, turning in a strong final quarter. Eoin Kelly's frees were significant for Tipperary; he also landed a two-pointer from a sideline 'cut' - an element of the experimental rules that unfortunately was not retained. Substitutes Darragh Egan and Tommy Dunne helped matters considerably as Tipperary eventually eased out eight point winners, 3-16 to 0-17.

It was I'd suggest Tipperary's best day of the league, albeit against a very 'flat' Galway team. By August we'd have willingly swapped this result for a championship win. Nonetheless the league win at Salthill kept alive our slim hopes of making the final if we could

muster another success against Kilkenny in the last match of the series. For the record Tipperary's substitutes at Salthill were: Tommy Dunne for Pa Morrissey, Darragh Egan for Micheal Webster and Francis Devaney for Paddy O'Brien.

And so it all came down to the final game at Nowlan Park on April 20th. Tipperary had a mathematical chance of making the final if they could beat Kilkenny and if results fell favourably in other games. Neither requirement was met on the day.

For our final league outing of 2005 Tipperary lined out as follows: Cummins; Curran, Maher, Moloney; Fanning, Corcoran, Fitzgerald; Slevin and Benny Dunne; O'Leary, Devaney, Devane; Kelly, Egan, Corbett.

It was a forgettable day for Tipperary. The record shows a five-point defeat, 3-18 to 2-16, but in truth Kilkenny were a class above Tipperary in this game. The winners led by 2-10 to 2-4 at half time. Tipperary could be grateful for goals from Francis Devaney and the returned Lar Corbett in that period. Those scores came against the run of play because otherwise Henry Shefflin and company were rampant in that opening period.

In the second half Kilkenny ambled through safe in the knowledge that they were untested. At one stage the lead stretched to ten points but Tipperary did manage to claw back to a more respectable five point end margin. Injuries kept David Kennedy, Colin Morrissey and Paddy O'Brien out of the team but an encouraging sign was the return to action of Lar Corbett and the introduction of 'Redser' O'Grady as a substitute.

To complete the record of league games the following substitutes were introduced in Nowlan Park: Tommy Dunne for Darragh Egan, Ger O'Grady for Mark O'Leary (yellow card), Conor O'Mahoney for Tadhg Slevin, Eamon Buckley for Hugh Moloney and Paul Kelly for John Devane.

And so a league campaign of fits and starts came to a disappointing end. The Nowlan Park game was just a few weeks ahead of the championship opener against Limerick and in truth the eight league games had solved little for Tipperary. Our league form was, at best, patchy. On the positive side the league did produce Micheal Webster and he would be one of the success stories of the championship. But the league also revealed a defensive brittleness that ultimately would unhinge us in that same championship.

As ever the league provided a foretaste of our championship difficulties.

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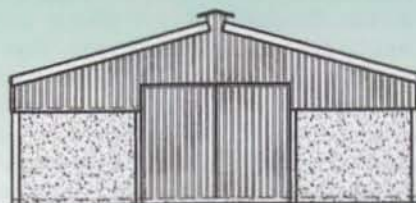
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Babs, the new manager

BY JACKIE CAHILL
IRISH DAILY MIRROR GAA
CORRESPONDENT.....

THE first signs that the 'buzz' was back in Tipperary hurling came a matter of days after Michael 'Babs' Keating's return as the county's senior team manager. Over 12,000 patrons paid in to see this year's county final between Thurles Sarsfields and Drom & Inch at Semple Stadium on October 16 – the day that Keating signed off as a columnist with the Sunday Times newspaper after 10 years. Keating outlined his hopes for the future in the paper that morning and in the afternoon, he travelled to Thurles to watch Sars annex a first county crown since 1974. As Keating greeted and spoke with well-wishers, he will have been heartened by the performances of some of the men out on the pitch. Ger 'Redser' O'Grady revelled in the responsibility of being the captain of Sars and produced a hard-working, but most importantly, disciplined performance.

"There will be discipline with a capital D in our dressing room," Babs insisted, just days after his official appointment. "Discipline is like a satellite in the sky with me – it beams into everything. 'I'm talking about behaviour off the field, control on the field and the use of possession.

"We have no intention of finishing any match with 14 men." You'd swear that Redser read the paper before helping to end a 31-year Sars famine. He took the hits but never complained and kept coming back for more – Babs will have taken note. Man-of-the-match was Drom star Seamus Butler, a bit-part player under Ken Hogan, who should now start to realise his vast potential. Throw Micheal Webster, Eoin Kelly and a fully-fit Lar Corbett into the mix and suddenly we're not that badly off for forwards are we? The humble opinion of this writer is that Colin Morrissey is much better for Tipperary at midfield, where he should play in 2006 alongside Paul Kelly. But if there's one man in the county that can get the mix right, surely it's Babs. A former player of great distinction, Keating was an innovator during his first spell in charge of Tipperary. Results spoke for themselves, All-Ireland titles in 1989 and 1991 the undoubted highlights. Keating and his players were hurt by accusations that Tipp won a soft one in

1989, so they went and won it again two years later, beating Kilkenny in the final. It could hardly have been sweeter.

– the gist of the pot-shots from Mullinahone. The other member of Keating's



New Tipp Management Team, 2005 - taken in Clonmel at the Tipp v UCD challenge on 6/11/05

Keating founded the Tipperary supporters club in 1986, one of the first of its kind and a group that continues to thrive to this very day.

Still, he continues to look for an edge. Brian Murray will be the new team trainer for the 2006 campaign. Murray, from Templederry, is a former Tipp minor hurler who has spent the last eight years in Alabama, USA. He is highly qualified, a pre-requisite for Keating, and boasts impressive credentials in sports science, sports psychology and PE. But the appointment of John Leahy as a selector with Keating has really excited Tipp fans. Leahy is a cult hero and if there's one man who could get the best out of a raw, exciting talent like Redser, surely it's him. "John Leahy didn't need any introduction to Tipperary hurling people," said Keating. "He was a top class hurler and a driving force on Tipp teams for well over a decade. Five of the team that started in Croke Park a couple of months

ago live on John's doorstep in South Tipperary and he's a great friend of Eoin Kelly's, the best corner forward in the country." Kelly and Leahy were both named on the Guinness legends team a couple of months ago and coming from the same club, it was quite an achievement. Indeed, there was much banter with Kilkenny people across the border. "Ye have two men on the team; we have two on it from the same parish!"

backroom team is Tom Barry, a man Babs has the height of respect for. He explained: "Tom Barry didn't have the same profile of John as a hurler and when you pull a rabbit out of the hat like that you have to be sure that you have a good man.

"I have no doubt about that. In the bad days of the 1970s he was as good a wing back as there was in Tipperary and I played with John in New York years ago. "He was chairman of Thurles Sarsfields for a number of years and I knew he was a close observer of the Tipperary scene. "People that had forgotten about Tom Barry have been ringing me up telling me what a great choice he is."

So there you have it. The magic formula that the county board hopes will catapult Tipperary back into the upper echelons. The big question among many fans is: Has Keating evolved with hurling? He admitted: "In the 11 years since I last managed Tipperary a lot has changed in hurling and the way hurling teams are prepared.

"I'm under no illusions about that. I'm happy to take good advice from wherever I can get it. I rang Mickey Harte (Tyrone football manager) and arranged to meet him for a chat in the near future. I have no doubt that Tyrone, and other counties, have training systems that will be of benefit to Tipperary."

Over to you, Babs.

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'BACK TO BACK' TO MUNSTER HURLING FINALS 1945

BY JOE MOLONEY

Following the outbreak of World War 11 Sept 1939, Ireland began to experience its effects during the following years, 1940 to 1945. Shortages of coal, petrol and other oils meant huge curtailment in transport both public and private.

Sport, in particular G.A.A. games, were badly affected, resulting in limited hurling and football championship games. The minor and junior intercounty games for 1942 1943 and 1944 were all cancelled until the summer of 1945!

During those years Roscommon senior footballers were the dominant force, led by their ever-popular record-breaking captain Jimmy Murray, winning the All-Ireland title during 1943 and 1944.

In hurling Cork were the specialists, winning the All-Ireland titles 1941, 42, 43 and 44. However, during the summer of 1945 Tipperary stopped their bid for five in a row, with that success huge interest gripped the Premier County - July 15th was the fixed date for the Munster senior and minor hurling finals, Tipperary v. Clare in M.H. and Limerick v. Tipperary S.H. - all roads led to Thurles!

If the 1944 Munster final was labelled the bicycle final between Cork and Limerick, 1945 final could be called the bicycle and horse and trap-car finals.

Limerick, the experienced team and unlucky losers against Cork at Thurles in the draw and replayed Munster hurling finals of 1944 now captured the imagination of the hurling public outside of Tipperary - led by famous household names, such as Mick and John Mackey, Timmy Ryan, Mick Kennedy, Dick Stokes, Sean Herbert, Jackie Power and Ballykisteen man Paddy O'Shea etc. Limerick then were the team to beat.

Having never attended a Munster final our thoughts for the weeks beforehand were, how on earth would we get to Thurles? On the Friday, July 13th it was decided to cut a few acres of hay in order that crop would be saving over that weekend. Preparations were made to have our Pierce No. 7 horsemower ready for mowing. Proceeding then, that Friday our pair of horses ready, we started to mow the heavy hay crop. However, little did we realise our young horse 'Charlie' never mowed before. We skirted the meadow once on the opening round at such madding speed it was decided in the interests of safety to abandon the exercise.

However, it was at that moment my ambitions if seeing the Munster finals

were realised. Having untackled our horses and returning home from the meadow, my father decided on a master plan - tackle 'Charlie' the horse on Sunday morning to our 'back-to-back' trap car and travel the 26 miles to Thurles.

There was something special about that weekend the hours from Friday did not pass quickly enough. The preparations were something you would dream of, with the co-operation of my mother, who packed the lunch bags and flasks - my father who looked after the horse's needs, namely, a large sack of grass which was placed under the seat of the 'back-to-back', also a few measures of rolled oats, plus hammer and nails and spare horse shoes in case 'Charlie' would shed a shoe.

Neighbours, Paddy Crosse, Post Master at Limerick Junction, his two sons Serge and Tony, were invited to join us an offer they gladly accepted and everything was ready for that epic journey to Thurles.

Sunday morning, July 15th 1945 arrived, the early rising, milking the cows by hand those days. In our case we had a licensed dairy to supply milk on a house-to-house delivery, both to Tipperary Town, and nearby Limerick Junction and Ballykisteen.

That Tipperary Town twice daily run was faithfully done for the seven World War 11 years by west Limerick man John Fitzgerald Sheehy from Kilcornan. He gave over half a century of dedicated service to our family. With John the rivalry was huge when Tipp and Limerick clashed on the hurling field, he was an ardent follower of his native county. However, he was a strong supporter of the Premier County once Limerick failed in their bid along the way.

Following the 5.30a.m milking and early breakfast we set course with our passengers for 8 a.m. mass at St. Michael's Church, Tipperary Town. Our horse tied to one of those beautiful lime trees on St. Michael's Road, we proceeded into Mass via the great west door, lucky to gain a seat within the walls and pillars of this great gothic building. Prayers were said for a successful journey and a favourable hurling result!!

Mass over, supporters from both sides were rolling their bikes from the churchyard, most aiming their transport in the direction of Thurles. Here was the first mingling of the hurling fans - many Limerick supporters broke the journey at Tipperary Town's St.

Michael's Church for Mass also.

As we set course on the Dundrum road the swish of bicycles was unbelievable. Horse and traps of every kind up ahead, were travelling behind, all made the occasion very exciting.

All along the road there were shouts for Mackey, Power, Stokes, Herbert and Cregan etc. etc. to which came the replies for Maher, The Ryans, Devitt, Cornally, Purcell, Coffey, Wall, Gouldsboro etc. This huge crescendo seem to drive the horses much faster. Aleen Cross some four miles out from Tipperary Town we noticed something which was to be a familiar sight for the rest of the journey. A number of hurling fans in a group stopped helping a fellow rider mend a puncture, while another had chain trouble.

On arrival at the picturesque village of Dundrum the sun casting magnificent shadows through the long rows of trees we could hear the echoes of a hundred horse footsteps as it were, bringing us into the village itself. We noticed the bicycle brigade getting larger and larger by the mile. Groups from Cappawhite, Doon, Cappamore and the Hill country above, adding to the excitement, which from that point on was feverish.

On we sped to the little village of Ballagh, it was our half way stop for some refreshments - us young fellows were handed some bottles of Deans lemonade, the two elder statesmen had some of the 'black stuff'.

Following this break to the journey, Thurles was now coming nearer by the mile. Passing through famous Holycross we were told of the monks of old and some interesting historic aspects of the Abbey. As we journeyed through we noticed an old signpost reading Thurles 4 miles our dream was unfolding with great anticipation.

Serge and Tony Crosse and myself included, were all first timers to a Munster final, we wondered what it would be like!!! Would we be able to see this great event in comfort etc.?

A short distance beyond Holycross we travelled along side the main Dublin to Cork Railway line with its almost rusty tracks, due to few trains operating, mostly every second day, owing to the effects of World War 11. Finally, we reached our final stop, a farm house three quarters of a mile on the Holycross side of Thurles town.

Our horse 'Charlie' untackled and made secure, his sack of hay, some water and a few measures of oats all put in place, we were on the last stage of our epic



Tipperary Intermediate Team 1970

*Back Row, L-R: Willie Moloney, Noel Seymour, Michael Hadnett, Andy Moloney, Gerry Keogh, Maurice Grace, John Costigan
Front Row, L-R: Jackie Walsh, Jack Dunlea, Paddy Kennedy, Patsy Dorney, Eddie Maher, Tony Smith, Jimmy Noonan, Tommy Kennedy*

journey on foot. The air now seemed electric. The footpaths had their share of musicians, singers also on the serious side of life. 'The Blind' and 'disabled' people with such handicaps had coats and canvas or rugs spread out on the pavements used as collecting pads. The side-walks were rattling to the continued sounds of dropping coins, the odd coin rolling onto the roadway. As we moved nearer the sports field we got the first glimpse of the tricolour, the Limerick and Tipperary flags fluttering in the distance. Moving close to the turnstiles hands seemed under automatic command everywhere, reaching into pockets for the admission charge at time 1s, 2s, 2s6d etc. - no tickets during those days!!

Remembering too going through the turnstiles we were confronted by hawkers, baskets full of oranges, apples, chocolate etc., their voices reaching a deafening crescendo. We had the colour sellers, no headbands then, and very few colour caps or hats. They displayed the county colours rosettes on a large cardboard mounted on a pole of some sort - having made your purchase you fixed same to coat, jacket or shirt.

Marching our way to the seat of your choice, which in our case was directly in front of Michael O'Hehir's broadcasting box, we focused our attention on the minor game, here Tipperary fans got off to a dream start with a huge win over Clare.

The grounds now full we awaited the arrival of Limerick and Tipp teams for the senior final - Limerick led by Mick Mackey - Tipp let by John Maher. These two great experienced players marked each other that day, many experts predicted the result hinged between Mackey and Maher.

What a game we had in that 1945

Munster S.H. Final, both teams served up a titanic struggle going right down to the final whistle. Those of us present that day will never forget the excitement during the final minutes - with two or three minutes to go Limerick looked certain to making a draw! Jack Clohessy attempted to rise a ball three times in front of Ger Cornally, Tipp's long serving full back, at Killinan end of the grounds - he failed in the first two attempts - rose at the third, just as he was to strike Ger Cornally cleared to the roars of Tipp supporters - that storm weathered, Tipp held on for victory 4-3 to 2-6.

The Munster finals were a huge thrill for the supporters of the Blue and Gold, especially us first-timers - thoughts on the long journey home to Barronstown did not worry us, we relished 'Charlie' every step of the way.

Huge throngs of supporters leaving Thurles that Munster hurling final day July 1945 was an occasion we never experienced before. The whole event gave us a taste of the magic and elation of a Munster final day - a memory to cherish to this day.

No matter where you travel, whatever the event, at days end your thoughts are focused to returning home.

Leaving that historic town of Thurles with the Manhattan-like sugar factory buildings to our left we arrived at that farm house, the resting stopover for 'Charlie' who on hearing our footsteps soon let us know he too longed for the road home. Following a quick check of horseshoes etc., we soon joined the milling throng making that journey home. Such a journey in brilliant sunshine was brimful of satisfaction - a thrilling experience - we were happy!

You often spared a thought for those dedicated and loyal Limerick supporters who faced for the second

year running a heartbreaking defeat in a final. They were making the long journey to such places like Limerick City, Kilfinane, Kilmallock, Knocklong, Herbertstown, Hospital, Kilteely, Pallasgreen, Cappamore, Oola and beyond.

As the July sunshine shadows lengthened during the late evening the Galtee Mountains were beginning to look majestic and clear against the Southern sky, we could see in the distance the steeples of St. Michael's Church, Tipperary Town also St. Mary's C of I. scraping the skyline. On the way home we noticed many meadows, some cut, more half cut with mowers left at the headland, reminding us of our mowing programme which we had planned for tomorrow.

Finally, entering Tipperary Town that evening on the final leg of our trip more cheering supporters lined the footpaths - maybe too there were some special cheers for our brave efforts with the horse and the 'back-to-back' - Our young hearts were experiencing a thrill of a lifetime - fifteen hours of travelling to and from the 1945 finals at Thurles passed into history, our journey completed with 'Charlie' and the back-to-back' a memory still to cherish in 2005!

FOOTNOTE:

Strange to relate following the great Winter snows of 1944-45 our family purchased the young three year old 'Charlie' from that great expert of experts of working horses, the late Paddy 'Doctor' Mulcahy of Pallasgreen Co. Limerick. At the end of the great horse's working life which spanned 23 years we sold him back to the same Paddy 'Doctor' Mulcahy for the same figure as he was purchase - £65!!

Is Hurling really dying?

by Ed Donnelly

I am intrigued by the talk in many quarters that hurling is dying. It's hard to pick up a newspaper in recent times without reading about this, especially when the likes of Wexford, Clare, Galway and Offaly have suffered big defeats in the past two years at various stages. Nevertheless, I would venture to say that hurling is in better shape today now than on many occasions in the history of the GAA. The 1980s were a great boost to hurling with the emergence of Galway and Offaly while the 1990s were also very good with six different counties winning an All-Ireland while Limerick, Galway and Waterford were close to making a breakthrough during this time also. However, I would ask has the period of the 1980s and 1990s where standards seemed to have levelled off been an aberration? Has the domination of the traditional counties, which was so prevalent prior to 1980, simply taken over again. As Kilkenny, Cork and Tipperary have shared the last 7 All-Ireland titles between them, it is said this is bad for hurling.

Let's take a trip back in time to the spring-time of 1980 and compare the fortunes of the nine main hurling counties with their position in the game today. Starting in Leinster, Kilkenny and Wexford were totally dominating the scene, contesting every Leinster senior hurling final in the 1970s.

Kilkenny

Coming in to the 1980 season, Kilkenny were the reigning All-Ireland champions and had won four All-Ireland titles in the 1970s. In 2005, Kilkenny can look back to three All-Ireland titles already in this decade and just missed out on an elusive three in a row in 2004. Their underage structures are very strong at present and they are up there with a chance to win every All-Ireland title since 1998. Not much has changed since 1980.

Wexford

In 1980, Wexford had not won an All-Ireland since 1968 and were struggling to get past Kilkenny every year in what was a two-horse race in Leinster. They did break through in 1976 and 1977 in Leinster but failed to Cork both times in the All-Ireland final. It would be another 19 years before they won a Leinster title. In the present day, Wexford can look back at a Leinster title from 2004 as well as other Leinster titles in 1996 and 1997, bringing home the Liam McCarthy Cup 9 years ago. They have qualified for the last four of the All-Ireland championship in three of the last five years. I think Wexford are in better shape today than they were back in 1980.

Offaly

In the spring of 1980, Offaly were seen as rank outsiders in Leinster. They had never won a Leinster hurling title and apart from running Kilkenny or Wexford close at various years, they were not seen as one of the real hurling powers. This was illustrated by the attendance of 9,000 people at the 1980 Leinster hurling final between Kilkenny and Offaly in Croke Park. Offaly won that match of course and went on to contest every Leinster

final in the 1980s, winning 4 All-Irelands between 1981 and 1998. When you look at Offaly's performance in 2005 and the way the media are lamenting the demise of the county, it is worth thinking back to where they were just 25 years ago. In spite of heavy defeats to Kilkenny and Waterford in 2005, they put Clare to the pin of their collar and should have beaten them. I would argue that given where Offaly were pre-1980, that despite Offaly's problems at present, they are in the same position today as they were 25 years ago. And so to Munster where the championships over the past 10 years have been outstanding. All of the five main counties have won a Munster title since 1996 and only Tipperary have not won more than at least one Munster title in the last 11 years. Critics talk of the great Munster championships in days gone by but in the 1970s, much of the spark had gone out of the Munster championship due to the dominance of Cork.

Cork

In 1980, Cork were looking for their 6th Munster title in a row. They had won four All-Ireland titles in the 1970s, winning three in a row from 1976 to 1978. However, but for defeats to Galway in 1975 and 1979, they could have won five in a row. The Munster championship is more competitive now but again, Cork are the dominant team of the present day, having won the last two All-Irelands. No change in Cork.

Limerick

Limerick were the under-achievers of the 1970s and not much has changed up to modern times. In 1980, Limerick had not won a Munster title since 1974, having won the All-Ireland a year earlier. A number of that team were still around and would go on to win back to back Munster titles in 1980 and 1981. In 2005, Limerick has at their disposal a lot of young talent having won three All-Ireland under-21 titles in a row from 2000 to 2002. Nevertheless, they have failed to build on this to date. Their only win in the Munster championship since 2000 has been against Waterford in 2001. I think Limerick is the only county to be in a worse position today than they were in 1980.

Clare

Coming in to 1980, Clare had recent memories of two National League titles and some close finals with Cork. However, they were unable to make the breakthrough and it was forty-eight years since their won the Munster title. In 2005, Clare were within a point of reaching the All-Ireland final and over the last 10 years, they have been very competitive, winning two All-Ireland and three Munster titles. Some of their best players will soon be retiring but I think Clare are in a much better position today than twenty-five years ago. The curse of Biddy Earley is no longer spoken of.

Waterford

Waterford hurling is certainly in a better position today than in 1980. The elusive All-Ireland title is still missing from the trophy cabinet but two Munster titles in the past four

seasons shows they are up there with the best at present. That was not the case in 1980 when they had not reached a Munster final in fourteen and had not won a Munster title in seventeen years.

Galway

So what about Galway? One would think that they were certainly stronger in 1980 than today. Not necessarily. All-Ireland final defeats in 1975 and 1979 boded well for the future but they had still gone fifty-seven years without an All-Ireland title heading in to the 1980 campaign. As we know, they went on to make the breakthrough and added two more titles in the late 1980s. In recent times, Galway has flattered to deceive with a lot of underage talent and a strong club championship. However, as they have shown in 2005, on their day they are a match for the best. Galway at present has a lot of potential – in the spring of 1980 they had a lot of potential also. There is no guarantee of course that Galway will win any All-Ireland title in the next five years but the omens are good – I think Galway hurling today is in the same state as it was in 1980. The potential may be a bit better now however.

Tipperary

I have left the Premier County until last. I hear a lot of doom and gloom stories about Tipperary hurling in the past three years. I think the standing of Tipperary hurling today needs to be put in to perspective. Think back to 1980. We had not won a championship match in seven years and would not do so for another three. No All-Ireland had been brought home in 9 years and it would be another 9 years before we would finally bring home the Liam McCarthy Cup – the so called "famine" years. Compare that to the modern day. Yes, the current team have had disappointing defeats in recent seasons but I would certainly argue that we are in a much more competitive position now than we were back in 1980. We all hope the future will be brighter.

In summary, a close-up analysis shows the fortunes of Kilkenny, Offaly, Galway and Cork are the same as in early 1980. Wexford, Tipperary, Clare and Waterford's fortunes have improved. In my opinion, only Limerick seem to have gone backwards and I am sure natives of Shannonside would argue against that assumption given the All-Ireland titles won at under-21 level in recent times.

While hurling certainly needs to improve in a number of counties at present and a lot of manpower and resources are required to do this, I think that the doomsday scenarios being touted in many quarters are way over the top. Yes, hurling is not expanding in the weaker counties but since the foundation of the GAA, hurling has been a sport played at a top level by a relatively small number of counties, especially when compared to Gaelic football. I don't remember any such outcry about hurling standards in the late 1970s. I say hurling is alive and well – what say you?



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REALISE YOUR POTENTIAL

While Football Thrives Hurling Stagnates

By: J.J. Kennedy

The health or ill health of hurling is always a topic to spark animated debate among G.A.A. followers. Is the old game dying? The prophets of doom are forever reading the last rites. It has, apparently, always been so. Back pedal to any decade since the G.A.A. was founded and you'll find somebody bemoaning the decline of hurling.

So what is the true situation? Straight up let me declare my hand. No, I don't think hurling is dying. Nor do I believe that it has lost ground over the past half century.

However - and here's the rub - it has failed miserably to expand. The biggest disappointment from the G.A.A. is that in almost a century and a quarter of existence it has failed utterly to spread the hurling gospel. Sure there have been sporadic advances by non-traditional areas, but these are regularly followed by a regression. Like coastal erosion and deposition there are cancelling gains and losses but the overall demarcation remains much the same. In short hurling is static and stagnant.

The situation is all the more regrettable when contrasted with Gaelic Football. The progress of the alternative code has been extraordinary to the point where it is now in robust health throughout the country. Look at the spread of counties that have won the All Ireland football title in the past fifteen years. It's no longer the preserve of the traditional giants such as Kerry and Dublin.

The emergence of the Northern counties has been the big story, but not the only one. Even those who have failed to make the final breakthrough have nonetheless excited the football world in a way that can only be envied by the hurling community. Whether it was Kildare, Westmeath or Laois, Sligo or Mayo, new colours and new names stirred the imagination. Wexford too came knocking at the inner door and Fermanagh enthralled the football world for a season. Even Limerick stalked the land threateningly, reminding us of their heritage as the winners of the first football All Ireland.

Through it all hurling has remained in a time warp. Sure there were days that promised a better future. Clare had everyone dreaming of expansion when they led the way with a new era. Offaly brought a new romance to the game for a brief spell also. Wexford hopped on the bandwagon too - for a year. Limerick came close to boarding as well, but just missed out; and Waterford dared to dream of ultimate glory. Even Antrim had days when hurling men took notice.

But, as we survey the scene here in late '05, where has it all led? Dare I remind you that the last seven All Ireland hurling titles have been won by the holy trinity of Cork, Kilkenny and Tipperary. The old order has been restored. The

more things change, it seems, the more they remain the same.

Sadly hurling is still a minority pursuit, given only token recognition in many counties and blatantly ignored in some. Ulster is almost a hurling-free zone. A small pocket of practitioners in Antrim have bravely challenged the status quo, but after some sporadic promise that hope now seems to be fading. Derry too made shapes, but, like in the rest of the province, football is still king there.

Connacht, minus Galway, is no better. Move to Leinster and there are huge swathes of the province that are hurling wastelands. Munster fares better, but Kerry remains stubbornly outside the fold in that province. Ultimately only about one-third of the thirty two counties address hurling seriously and there seems to be neither a will nor a way to change that mindset. But what of the third of counties who have traditionally had hurling as number one or at least on a par with football? Is the game healthy and expanding in these homelands? Is the scenario better now than twenty-five, or fifty or seventy five years ago? Let's see.

The traditional hurling scene is characterised by the dominance of Cork, Kilkenny and Tipperary, interspersed by the occasional appearance of others. It has always been thus and nothing seems to have changed. While Cork, Kilkenny and Tipperary remain the permanents, others flit in and out. In the thirties it was Limerick. Wexford and Waterford featured in the fifties. Dublin was strong in the early sixties. Galway and Offaly arrived in the eighties - Clare in the nineties.

But through it all the roll of honour remains woefully lopsided and that pattern has been endorsed in recent years. The emergence of Clare in the nineties was surely no different to the success of Limerick in the forties or Galway in the eighties. The occasional emergence of a county for a few years hardly represents a significant expansion in hurling. Through it all the hurling base remains very limited.

But forgetting about expansion into virgin territory, let's look at how healthy hurling is today in the traditional counties? There's very understandable concern about the state of the game in Leinster. Kilkenny enjoy a stranglehold. Wexford ruffle the cats now and again but that's about it. That rare title for the Slaneysiders in 1996 fits their traditional pattern, so they're not due back again for a few years. Offaly have clearly gone into decline and neither Dublin nor Laois look set to trouble anyone in the immediate future. So much for Leinster.

Munster is traditionally strong and has enjoyed an impressive fifteen years or so. But what of the immediate future? Clare had their era in the nineties and, given the age profile of their best players, will surely struggle to sustain their present position. Likewise with Waterford. Two Munster titles failed to deliver an All Ireland and, like Clare, they don't appear to have the supplementary talent to go much further. Limerick is just awakening from a nightmare of failure and our own Tipperary has slipped worryingly since 2001. (Incidentally based on the past forty years we flatter ourselves with a listing beside Cork and Kilkenny - but that's

another story). All of which leaves just Cork in prime health.

Outside Leinster and Munster there's only Galway to consider. Of all counties they present most promise for the future. There's been no All Ireland since the eighties but they were close this year and, given their underage record, should breakthrough in the years ahead. Then again they have had many false dawns.

So when you put all the jigsaw pieces together the overall picture is not so sunny. I've no doubt some county (possibly Galway?) will break the hold of Cork and Kilkenny in the years ahead. But if we judge from the past it will be a temporary interruption before the old order is once again restored.

So how can you look at hurling today and say that it is far healthier than at any stage in the past? If there is improvement it is at best very marginal. The skill level may be better, but that's a different debate. Television undoubtedly has enhanced the game and the new championship structure is also an improvement.

But what we are analysing here is twofold: has hurling expanded its base? And, secondly, how healthy is the game in the traditional strongholds? In my view very little has changed. The strong few still dominate with just the odd interruption. Can we even dream of a day when a county wins an All Ireland hurling title for the first time? The football world has had a number of first-timers in recent years.

The reasons for the non-expansion of hurling are matter for another discussion. There are real barriers to its progress, including the skill level involved. The attitude of officialdom in many counties is also a major obstacle. Breaking the barriers of tradition isn't easy and tradition decrees that hurling rules in just a few counties. So hurling is not dead but it is surely in a state of stasis. Progress, if any, is very minimal. The old game isn't spreading and the traditional areas are struggling to keep alive their previous traditions.

We might take comfort from the fact that concern about the state of hurling is not new. There's an excellent chapter on the future of hurling in Seamus King's book 'A History of Hurling', which was published in 1996. In it the author quotes from the G.A.A. Congress of 1958 when the General Secretary of the Association expressed grave concern about the state of hurling: 'It is time to stop the talk about spreading hurling and get down to the work of having it done'. That was the fifties, a decade that some sentimentalists look back upon as a golden era of hurling.

And it seems appropriate to finish this piece with another quotation from that same chapter in Seamus King's commendable publication. These were the author's conclusions when writing ten years ago. Has anything really changed since?

"The G.A.A. over a century has failed to realise Cusack's desire to 'bring back the hurling'. It succeeded in making Gaelic Football popular and widespread beyond the dreams of the founders, but the spread of hurling has never been as great".

('A History of Hurling' by Seamus J. King, 1996).

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In Tipperary Do We Dare To Dream

by Cyril Darcy.

As the All Ireland hurling final has come and gone and sad to say Tipperary made little or no impact in this year's championships, I suppose there is much to be discussed about many aspects of our game that is best left to the experts on and off the ditch. This discussion will take place over the next few months as we look forward to 2006.

The aspect that I wish to pursue was prompted by my attendance at a recent seminar entitled Dare to Dream which was organised by The Small Firms Association and it was most enjoyable for many reasons. I suppose what struck me most was that the atmosphere was so positive, the delegates were full of enthusiasm and the speakers were brilliant,

business that is now the economic engine of our Celtic Tiger Ireland who are prepared to look at the bigger picture and push out the boat to further progress.

The main point that I want to make is that if we were apply the principles and concepts that emerged at this seminar to the preparation of the Tipperary teams we would have much better results.

Among the speakers at the seminar were Minister Michael Martin, who was on a high after Cork's victory, Mark Durkin, SDLP, Grania Willis, the first Irish woman to summit Mount Everest after two serious life threatening riding accidents, Brody Sweeney, founder of O'Brien's Sandwich Bars, Cillian Fennell, producer of the recent Rip Off Republic series, and others, including Ruari Quinn TD. The main message from all the speakers was their dream and how they realised their dreams.

It was the day after the All Ireland hurling final and it was interesting how one of the speakers put his message across. As a Galway man he was sad but said that he understood how Cork



Aayush Tripathi lived the first 5 years of his life in India. When he came to Nenagh, Aayush was introduced to hurling and won Under - 12 football and hurling titles with Nenagh Eire "

cheering crowds that is what drove him all year.

What came out very strong from the day is that we all need to look at the bigger picture. We all need vision and to feel right and we need to belong. We need to tell the story that people understand that will drive them. We are in the age of meaning and dreaming, the dreaming never stops and will lead to the story that will carry you through. The story can carry you to a great adventure with each one of us accepting the challenge of the adventure or will we refuse it and be afraid. Only heroes go the further mile and choose to commit and cross the threshold of, perhaps, pain at times. In this process mentors will appear to urge us on our road of endeavour, there will be inner dragons to pull and push us but with perseverance we will get there to seize the grail and bring it home like Sean Og.

So in Tipperary when we talk about hurling and our structures are we looking at the bigger picture. We know what we want and know when we get there, but do we know how to get there. I feel that we have the material but have we the motivation which is vision and energy? Have we the pride and the commitment to travel the extra mile perhaps with huge sacrifice for the pride of the county?

And do we dare to Dream for 2006? I hope so.



Ballina Goalie Martin McKeogh makes a great save in the County Intermediate quarter final against Aherlow at Templemore

vibrant, and imaginative. I found this a big change having worked in the Public Service for over 30 years where there was so much negativity and where I was told things could not be done or things will not work. I suppose I should not have been surprised because I was now in the company of the cream of small

had won on the previous day. He told the Sean Og story of how he was interviewed on that Monday morning about Cork's win. He felt the power of the story was huge as Sean Og never mentioned hurling but instead his dream of going up the steps of Croke Park accepting the cup bringing it back to Cork to the red brigade and

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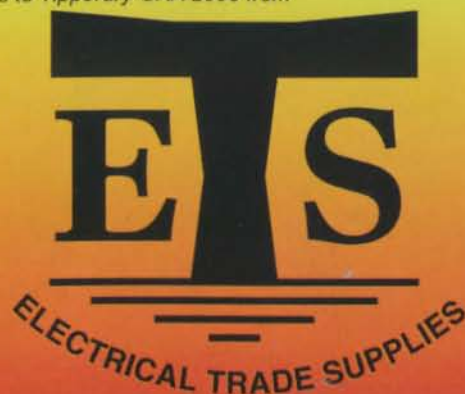
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O' To the last 50 years

by James Holohan

When selectors sit down to finalise a team they could spend considerable time mulling over it. When a player cries off there are often second thoughts and this leads to many personnel and positional changes. The week preceding a big game the supporters await with great anticipation to see to how the team is placed. When it is finally announced to the public, invariably it does not meet with universal approval. Some will say, this fella or that fella should not be selected in the chosen position while others will say "I would'nt have that so-and-so even on the panel".

The same applies when the All-Star teams are announced. With a large number of players to choose from and only fifteen places for selection, it is inevitable that everyone will not be happy. For the purpose of this exercise a panel will be chosen of Tipperary senior hurling players with the prefix O' in their surname over the last fifty years. In some of the positions there were several candidates while in other areas the competition was not so keen and, just like the All-Star selections, compromises had to be made. When choosing this team there were a number of others on the periphery but this panel has a twenty-three man stipulation.

The goalkeeping job proved to be a dilemma. The candidates were John O'Grady, Donal O'Brien, John O'Donoghue and Peter O'Sullivan. The nod goes to O'Donoghue who gave seven years unbroken service in this position. For the full back line the birth certificates with the necessary qualifications were limited. The right full back spot goes to Conor O'Donovan. In the centre is Noel O'Gorman. The left full back proved to be a difficult a choice and in the end Michael O'Meara filled the vacancy. Right half back has only one candidate Tadgh O'Connor, who had no peers and will also captain the team. In the centre we have the versatile Noel O'Dwyer. We have to go all the way back to 1961 to select the bespectacled Matt O'Gara, although recognised as a centre fielder, he has to slot in at No 7. Joe O'Dwyer was also in the running for a defensive role but most of his success came at underage level. In the vital midfield area we again had to improvise. Brian O'Meara will have to move out from his forward spot while the same applies to his partner Mark O'Leary.

As so often happens when a number of players are vying for a particular position it necessitates a reshuffle. This was also the case for this selection. The right half forward spot goes to Eamon O'Shea. For the centre forward berth, the unanimous choice is Donie O'Connell while the left half forward position goes to Ger O'Neill. The full forward line had the following candidates, Tommy O'Dwyer, Paddy & John O'Brien, Pa & Eugene O'Neill, Sean O'Meara and Ger Redser O'Grady. After lots of deliberation the following were selected: Pa O'Neill gets the No13 position. In the full forward position the temptation was to nominate Peter O'Sullivan as he sometimes played in this position for Cashel when the need arose. However, we must stick to the criteria and the position goes to Eugene O'Neill, and to complete the team at top of the left Paddy O'Brien won the vote.

This is the team to "start":

	John O'Donoghue Arravale Rovers	
Conor O'Donovan Nenagh/Eire Og	Noel O'Gorman Newport	Micheal O'Meara Toomevara
Tadgh O'Connor Roscrea	Noel O'Dwyer Borrisoleigh	Matt O'Gara Toomevara
Brian O'Meara Mullinahone		Mark O'Leary Kilruane
Eamon O'Shea Kilruane	Donie O'Connell Killenaule	Pa O'Neill Cappawhite
Ger O'Neill Cappawhite	Eugene O'Neill Cappawhite	Paddy O'Brien Toomevara



Silverware won by Kildangan GAA Club in 2004 season at the home of North Board Treasurer, Catherine Gleeson and her family in Johnston. Pictured, (L-R) - Rodger, Eanna, Ruairi, Eoin and Catherine

SUBS: John O'Grady (Moycarkey/Borris), Donal O'Brien (Knockavilla Kickhams), Peter O'Sullivan (Cashel King Cormacs), Joe O'Dwyer (Killenaule), Tommy O'Dwyer (Borrisoleigh), Sean O'Meara (Lorrha), Ger O'Grady (Thurles Sarsfields), John O'Brien (Toomevara) and Pat O'Neill (Cappawhite).

COACH: Michael O'Grady

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Jimmy Purcell, Semple Stadium, and More

VINCENT HOGAN

The Devil's Bit looms like a bust mouth in the distance, leering with derision. Jimmy Purcell politely buries his head in a match programme. Around him, Semple Stadium is bedraggled and quiet. Some crows clatter unsteadily across the roof of the Kinnane Stand and, from the town, there's a trickle of cheers. But the game is finished three hours now.

Purcell, the renowned Thurles caretaker and groundsman, is waiting to lock the place. Waiting for TimeOut to secrete a column. "Sorry about this Jimmy" we murmur, bent gravely across the lap-top, like a scholar slumped over sacred texts. "You've great patience."

It's past eight when he finally sees us off the premises with a cheery wave, no doubt thanking his stars for the early throw-in. Just another mental block endured in the Fourth Estate. And another spoiled tea for Jimmy.

Two hours later, we turn the key to a snorting collie and a wife and four children for whom the heroics of Cork and Waterford hurlers are about as compelling as an exploration of the tar compound used in Tibetan mountain roads. They barely nod. "Can you put out the bin while you're up?" a disengaged voice ponders.

We feel like screaming. Sportswriters are for life, not Christmas. They have feelings (albeit usually numbness).

There's an illusion about, that this gig is second only to 'Celebrity Love Island' for decadent pleasure. A typical day? Wake at ten. Champagne breakfast. Stroll the estate with private PR guru, Abi Titmus. Sign lucrative book deal. Have lunch with subject. Tiger pays. Three-hour siesta. Wake to inspect ten prospective columns written by staff. Pick best and sign. Dinner on terrace. Halle gets tipsy. Retire for evening.

A real day? Take Saturday. Fearful of Limerick bottle-neck, leave home at lunchtime after conciliatory morning spent in garden centre. Park just off Ennis Road two and three quarter hours before throw-in. Eat filling station sandwich. Lettuce and drizzled sliver of ham. Drink water. Raspberry tint. Do crossword.

Tune in and out of RTE's 'Saturday Sport'. FA Cup final goes to penalties. Breathe the tension. Lehmann saves from Scholes. Can visualise Fergie's burst capillaries. John Kenny says we'll leave Cardiff to check in with Carton House. Thump the steering wheel. Gary Moran is whispering to me. Feel murderous. Suddenly, we are back at the Millennium Stadium. Miraculous editing. We hear the roar as Ljungberg scores. And on it goes... Arsenal should be wearing balaclavas.

At ten to six, we present ourselves (with ticket) - as directed - at stile nine of the Gaelic Grounds. There's a bit of a commotion. Stile nine is closed. As are stiles ten, eleven, twelve and so on. A guy on a loud hailer is telling people to clear off. Or words to that effect. He says the stand is full.

We flourish accreditation, but we might as well be waving a plumed hat. "Don't care what you have, YOU'RE LATE" an official declares, 35 minutes before the appointed throw-in time. The queue grows. Some of the best-known sports photographers are in it. Assorted writers too. Luminaries even. Nicky English is seen, smiling serenely, at the rear. It's teeming rain.

A uniformed Garda bellows for someone to open a stile. No-one listens. He throws his eyes to the sullen Heavens. Little happens until the low, reassuring contours of Marty Morrissey materialise. Marty gets on his mobile. People hug and cheer. In an eye-flutter, Jimmy Hartigan, parts the metal sea and we are spilling



Captain Thomas Dunne and caretaker of Semple Stadium, Jimmy Purcell, with the McCarthy Cup prior to the GOAL challenge game against Clare at Semple Stadium in 2001.

forward. It's twenty past six in Limerick.

The game proves raw and epic and is played in such a gloom that it feels like the press-box might as well be perched somewhere on the tumbled hills of the Silvermines. We squint and agree that this is a night for consensus calls. It goes to extra-time. The Sunday scribes curse. The dailies snigger. Tipp hold on.

Down we pour into the dressing-room tunnel, where the only accreditation required is a desire to be there. We are like bread in a toaster here. Trapped and getting hot. Ken Hogan emerges quickly and speaks with trademark openness. Joe McKenna takes time to gather himself. When he finally appears, he is barely into his first sentence when four kids go squealing through our legs, like urchins in Victorian London.

The short arm is now easing towards ten when we get to the car. A brainwave. Try to navigate a back route to Dooradoyle. Skitter blindly down side-streets for ten minutes and, finally, arrive upon a stream of brake lights. Come to a dead stop. Stay at one. Abandon brainwave. Double back to the Ennis Road and join the crawl up, past Thomond.

It's twenty past ten by the time we get to Castletroy. Traffic is moving. Thurles is tomorrow. Semple Stadium. Justin. Sean Og. Mullane. Big Corcoran. Jimmy Purcell. The beat of a championship summer. All feels right in the world. Make a mental note to bring Abi to the Munster final.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: If Leitrim can do it, who not Liverpool?

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MICHAEL WEBSTER

DAMIAN LAWLOR GAA Correspondent The Irish Daily Star

IT WAS 2004 - Michael Webster was 26 and had never played at any level for Tipperary before.

Then out of the blue, came a call up to the county senior football side and debut years have seldom been as controversial. Webster soon found himself in an impossible position as Andy Shorthall's side pulled out of the championship qualifier against Fermanagh, as he and the rest of the Loughmore contingent were made to play a club hurling match just days before the county football game.

Tipp withdrew wholesale from the championship and Webster got a quick taste of GAA politics.

But he had made strides and the electrician was just determined to keep focused on sparking his football and hurling career - he had little or no interest in board-room policies. "I had made a pledge to myself around the age of 25," he said, "that I would lift my game in terms of training and working on my own to see if I could make the step up."

"Some nights I would hit the gym five times a week just to get to a level where other lads were at, I always needed to work harder than others because I didn't have that pedigree at underage level."

"I had never played for the county before and lads were sort of always telling me that I would have to get a chance but it never came. "There was more talk that I would get a go under Michael Doyle with the hurling team but that never came to pass either so it was make or break for me in 2004."

"I had been doing well enough with the club hurling and football teams and it was just down to me to see if I could make the leap up." When the call came to return to the senior football side at the start of 2005, it was certain that Webster would be going back as captain after his club's Tipp SFC win the winter before.

But fate intervened and instead, he took advantage of an unexpected call-up from Ken Hogan to join the county senior hurling team. Very few from outside Mid-Tipperary had even heard of him and during the league, not many supporters warmed to him immediately. He was tall and lanky, it appeared that he had great hands but very few were convinced of his hurling ability. There were even some cat-calls when he missed scoring chances like an open goal against Clare in the early stages of the league, it could be said that Webster was the Peter Crouch of hurling but the man himself ignored it all.

"Well, my first start against Down was a shaky one," he admitted. "We didn't do too well at all and there were a few nerves near the end. "But I knew that Ken, in fairness to him, had me in mind for the long haul and he was not going to get swayed by people if I had one or

two bad games in the League," Webster recalled.

"Sure, I know what some people were saying or thinking about me and I must admit that playing hurling for Tipp changed my life a little, in that people always had a remark for you if they passed on the street, but there was a big feel-good factor at the end of the day and that saw me through." There may have been cat-calls during the league but by the end of the championship, the only shouts to Webster were for an encore.

He ended the campaign with an All-Star nomination and a place on the Munster Railway Cup team.

Along the way, he destroyed Brian Lohan in a manner that few full forwards before him ever achieved and that day in Limerick, he attained a cult following from the terraces with his 'in your face' duel with the Clare legend.



After that game, he gave an interview to the media which showed a confident young man reveling in a tussle with one of the game's all-time greats and living to tell the tale. And by God, did he enjoy it!

"Ah, we had a fair bit of a chat between the two of us alright," he laughed.

"But you will always get that in games."

"That was a big day for me, I suppose, marking him but I just tried to get to the first few balls and see could I make an impact."

"During the league, I had only sort of got to know Lohan as a hurler and the same goes for Diarmuid O'Sullivan from Cork as well."

"This was the real thing. When the first few balls came into me, I started to do OK and then I knew I could handle the day."

"It worked out great for me, I did fine and set one or two scores up as well."

In fact, he had a hand in 2-5 of Tipp's tally that afternoon and went onto play well against Cork in the Munster final, causing huge trouble for O'Sullivan in the process,



Michael Webster receiving Player of the Year Award from Johnny Doyle, Chairman

especially in the second half.

Against Galway, Webster was simply on fire and Shane Cavanagh had to be moved from full back to centre back after only 20 minutes. While Tony Og Regan coped better with Webster, it was clear in the second half that the supply of ball going into him had been cut off.

And Tipp suffered as a result. After they trooped off to a dismal beating, it was clear to all and sundry that the big Loughmore man had become Tipp's central component of their game - plan - even Eoin Kelly opted to pass to him at one stage, rather than going for his own score.

It was quite a turnaround from the player who had started the league and Webster could yet prove to be Ken Hogan's greatest legacy.

"Ah yeah, but I'll never forget the heartbreak in the Tipp dressing room after that Galway game," he sighs.

"And at the end of the day, we won nothing and I suppose the players would be aware that we have lost games in the recent past that we could have won."

"I still only feel that it's a small thing holding us back and I would be very sure that this team could win an All-Ireland medal."

"Hopefully that will change this year and if I get a call from Babs, I will be waiting."

"This was a great season for me. To get an All Star nomination was brilliant as well because my father got one in the past for football but it will be better if we can get silverware next year, if I'm involved."

There seems little doubt that he will be in the thick of it and Babs could possibly turn this chap into the new Cormac Bonnar.

He certainly has all the ingredients - the heart of a lion, a great paw, plenty of confidence and an ability to bring others into the game."

"Well, the ball alley is a place I have visited for the past year or two and that's where my hurling will develop as well, please God," the affable Webster said.

The ball alley, the gym and the roads around Loughmore - these are the places where a young man graduated from his club after years of trying and developed into one of the finest players in the county.

If there was silverware on the table this Christmas, Spielberg would surely have come to town.

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Liam Sheedy Tipperary MH Manager



*Minor Hurling Selectors
L/R: Noel Russell, Martin Gleeson Gerry Maguire*



Tipperary U 21 Hurling Team 2005 Munster Finalists

Front L/R: Gerry Kennedy, Shane McGrath, Wayne Cully, Conor O'Brien, Patrick McCormack, Jonathan O'Dwyer, Brendan Hanley, Pat Shortt, Richie Ruth, Trevor Ivors.

Back L/R: Martin Treacy, Michael Bergin, Paul Collins, Francis Devanney, Tommy Collins, Ryan O'Dwyer, Tony Scroope, Tommy Fitzgerald, Niall Teehan, Darragh Egan, Conor O'Mahony, Willie Ryan, Dara Hickey, Danny O'Hanlon, Paddy Stapleton.



Tipperary Minor Hurling Team 2005

Front L/R: Jody Ryan, Pa Joe Troy, David Patterson, Kieran McGrath, Joey McLoughney, Brendan Maher, Gearoid Ryan, Michael Heelan, Paudie Hayes, John Ryan.

Middle Row L/R: Brian Moran, Danny Hanlon, Thomas Stapleton, Niall Bergin, Pa Bourke, Timmy Dalton, Martin Walsh.

Back L/R: Phillip Ivors, Kevin Lanigan, Ray McLoughney, Eddie Costelloe, Matthew Ryan, Sean Fitzgerald, Kieran Reade, Paul Fitzgerald, James Heffernan, Eric Woodlock.

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FR. SEAMUS GARDINER RETIRES AFTER 27 YEARS.

by Gerry Slevin

A twenty-seven year link with the Munster Council ended appropriately on February 25th of this year. Appropriate because it was on February 25th 1978 that FR SEAMUS GARDINER became the first public relations officer for any provincial council.

The Borrisokane native first entered the council in 1973 as the representative of the colleges' council on that august body. Thirty years earlier his father, Seamus, had been elected GAA President, having earlier represented his adopted county of Tipperary – he hailed from Lisdoonvarna – on Munster Council before being elected vice chairman and then chairman.

Fr Seamus was, therefore, returning to a scene, which his late father had graced so well, and he in turn would embark on a lengthy and productive period that really began in 1974 when the GAA had set up its first Communications Committee in Croke Park. Fr Seamus represented Munster Council on it and in 1976 he became its chairman.

Throughout the '70s and up to his appointment as PRO he had been very much involved in the production and development of match programmes for provincial finals, taking them to an unprecedented level of excellence in terms of content and quality. As the Association became more

image-conscious it was no surprise that the number of officers on the council



The final address by Fr. Seamus Gardiner to Munster Convention in Killarney last February where he retired as P.R.O. of the Council.

should be extended to include that of PRO. Fr Seamus was seen as the ideal appointee and in the West County Hotel, Ennis, just a short distance from where he was teaching in St Flannan's College, he was elected PRO in 1978. Strangely though, it took many years for the position of provincial council PRO to be officially recognised and placed on a par with all other positions of authority.

Only in comparatively recent years has the post been recognised as to allow the holder to have a vote.

Meanwhile, Fr Seamus continued to do tremendous work in dealing with all aspects of the position, his enthusiasm for the job and the rapport he had built up with the sports media, so vital in laying the groundwork for others to follow in other provinces.

But of course Fr Seamus Gardiner's work for the GAA at administrative level has not been confined to public relations. As a member of Clare County Board for several years he was both PRO and Youth Officer and he also chaired the national Coiste na nOg committee and the Referees committee – both in Croke Park. He continues as spokesmen for the Referees Committee. In 1986 he chaired the committee that produced the Munster GAA Story, which was later updated to mark the Council's centenary in 2001.

Ordained in Maynooth in 1961 Fr Seamus spent a short time on loan as a member of the teaching staff at St Joseph's College, Ballinasloe before being recalled to Killaloe diocese and his appointment to the staff at St Flannan's College, where he would remain until 1990, ending a very long period there, as President.

Jerusalem then called for a year where he studied Scripture following which he was appointed PP in Roscrea, moving to Portroe in 1998 where he continues to minister.

In his own hurling days, which of necessity had to end when he was ordained, he won a Harty Cup medal with St Flannan's in 1954, a team that included his great friend and fellow Munster Council official, Donie Nealon, who stepped down as secretary in 2004, having been elected just a few months before Fr Seamus' own election. He also hurled in all grades with Borrisokane and he formed a very successful partnership with Bishop Willie Walsh in coaching several St Flannan's teams to provincial and All Ireland honours.

Tributes paid to Fr Seamus when he stepped down at the convention in Killarney in February, showed the regard there was for the man and for the manner in which he had exercised his duties over such a long time. He indeed set a benchmark that that all pretenders to the position of PRO at whatever level would do well to emulate.



Loughmore Castle, formerly the home of the Purcells, who were great promoters of hurling in the 18th Century. Like other landlords from the period they organised hurling teams from among their tenants and played for substantial wagers. The period is known as the Golden Age of Hurling. There is a mound in a field adjacent to the castle which, archaeologists claim, is artificial. The explanation given for it is that it was constructed by the Purcells to facilitate viewing of the games. The picture was taken by John Cash of Golden Photography.

TIPPERARY SUPPORTERS CLUB TWENTY YEARS IN EXISTENCE

By Gerry Ryan, PRO

The Tipperary Supporters Club has become part of Tipperary's GAA Story. It's a nice recognition of what the club has contributed to Tipperary hurling.

In the latest history of Tipp GAA covering the years from 1985 to 2004 a chapter chronicles the Supporters Club from its inception in 1986 to date.

The chapter recalled that initially Supporters Clubs were regarded with much suspicion in the GAA. At the AGM of the Supporters Club in 1992, Tommy Barrett the former long serving County Board Secretary said 'The concept of a Supporters Club was a strange phenomenon. The GAA is conservative; so am I. Rumours in other counties had not helped the image of Supporters Clubs but I am happy in Tipperary's case. The money has been spent wisely.'

Our 10th AGM back in 1997 was described as a milestone in our progress by our then chairman, John English. He recalled how a small number of people spearheaded by Babs Keating got together ten years previously to launch a new concept.

John recalled how he had been involved in one way or another over those initial ten years. He said in his chairman's address: 'I have been

privileged to work with a great committee. I think of such names as Kieran O'Meara, chairman before me, and before him George Kinane, first chairman and others such as John McGrath, Michael Berkery, John Lynch, Jim Buckley, Michael Maher, Louis Fitzgerald, Michael Riordan and many others who gave of their time to push and drive the Supporters Club.'

Our 13th AGM held in February 2000 was noteworthy for the fact that it marked the awarding of honorary life membership to Tommy Barrett. It marked the occasion of Tommy retiring as County Secretary after 37 years. A special presentation was made to Tommy on behalf of the Supporters Club by Babs Keating and they both recounted in humorous speeches the ups and downs of their relationship since the beginning of the



JC Ryan Chairman of Tipperary Bord na nOg presenting members of the Tipperary U/16 Football Panel with Polo Shirts sponsored by Tipperary Supporters Club

Supporters Club, which was also the beginning of Babs first managerial role with Tipperary. At our next AGM in 2001 honorary life membership was bestowed on Babs, the man who began it all back in 1986 in the Royal Hotel, Tipperary Town then owned by Andy Lacey, himself a founder committee member. Andy is still as active today 20 years later.

There are five officers and a committee who are elected annually at AGM.

The first chairman was George Kinane from Borrisoleigh and his successors were Kieran O'Meara, (Nenagh), John English, (Annacathy), Louis Fitzgerald, (Cappawhite), Denis Finn (Hollycross) and our current chairman Ger Ryan from Templederry.

Secretaries have been Denis O'Connor (Nenagh), John English, Conor Davitt (Cashel), Denis Finn, Ger Ryan, James O'Hanrahan (Tipp Town) and Pat Creed of Burncourt, our current Secretary.

The treasurer of the County Board is automatically treasurer of the Supporters Club. The Administrative role of Assistant Treasurer has been held by Don O'Mahony (Dundrum), Conor Davitt, Brendan Sheridan (Boherlahan), Ger Ryan and currently by James O'Hanrahan. Membership Officer & PRO is Gerry Ryan from Templederry who has been such since this was established as an officer position in 1998.



Polo shirts sponsored by Tipperary Supporters Club being presented to Tipperary U/16 Hurling Panel. Picture L to R Tom Kennedy (Coach Tipperary U/16 Team), Donie Shanahan (County Tipperary Board Chairman), Pdraig Maher (Tipperary U/16 Panel), JC Ryan (Chairman County Tipperary Bord na nOg).

The current committee of the club is John Coman, James Donovan, Andy Ellard, John English, Nicholas English, Denis Finn, Matt Gleeson, Andy Lacey, Tom Maxwell, Martin McKeogh, Jerry Moynihan, Ailbe O'Connell, John Ryan, Noel Ryan, Don O'Mahony, Kieran O'Meara, Simon Ryan, Joe Tuohy and Frank Ward.

The Supporters Club has grown over the past 20 years and it has now contributed nearly €1.5 million to Tipperary hurling. We look forward now with optimism to the year ahead as Babs once again returns to the helm in Tipperary.

The national press has said he is risking his reputation of past achievements by doing so. I would be of the opinion that Babs decision to return only enhances his wonderful reputation still further.

I would also say its a wonderful and most praiseworthy decision on behalf of the county board.

Tipperary now need a leader and the county board have appointed a man with proven leadership qualities.

He has the charisma and the intelligence as well as the ruthlessness to make tough decisions and to stand by them.

His previous record as Tipperary manager is worth remembering. Tipperary played 26 championship games won 17 lost only 6 and we had 3 draws.

I suppose we will never forget Killarney in 1987 when Tipperary regained the Munster crown after a lapse of 16 years and Richard Stakelum proclaimed 'The famine is over'. It is too well I remember that 'famine' and more especially the 10 years between '73 and '83 when Tipperary failed to win one single championship game.

The return of Babs has our county on a high again with expectation and within the Supporters Club there is a rejuvenated spirit to put the resources behind Babs, his fellow selectors Tom Barry and John Leahy. The source of support which is available to every Tipp fan is to become a member of the Supporters Club and we are now making available a special Tipperary Supporters golf cap, which will be unique and hugely popular.



Denis Floyd Chairman of the Coaching and Games Development Committee presenting members of the Tipperary U/16 Football Panel with tops sponsored by Tipperary Coaching and Games Development Committee.

SEAMUS McCARTHY

by Micheal O'Meara

Born in Bansha in 1954 and educated in the local National School and the Abbey C.B.S. in Tipperary, it was only natural that Seamus McCarthy would become involved in the GAA from his early years as his grandfather was a founder member of the Galtee Rovers club, whilst his late father Eddie was a long time player, secretary and administrator of that club. It is a matter of pride to the McCarthy clan that members of the family have played leading roles in all of the five county senior football championships won by Galtee Rovers, Eddie having played in the first two successful sides whilst Seamus and his brothers Michael and Eamonn all played on the three other winning teams.

His family apart, Seamus acknowledges the inspiration and influence that men like John Moloney, Jim O'Connor, Larry Quinn, Jim Byron and Mattie Nugent have had on his career. Seamus has special memories of the club's county under-21 success of 1975 and of his first appearance on the county senior football team, when he replaced the injured 'Babs' Keating in the Munster championship tie against Clare in 1974. Having given great service to the county as a player and being always interested in coaching he became involved with the county minor team in 1982. The minors were defeated by Cork in the Munster final of 1983 but went on to score a never to be forgotten success over Kerry in the Munster final of 1984 before losing to Dublin in the All-Ireland final. Graduating to the under 21 grade, Seamus remembers the ill luck which dogged the teams of 1985, 1986 and 1987 which lost all three Munster finals by a single point to teams that all went on to win the All Ireland.

His transfer to the Mallow branch of the Bank of Ireland ruled him out of the inter-county scene for a few years before he returned as senior manager in 1992. He recalls the Munster final of 1993 as a great occasion and has divided memories of the county's tremendous performance in the final of '94 the year of the 'Foley affair'. Seamus was again manager when the All Ireland 'B' title was won in 1996 whilst the success of the county's junior side, which he also managed, in the All-Ireland final of 1998 also holds special memories.

Among the many honours bestowed on him throughout his career were the Tipp Person of the Year Award in 1984, his selection on the West Tipperary Team of the Millennium, a Manager of the

Month Award in 1984, Munster Council Manager of the Year, 1998, a Canon Hayes Award, and two Cidona awards as Player of the Year for 1981 and in later years as Sports Executive. His most recent achievement is, of course, his return to Tipperary football management in 2005 and his masterminding of the county's success in the Tommy Murphy Cup.

M.O'M. - Of all your successes with Tipperary football teams which one gave you most satisfaction?

S.McC. - I would find it very hard to split the Munster minor final win of 1984, the junior All-Ireland of 1998 and the Tommy Murphy Cup success not forgetting the Munster senior final appearances. Each of the three victories had their own significance but all the elements conspired to make the Tommy Murphy Cup win special - the Croke Park setting, the huge crowd, the TV coverage etc. all enhanced our victory.

M.O'M. - How difficult was it for you to take over as manager of the team following the failure to field against Fermanagh in 2004?

S.McC. - I felt at the time that I had my time done in the position and I saw my future in the underage sector but circumstances and pressure from colleagues persuaded me. In the end it was not a difficult decision, as I confess to having an incredible loyalty to the county.

M.O'M. - How do you now see Tipperary's football future and how long do you intend to remain as manager?

S.McC. - My long term plans have not changed. As regards the team the ambition now must be to go forward. We must not forget that we failed to win a game in last year's league. Our plan and ambition must be to win the Munster championship but with young players now coming on board they must first be exposed to the National League and McGrath Cup games. I would not wish to raise expectations to an inaccessible level but we are always capable of producing top players and we must always be optimistic.

M.O'M. - Do you think that the provincial championships are at risk and how close do you think we are to an open draw for the All-Ireland?

S.McC. - Lots of factors such as sponsorship etc. can affect the future but I am a traditionalist and I feel that there is a special air of romance about the Munster championship. However, it may well be that the day will come when the provincial and All Ireland championships will be separate.

M.O'M. - Your views on the dual inter-

county player?

S.McC. - The dual inter-county player can only be successful with the cooperation of the two management teams and the player. I see no issue at underage level.

To be a dual player today requires a lot of courage from the player and a lot of cooperation and flexibility with managements. I feel strongly, however, that no player should be told what to play or what not to play. That decision should be solely for the player to make.

M.O'M. - How do you rate Tipperary club football at present?

S.McC. - The standard has certainly gone down perhaps for the reason that society and priorities have changed. Personal preparation for games has also changed and I feel that in other counties clubs and players train harder. We are still producing class players, however, and Peter Lambert and Declan Browne are recent examples of what can be done. Professional thinking and preparation is also a necessity.

M.O'M. - Is the increase in inter-county activity having an adverse affect on the clubs?

S.McC. - Yes club championships are being held up because of inter-county games. We should try to finish the inter-county schedule a month earlier to assist the clubs and free Sundays should be ruled out.

M.O'M. - Are you satisfied with the level of support for football in Tipperary?

S.McC. - There is a hardcore of support for football and a lot of good will in the county towards the game. There needs to be an incentive for the public to come on board however and in this regard the team has a responsibility to perform to the best of their ability and give value to patrons. I have always found support for the team to be good even in unlikely areas.

M.O'M. - Your views on the Compromise Rule series?

S.McC. - Everyone likes to have an avenue to international participation but what we saw recently in the second game in Australia was a disgrace. It showcased almost everything that we are trying to eliminate from our games. I feel that there is a bigger issue here than the presentation of the cup. If we are seen to be promoting that type of carry-on away, and outlawing it at home there is no consistency. I am not sure about the future of the series and I would not look forward to a future continuation of what was seen in the last game.

All the best to Tipperary GAA in 2006

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New York New York



Captains Declan Browne, Tipperary SF team and Bonny Kennedy New York SH team with their trophies in New New York after their victories (both were team mates on the County Minor Hurling side of 1996), seen here with John Madden Lorrha.



The Dream Team in New York with the Tommy Murphy Cup and The Diaspora Perpetual Trophy, left to right, John Owens, Jim Healy, Declan Browne Captain, Seamus McCarthy Manager and Colm O'Flaherty.



Killenaule native Ambrose O'Connell with Noel Hickey, Gortnahoe incoming Treasurer of Tipperarymen's Association and Liam Gleeson Sean Treacys at the Football game in New York.



Included are, Michael Kennedy (Toomevara) selector and Donncha O'Dwyer (Borrisoleigh) selector at front and Theresa Crowe at back with Tipperary Hurlers, including: Tom Foy Loughmore/C, Bonny Kennedy Clonoulty/R Captain, Tomas O'Meara Toomevara, Tom Moylan Newport, David Loughnane Roscrea, Michael Maher Roscrea, John Madden Lorrha and Kevin Kennedy Toomevara with some New York Tippers and Tadhg Healy, Cork.



New York SH Captain Bonny Kennedy (Clonoulty Rossmore) after receiving the Eddie Burke Cup from Nicky Brennan President Elect GAA, on right, and on left is Liam Mulvihill, also in the centre is Theresa Crowe (Thurles).



Johnny Murphy, (Cashel) incoming President of the Tipperary Association in New York makes a presentation to Seamus McCarthy.



L/R: Johnny Murphy Cashel, Sean O'Dwyer Golden, Terry Byrnes Lattin, Seamus McCarthy Bansha, Eoin O'Sullivan Bansha.



A group at the Tipperarymens N.&B.A. reception for the victorious Tipperary Football Team in New York. L/R: Donal Shanahan, Seamus McCarthy, Declan Browne, John Madden, Michael Kennedy, Larry McCarthy secretary New York Board and Noel Morris Vice Chairman Tipperary Football Board.



The Roscrea boys in New York with County Chairman Donal Shanahan, L/R: Eddie Hogan, Keith Lynch, Willie Moloney and Joe Grace of the Silvermines.



The West's awake in New York with former Tipperary footballer Eoin O'Sullivan, Galtee Rovers with Seamus McCarthy and former Tipperary star goalkeeper Donal O'Brien, Kickhams on right.



Front L/R: John Owens, Colm O'Flaherty, Sean Collum, Benny Hahessy, Damien O'Brien, Brian Mulvihill, Niall Sheehan, Declan Browne, Aidan Foley, Niall Curran, Paddy Flaherty, Paul Cahill, Jim Healy, Michael Lynagh.
Back L/R: Liam England, Fergal O'Callaghan, Eamon Hanrahan, Niall Fitzgerald, Brian Lacey, Aidan Fitzgerald, Paul Fitzgerald, Kevin Mulryan, Benny Hickey, Cian Maher, Robbie Costigan, Stephen Murphy, Peter King, Brian Enright, Seamus McCarthy.

The Guardian

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TIPPERARY FOOTBALL 2005

By Jonathan Cullen

Convention :

This year's convention took place on Tuesday 14th December in the Anner Hotel Thurles and was very well attended with the total number of delegates being 181.

It saw the end of an era with the retirement of Michael Frawley as chairman and Hugh Kennedy as P.R.O. In his last address as chairman Michael thanked everyone that was associated with the Football Board during his six year tenure and he paid a personal tribute to Hugh Kennedy to whom he referred to as "Mr Football". There were many glowing tributes paid to Michael and among those who spoke was Emily club chair person, Antoinette Cunningham, who spoke of Michael's very strong commitment to his club through the years. Others to pay tribute were Larry O'Connor (Thurles Sarsfields), Michael Power (Munster Council Rep), Mick Burns (Lattin - Cullen) and The Friends of Tipperary Football.

Following two votes Pete Savage was elected as the new chairman and Jonathan Cullen was elected to the position of P.R.O. Noel Morris (Borrisokane) was elected unopposed to the position of vice-chairman, while Eddie Lonergan was also re-elected as secretary. The five members of the management committee will be announced at a later date.

National League & McGrath Cup

Activities commenced on January 16th when we played Kerry in Clonmel in the McGrath Cup. Tipperary emerged victorious on a score of 1 - 10 to 0 - 08.

Tipperary lined out as follows:

Brian Enright, Damien Byrne, Niall Curran, Peter King, Pa Morrissey, Niall Fitzgearld, Robbie Costigan, Kevin Mulryan, Eamon Hanrahan, Aidan Fitzgearld, Fergal O Callaghan, Paul Cahill, John Shanahan, Declan Browne, Damien O'Brien.

Subs: Liam England For Damien O'Brien, Sean Collum For Niall Fitzgearld

Benny Hahessy For Robbie Costigan, Tony Doyle For Paul Cahill.

Tipperary's next game was once again in the McGrath Cup where this time they played C.I.T again in Clonmel but unfortunately were well beaten on a score line of 0-05 to 1-10

Tipperary lined out as follows:

Brian Enright, Damien Byrne, Niall Curran, Peter King, Pa Morrissey, Robbie Costigan, Benny Hahessy, Kevin Mulryan, Eamon Hanrahan, Aidan Fitzgearld, Liam England, Paul Cahill, John Shanahan, Fergal O Callaghan, Damien O'Brien.

Subs: Padraig Foley For John Shanahan, Michael Webster For Damien O'Brien

Tony Doyle For Liam England, Sean Collum For Fergal O Callaghan.

National League:

Unlike 2004 when Tipperary picked up 9 points out of 14, the National League campaign of 2005 proved very unsuccessful, with no points to show when all the group games were played. This been said Tipperary did play some good football but the overall fitness of the players meant that they begun to tire in the final quarter of each game allowing the opposition to take the imitative and forge victories over Tipperary.

The results were as follows:

06/02/05	Cavan	Ardfinnan	0-05/1-10
13/02/05	Waterford	Dungarvan	0-04/0-06
06/03/05	Meath	Clonmel	1-07/0-14
13/03/05	Louth	Drogheda	1-09/1-15
20/03/05	Wicklow	Aughrim	1-06/0-11
26/03/05	Antrim	Clonmel	1-07/1-18
03/04/04	Derry	Ballinascreen	0-02/1-26

Tipperary lined out as follows in each game:

	Cavan	Waterford	Meath	Louth	Wicklow	Antrim	Derry
Brian Enright	1	1					
Benny Hahessy	7	7					
Niall Curran	3	3	3	3		3	3
Peter King	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Damien Byrne	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Robbie Costigan		6	6		5	7	7
Liam England		11					
Kevin Mulryan	8	12	14	14	11	14	11
Declan Browne	14	14	15	15			
Pa Morrissey	5	5	5	5		5	5
Ian Barnes	13	13					13
Aidan Fitzgearld	10	10					
Damian O'Brien							15
Niall Kelly					3		
Glen Burke	11	15	10	10	10	10	
David Byrne			13	13	13	13	
Paul Fitzgearld			1	1	1	1	1
Paul Cahill	12		12	12	15	15	
John Shanahan	15					11	10
Brian Lacey		8	6	6	6	6	6
Cian Maher			7	7	7		
Paul O'Mahoney							
Eamon Hanrahan	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Niall Fitzgearld							8
Fergal O'Callaghan			8	8	8	8	
Padraig Foley			11	11	12		12
Benny Hickey					14		
Stephen Murphy						12	14

Subs V Cavan:

Brian Lacey for Kevin Mulryan, Liam England for John Shanahan, Paddy O'Flaherty for Pa Morrissey, Sean Collum for Peter King, Niall Kelly for Niall Curran

Subs V Waterford:

Michael Webster for Robbie Costigan, Padraig Foley for Aidan Fitzgearld, Benny Hickey for Glen Bourke, Paddy O Flaherty for Liam England

Subs V Meath:

Kevin Mulryan for Eamon Hanrahan, Benny Hahessy for Niall Curran, Sean Collum for Brian Lacey, Benny Hickey for David Byrne, Paddy O Flaherty for Benny Hahessy, John Shanahan for Padraig Foley

Subs V Louth:

Benny Hickey for Declan Browne, Niall Fitzgearld for Fergal O Callaghan, Ian Barnes for David Byrne, John Shanahan for Padraig Foley, Niall Kelly for Niall Curran

Subs V Wicklow:

Stephen Murphy for Padraig Foley, Sean Collum for Niall Fitzgearld, Ian Barnes for Kevin Mulryan

Subs V Antrim:

Ian Browne for Paul Fitzgearld, Benny Hahessy for Niall Kelly, Liam England for David Byrne, Padraig Foley for Niall Fitzgearld, Sean Collum for Liam England, Paddy O Flaherty for Pa Morrissey, Damian O'Brien for Paddy O Flaherty

Subs V Derry:

Mark Peters for Niall Fitzgearld, Hugh Coughlan for Ian Barnes, Paul

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Brennan for John Shanahan, Michael Lynagh for Damian O'Brien
The scorers in each League game were as follows:

	Cavan	Waterford	Meath	Louth	Wicklow	Antrim	Derry
Declan Browne	0-02	0-01	0-03	0-01			
Aidan Fitzgerald							
Benny Hickey				0-02	1-01		
Padraigh Foley				0-01			
Kevin Mulryan						0-01	0-01
Eamon Hanrahan							
Paul Cahill				0-02	0-01	0-01	
Kevin Mulryan							
Glen Burke	0-01			0-02		0-04	
Ian Barnes	0-01	0-01	1-02				0-01
Niall Fitzgerald					0-01	0-01	0-01
Fergal O'Callaghan				0-02			
Brian Lacey		0-02		0-01			
Damien Byrne	0-01				0-01		
David ByrneCurran				0-01	0-01	0-01	
Niall Curran							

Templemore Jewellers Face In The Crowd:

This year a new initiative was launched in association with Templemore Jewellers to try and encourage more supporters to come along and support Tipperary senior footballers in their home games. For each of the games there was a very attractive his or hers watch up for grabs. During each game our photographer would cast his lens through the attendance and whoever's picture was published in the local papers the following week would receive the prize. All the watches were presented to the winners in Hayes Hotel after the final game in the league. It is hoped that a similar competition will be run in the coming year.

Championship

We were drawn against Kerry, defending All Ireland champions in the Bank of Ireland Munster championship and the game was played at Semple Stadium on May 29th. We were beaten by 2-22 to 0-13

Tipperary lineup and scorers: Paul Fitzgerald, Damien Byrne Niall Curran Peter King, Pa Morrissey (0-1) Brian Lacey Robbie Costigan, Kevin Mulryan (0-1) Fergal O'Callaghan (0-1), Glen Burke Liam England Paul Cahill, Brian Mulvihill Declan Browne (C) (0-9) Benny Hickey (0-1)

SUBS: Niall Fitzgerald for Glen Burke, Damian O'Brien for Paul Cahill, Eamon Hanrahan for Liam England, Brian Enright, Cian Maher, Niall Kelly, Stephen Murphy, Sean Collum, Michael Lynagh, Padraig Foley, John Shanahan, Benny Hahessy, Paddy O'Flaherty, Mark Peters, David Byrne, Niall Sheehan

Following this defeat Tipperary drew Westmeath in the All-Ireland qualifiers. The game was fixed for June 18th in Semple Stadium. This was an absolutely fantastic game of football that saw Tipperary take the game to their opposition right from the beginning and in the end were hugely unlucky to be pipped at the post by a single point.

Tipperary Lineout and Scorers: Paul Fitzgerald, Damien Byrne Niall Curran Peter King, Pa Morrissey (0-1) Brian Lacey Robbie Costigan, Kevin Mulryan (0-1) Fergal O'Callaghan
Glen Burke (0-1) Liam England Cian Maher, Brian Mulvihill (0-1) Declan Browne (C) (1-2) Benny Hickey (0-2)

SUBS: Damian O'Brien for Liam England, Niall Fitzgerald for Kevin Mulryan, Brian Enright, Niall Kelly, Stephen Murphy, Sean Collum, Michael Lynagh, John Shanahan, Benny Hahessy, Mark Peters, David Byrne, Niall Sheehan

Tommy Murphy Cup

After the agonising defeat by Westmeath in the All Ireland qualifiers the last remaining competition for the senior footballers was the Tommy Murphy Cup competition. The first round of this competition pitted Tipperary against Leitrim in a game that took place in Semple Stadium on July 16th. This was a hugely entertaining game and a game that was to be a huge turning point for the senior footballers in 2005.

The team and scorers were as follows: Paul Fitzgerald, Damien Byrne (C) Niall Curran Peter King, Pa Morrissey Robbie Costigan Cian Maher (0-1), Kevin Mulryan (0-1) Fergal O'Callaghan, Stephen Murphy Niall Fitzgerald Brian Lacey, Brian Mulvihill (1-1) Benny Hickey (0-4) Damian O'Brien (1-2)

SUBS: Benny Hahessy for Pa Morrissey, Eamon Hanrahan for Kevin Mulryan, Brian Enright, Liam England, Niall Kelly, John Shanahan, Paul Cahill, Niall Sheehan

In the next round Tipperary were drawn against Antrim in a game which was scheduled to take place again in Semple Stadium on August 13th but unfortunately Antrim decided not to fulfil the fixture and the game was awarded to Tipperary. By virtue of this walk over Tipperary were now in to the semi final of the competition where they were drawn to face Roscommon again in Semple Stadium on August 23rd. This game saw All Star Declan Browne return to his best form scoring seven points (five from play) to inspire his side to victory over a very hotly fancied Roscommon side in what was a very keenly contested encounter. Little separated the sides at any stage. Tipperary opened brightly to lead 0-4 to 0-1 after 12 minutes but Roscommon soon settled and led 0-7 points to 0-4 after 23 minutes. Tipperary came again and at the interval the sides were level 0-8 each. Tipperary enjoyed the better of the exchanges in the third quarter and with Browne in top form went 0-12 to 0-9 clear at the end of the third quarter. Roscommon tried hard to get back on terms but it was Tipperary who finished the stronger for a comfortable win. While Browne was the star of the show for Tipperary, Benny Hickey, Brian Lacey, Brian Mulvihill, Damien O'Brien and Niall Fitzgerald were others to shine.

The team and scorers were as follows: Paul Fitzgerald, Damien Byrne Niall Curran Peter King, Pa Morrissey Robbie Costigan Benny Hahessy, Kevin Mulryan (0-1) Niall Fitzgerald, Stephen Murphy Benny Hickey (0-5) Brian Lacey (0-1), Brian Mulvihill (0-1) Declan Browne (C) (0-7) Damian O'Brien

SUBS: Aidan Fitzgerald (0-1) for Stephen Murphy, Eamon Hanrahan for Niall Fitzgerald, Brian Enright, Liam England, Niall Kelly, Paul Cahill, Niall Sheehan, Aidan Foley, Sean Collum, Michael Lynagh

Tipperary were now through to the final of the competition where they would have the very tough task of trying to overcome National League finalists, Wexford, in Croke Park on Sunday September 4th. This was a game that would once again see Tipperary captain, Declan Browne, lead by example as he hit a stunning 1-7 of Tipperary's total and help the Premier men defy the odds to claim the Tommy Murphy Cup title with a 3-10 to 0-15 victory.

Trailing by eight points at the break, Wexford came back with a second-half flourish but they left it too late - and Browne made them pay. The Moyle Rovers star, saved his best for last with 1-3 in the final 10 minutes to kill off the beaten league finalists. Wexford were caught out badly early on as Tipp went to work in devastating fashion. By half-time the Premier men led 2-6 to 0-4 with corner-forward Damian O'Brien hitting a superb 1-2 early on and stealing the limelight. In fairness, Tipp had big performers all over the park with goalkeeper Paul Fitzgerald pulling off fine saves from PJ Banville and Mattie Forde either side of



Tipperary's reliable corner-back Damien Byrne celebrates the win with fans including Tipperary hurler Colin Morrissey.

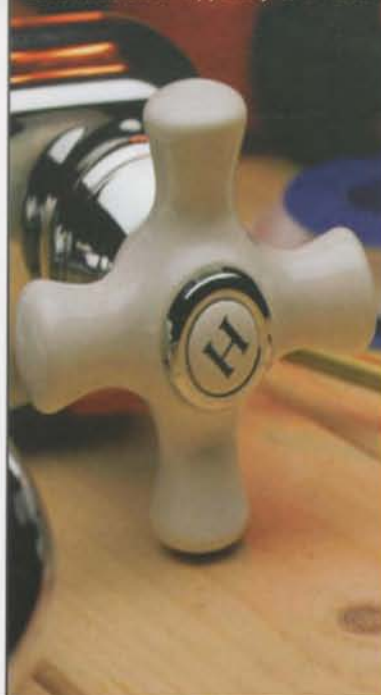
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the break. Wexford All Star Matty Forde didn't kick into gear until the second-half and they needed his genius as they trailed badly with that eight-point half-time deficit. Forde hit top gear after the restart though and notched 0-6 in total. Midfielder Diarmuid Kinsella chipped in with 0-3 himself and Tipperary must have been sweating as Wexford gathered serious momentum. During this period Tipperary could only manage a single point from the boot of Benny Hickey and Wexford had the margin down to a single point at 0-12 to 2-7 by the hour mark. But Browne's brilliance was the difference late on and his 61st minute goal reopened a four point gap. It was a goal that only the talented forward could score as he beat Wexford 'keeper John Cooper in the air and punched home. It was all Browne now and he gave an exhibition of scoring in the run-in with another three points to seal a deserved win for the Premier County.

There were great scenes of joy at the final whistle as Tipperary players, officials and supporters celebrated the fact that a national title had been won after such a long period of time. The joy which was so clearly etched across the face of Declan Browne as he received the cup summed up how important this win was for Tipperary Football.

The team and scorers were: Paul Fitzgerald, Damien Byrne Niall Curran Peter King, Pa Morrissey Robbie Costigan Benny Hahessy, Kevin Mulryan Niall Fitzgerald, Aidan Fitzgerald (1-0) Benny Hickey (0-1) Brian Lacey, Brian Mulvihill Declan Browne (C) (1-7) Damian O'Brien (1-2)

SUBS: Stephen Murphy for Aidan Fitzgerald, Fergal O'Callaghan for Niall Fitzgerald, Eamon Hanrahan for Fergal O'Callaghan, Brian Enright, Liam England, Niall Kelly, Paul Cahill, Aidan Foley, Sean Collum, Michael Lynagh

Irish Diaspora Perpetual Cup

As a reward for winning the Tommy Murphy Cup competition, Tipperary senior footballers received a trip to New York which took place on the weekend 21st to 24th of October. A contingent of over forty people travelled to the Big Apple for what was a most enjoyable weekend. The main event of the weekend was in Gaelic Park on Sunday 23rd when Tipperary took on a New York selection for the Irish Diaspora Perpetual Cup. This game was played in front of a large crowd many of whom were originally from Tipperary but now living in America. Also in attendance was Mayor of New York Mayor Bloomberg. Declan Browne had Tipperary's opening point from a free after seven minutes and he added one more from play six minutes later. New York levelled when Matthew Mitchell fed Justin O'Halloran for a 22nd minute point. Incredibly Mitchell was New York's best performer despite playing 60 very hard and very effective minutes for the New York hurlers in their defeat of Westmeath.

New York began to show some life in the closing stages of the half with Mitchell, Mark Dobbin, and Pa Murphy to the fore. Mitchell pointed to



Declan Browne meets his father Michael after receiving the Murphy Cup.

put New York on top before Dobbin nipped in for a key interception to spring Robbie Moran for the final score of the first half. Tipperary were trying to play a possession game, bringing players behind the ball in big numbers but they were unable to mount any consistent attack as their passing let them down. New York were applying more pressure but the home team were failing miserably when the goalposts came into view. Six first half wides were twice Tipp's total.

New York looked as if they might escape punishment for their wastefulness when they opened the second half with three straight points extending their lead to 0-7 to 0-2, and it looked like a double victory party for the home team was in the cards. Declan Browne had switched with center forward Benny Hickey at the restart in an effort to get Browne more involved but it would turn out to be Hickey that would make the difference.

Hickey ran onto a low ball in the square by Damian O'Brien and when neither fullback O'Connor nor goalkeeper John McGinley, who should have taken charge of the situation, played the ball, it was left to Hickey to send it to the back of the net. The home side tried to fight back and Dobbin and Mitchell each pointed in reply to two Hickey points and a pointed free from Browne, but the Gotham side were now clinging to a one point lead as the momentum swung decidedly to the Premier County. Another Browne point from a free levelled things after 23 minutes. New York were visibly pressing now as Tipperary finally warmed to their task. The last three points of the game were all scored by Tipperary to leave the final score Tipperary 1-09 New York 0-09.



Tipperary Junior Football Team 2005 Front L/R: Mervyn Braddish, Colin Hayes, Tony Doyle, Michael Fitzgerald, Andrew Morrissey, Domnic Brennan, Brian Coen, Shane Stapleton, John Hassett, Gary Sweeney, Aidan Butler, Tommy Connors.
Back L/R: Jonathan Downey, Stephen Mason, Hugh Molloy, Gary Byrne, Paul Breen, Kieran Maguire, Colm McCarthy, Derek Breen, Niall Morrisson, Dessie Lyons, Peter Kennedy, Aaron Devane, Gary Morrisson, Sean McKeogh.

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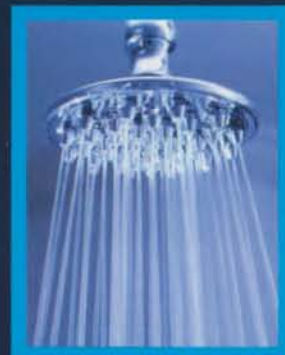
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Kevin Mulryan had a brilliant game against Wexford in the Murphy Cup Final at Croke Park.

Tipperary team and scorers were: Paul Fitzgerald, Benny Hahessy Niall Curran Peter King, Cian Maher Sean Collum Robbie Costigan, Kevin Mulryan Niall Fitzgerald, Aidan Fitzgerald (0-1) Benny Hickey (1-2) Brian Lacey, Brian Mulvihill Declan Browne (C) (0-5) Damian O'Brien

SUBS: Stephen Murphy for Peter King, Eamon Hanrahan for Niall Fitzgerald, Fergal O'Callaghan (0-1) for Kevin Mulryan, Brian Enright, Liam England, Niall Sheehan, Aidan Foley, Paul Cahill, Paddy O'Flaherty

JUNIOR

Our Junior team played Kerry on May 29th in Semple Stadium. This was a very exciting game and indeed one that Tipperary were very unlucky not to win. Tipperary lead for many stages in the game but in the final stages the kingdom got the lucky breaks which secured victory for them by the narrowest of margins. The final score was Tipperary 1-14 Kerry 2-12

The team was: Dominic Brennan, Michael Fitzgerald John Hassett Gary Byrne, Peter Kennedy (0-1) Colm McCarthy Andrew Morrissey, Niall Morrison Paul Breen, Shane Stapleton (0-1) Kyran Maguire (0-1) Tommy Connors (0-2), Tony Doyle (C) (0-5) Dessie Lyons (0-1) Brian Coen (1-3)

SUBS: Colin Hayes for Colm McCarthy, Stephen Mason for Dessie Lyons, Gary Morrison for Paul Breen, Aidan Butler for Tommy Connors, Derek Breen, Gary Sweeney, Aaron Devane, Hugh Molloy, Jonathan Downey

UNDER 21

In Under 21 football we met Waterford in the first round in Fermoy on March 3rd and were defeated on the score Waterford 3-06 Tipperary 1-05.

The team was: Ian Browne, Danny Madigan Aidan Foley Andrew Hickey, Andy Kinane Michael Lynagh (C) Kevin Quinlan, Paul Brennan Hugh Coghlan, John Harney Stephen Murphy (0-1) Michael Dillon (1-0), Brian Mulvihill (0-3) Ian Barnes (0-1) Joe Hennessy

SUBS: Timmy Byrnes for Paul Brennan, John B. Ryan for Andy Kinane, Martin Dunne for Joe Hennessy, Daniel Kelly for Danny Madigan, Anthony Burke, Paraic Kelly, David Conway, Philip Ryan, John Murphy

MINOR

In minor football the championship was run on a Round Robin system. In the first round we defeated Waterford on the score Tipperary 7-12

Waterford 1-01. The match was played on April 6th in Fermoy and Tipperary lined out as follows:

Matthew O'Donnell, William O'Dwyer Tony Ryan Conor Morrissey, Kevin Harney Thomas Stapleton Tony Dunne (0-1), George Hannigan (C) (0-1) Richard Ryan, Daniel Lyne (1-0) Ciaran McGrath Darrel Darcy, Timmy Dalton (2-07) Brian Jones (2-0) Dwayne Burns (2-1)

SUBS: Trevor Kenneally (0-1) for Daniel Lyne, David Lonergan (0-1) for Darrel Darcy, Stephen Hahessy for Richie Ryan, Tomas Hassett for Timmy Dalton, Scott Grey for Brian Jones, Gordon Harding, Michael Doyle, Damien Boland, Kieran O'Donoghue

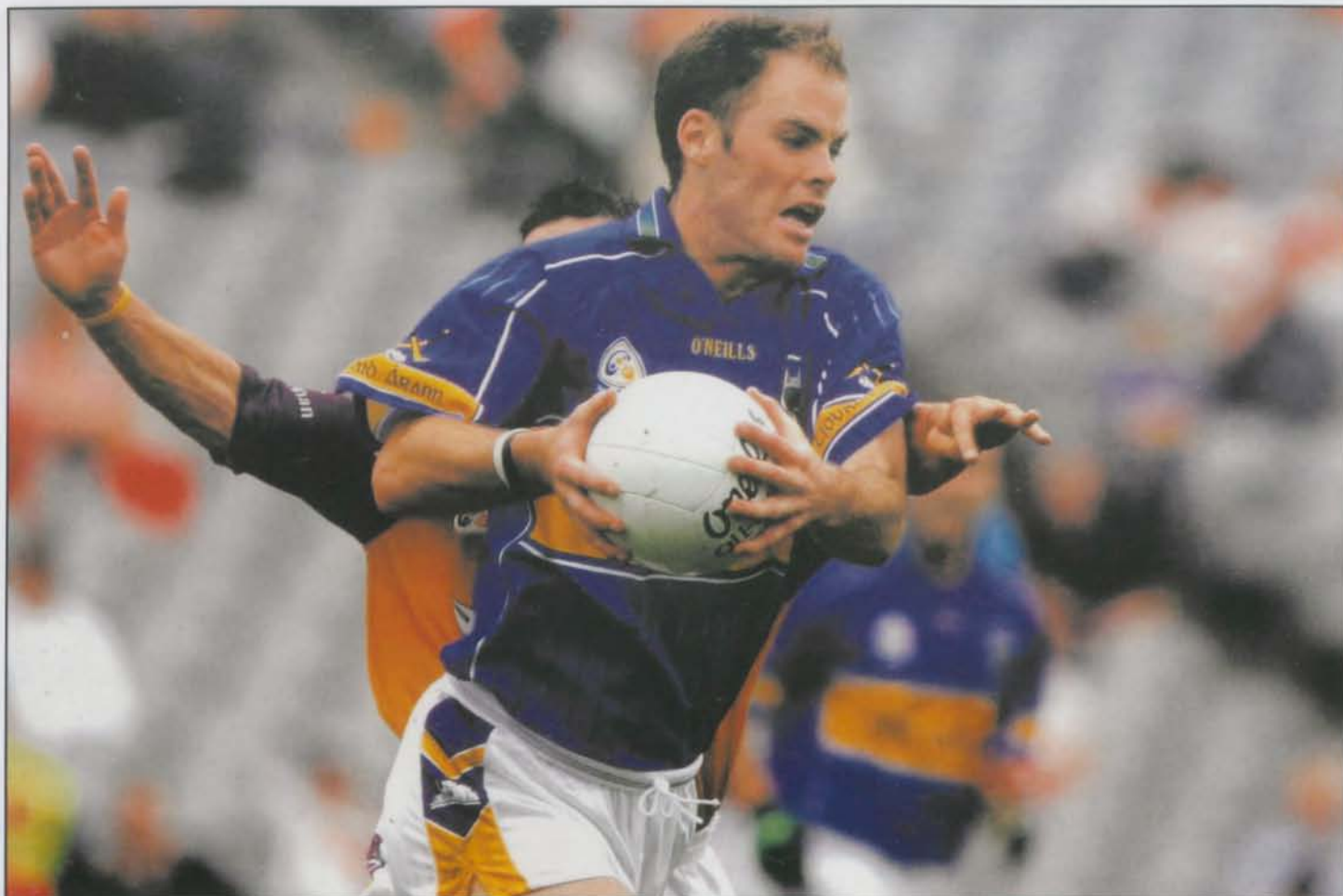
The semi-final against Cork was played in Limerick on June 29th and resulted in a win for Cork by 3-14 to 0-07.

The team was: Matthew O'Donnell, Tony Ryan William O'Dwyer Conor Morrissey Kevin Harney Thomas Stapleton Tony Dunne George Hannigan (C) Richard Ryan (0-1) Ciaran McGrath Daniel Lyne Darrel Darcy (0-2) Trevor Kenneally, Timmy Dalton (0-02) Brian Jones (0-1)

SUBS: Danny O'Hanlon (0-1) for Daniel Lyne, Kieran O'Donoghue for Conor Morrissey, Dwayne Burns for Trevor Kenneally, Tomas Hassett for Richie Ryan, Michael Doyle for Danny O'Hanlon, Stephen Hahessy, Mark Tobin, Tommy O'Donnell



L/R:Conor O'Dwyer, Kevin Byrne, Willie Tarrant
Liam Molloy, Anthony Doyle.



Niall Curran in action against Wexford in the Murphy Cup Final at Croke Park.

Wednesday 20th July was a very special evening in the history of the Tipperary football board when in front of a very large gathering in Hayes Hotel former county football board chairman, Mick Frawley, was honoured for his life long contribution not only to football but to the GAA in general.

Opening proceedings current football board chairman, Pete Savage, welcomed the large gathering for what he described as a momentous and unique occasion for the board. The first presentation was made to Mick by chairman of the Emly club, Antoinette Cunningham, who

described Mick as a dedicated and devoted servant of his club of which he was chairman between 1971 and 1973. She said that she was privileged to be able to honour Mick who played his first game 60 years ago this year. Antoinette said that he never forgot his roots and in her opinion nobody raised the profile of football in Tipperary as much as Mick has done since he took over as chairman in 1997.

Next to speak was Siobhan Condon representing St Ailbes ladies football club of which Mick is President. She described Mick as a most helpful person who was always willing to give of his time and advice when called upon.



L/R: Liam Duggan, Jerry Cahill, Kevin Byrne, Liam Molloy, Michael O'Loughlin.

The gathering which included Barry O'Brien, Gerry Ring, Noel Morris, Paddy Russell, Hugh Kennedy, John Ryan and many others were next addressed by Pete Savage who congratulated and thanked both the Emly Club and St. Ailbe's Club for honouring Mick. Pete said everyone knew the work that Mick Frawley had done for the club over the years. Pete said that he had three things in common with Mick Frawley, his love of football, GAA and Tipperary. He then wished Mick well for his period of hospitalisation and said he hoped he would make a speedy recovery. The chairman concluded by thanking Mick's wife Nellie, who he described as a very helpful person.

The gathering was then addressed by Mick Frawley who said that it wasn't often that he was stuck for words at GAA meetings but this had to be the exception and that the large gathering and gesture of goodwill towards him and his family was greatly

appreciated. Mick said that he hoped he had done something over the years to deserve it. He said he would have not been able to do anything as chairman without the help and support he received from the officers of clubs throughout the country. He described himself as a person with a passion for GAA and particularly for football. He went on to say that he never said in public or private why he took such an interest in the GAA but coming from a small, rural parish that gave a lot to the GAA, especially at the beginning, was one of the main reasons. Mick thanked all who had worked with him down through the years in all the various roles he had officiated in and looked forward to giving any help he could in the future.

Golf Classic:

During the year the Friends Of Tipperary Football organised a very successful golf classic which was held in Cahir Park Golf Club on Friday 5th of August. This event was staged to help raise funds which will be used to aid the development of football at inter county level. There was an entry of over eighty teams and many other contributors to this very successful event. All clubs, individuals and organisations who contributed in what ever way are to be complimented and thanked.

Dog Night:

Following the senior footballers success in the Tommy Murphy Cup it was decided that a fundraiser should be held to help raise finances to help with the team's trip to New York in October. It was decided to run a buster race at Thurles Greyhound Stadium on Tuesday October 18th. The idea of a Buster race is that there are 720 combinations the six dogs can cross the finish line in a race so 720 tickets would have to be sold at a cost of €20 which after expenses should leave the amount raised in the region of €12,000. A vigorous selling campaign which involved players, team management, county officials, members of The Friends Of Tipperary Football and many others was launched and after a number of anxious days in the countdown to the event, the efforts of all concerned proved to be very worthwhile with all tickets being sold by the time of the race. The lucky winner of the €1,000 prize was Michael Ryan from Tipperary town, who is well known in Tipperary football circles.

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Footballers of Forty Five

by Ricky Sheehan

It was a different time. It was a different era. It was in fact a very different world. The war clouds which had enveloped the earth for six years had just begun to move away. Young men had few opportunities to impress in rural parishes. Electric light hadn't yet shone and banished the banshee and other ghosts. In those days of rationing, people were satisfied with little and most knew their place. The church was in charge and was supported by the better off. The atom bomb had just been dropped on two cities of Japan and one of its testing sites Bikini Atoll was to explode onto an unsuspecting world in another year or two. The post war baby boom was about to commence which was to flower in the swinging sixties. All that was two decades in the future. History is cyclical and repeats.

It was 1945 in Mullinahone and having been fragmented for some years into factions the local football club had come together in search of glory. In that era Mullinahone had a brilliant football seven and were almost unbeatable in 7's competition. Their problem was lining out a united 15. However, from time to time they were very close to the top. A look at Tipperary football teams at minor, junior and senior level will bear that out. My mother worked in Dublin and Cavan Town in the 30s and 40s and can recall Walty Scott and Mikey Sullivan playing in Croke Park with Munster. While in Cavan Town one day at a football match she heard great shouts of what she thought was "Come on Mullinahone." Alas, it turned out to be Mullahoran a famous football club in Cavan. A Mullinahone man,

who made a big name for himself in Cavan and played with them at that time was a young bank clerk, Tomas Cahill, the third of the Cahill brothers. Walter and Michael were at home playing with Mullinahone, who had just patched up their schism with Poulacapple or Knocknagow. The team was trained by Tom Walsh of the Islands assisted by Jim O'Brien, Briarsfield, who represented the Poulacapple area. The panel was small - 18 or so. Players didn't favour big panels as plentiness of players made places on the team uncertain.

Not since 1929 had Mullinahone contested a South or county football final and half a generation had passed by. Only the peerless goalie, Mikey Sullivan alone, remained of the 1929 team. It is now 60 years since the footballers of '45 won glory. They have all gone to their eternal reward. It is well past time to remember them. In the book "The Burning of Bridget Cleary" the statement is made that Gaelic games were played more by the well-off farmers than by labourers. Up to 1945 I wonder had much changed. Football was the game of South Tipperary and the opportunity, possibly the only one, for young men to impress in rural parishes. There was a good entry of teams, 11 in all, for the South Tipp senior football championship. The draw ordained Mullinahone would play the newly formed (and united Drangan and Cloneen) St. Patrick's. The game was played in Fethard and was won by Mullinahone, who now advanced to the semi-final. A record of that semi final can be found in the files of 'The Nationalist' dated Saturday October 27th 1945. We quote the report in full.

Great Win

"On Sunday last at Cloneen Mullinahone and Fethard contested the senior football championship semi final of South Tipperary, Mullinahone winning easily. The weather was favourable and there was a good attendance. The game did not live up to expectations. There was none of that dashing play from those rivals which many old

time Gaels were heard to comment upon. Frees were numerous mainly due to breaches of the hand passing rule. Mullinahone, who won the toss, were quickly into their stride. Following a foul close up Mick Cahill opened the scoring for Mullinahone from a free. Fethard got going per Dick Hayes but a free to Mullinahone brought relief. At this stage frees were numerous on both sides. Mullinahone pressed and W Scott missed a goal by inches. Keeping up the pressure Ryan, Cahill and Quirke kept the Mullinahone forwards busy and Scott sent over the bar from a difficult angle. Shortly after the same player repeated the score. Fethard went into the attack and Danagher put R. Hayes in possession but Quirke foiled the attempt at a score. A free to Fethard taken by Paddy Ahearne was saved by Mick Sullivan. P. Direen got Kickhams on the move again. John Ryan was fouled and from the resultant free Ned O'Meara sent over the bar for a point. Following a solo run by R Hayes two frees were awarded to Fethard but no score resulted. Fethard continued to force the play following a fifty taken by M Byrne and the veteran Mullinahone custodian was applauded for a great save. Half time Mullinahone 0-4, Fethard 0-0.

On resumption of play there were positional changes on both sides. Nagle (F) warded off a Mullinahone attack. With frees within scoring distance Mullinahone failed to register. Fethard going into the attack were repulsed by Bradshaw but after a wide Dick Hayes gave them their first score with a point. A free to Mullinahone taken by Ned O'Meara put Scott in possession to beat Aylward for a goal. A few minutes later Ryan placed Cahill to add another point. Fogarty and Byrne in the Fethard defence were having a busy time. W Fogarty retired injured and was replaced by Bill O'Connor. Bradshaw (M) was replaced by M. O'Connor. Mullinahone were now masters of the game and Ryan forced a fifty. The kick was taken by Direen but P. Fogarty saved. R. McCarthy scored Fethard's second point. After a goal being disallowed to



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Mullinahone, O'Meara from a free ended the scoring, Mullinahone winning by 1 goal 6 points to 2 points for Fethard. Mr. P. Shea, Cloneen was referee. Teams

Mullinahone M. Sullivan, P. Direen, C. Cody, T. Freeman, L. Lonergan, F. Bradshaw, J. O'Connell, Cahill (2) Ryan, Quirke (2) W. Scott, E. O'Meara, J. McGuire. Fethard

J. Aylward, J. Nagle, T. Walsh, Ahearne (2), Hayes (3) Fogarty (2) M. Byrne, J. Danagher, J. Wright, J. McCarthy, M. O'Connor.

The winners qualify to meet Ardfinnan in the South final at Clonmel on Sunday November 11th."

On the Sunday prior to the South final the two Cahills Mick and Walter played on the Tipperary team which defeated Kerry in the National League. This was Tipp's first competitive win over Kerry since 1928. The South final was played in Clonmel on the 11th of November. Mr. H. McGrath of Clonmel was the appointed referee. Mullinahone were appearing in their first final since 1929 when they had defeated a Cahill/Ardfinnan combination. Their captain was the veteran goal-man Mikey Sullivan. The game was characterised by determination rather than classic play. "A good clearly contested robust match" was how The Nationalist described the game. The halftime score was Ardfinnan 0-1 Mullinahone 0-0. The point was scored by

Butcher Brien (Ardfinnan variety). The Cahills, Walshs, Quirke, Bradshaw. Direen, Ryan and Scott up front did good work for Mullinahone. The second half saw faster play and more determined pressure from Mullinahone. Early points came from Scott and M Cahill. At the end of the third quarter Scott placed W Cahill for the only goal. The final score was Mullinahone 1-4 Ardfinnan 0-4. The chairman of the South Board Davy Meagher (Ardfinnan) presented the winner's trophy to Mikey Sullivan the Mullinahone captain. In his acceptance speech the veteran Sullivan announced that he would retire at the season's end. (Sullivan was still captain and goalman when the 1946 final was played in Drangan). It is possible that he played on until 1950. A report on the South final can be found in the files of The Nationalist of Saturday Nov. 17th 1945.

The county final against Mid champions 10th Battalion (Templemore) was fixed for Fethard on Sun. Dec. 9th 1945. The winners would be the first holders of the new O'Dwyer Cup. Referee was Willy O'Donnell of Golden. Admission to the ground was 1/- (6.5p) and the sideline was 6d (3.25 p) extra. The game started well for Mullinahone with an Ed. O'Meara goal but the army didn't panic and the teams were level 1-1 each at half time. In the second half the army pulled away and a Mick Cahill point was Mullinahone's only

score. In the lead up to halftime the Kickham's fullback Paddy Direen had to be replaced by Chris Cody. The final score was 10th Battalion (Templemore) 2-7 Mullinahone 1-2 with the fitter and slicker army lads getting well on top in the second half.

Local tradition has it that the army side was a packed one filled with intercounty players gathered into Templemore for the Emergency. Mullinahone lined out in the final Mikey Sullivan, Tommy Freeman, Paddy Direen, Neddy Boy Scott, Larry Lonergan, Frank Bradshaw, Mick Quirke, Mikey Ryan, Mick Cahill, Walter Cahill, Walty (Auld) Scott, Jerry O'Connell, Paddy Quirke, John Ryan, Neddy O'Meara. Subs Chris Cody, John McGuire and Mikey Connors. The names are given as they would have been known in 1945 in Mullinahone and not as they may have appeared in written records. These were the last Mullinahone footballers to challenge for a county senior football title. It happened sixty years ago this year. They deserve to be remembered. Regrettably none of them is still with us. May they all rest in peace.

In compiling this tribute to the Footballers of Forty Five I am indebted to the memories of Paddy O'Brien (Briarsfield), Tom Crotty (The Square) and Tony Nolan (Killaghy St.).

All-Ireland Football Title for Clonmel - 1956

In 2005 Tipperary Senior Footballers won a national title defeating Wexford in the final of the Tommy Murphy Cup. Almost fifty years ago a national title also came to the county when Clonmel Post Office defeated Portlaoise Post Office in the final of the All-Ireland Post Office Football Championship. This was played at Croke Park on Sunday 25th November 1956. Winning on a score of 1-8 to 2-3, the Clonmel side became the first holders of the trophy presented for this competition by the Post Office Workers Union.

One of the stars of the Clonmel team was Clareman, Frank Meaney, who captained the team. Frank played with Clare at senior level and represented Tipperary during his years in Clonmel. He also played for Munster at inter-provincial level. Others to contribute greatly to this historic victory were P. Kiely, W. Carey, Flan Meaney and Sean Lonergan.



Front Row L/R: Flan Meaney, R. Bolger, W. Carey, J. Lonergan, Barney O'Connor, Frank Meaney (Capt.), Sean Lonergan, Jimmy Aherne, T. Culligan, J. Shortall, George Conway.
Back Row L/R: Vivian Murray, P. Kiely, John O'Mahoney, M. Egan, J. Griffin, P. Dwyer, Joe O'Donnell, P. Myles, M. Walsh, J. Kealing, R. O'Bourke, J. Feehan, T. Mangan, Alex Lee.

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BRIAN LACEY

by Eamonn Wynne,
Clonmel Nationalist

You should never go back, they say. However that's one piece of advice that Brian Lacey emphatically put paid to a few months ago. After more than six successful years with Kildare, the 31 year-old Tipperary town player returned to his native county in 2005 and was an inspiration as the county senior footballers won the Tommy Murphy Cup on a memorable day at Croke Park at the beginning of September.

The footballers had travelled a long and hard road from a lowly, desolate place before enjoying their day in the sun. Twelve months previously the county was in disarray when Tipp conceded a walkover to Fermanagh in the championship qualifiers, after manager Andy Shortall resigned and the players subsequently refused to fulfil the fixture, following a fixtures dispute with officialdom. Some element of order was restored when Tipperary football's most successful manager, Seamus McCarthy, returned as manager towards the end of last year.

The early months of 2005 brought little joy to a beleaguered camp, despite a tonic McGrath Cup victory over Kerry in Clonmel in January. Seven successive defeats in the National League, starting with a home defeat to Cavan and culminating in a 27-point annihilation away to Derry, summed up the enormity of the task facing everyone in the football camp for the remainder of the year.

That was followed by a 15-point hammering by Kerry in the first round of the championship. But Tipp had turned the corner when they lost by a single point to the reigning Leinster champions, Westmeath, in the qualifiers in a game that they might as easily have won.

That improvement in form was confirmed in the Tommy Murphy Cup, a competition named after a former Laois footballer and confined to designated counties that hadn't reached the second round of the qualifiers.

A first round win over Leitrim was followed by a walkover against Antrim in the quarter-finals. Tipp then beat Roscommon in the semi-final at Semple Stadium before finally emerging from their winter of discontent on the first Sunday in September, when they beat Wexford in the final by 3-10 to 0-15.

On another level, the Tommy Murphy Cup success also represented a personal triumph for Brian Lacey. He believes that the part he played was the repayment of the debt that he owed to Tipperary football, and people such as Benny Hahessy and Sean Colum, whom he had left behind when he transferred to Kildare.

However, he says that nobody in Tipperary ever resented his move from the county. That meant a lot to him, and was one of the reasons why he returned.

?Because of that I enjoyed it (winning the Tommy Murphy Cup) a lot more, I felt I owed it to the boys?, he said.

On the other side of the coin, though, his return to his native county didn't exactly meet with universal approval in Kildare - and ?that hurt?, he said.

Although he's one of the country's best-known inter-county footballers, Brian Lacey initially came to prominence as a hurler. Having won U-14 and minor county football finals with

Arravale Rovers, he was on the Tipperary panel that reached the Munster Minor hurling final in 1992.

A team, that also included Tommy and Terry Dunne, Paul Shelly and Brian Flannery (who later transferred to Waterford), was beaten by Waterford in a replay at Pairc Ui Chaoimh, with Brian appearing as a substitute.

He had a happier experience earlier in the year, when he was the captain of the Abbey CBS side that won the All-Ireland Colleges senior hurling B championship, beating Roscommon CBS in the final at Tullamore to claim the Tipp town school's first ever senior hurling crown.

Hurling was still his top priority when he moved to the University of Limerick, although he wasn't selected for the county U-21 panel that won the All-Ireland in 1995. And on his return to Ireland following a year spent in France through college when he was 20, he threw his lot in with the Tipp footballers.

He was corner back on the U-21 team that took a notable scalp by beating Cork in the championship in Clonmel in 1995. Promotion to Seamus McCarthy's senior panel quickly followed, and he made his senior debut the same year against Kerry in the championship defeat in Tralee.

He also tasted championship defeat against Kerry in the next two years, firstly in Clonmel and then in '97 in Tralee, a year when he said Tipp were probably closer to Kerry than any other county in a year when the Kingdom won its first All-Ireland crown in 11 years.

1997 marked a major turning point in the career of Brian Lacey. At the time he was working in Dublin as a pension consultant with Coyle Hamilton and living in Kildare town. It seemed like a natural step when he signed for local club Round Towers, but he wasn't at all prepared for an approach by Kildare manager, the legendary Mick O'Dwyer, to play for The Lilywhites.

The offer left him feeling ?quite shocked?, coming as it did from someone whose career he had followed since his childhood, and whom he regarded as an icon.

The prospect of playing for a team managed by Micko against Dublin and Meath in front of full houses at Croke Park was ?a dream?. And after taking what he describes as a huge decision he set out for pastures new, making his debut for Kildare in December, lining out against Down in a National League game at Newry.

Success quickly followed. 1998 was perhaps the most memorable year of his time spent in exile, when he played on the Kildare team that defeated Meath in the Leinster final. He also had the honour of playing in the All-Ireland final, although Kildare suffered defeat at the hands of Galway.

Consolation came in the form of an All Star award, when he was joined by Tipperary's Declan Browne on that year's team of the 15 best footballers in the country.

To cap a successful year, his club Round Towers won the Leinster senior club championship, and his brother John (now player/coach with Clanwilliam) was on the Shannon side that won Division 1 of rugby's All-Ireland League.

Brian won another Leinster medal in 2000, when Kildare got the better of Dublin in the final; and another county championship in 2003. The same year he played on the Round Towers team that reached the Leinster Club final, as well as donning the green jersey of his adopted province, Leinster, in the Railway Cup.

He looks back with fondness on his time with Kildare. He says it was an amazing experience to play in Croke Park on big match days and, just like Tipperary hurling, the amount of resources pumped into Kildare



The ball is in the secure hands of Brian Lacey in the Murphy Cup Final.

football was 'unbelievable'.

He had been a regular in the starting fifteen, injury being responsible for the only time he was left out of the side.

The love affair with The Lilywhites ended in 2004. His final appearance in the white jersey was in the championship at Croke Park when they lost to Wexford.

By the end of the year he was ready to bring his career full circle by returning home. By that stage many of the players with whom he had won provincial championships in '98 and 2000 had retired; Mick O'Dwyer had left for a new challenge with Laois and Seamus McCarthy had taken up the reins again as Tipp manager, all factors that helped convince him that the time was right to take the reverse journey to that he had made in '97.

A few of the Tipp team also applied some 'gentle pressure' in the previous couple of years, and he says he had always wanted to come back before hanging up his boots.

But before the move could be completed, he underwent a previously postponed hernia operation in September of 2004. His recovery kept him on the sidelines until the turn of the year, something that he now considers a blessing in disguise because he needed the rest after a gruelling schedule demanded by club and county over several years.

The lay-off left him feeling fresh and ready for action, and he made his first appearance in a blue and gold shirt in eight years when he appeared as a substitute in the National League game against Cavan in Ardfinnan at the beginning of February. From then on, he was a regular in the side.

Despite the team's disastrous run in the league, Brian said it was just a matter of time until the panel regained a level of fitness, because the turmoil of the previous year meant that they were a couple of months behind most other counties in terms of

preparation.

Throughout those dark days of League defeats by Cavan, Waterford, Meath, Louth, Westmeath, Antrim and Derry, he recalls telling Seamus McCarthy that they had the players; it was only a matter of getting the work done and catching up on the other teams.

The same applied when they faced Kerry in the championship. But giving Westmeath a real fright in the qualifiers was the confidence-booster they needed, and by the time the Tommy Murphy Cup came around Tipp had at last found their feet.

In their three matches in the competition Brian says that they played a different brand of football, performing more as a unit than in previous outings. They also had four forwards in Declan Browne, Benny Hickey, Brian Mulvihill and Damien O'Brien who could kick

with either foot. The rest of the team made sure they received a good supply of the ball and those players, he says, played a key role in their subsequent progress.

He describes the final against Wexford as a strange game. They had played better in the earlier rounds against Leitrim and Roscommon, but a few moments of magic by Declan Browne and Damien O'Brien turned the game in their favour.

He is sufficiently modest not to refer to his own contribution, but it's extremely doubtful that the silverware would have been collected had it not been for the calm authority exuded by Brian Lacey and the player's experience of big match days, qualities that lifted his team from a few sticky situations.

Victory at GAA headquarters, and with blue and gold clad supporters dotted around the vast stadium among a large attendance gathering for the Tyrone/Armagh All-Ireland semi-final gave Brian an 'unbelievable feeling'. When you didn't expect something, he said you appreciated it all the more.

The team rounded off the year with a visit to New York in October, when they won the Irish Diaspora Perpetual Trophy in Gaelic Park with a hard-fought 1-9 to 0-9 win over New York.

Brian Lacey accepts that hurling will always

take top billing in the Premier County. But his ambition for 2006 is that the people of Tipperary would support the footballers whenever possible, so that the players could move onto the next level, now that they realise what they were capable of.

The key to this year's success, he continued, is that it provides Tipperary football with a platform on which to build for the future. But for further success to be

achieved the clubs and the county board would need to row in behind the footballers, and the players would have to concentrate fully on their inter-county commitments.

The team has a nice blend of youth and experience, but the players have to make yet more sacrifices if they want to take the extra step. If they do that, he believes there's no reason why they can't beat any team in the country on any given day.

He praises the hard work of football board chairman, Pete Savage, and secretary, Eddie Lonergan, while he has no doubt that Seamus McCarthy would be leading the likes of Kildare, Dublin and Kerry to provincial glory if he were in charge there.

The son of Angela and Andy Lacey, Brian is still playing his club football with Round Towers, which suits his work as a consultant for Clarkson Financial and Planning, a Dublin-based company whose main area of responsibility is the construction of residential apartment blocks in Manchester and throughout the north west of England.

Another brother, Andrew, who plays with Arravale Rovers, completes the family's strong sporting connections.



Brian Lacey



On left is Football Board Chairman Pete Savage, with South Board Chairman Barry O'Brien and County Board Chairman Donal Shanahan on right, at the Civic Reception.



L/R: Micheal O'Dwyer, Liam O'Dwyer, Paddy Russell, Stephen O'Donnell, John O'Brien prior to the All-Ireland Semi-Final between Tyrone & Armagh

William (Bunny) Lambe

Prince Of Footballers

In early June of this year one of Tipperary's greatest ever footballers known to all as Bunny Lambe passed to his eternal reward. William Bunny Lambe was born in the Old Bridge area of Clonmel eighty five years ago. The Old Bridge area has always been known as a tight knit community where good neighbourliness was the order of the day. The Lambe family were very much part of the fabric of that community joining with their neighbours in trying to survive the trials and tribulations of an Ireland which was in a state of great turmoil and strife and where day to day survival was more important than the material things of life.

The Clonmel area where Bunny grew up was a stronghold of Gaelic football nevertheless it was difficult then for a young man growing up in the Ireland of the twenties and thirties to develop the skills in the native games and pastimes. The Gaelic Athletic Association at that time was only in the early stages of development and travel, communications and the organisation of games at adult and underage level were very limited. The Association however, even though in its infancy, proved to be a major influence in unifying people torn apart by conflict and Bunny Lambe, like thousands of other young people of that era, were fortunate to have a sporting body like the G.A.A., who through the games were able to bring people together and engender a spirit of comradeship among the people.

The young Bunny Lambe was bound to be influenced in his formative years by the success of the clubs in the Clonmel area where Commercials and Old Bridge dominated the minor football scene. The minor football championships had only commenced in 1932 and Commercials and Old Bridge had kept the divisional and county titles in the town from 1935 to 1938. It was his period spent in the Army however that was to have a major influence on his development into one of the country's outstanding footballers. Bunny Lambe, like many of his compatriots of that time, answered the call to join the Army during the time that was known as the Emergency. The discipline, training and the influence of some major figures in Gaelic football, that

were members of the Army at that time, were to bring his natural ability to the fore and to mould the young Bunny Lambe into one of the great stars of his era. His exploits with the 10th Battalion were to win him a place on the county senior football team in 1943 and for the next ten years he was recognised countrywide as being one of the outstanding Gaelic footballers of his era.

Although he played in a number of positions it's as a centrefield player he is best remembered. On Tipperary teams of that era he played in the company of noted greats of the game like Tommy O'Keefe, Sean Cleary, Jim Williams, Sean Minogue, Percy Larkin and Mick Cahill. During this period he won county senior medals with the 10th Battalion in 1943 and 1945, with Commercials in 1948 and with his beloved Old Bridge in 1952. He captained Tipperary in the mid forties and represented Munster in 1945.

Sadly no provincial or All Ireland medals came his way even though many people describe the Tipperary team of 1943 to 1945 as being the greatest ever. They beat Cork who were Munster champions in 1944 and lost out to Kerry in the Munster final. In 1945 Cork were to beat them by a single point in the Munster semi final and they then went on to capture Munster and All Ireland honours. Bunny Lambe was a household name during this time and was known for his style speed and skill with a great ability to catch the high ball. He was described as a sportsman to his fingertips and in a major tribute to him the late Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, discussing players of his time said that Bunny Lambe was one of the best and toughest players he had come across during his long and illustrious career. In modern terms then Bunny Lambe would have been a superstar and an All Star several times over.

There was of course much more to Bunny Lambe than football there was Bunny Lambe the family man. He married Angela and they reared their family of seven children in Bernadette Terrace in the heart of the Old Bridge where he grew up himself. When he left the Army he joined the Dept of Post and Telegraph Engineering section where he operated in the Clonmel area until his retirement some twenty years ago. During this period he made a significant contribution to putting the infrastructure in place for the modern Telecommunication systems that we enjoy in Ireland today. I had the great honour in my early days in the Post Office to have worked with Bunny. He was my foreman for a period and I came to know the great character he was. He could tell a story, he could sing a song and he enjoyed a jar. He was a good adviser to any young man playing Gaelic games and was a shrewd observer of the games and their development. He followed the games he loved while his health allowed.

While Bunny may not have received the awards and rewards of

modern day players during his playing career, he was not forgotten in recent years and in 1993 he was the recipient of the Hall of Fame Award as South Tipperary's Footballer of the Past. For those who were present who will forget that emotional occasion for friends and family as he made his way up to receive this well deserved tribute. He didn't make a speech but he sang a song Sweet Sixteen and brought the house down. You could sense his happiness and pride in being remembered on that occasion. Then just two years ago he was the recipient of a Sean Gael Award an award presented to those of advanced years who have made a significant contribution to Gaelic games.

On a sunny day in June then with family and friends we said a final farewell to a man who has left a legacy of sporting memories behind, a man whose feats on football fields have filled his county men with pride. Bunny will be sadly missed particularly by his family, who loved him dearly, and his memory will be forever etched in the minds and hearts of those who were privileged to see him perform his deeds of valour on the Gaelic fields of Ireland.



William (Bunny) Lambe
Prince Of Footballers

The Game of Your Life

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And safely field, taking thought to place
The ball of fortune with the chosen one
And will him on to make the greatest use
Of what he's given as he solos on,
Centerfield's involved as play ensues.
For now's the time when great men must
redeem

The story of the game from death, defeat:
Who cannot rest until their task's complete
To take the cup, the cup that cannot pass
And raise it up in glory for the mass.

Ar dheis Dē go raibh a anam dilis

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GAA Adopts New National Disciplinary Code

At the Annual Congress in April 2005 the GAA adopted a new disciplinary code under which it set up a Central Disciplinary Committee, a Central Appeals Committee and enacted a Disputes Resolution Code to be implemented by a Disputes Resolution Authority.

This was intended to streamline the disciplinary system and provide for an independent and fast system of adjudicating on disputes under the Arbitration Acts which would be legally binding, without having to resort to the courts.

Up until 2005 the Games Activities Committee (GAC) of the Association had responsibility for discipline in addition to its other responsibilities for fixtures and match regulations at national level. This was felt to be unwieldy and it was decided to give disciplinary responsibility to a new committee to be known as the Central Disciplinary Committee (CDC). The GAC now retains responsibility for games etc. and the CDC controls disciplinary matters relating to all games run by the Central Council and inter-county senior championship games.

The membership of these committees is subject to an interim arrangement at present but with effect from Congress 2006 they will be constituted as follows:

GAC: Chairperson appointed by Management Committee; 4 Provincial Council Secretaries and one from each Province, appointed by Management.

CDC: Chairperson appointed by Management Committee; one from each Province appointed by Management and one from each Province appointed by Central Council on the recommendation of Management.

The Central Appeals Committee exists to hear all appeals at Central level. Its decisions are final and binding subject only to a case being referred to the Disputes Resolution Authority. It is constituted in the same manner as the CDC.

Disputes Resolution Authority (DRA)

The DRA is a totally new concept in the GAA. It consists of a Secretary and a panel of lawyers and lay people, experienced in the rules of the GAA and appointed by Congress to resolve disputes speedily without having recourse to the courts. Disputes are referred to the Secretary and if they are in order he constitutes a tribunal of three people from the panel who hear the case and adjudicate on it. All act voluntarily. The rules of the Association, including bylaws, regulations and interpretations of rules by Central Council, the subject of the dispute and the Laws of Ireland govern DRA decisions.

Since its inception in April 2005 the DRA has dealt with 11 cases, some involving multiple hearings, the most notable being the Mark Vaughan and Ryan McMenamin cases, both of which were won by the appellants.

6 were brought by individuals; 4 won and 2 lost.

5 were brought by clubs; all lost.

Chairpersons:

Games Activities Committee – Tony O’Keeffe, Kerry

Central Disciplinary Committee – Con Hogan, Tipperary

Central Appeals Committee – Sean McCague, Monaghan

DRA Secretary – Liam Keane, Meath.



Chairperson Central Disciplinary Committee – Con Hogan, Tipperary

Tom's 112 All-Irelands!

Birdhill native Tom Mannion, the well-known Ennis-based travel agent, attended his 56th consecutive hurling and football All-Ireland finals this season – including replays!

Those Croke Park visits on final-day, began in 1949 when he saw his native county beat Laois 3-11 to 0-3 and the footballers of Meath win their first ever title when disposing of neighbours, Cavan 1-10 to 1-6.

Nor does Tom's attendance record end there. He has also attended all the semi-finals in both hurling and football as well as the Railway Cup and National League finals up until the advent of televised matches in the early sixties.

During the past fifty years he has also attended 46 Munster hurling finals and approximately 27 football finals.

A keen golfer and self confessed "sports nut", Tom has also attended Soccer and Rugby internationals over the years but he says "the spectacle and the excitement at big GAA matches – especially hurling - cannot be matched by any other sport".

How true...

And, last word: "With God's help, I will attend many more!"



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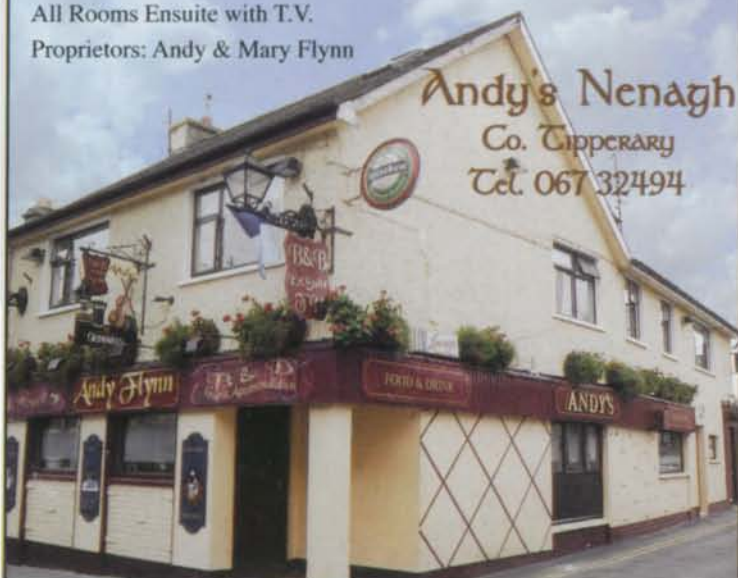
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NATIONAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS 1923-1944 N.A.C.A RULES

J.M.TOBIN

In this article, the fourth of a series, we chronicle the achievements of Tipperary athletes who won Irish titles under N.A.C.A rules between 1923 and 1944.

Following the foundation of the Irish Free State in 1922, the G.A.A and the I.A.A.A merged their athletics interest to establish an organisation known as the National Athletic and Cycling Association. Although there were those who lamented the passing, of what they perceived to be, the golden age of the Davins and Tom Kiely, the county would continue to make a very significant contribution to national athletics under the auspices of the new governing body.

1 MILE

1940 Tom Healy, Coolcree A.C
1941 Tom Healy, Coolcree A.C

4 MILES

1924 J.J. Ryan	Tipperary A.C
1925 J.J. Ryan	Tipperary A.C
1926 J.J. Ryan	Tipperary A.C
1934 Mick Healy	Coolcree A.C
1938 Pat Hackett	Killenaule A.C
1939 Tom Maguire	Killenaule A.C
1940 Pat Hackett	Killenaule A.C

120 YARDS HURDLES

1925 Bill Shanahan	Kilkarney, Ballinure, Thurles
1930 Bob Tisdall	Hazelpoint, Nenagh
1932 Bob Tisdall	Hazelpoint, Nenagh
1939 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby

HIGH JUMP

1927 Bill Shanahan	Kilkarney, Ballinure, Thurles
1928 Bill Shanahan	Kilkarney, Ballinure, Thurles
1939 Tom Wall	Bansha
1940 Tom Wall	Bansha
1941 Tom Wall	Bansha
1942 Tom Wall	Bansha
1943 Tom Wall	Bansha
1944 Tom Wall	Bansha

LONG JUMP

1928 Paddy Anglim	Rosegreen
1931 Paddy Anglim	Rosegreen
1932 Paddy Anglim	Rosegreen
1933 Paddy Anglim	Rosegreen
1934 Paddy Anglim	Rosegreen
1935 Paddy Anglim	Rosegreen
1936 Paddy Anglim	Rosegreen

POLE VAULT

1929 Paddy Anglim	Rosegreen
1930 Paddy Anglim	Rosegreen
1931 Paddy Anglim	Rosegreen
1932 Paddy Anglim	Rosegreen
1934 Paddy Anglim	Rosegreen

440 YARDS HURDLES

1932 Bob Tisdall	Hazelpoint, Nenagh
------------------	--------------------

10 MILES

1936 Jimmy Hannon	Galteemore Harriers A.C
1937 Jimmy Sweeney	Coolcree A.C
1938 Jerry Fahy	Coolcree A.C
1939 Jerry Fahy	Coolcree A.C

16 LBS SHOT

1923 Martin Kennedy	Kilcommon.
1939 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby

16 LBS. HAMMER.

1923 Bill Britton	Mullinahone
1924 Bill Britton	Mullinahone
1925 Bill Britton	Mullinahone
1926 Bill Britton	Mullinahone
1929 Bill Britton	Mullinahone
1933 Bill Britton	Mullinahone
1936 J.J. O'Doherty	Tipperary
1941 J.J. O'Doherty	Tipperary

DISCUS

1934 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1935 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1936 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1937 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1938 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1939 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1941 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1943 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1944 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby

56 LBS. (BETWEEN LEGS NO FOLLOW)

1934 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1935 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1936 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1937 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1938 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1939 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1943 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1944 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby

56LBS. OVER THE BAR

1934 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1935 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1936 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1937 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1938 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1939 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1940 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1943 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1944 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby

MARATHON

1941 Neddy O'Connell	Liskeveen, Littleton, Thurles
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CROSS-COUNTRY INDIVIDUAL

1924 J.J.Ryan	Tipperary A.C
1925 J.J.Ryan	Tipperary A.C
1926 J.J.Ryan	Tipperary A.C
1929 Tom Fanning	Loughmore
1945 John Joe Barry	Ballincurry A.C

CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

1938 Coolcree A.C:
Jimmy Sweeney, Jerry Fahy, Tom Bourke, Jimmy Hannon, Tom Healy, Mick Healy.
1939 Coolcree A.C; Tom Healy, Jimmy Sweeney, Jerry Fahy, Tom Bourke, Martin Healy, Phil Jones.

ALL-ROUND CHAMPIONSHIP

1936 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby
1937 Ned Tobin	Ballylooby

'Tipperary's G.A.A. Story 1985 – 2004'

by Seamus J. King
Review by J.J. Kennedy.

On Saturday April 23rd 2005 at the Sarsfields Sports Centre in Thurles, Nicky English launched Seamus King's latest work, 'Tipperary's G.A.A. Story 1985 – 2004'.

The above statement I hope is factually correct in every detail because fidelity to fact has been the hallmark of all ten publications by Seamus King since his first, the history of his native Lorrha, appeared in 1984. This latest launch completes a trilogy of books covering the history of the Association in this county. Previously Seamus King published 'Tipperary's G.A.A. Story 1935 – 1984', which was an update of Canon Fogarty's famous history of the first half century of the G.A.A. in Tipperary. Speaking at the launch of this latest production Seamus King emphasised that it was not bedtime reading. It was, he said, a reference source to be dipped into for information as required.

I was reminded of that recently, as the following anecdote will illustrate. A debate arose in a pub and I was asked to solve the riddle. There were two issues involved: when did Tipperary play Galway in an All Ireland U21 hurling semi-final at Tullamore? and, more importantly, did Fergal Heney mark Eugene Cloonan from the start of that match? It was time to produce Seamus King's book and put it to the test. The year of the game was easily enough solved, Fergal Heney being one of the successful minors of 1996, therefore a likely U21 in '99.

But could we solve the issue of whether he started at Tullamore? The book immediately answered the query, on the double. Page 282 contains a photograph of the starting team against Galway. No Fergal Heney. And just to confirm that the camera wasn't lying page 283 outlines the changes to the team that were made after the Munster final win over Clare, including the following: 'Fergal Heney was replaced by Thomas Costello at full back ...' If I had been in doubt about the year of that U21 game then I could have turned to the extensive statistical section of the book. The hurling statistics are found on pages 395 to 423 detailing date, venue and result of every game Tipperary was involved in as well as all the club finals from senior down to U12 level. Page 414 would have told me that on September 4th 1999 Tipperary's U21s played Galway at Tullamore and lost by 3-12 to 1-16. Such a reservoir of information is invaluable and I doubt if any other county has a historian of Seamus King's diligence in chronicling history so meticulously. As one with some experience of this type of work I can testify to the tediousness of the labour involved. I would suggest that Seamus King's gift for methodically researching and recording information is rare and this county is lucky to be the beneficiary of his years of graft.

exact – and includes 377 photographs. It is another huge tome that tells everything that is worth telling about the G.A.A. in Tipperary for the last quarter century. It has been an eventful period in our history featuring the hurling revival of the late eighties and our ongoing prominence on the hurling stage up to, and including, 2004.

For convenience the history is again divided between hurling and football. Some might criticise this division but structurally it makes sense. If you wanted to find out about, for example, how our junior footballers fared in 1998 then that information is easily accessible. That was the year Tipperary won its first All Ireland junior football title since 1923. The team, captained by Kevin Coonan, defeated Offaly at Portlaoise on August 28th. All the details of the campaign can be sources in pages 527 to 531. As well as the essential areas of hurling and football there are other aspects of the Association also covered in this extensive history. There's a Grounds Development Report, which details the extent of development of every G.A.A. facility in the County. The G.A.A. Draw has been one of the success stories of the past quarter century and Chapter 26 tells that particular tale. The Tipperary Institute is another new arrival and the success of the G.A.A. in that college is detailed in a chapter headed 'From Rags to Riches'. A controversial item in the years after Centenary Year

was the Feile Trip to Tipp initiative to raise funds for Semple Stadium. That issue is covered in Chapter 28. An account of the County Board's finances is found in Chapter 29 and the Tipperary Supporters Club finds space in Chapter 30. One of the problems in tackling the recent history of a county is surely how to deal with the controversies that inevitably arise. It's tricky territory because sensitivities can still be very raw. Seamus King's sensible solution is to stick to the essential facts of the case without making judgments. This is seen in his treatment of the football saga that convulsed the county in 2004. We are still too close to that event to have



Front L/R; Nicky English who launched the book, Paul O'Neill former Chairman, Mick Frawley former Chairman, Seamus King author, Mick Maher former Chairman, Tommy Barrett former Secretary, Michael Nolan Treasurer.
Back L/R; Michael Power Assistant Treasurer, Michael O'Brien Secretary, Sean Fogarty Munster Council Chairman and former County Board Chairman, John Costigan Vice-Chairman, Mick Maguire former Chairman, John Ryan Munster Council rep., Con Hogan former Chairman, Ed Donnelly P.R.O., and James O'Donnell Development Officer.

objective analysis, so for the moment the bare essentials are sufficient and Seamus King delivers them.

But back to Seamus King's assertion that this is not bedtime reading. It's definitely not. If you desire colourful, atmospheric prose that captures the mood in Killarney in 1987 as the famine ends, then this is not the book. If, however, you want to know that the match was played on July 19th; that the score at half time was 1-10 to 1-5 for Cork; that the full time score was 1-17 apiece; that Cork led 1-21 to 1-20 at half time in extra time; and that the final score was 4-22 to 1-22 – then this definitely is the book for you.

Seamus King has an amazing ability to take a massive volume of information and edit it down to the bare essentials. Nothing is left out, but nothing is laboured. The essence of the story is captured and the emphasis is always on factual accuracy. In that regard Seamus O'Doherty, with his encyclopaedic knowledge of dates and data, has been a major help to the author. Between them I doubt if many errors have escaped detection.

Given the extensive photographic coverage and the manageable 25-year time span of this history it is as complete an account of the G.A.A. in Tipperary over the past quarter century as one could hope for. Once again Seamus King has done a huge service to the G.A.A. in Tipperary.

This latest book spans almost seven hundred pages – 676 to be

Tipperary Year Book Awards 2005

By James Holohan

Once again the time has come for the announcement of this year's National and County G.A.A. Awards. Last year the choice of recipients proved to be very controversial. The selection committee came in for a lot of flack at County Board meetings and a number of them have not attended since.

The subject was also raised at the January meeting of the County Council only for the chairman to rule it out of order.

For this year's awards it is hardly surprising that nobody was willing to go on the selection committee. It was decided to change the format. Readers of the Yearbook were invited to submit names of those most worthy. Over two million entries were received from all parts of the county. After the painstaking task of counting your votes we now have the pleasure of announcing the winners.

Once again Pie In The Sky have very generously agreed to continue their sponsorship of these prestigious awards and we in the Tipperary Year Book wish to express our sincere gratitude to them.

As these are much sought after awards we are limited to 10 County and 10 National.

NATIONAL

THE CHICKEN RUN AWARD: Goes to the cockerel who came on to the pitch during the Westmeath-Longford O'Byrne Cup Final. Despite not committing one "fowl" he was immediately sent to the sin bin. Our view is that a chicken run will ensure that he has a level playing pitch the next time he wants to play.

THE GET LOST AWARD: Goes to the many residents associations in the vicinity of Croke Park when they make excessive demands for tickets on the big occasions. Our advice is "buy your own ticket like us all - then U2 can see the stars in action".

THE NO FRONTIERS AWARD: Goes to the many county teams who went to exotic places as a thank-you gesture for getting into the winners enclosure. We hope you enjoyed it because others will be out to unsaddle you next time round (or pip you at the post)

THE DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES AWARD: Goes to all those women who remain at home while their men folk attend long winded G.A.A meetings or after-match post mortems in the local into the late hours. We are certain that when they arrive home they often receive the red card.

THE TRAPEZE AWARD: Goes to Armagh full back Francie Bellew. On quite a number of

occasions he walked the tight rope following his treatment of opponents. The one time that he fell off - the Disputes Resolution Authority placed the safety net under him.

THE COUNTRY ROADS AWARD: Goes to our President Sean Kelly. This is a 24/7 job and country roads never seem to lead him home. Shortly he will be leaving the Presidential Suite (Room 42) at Jones Road for the classrooms of the Kingdom.

THE CAPTAIN FANTASTIC AWARD: Goes to Sean Og O hAilpin who sported and played on the Banks to bring Liam Mc Carthy to the Captain's Table. His folks in Fiji needed an interpreter of his eloquent speech "as gaeilge".

THE GOBSTOPPER AWARD: Goes to Kilkenny's Peter Barry. His back chat wasn't referee Seamus Roche's cup of tea. Our advice is next time you take to the field of play bring this award with you.

THE WIZARD OF OZ AWARD: Goes to Tadhg Kennelly. He made his mark down under when he scored a six pointer for Sydney Swans in the Grand Final. His remaining ambition is to emulate his auld fella and take Sam back to the Kingdom.

THE RED HAND AWARD: Goes to Tyrone's spiritual leader Peter The Great. Having found the key to the Kingdom he unlocked their defence to steal a goal. With a second medal in his pocket he has opted for his P45.

COUNTY

THE HONOURS DIPLOMA AWARD FOR HURLING: Goes to Eoin Kelly when he played a leading role in University of Limerick's first ever Fitzgibbon Cup success. Though the blue and gold did not feature in September at Croke his performance all year was top of the class.

THE STAY AT HOME AWARD: Goes to the many thousands of fans who failed to support our senior hurling team. Due to the enormous cost we will only give one to the first ten out of the hat. Perhaps next year you will forsake the TV and just leave granny sitting in her auld arm chair.

THE FIELD OF DREAMS AWARD: Goes to the Ballylooby-Castlegrace. Sometime back they purchased their own field. One bit of advice for ye when sowing the seeds make sure they are the ones which will grow the grassroots of success.

THE DO IT FOR THE LITTLE VILLAGE AWARD: Goes to the hurlers from the Kildangan Club. Following their own version of the Late Late Show they won the inaugural All Ireland Intermediate hurling championship. Now lads you have to eat with the big boys at the top table.

THE RAGS TO RICHES AWARD: Goes to our Senior Football team. In 2004 they failed to field in the Tommy Murphy Cup. Last August the boy wonders surprised Wexford by browning them out in the Final. Will the Big Apple inspire them to even sweeter success next year!!

THE MAN OF THE MATCH AWARD: Goes to John Quirke. Each year he sponsors this award for the best player in the County Hurling and Football Finals. John, you probably never got such an award in the days when you played with Cahir. Better late than never!!

THE IT'S PART OF WHAT WE ARE AWARD: Goes to the many hundreds of volunteers up and down the county who give their time and energy to keep the show on the road. For some, it is a bumpy journey, for others it is the avenue to success. Keep it up lads and lassies.

THE KEEP ON DIALLING AWARD: Goes to those who signed up to Gaelic Telecom. Talk is now cheaper - the more minutes you keep yapping the more money you generate for your local Club.

THE END OF AN ERA AWARD: Goes to Toomevara. Over the last decade they have Ben there Dunne that many times. Dan Breen was a very regular visitor while Liam Mc Carthy resided there for twelve months. Every greyhound has its day!!

THE FAMINE IS OVER AWARD: Goes to the Thurles Sarsfields Club. After 31 years of hunger their appetite for success never waned as they inched Drom aside in the County Final. Come next September - what price Dan Breen sharing the cradle with Liam Mc Carthy?

The Awards ceremony will take place at the Pie In The Sky Conference Centre. Due to the large number of trophies needed we will have to wait until the New Year before they are ready. Tickets will be on sale shortly. We anticipate that demand will be unprecedented and early booking is essential. Each order is limited to two tickets and can be done by email to www.sillyu@fantasyland.ie

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Recent G.A.A. Publications

by Seamus J. King.

Quite a number of good G.A.A. books were published during the year. Probably the best of the crop is **'Last Man Standing'** by Christy O'Connor. Not the same person as the golfer, but a goal keeper from Ennis, who played in two All-Ireland Club finals. He knows what he's talking about, and the title of the book is superb. The goalkeeper is the last man standing in defence and he is built in heroic proportions. Think of the courage shown by Brendan Cummins in the All-Ireland semi-final. Cummins features in this book as do twelve contemporary goalkeepers. O'Connor succeeds in getting into their minds, their souls, and his book is outstanding. Published by O'Brien Press for €14.95, it contains over 300 pages.

Another book that is highly recommended is **'Foreign and Fantastic Field Sports: Cricket in County Tipperary'** by Patrick Bracken, who is a librarian in the County Tipperary Libraries. Bracken trawled through the newspapers of the nineteenth century and found that cricket was a very popular game, not only among the gentry, but equally so among the ordinary people. The high point was in the 1870s when there were over forty clubs in the county. Had the G.A.A. not come along it is likely that Tipperary would have become one of the outstanding counties in the game of cricket. On the other hand it might be said that the reason that Tipperary took the title the Premier County in hurling was because there was such a tradition for a stick game here. Published by the author the book costs €20 and has 200 pages.

Eoghan Corry has written a book of unforgettable G.A.A. quotations called **'God and the Referee'**. In more than forty sections, covering everything from the ancient games and literary lions to rough-ups and ruffians, the book encompasses the G.A.A. There are quotations from players and coaches, journalists and commentators, balladeers and mentors, and from hurlers on the ditch, who know the game



At the *Tipperary History* launch in Thurles on left is Munster Council Chairman and a group, each of whom has already published books. From left are Seamus King, Marcus De Burca, Martin Bourke, J.J. Kennedy, Bill Callaghan of Litho Press, Seamus Leahy and Liam O'Donnchu.

it is written by Tomás Ó Riordáin, has 72 pages and retails for €15. Fitzgerald was the President of the G.A.A. at the famous convention at Thurles in 1887 that led to a split in the Association. Chairing the proceedings that day he refused to take a proposal from Fr. Scanlan of Nenagh. After plenty of arguing, Fr. Scanlan and his followers withdrew from the meeting and called their own.

Damien Cullen, a journalist with the 'Irish Times', and a man with impeccable Loughmore-Castleiney connections, brought out a unique book during the year. It was called **'The Penguin Ireland Guide to Championship 2005'**, and it was all of that, a guide not only to the hurling and football matches that were to be played, but also a guide to the towns and the stadiums to which the fans travelled. We don't travel to Clones often but if a follower has a ticket for a match there this 'bible' will tell him not only where the stadium is located but in what area of the stadium his seat is located. There is much, much more in this fascinating publication, which is in pocket size, has 250 pages and retails for €7.99. Let's hope it's an annual addition to the library.

A similar book was published by DBA, the company with the franchise for producing all the programmes for the All-Ireland hurling and football championships. Called **'The G.A.A. Supporters Handbook'**, it is literally that. It includes maps of the various towns where the supporter may find himself, lists of hotels and restaurants, not forgetting the pubs either, how to get there if you haven't your own transport, and where to stay if you intend to make a week of it. Again a great addition. The book also includes all the senior county panels in hurling and football. Its publication was delayed because of the difficulty the publishers had in getting the panels out of reluctant county boards and team managements. Pocket size, the book sells for €6.99 and has 180 pages.

Mention should also be made here of Brian Carthy's annual publication, which should be in the shops in time for the Christmas market. It will be called **'The Championship 2005'** and will be the most comprehensive record of all the games played in the senior hurling and football championships. This book has been appearing since 1995 and it's a credit to the author.

The next book to mention is one of mammoth proportions. It is **'The Gaelic Athletic Association in Dublin 1884-2000'** edited by Willie Nolan. It contains three volumes in hardback in slipcase, 1440 pages, 360 photographs, and it sells for €90. It has to be the biggest G.A.A. book ever produced. Tipperary players played with Dublin. Two that immediately come to mind are Tommy Treacy and Jimmy Kennedy. Among the many fascinating details it contains is a detailed account of the events of Bloody Sunday and the identities of the casualties.

A new revised and updated edition of **'A History of Hurling'** by Seamus J. King will be published by Gill and Macmillan in time for the Christams. First published in 1996 in hardback, a paperback edition came out in 1998, and this edition brings the story up to 2005.

Another book launched in November was the official biography of Davy Fitzgerald, the Clare hurling goalkeeper. Written by Cashel journalist, Jackie Cahill, who is Gaelic Games correspondent for the 'Irish Mirror', it is called **'Passion and Pride'**. There is no player takes such passion and pride out of playing for his county as Davy. The book has to be of interest to Tipperary readers, who were often put off by the over the top shenanigans of Davy on the field of play. Published by Blackwater Press, the book retails at €14.99.

In May **'Tipperary's G.A.A. Story 1985-2004'** was published by the county board. Written by Seamus J. King, it updated the history of the county to the present. The achievements of the period are modest in contrast to the previous volume which covered the history from 1935-1984. These achievements are reflected in the dust cover of the book which features the three senior winning captains, Bobby Ryan, Declan Carr and Nicky English, the two successful managers of the period, Babs Keating and Nicky English, as well as the county's star footballer, Declan Browne. Extending to nearly 700 pages, it sells for €20. (The book is reviewed elsewhere.)

Gerry Slevin, the former editor of the 'Nenagh Guardian', who has written so lovingly and comprehensively about camogie for years, has produced a book about the Tipperary senior team's achievements over the past seven years. Called **'Years of Plenty'** it tells the story of 1999-2005 in a heavily illustrated production. Printed by the Nenagh Guardian Ltd. it extends to 200 pages and sells for €20.

'Hurling: The Revolution Years' by Denis Walsh covers the period marked by the arrival of Clare in the mid-nineties and sets out to explore how the game of hurling changed since then. He focuses in on how Ger Loughnane and Liam Griffin revolutionised the preparation of teams, which became more and more professional under their managerial regimes. In the preparation of this book, Walsh did thirty-five original interviews with the people and players who were involved.

Denis Walsh is the chief sports writer with the Irish edition of the 'Sunday Times.' A native of Cork, hurling is his first love. The book, published by Penguin Ireland, has over three hundred pages and retails for €14.99.

A Year in the Red - A Publication by the Roscrea GAA Club reviews the year and is the first publication to appear since 'The Red Years' in 1984.



On left, Nicky English who launched the *History*, with author Seamus King in the centre, and County Board Chairman Donal Shanahan.

better than anyone. One to give you the flavour of the book. The one about the Cork woman at the funeral of Christy Ring: 'It's a mortal sin to be burying a man like him.' The book, published by Hodder Headline Ireland, retails for €8.99, and has over 300 pages.

'Making Connections: A Cork G.A.A. Miscellany' by Jim Cronin is what the title says a collection of pieces, mostly about the many people who have made a huge contribution to the G.A.A. and especially the G.A.A. in Cork. There are also pieces like 'Cork and Tipp', 'The Meat Tea', and 'Hurling in the Himalayas'. Published by the author, it retails for €20 and has 365 pages.

A completely different kind of offering is a short account of the life of P.N. Fitzgerald, the Cork Fenian and G.A.A. Pioneer. Published by the P. N. Fitzgerald Commemoration Committee 2004,

The County Senior Hurling Championship 2005

The success of Thurles Sarsfields in the county senior hurling championship was received with unbridled enthusiasm by their supporters. The crowd that massed before the cup presentation to hear their hero, Redser O'Grady, receive the Dan Breen trophy, was indicative of a huge wave of relief that victory had been achieved, as well as a great desire to return to winning ways after such a long time out of the limelight. The larger than usual crowd that came out on such a dull day was a sign that the supporters of Thurles Sarsfields believed that this was to be their day, and they wished to be there to savour and enjoy it. Strangely enough there was even a desire among neutrals that the Blues had remained long enough in the wilderness and deserved to get back again to the winner's enclosure.

The county senior hurling championship virtually replicated the system in use in the running of the All-Ireland hurling championship. It replaced the system in use in 2004 by excluding the connection between the county league, which supplied four teams for the county quarter-finals, and the championship. Instead it linked up the divisional championships into a system of county qualifiers, bringing about a seamless link between the county and the divisions that hadn't existed before. The changes were given the green light at a special county board meeting on January 17.

There was a separate county league divided into three divisions with twenty-two teams taking part. Four clubs, Cashel King Cormacs, Kildangan, Loughmore-Castleiney and Holycross-Ballycahill did not participate. Borrisoleigh won the premier division and the Johnny Ryan Cup, defeating Nenagh Eire Og by 2-10 to 1-10 in the final on April 24. Boherlahan-Dualla won division 1 and the Jim Devitt Cup, defeating J. K. Brackens by 2-9 to 0-14 on April 17. Templederry came out on top in division 2 and won the Canon Fogarty Cup, defeating Kilruane-MacDonaghs by 2-14 to 1-9, also on April 17.

Twenty-six teams affiliated in the 2005 championship, seven in the Mid, nine in the North, four in the South and six in the West. Because of the uneven number of teams in the Mid and the North there were preliminary rounds in these divisions. The two losers in these games then entered to county championship round robin.

Rounds One of the divisional championships was then played. This provided three games in the Mid, four in the North, two in the South and three in the West. The twelve games resulted in twelve winners and twelve losers.

The twelve losers joined the two from the preliminary round to play in a round robin series. The teams were divided into two groups of four and two groups of three. They produced four winners.

These joined up with the beaten semi-finalists from the divisions, one in Mid, two in North, 0 in South and one in West, - four in all. They played off in round robin two to produce four winners, Kilruane-MacDonaghs, Kildangan, Mullinahone and Roscrea. Interestingly Kildangan were the only team from the losers in the preliminary and first round to come through. They beat West semi-finalists, Golden-Eire Og.

Divisional Finals

While round robin two was in progress, the divisional finals took place. All four were played on August 7. At sun-baked Fethard a late, late point by Trevor Ivors

grabbed a draw for Ballingarry against Killenaule on a scoreline of 1-19 each. It took extra time in the replay at the same venue on August 28 before the sides could be separated. Killenaule came out on top on a scoreline of 2-21 to 3-16 to take their first South senior title since 1991.

The Mid final between Thurles Sarsfields and Drom-Inch, played at Holycross, also ended in a draw. Favourites Sarsfields, down to fourteen men for the last twenty-two minutes, grabbed a draw with a late penalty special from goalkeeper, Patrick McCormack. They scored 1-17 to Drom-Inch's 2-14. Sarsfields made no mistake in the replay at the same venue on August 21, when they won by 1-17 to 0-13.

The West final between Cappawhite and Cashel was played at Golden. It was exciting enough for the opening twenty minutes, when Cashel were still in with a shout, but after that it was all one-way traffic as Cappawhite hammered home their superiority and routed Cashel by 2-20 to 1-9.

The North final, which was played at Nenagh, saw Borrisoleigh bridge a seventeen-year gap to capture the title by beating Nenagh Eire Og by 1-13 to 0-12. It was a fine victory for a team that had to field without some prominent players through injury.

The next stage in the county championship was the meeting of the round robin winners and the divisional runners-up. Loughmore-Castleiney were comprehensive winners over Cashel at Semple Stadium on September 3. Giving a polished performance they strode past Cashel after the first twenty minutes to win by 4-17 to 0-15. Toomevara were equally impressive when they defeated Ballingarry by 1-25 to 1-14 at Semple Stadium on September 10. They led by 1-16 to 0-9 at the interval and were just too good for their opponents. On the same day and at the same venue Drom-Inch outthured Moneygall by 2-17 to 2-11, having led by 1-9 to 2-4 at the interval. The fourth game in the series saw Nenagh Eire Og edge out Kildangan by 0-16 to 0-10 in the tight encounter at Nenagh on September 11. After a low-scoring first half, Nenagh had trailed by 0-4 to 0-6.

Quarter-Finals

The stage was set for the quarter-finals. Three of the games were played at Semple Stadium on September 17. There was a wonderful display by Thurles Sarsfields, who unexpectedly dethroned the champions, Toomevara, by 1-20 to 1-16. While the winners were helped by the dismissal of two Toomevara players, John O'Brien and Terry Dunne, in the course of the game, their victory was in no small way due to some great individual displays, particularly by Wayne Cully and Redser O'Grady, and to shrewd management from the sideline.

A great display by Micheál Webster at full-forward helped Loughmore-Castleiney to victory over Killenaule by 4-13 to 1-18. Killenaule had the better of the exchanges in the first half but their superiority was not reflected on the scoreboard which showed them trailing by 2-7 to 0-9 at the interval. They went into the lead seven minutes into the second half but two goals by Webster and Kieran McGrath put Loughmore clear by 4-11 to 1-13 with fifteen minutes to go. Killenaule tried very hard to bridge the gap in the final quarter but failed.

A late surge by Nenagh Eire Og gave them victory over Cappawhite by 4-16 to 2-11. The winners led by seven points at the interval and by eight ten minutes into the second-half. A great comeback by Cappawhite at this stage brought them level with

thirteen minutes to go. However, instead of going on to victory, it was Nenagh who surged ahead to score 2-5 in the final ten minutes for a comfortable victory. The fourth game took place at the same venue a week later. Neighbours Borrisoleigh and Drom-Inch fought it out with the North side the people's favourites. In a dull encounter there were few scores to liven up the play. Drom-Inch got a great start with a goal by Seamus Callanan after four minutes, they led by 1-5 to 0-2 at the interval, and had four points to spare, 1-8 to 1-4, at the final whistle.

Semi-Finals

The semi-finals were played at Semple Stadium on October 2. Drom-Inch created their own bit of history when they qualified for their first county senior hurling final after three failures in 1973, 1978 and 1984. They did so by scoring a comprehensive victory over Nenagh Eire Og by 2-17 to 0-14. Playing against the wind in the first half, they trailed by 0-6 to 0-9 at the interval. It was very much an open encounter at this stage. However, within two minutes of the re-start, Drom-Inch had two goals from Seamus Butler and Seamus Callanan, and they never looked back after that, storming home to a nine-point victory.

The second semi-final, between Thurles Sarsfields and Loughmore-Castleiney was the strangest of games. As someone described the match, 'it looked sickly after fifteen minutes, when Sarsfields led 1-9 to 0-2, looked dead at the break, 1-15 to 0-4, and looked buried seven minutes into the second-half, 2-16 to 0-5'. And then it had a Lazarus-like recovery because the final score was 2-19 to 2-14 in favour of Sarsfields. The strangeness may have been due to a combination of Sarsfields lethargy and over-confidence, and Loughmore-Castleiney improvement.

Final

Thurles-Sarsfields lived up to their pre-match favourites tag when they defeated Drom-Inch by 1-17 to 0-15 in the final at Semple Stadium on October 16. In an entertaining but not very exciting final before an attendance of nearly thirteen thousand spectators, the closeness of the scoring kept the spectators entertained. Right up to about ten minutes into the second half the outcome lay in the balance but after that victory for the Blues became more inevitable. At half-time Thurles led by 1-9 to 0-9, the goal coming in the eighth minute when the Drom-Inch goalkeeper let the ball slip between his fingers into the net. It came after Drom-Inch had cleared a few earlier and more dangerous attacks and it put Thurles into the driving seat. Drom-Inch succeeded in reducing the margin to one point early in the second half, but they could never quite obliterate it, and Thurles went on to a well-deserved five-point victory. Drom-Inch had kept in touch by some fine scoring from Seamus Butler, who emerged from the game with a personal tally of eleven points. Equally important for Sarsfields was the contribution of six points by Johnny Enright, as well as the three points scored and the leadership given by captain, Ger 'Redser' O'Grady. The victory came as a huge relief to the club, their first in thirty-one years, and after the loss of four finals. For Drom-Inch there was the consolation of getting further than most people's expectations. Before their game against Borrisoleigh in the quarter-final they were quoted at 12-1, the complete outsiders for ultimate honours. But, they continued to box above their weight and made it to the final in impressive style.

Thurles Sarsfields: Patrick McCormack, Brendan O'Sullivan, Gary Mernagh, Tom King, Stephen Lillis (0-1), Brendan Carroll, John Lawlor, Eddie Enright (0-1), Wayne Cully (1-2), Johnny Enright (0-6), Ger O'Grady (0-3), (capt.), Jim Corbett, Richie Ruth (0-3) Lar Corbett, Pat Lawlor (0-1). Subs: Stephen Mason for Stephen Lillis, Patrick Bourke for Pat Lawlor, Eoin Costello for Richie Ruth, Eamon Walsh for Lar Corbett, Lee Shanahan for Tom King. Also: Jim Mackey, Kieran O'Connor, Shane Ryan, Aidan Dundon, Tommy Collins, David O'Dwyer, Tony Connolly, John Connors, Eoin Russell, Mickey Collins, Brian Graydon, Jamie Murphy, David Kearns, Barry O'Dwyer.
Coach: Ger Cunningham. Selectors: Tommy Maher, Ger Corbett.

Drom Inch: Damien Young (capt.), Michael Costello, Eamon Buckley, Edward Costello, Donnacha Kennedy, Paul Ryan, Thomas Cantwell, Pdraig Butler, James Woodlock (0-2), Micheal Butler (0-1), Macdara Butler, Matthew Ryan, Kevin Butler, Seamus Butler (0-11), Seamus Callanan, Subs: Paul Collins for Kevin Butler, Liam Brett for Seamus Callanan, Frankie McGrath for Macdara Butler,

Paddy Kennedy for Paul Ryan, Martin Butler for Donnacha Kennedy. Also: Johnny Ryan, James Kennedy, Eric Woodlock, Liam Kennedy, Edward Kinane, Paul Stapleton, Seamus Cahill, Declan Ryan, Jonathan O'Connor, Brian Costello, Michael Cantwell.

Coach: Paudie Butler. Manager: Martin Everard. Selectors: Matt McGrath, Martin Fahy. Referee: Brian White (Clonmel). Man of the Match award: Seamus Butler (Drom-Inch)

There was a relegation element to the county championship. The bottom team in each of the four groups in the first round robin contested the relegation. There were semi-finals and finals, and the results were as follows:

Semi-finals:

Templederry Kenyons 1-10
Semple Stadium, Sept. 3: Clonoulty-Rossmore 0-16
Hollycross-Ballycahill 1-10
Semple Stadium, Sept. 9: J. K. Brackens 1-15
Templederry Kenyons 1-14

Final:

The Ragg, Sept. 17: Hollycross/Ballycahill 1-21
Templederry Kenyons 1-10

Templederry relegated to intermediate grade.

Senior Hurling Championship 2005 Results at a Glance

Quarter-finals:

Semple Stadium, September 17:
Nenagh Eire Og 4-16 Cappawhite 2-11. Referee: Johnny Ryan (Boherlahan-Dualla)
Loughmore-Castleiney 4-13 Killenaule 1-18. Referee: John Cleary (Knockshegowna)
Thurles Sarsfields 1-20 Toomevara 1-16. Referee: Paddy Russell (Emly)

Semple Stadium, September 24:
Drom-Inch 1-8 Borrisoleigh 1-4. Referee: Brian White (Clonmel)

Semi-finals:

Semple Stadium, October 2
Drom-Inch 2-17 Nenagh Eire Og 0-14. Referee: Richie Barry (Cappawhite)
Thurles Sarsfields 2-19 Loughmore-Castleiney 2-14. Referee: Johnny McDonnell (Roscrea).

Final:

Semple Stadium, October 16.
Thurles Sarsfields 1-17 Drom Inch 0-15. Referee: Brian White (Clonmel)

Serious Refereeing Problem in Tipp

By Noel Dundon (Tipperary Star)

Time to moan again.

We've seen quite a few games of hurling over the last few months in County Tipperary and it's time to speak out. The bane of many a supporter; the subject of much "advice"; the one person who loses the game for the defeated team; yes, the parentless referee.

It's easy to be critical of referees and even easier to shout and roar abuse at them. And, while I would not be advocating such behaviour even if I have to hold my hands up at times, I would simply ask the question - are they always right, and every supporter in Tipperary always wrong?

You see I have a problem with the interpretation of the rules at the present time. Referees, in my view are far too whistle happy. Every fall is a foul or so it seems. God be with the days when you could shoulder a player, knock him off stride, or simply stand in his way to prevent him from moving forward with the ball. Now, you can't do any of those things without getting a whistle, being shown the book, or even seeing yellow. Come on refs - ye are going to ruin the game if this continues. I have a theory about Tipperary's performances in the Munster and All-Ireland championships at all grades. Our referees are pulling for things that happen in our games, when other referees throughout Ireland have a different viewpoint. Why are our county teams giving away so many frees? - because they are getting away with these kinds of fouls in the local championships. And, why are we always giving out about referees at provincial and national level? - because we are not getting the frees we would normally get in the local championships.

Consistency is a word that refereeing badly needs to see more

of. At present our referees are consistently inconsistent. It's one thing to see one referee being different from another, but when an individual referee is inconsistent, it can make for some very frustrating viewing for patrons.

Refereeing is a big problem in my view in Tipperary. We have a number of top quality referees; a number of second rate ones; and a number of shocking knights of the whistle. I would question what the referees assessors are looking at when they are doing their job. Fitness? Knowledge of the rules? Consistency? Deportment? One could write a book on the problems we find in Tipperary at present and I wonder if any of the assessments are acted upon.

They don't seem to be - the same problems are arising with the same referees time and again.

Of course the referees committees will say that not enough people are coming forward to take up the job. I suppose it's a vicious circle - a former player sitting in the crowd who could make a fine referee, is not going to take up the job, if he hears the man in the middle being lambasted from the sidelines. Personally, I feel that if a referee is capable of keeping up with the play, they have a certain amount of respect earned. But, many of our refs are doing their job from the middle of the field - walking around, flashing cards and enduring the wrath of players, mentors and supporters as a result.

The game makes all kinds of demands on players in terms of fitness - the same should be true of referee. After all they are now paid to handle games.

A few examples of bad refereeing - a throw in between two players results in one sticking his leg out to shield the ball. The other player pulls as he is supposed to do and gets a yellow card for it. If you put your leg in you must suffer the consequences - referees have to see the logic in the yellow carded player pulling. Similarly, a player who hits another down on top of the head, hand, back, legs wherever will get a yellow card and rightly so.

A player in pursuit of another whose foot or hurley trips another also gets a yellow card - the same punishment as the first. Does the punishment fit the crime - I don't think so. Common sense has to be used and it's not being used.

The situation is so serious in Tipperary that I would call on the county and divisional boards to come together, set up a representative task force and attempt to iron out the problems. There must be constant monitoring, feed back and review - all other areas have these - why not referees?

Finally, it's not easy to be a referee and I applaud them for their courage and their resilience. But, for God's sake take an inward look as a body and tackle the problems head on. It will be worth it.



Back Row L/R: Eamon Walshe, Shane Ryan, Lee Shanahan, Ciaran O'Connor, Pa Burke, Eoin Russell, Pat Lawlor, Gary Mernagh, Eddie Enright, Tom King, John Lawlor, Lar Corbett, Declan Ryan, Brendan Carroll, David Kearns, Jamie Murphy, Barry Dwyer, Stephen Mason, Aidan Dundon
 Front Row L/R: Tony Connolly, Johnnt Enright, Jim Mackey, Davy Dwyer, Tommy Collins, Richie Ruth, Wayne Culley, Jim Corbett, Ger O'Grady, Lorna O'Grady (Masco), Paddy McCormack, Stephen Lillis, Benny O'Sullivan, John Connors, Brian Graydon, Michael Collins, Eoin Costelloe

Thurles Sarfields

Tipperary Senior Hurling Champions 2005



COUNTY HURLING FINAL DAY 2005
SEMPLE STADIUM



Sarsfields 29th Title a Long Time Coming

By Noel Dundon (Tipperary Star)

Thurles Sarsfields' 29th county senior hurling final victory was greeted with unprecedented levels of celebration as a 31 year gap had been bridged - a huge gulf for a club with such esteemed tradition and pride.

Yes Sunday October 16th will go down as a day in history for the famed Blues as it has done in the past - on Sunday October 16th 1955 Mickey 'Rattler' Byrne captained Sarsfields to the first of their 10 out of 11 titles, and how proud a man he was to be reunited with Dan Breen when the current crop of players brought the cup to his home after the game.

After so many disappointments and so many close calls, Sarsfields day finally dawned when they played Drom-Inch, for the third time of the season, in the county final. The four defeats in a row were put to one side as the team focused on what had to be done and when referee Brian White sounded the final whistle, they had reached their Holy Grail. Grown men cried as Ger 'Redser' O'Grady lifted the cup aloft in Semple Stadium.

There were a number of defining moments for this Sarsfields side in 2005 and undoubtedly the role played by coach, Ger Cunningham, was a huge one. The Knockainey man had a proven track record and he set about creating the right atmosphere in the club from day one.

The first real glimpse the public got of the new Sarsfields style of play was against Boherlahan-Dualla in the Mid championship first round. A comfortable victory on a beautiful afternoon gave high cause for optimism.

Then it was Loughmore-Castleiney - the old adversaries. This was one of the defining games for the Thurles men. A sweltering afternoon in Boherlahan saw the Blues take everything Loughmore had to throw at them to emerge victorious with a place in the Mid final, where they would face Drom-Inch.

The Loughmore win was significant for the emergence of some of the younger players - Stephen Lillis, Tom King and Benny O'Sullivan were finding their feet; Richie Ruth was finding his range; Eddie Enright, back from injury, had a colossal game; and Johnny Enright's bid to receive the hurler of the year award was kickstarted. And, all of

this was achieved without the services of the injured Redser and Lar Corbett.

It was a never say die spirit that spared Sarsfields blushes in the Mid final. Raging hot favourites, they were outplayed by a very focused and disciplined Drom-Inch side which should have won the title. But, a Patrick McCormack 21 yard free blast in injury time forced a replay from which Sarsfields scraped through to win the Mid championship. Little did they think they would be facing Drom-Inch again that year. Indeed, little did they think they would face Loughmore either when they defeated them in the Mid semi-final. But, hurling has a peculiar way of throwing up the unexpected and when both teams went into the same hat, it was almost inevitable that they would lock horns again.

However, bigger fish were to be fried before the green and red army could be contemplated. Toomevara in the quarter final was the draw nobody wanted - except for Sarsfields. The Thurles men relished the challenge and without the pressure of a final to cope with, they were completely focused on the job in hand. A disastrous start didn't deter the players and Sarsfields enjoyed the tactical acumen and planning of Cunningham and his selectors Tommy Maher and Ger Corbett as they gunned down the county champions. It was one of Sarsfields finest hours as they fought on their backs to rise above the challenge. It was their hunger and appetite for the battle which won through at the end of the day. Once again Johnny Enright was the star. His season has been defined by a series of outstanding displays and the Toomevara one was surely one of his most impressive. Lar Corbett, Redser and Pat Lawlor too were impressing as was newcomer Jim Corbett - he was playing junior hurling last year but slotted in ideally to the new style of play.

Loughmore Castleiney have been a major banana skin for Sarsfields down through the years. The fear of losing to them was a major incentive as they took to the field in Semple Stadium. Sarsfields first half display was sublime as they raced into a huge lead and left last years Mid champions floundering. It was the closest thing to a perfect display that one could have wished for, but it wasn't to continue. Loughmore's pride was not going to allow them to sit down and accept defeat. And, it didn't. They fought back like tigers and had the deficit down to three points at one stage. But Sarsfields dug deep and held on with Gary Mernagh having a sublime game at full-back, where he snuffed out Micheal Webster. Brendan Carroll had a wonderful game too while Wayne Culley, John Lawlor and Pat Lawlor made significant contributions.

Drom-Inch once again - for the third time this year. Raging hot favourites again - were Sarsfields being set up for a big fall? No stone was left unturned as they prepared for the final and their efforts paid

off when they emerged victorious for the first time in 31 years.

Sarsfields 29th title was as sweet as any of the previous 28. It was the first title since Arus na Sairsealaigh was built and Dan Breen was going to a new home. It was also the first title since the formation of Durlas Óg - every member of the squad had played with the juvenile GAA club.

The victory was a great lift to everyone in Thurles. The squad had been described as a team of brothers and indeed there were three sets of brothers in the set-up - the Enrights, Lawlors and the Collins - Tommy and Michael - Tony Connolly is their cousin. An uncle and nephew also donned the blue and white jersey - Jim Corbett and Wayne Culley while Shane Ryan became the only player to have the full set of county medals - minor, u-21, junior and senior. The players in the squad all made their contributions. Sub goalies Jim Mackey and Kieran O'Connor - Kieran left his hospital bed to be at the final before returning to Limerick Regional a happy man afterwards. Eoin Costelloe featured in most of the games as did Stephen Mason, whose grandfather Tom won county medals before him. Pa Burke was born the year Brendan Carroll did his Leaving Cert - Brendan toiled considerably longer for his county medal - Pa is still in school and looking forward to more.

Aidan Dundon, son of Michael who won a medal in 74, and grandson of Paddy Bermingham follows on a proud family tradition; Eamon Walsh of the Burke stock from Tubberadora played in his eighth county final - winning his first senior medal. David Dwyer added to his u-21 and minor medal collection as did Lee Shanahan and Barry O'Dwyer, while John Connors and Eoin Russell won their first county senior titles. Brian Graydon, a player for the future was a valued squad member as was David Kearns, whose grandfather John won county titles in the 50s with Sarsfields, while Jamie Murphy, son of the late Noel followed in his father's footsteps by winning the Dan Breen. Paddy McCormack too was following a distinguished line of McCormack county senior hurling medalists - his father Paddy and uncle Pat (Ba) were in the squad in 1974.

This group of players together with the entire backroom staff, too numerous to mention, have returned the glory days to Thurles Sarsfields. They have helped to lift the spirits of the people of the Cathedral Town, both home and away, and have become the heroes of those who are to follow.

Chairman John Enright, secretary Tomas Callanan and treasurer Paddy Kenny - grandson of the late and great Paddy Kenny, can take a well earned bow as well. Congratulations to them all from a proud Sarsfields man.

Club Development During 2005

by James O'Donnell, County Development Officer

The amount of development of club facilities that is going on throughout the county is hugely impressive. It stretches right through the county.

Beginning in the North there are major works going on in no less than nine clubs. Kildangan have just installed a state of the art lighting system. Newport have fully developed a second full-size pitch. Nenagh have completed the only hurling alley in the county, and upgraded the surrounds of MacDonagh Park. Clonakenny have had the foresight to erect a stand. Burgess have built new dressingrooms. Templederry have built new dressingrooms and developed a juvenile pitch. Kilruane MacDonaghs have erected a sports hall. Ballinahinch are in the process of re-developing their field. Silvermines have developed a juvenile pitch.

Whereas activity in the South is not as extensive, it is still impressive. In the course of the past year Ballingarry have got new dressingrooms and commenced pitch development. Mullinahone have constructed dressingrooms and a sports hall. Cahir have built a new stand in Cahir park and developed a new pitch in Duneske Park. Fr. Sheehys are developing a new pitch. Ballylooby have bought new grounds to develop a new pitch. Moyle Rovers have completed a major new sports hall. Clerihan, the first new club to be formed in decades, have purchased land to develop their first pitch.

Perhaps work is at its lowest ebb in the Mid. (Maybe they have been concentrating on getting three teams into the senior hurling semi-finals!). Moyne-Templetuohy have developed and lighted a second pitch. There has been ongoing development in Morris Park, where a major new lighting system has been installed at a cost of nearly 100,000.

The West has been very much awake when it comes to development. Galtee Rovers have done a major re-development job on their pitch at Bansha. Cappawhite have developed a full-sized second pitch with lighting. Arravale Rovers have developed a training pitch with lighting. Kickhams have spent a lot of money building new dressingrooms and developing a second pitch. Clonoulty-Rossmore have purchased new ground and are about to commence a major development job on their pitch. Anacarty are just starting work on a second pitch.

All of the above relates to physical development in clubs. But impressive work is also being done at improving management structures and personnel performance within clubs. The National Club Development and Planning Committee have undertaken to visit every club in the country on three to four occasions over the next three years. These visits will provide an opportunity for every club to evaluate their current position and put in place a strategic plan in all areas of activity, which will help the club put in place the structures necessary to meet the challenges ahead.

To facilitate their aims and intention the Planning Committee have updated the Club Manual, which was first produced in 1982. The manual aided clubs in the development of their structures, administration, coaching and physical facilities. The updated a revised version encompasses the definite principles of the original document and embraces the concepts progressed through the Comhairle programme and the Club Advisory Sheets, which were follow-on publications. It also maps out for all clubs the future direction we all must take if we are to meet the challenges faced in every community in today's changing world. Modern lifestyles, increased and varied leisure activity only pose a threat if we do not have the vision or determination to place our club at the centre of community life in our own catchment area.

The third major development that has taken place in the past year is the publication a comprehensive survey of all the clubs in the province of Munster. Published by the Munster Council it brings together within its covers the results of the survey, which was carried out in the clubs during late 2003. The Tipperary information, as is that relating to the other counties, is published as a separate section in the book. It gives us a picture of our strengths and weaknesses, of the numbers playing hurling and



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- 1955*

*Back Row, left to
right: John
Cantwell, Billy
Dunphy, Sean
Madigan, Liam
Boland, Gerry King,
Jim Hyland, Frank
Marshall, Eamon
Cantwell, Jimmy
Mullins
Middle Row, left to
right: Brian
O'Callaghan,
Cristóir O'Dwyer,
Dinny O'Mahoney,
Austin English,
Frank Burke, Butch
Mulhare, Timmy
Ryan, Mick Boland,
Stanley Griffin.
Front: Tony Colbert
& Mick Kelleher*

VICTORY FOR THE VILLAGE OF ARDFINNAN

Ardfinnan won their eighth County Senior Football Championship with a one point win over Loughmore Castleliney at Leahy Park, Cashel on Sunday 30th October 2005. It was our first County Senior title in 31 years. Michael Phelan Captain accepted the O'Dwyer Cup from County Football Chairman – our own Ardfinnan man Pete Savage. The panel featured 5 sets of brothers namely the Bannons, English's, Lonergans, Mahers and Phelans. The Team had victories over Galtee Rovers,

Aherlow, after a replay against Commericals in the semi-final.

Peter Lambert has now won County Senior Football Medals in Tipperary and Cork. Peter was also Manager with Sean Maher Coach along and Willie Barrett, Stan Barlow and Liam Myles Selectors.

It was fitting that Ardfinnan won the Title as the Ardfinnan winning Teams of 1962, 63, 64 were honored by the County G.A.A. Board on the

same day were and also at a function held in Hotel Minella which was sponsored by the Nationalist and Hotel Minella. The Captain Michael Phelan and the Team plus Officials of the Club walked with the Cup held aloft over the bridge and through the village to be greeted by hundreds of fans and a firework display. Finally, the Team thronged by supporters headed to our local Community Hall where the Club Chairman Michael O'Leary addressed and sincerely thanked everyone involved in the success as did

other speakers on the night Peter Lambert, Willie Barrett, Liam Myles and Stan Barlow along with victorious Captain Michael Phelan.

The scenes of emotion and celebration, which were witnessed on the night, will be remembered in the village by young and old for years to come. A huge gratitude is owed to this Team of fine young men who achieved this wonderful victory in dreadful conditions against what seemed to be insurmountable odds.



Ardfinnan – County Senior Football Champions – 1962,63,64

(Honoured by The Nationalist & Minella Hotel on County Football Final day at Leahy Park, Cashel, October 30, 2005)

Back row, left to right: Patsy Ryan, Michael O'Byrne, Eamy Ryan, Freddie Quinn, Tom O'Mahony, Bill Moloney, Michael Moore, Tom Ryan, Alfie McDermott, John English.

Middle row, left to right: John Keating, Bill O'Rourke, Stephen McCormack, Mrs. Dick Keating, Mrs. Tony Finn, Luke Hally, Patsy Savage, Ed O'Dwyer, Jim Moran, Richie O'Mahony.

Front row, left to right: Kitty Savage (for John Ryan), Dick Moloney, Patsy Myles, Christy Browne, Pete Savage, John James Lonergan, Michael Norris, Pakie O'Brien, Ned O'Gorman, Jimmy Keating (for Michael 'Babs' Keating).



ARDFINNAN - COUNTY TIPPERARY SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2005

Front L/R: Gavin O'Mahony, P.J. Lonergan, Alan O'Gorman, Cahal Hennessey, Tony Ryan, Michael Phelan (Capt.), Declan Walsh, Hugh Bannon, Lorcan Bannon, Sean Phelan, Albert Keating

Back Row L/R: Michael English, Gerry Ryan, Sean Maher, Alan J.Lonergan, Eamon Ryan, John R.Murphy, Kieran O'Brien, Terry Kearns, Thomas Maher, Peter Lambert Peter Hally (Manager), James Hackett, Christopher Ryan. Missing from picture: Brendan Cummins, John English and Ken O'Shea

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Kildangan claim Munster and All-Ireland honours

By Liam Hogan

On October 30th 2004, Kildangan won the county final defeating Moyne Templetuohy at Semple Stadium. The win came after 33 years in waiting since Paddy Kelly led his side to victory over Boherlahan in 71.

In the North championship, Kildangan accounted for Knockshe, lost to Burgess before easily defeating Silvermines in the group stages. A two point win over Ballina in the quarter-final earned them a clash with Burgess in the semi-final. The game needed a replay and extra time to see Kildangan through in two very exciting games.

They defeated Borrisokane in the North Final in a close encounter. The county quarter-final tie against St Marys of Clonmel was easy and following a great second half performance against Moycarkey, Kildangan were in the county final.

The county final was played on Saturday October the 30th at Semple stadium. Moyne Templetuohy were disappointing and Kildangan won with 12 points to spare.

Kildangan now represented Tipp in the Munster campaign. Some of the Kildangan mentors travelled south to Cork to see the county intermediate final which was played the day after their own county decider.

Their opponents were a formidable St Catherine's team backboned by former Cork greats, Denis Walsh and Cathal Casey. Kildangan had home advantage and they choose MacDonagh Park, Nenagh as the venue. The game like all Tipp v Cork clashes didn't disappoint.

Playing with the breeze in the first half, Kildangan just managed to lead by 0-10 to 0-9 at the interval. In the second half, they their best hurling throughout the year with Sean Maher outstanding at wing forward. After 44 minutes, Brian Kelly scored a goal and eight minutes later, Enda Nolan added a second to enable a seven points win.

Kildangan would face Smith O Briens from Killaloe for the semi-final at Nenagh again. They led all the way against a determined Clare side. On 53 minutes, Liam Karl Flannery won possession from a high ball before crossing to Egan who wasted little time in blasting to the net from close in. Kildangan won by nine points.

Kildangan now had to travel with the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick for the Munster final meeting with Dromin Athlacca from Limerick. The game was well contested with conditions cold and misty. After nine minutes, the Athlacca full forward, Donal Scully, beat goalkeeper, Dermot Hogan for a goal which gave his team a 1-2 to 0-4 lead at half time. Kildangan showed an improvement in the second half. Six minutes after the break, Conor Hayes deflected a Liam Karl Flannery delivery in to the net. Kildangan never looked back.

The All-Ireland semi-final was played in February at Birr. The St Thomas side looked strong with Galway star, Richie Murray on its team. Darragh Egan failed to start due to injury but would come on in the first half. Kildangan led by 0-6 to 0-4 at half time after playing with the breeze. With ten minutes remaining, the alarm bells sounded as they were pulled back to level terms at 0-7. Kildangan looked the fitter and they responded with three points with Darragh Egan scoring two

from placed balls. Tommie Connors added another before Dan Hackett, now at full forward added a goal to earn a 1-10 to 0-7 victory.

Semple Stadium was the venue for the All-Ireland Final and Carrickshock from Kilkenny were the opponents. The tie marked one of the most remarkable pieces of drama seen in the famous stadium. With three minutes of normal time remaining, Kildangan were trailing by 1-12 to 0-12. Defeat was staring them in the face. A serious leg injury to Dan Hackett held up play for seven minutes. He was replaced by Conor Hayes who had earlier been substituted.

Play resumed three minutes into additional time. Kildangan conceded an own goal, Tommie Connors added a point and Conor Hayes first timed to the net for the match winning goal. After seven minutes of added time, full time whistle sounded and Kildangan were crowned All-Ireland champions. It was a truly remarkable achievement. The highlight of the year in Tipp hurling.

The team that lined out that day was:

Dermot Hogan; Michael Ryan, Liam Kelly, Brian Lawlor, Karl Hogan, Dan Hackett, Ger Slattery Capt; Brian Kelly, Tommy Connors 0-2; Pat Lynch 0-3, Hugh Flannery 0-1, John Maher; Darragh Egan 0-6 (4f), Enda Nolan, Conor Hayes 1-0. Subs-Liam Karl Flannery 0-1 for Maher 24th min, Brian McLoughlin for Nolan h/t; John Slattery for Hayes 42nd min, Sean Gleeson for McLoughlin 55th min; Conor Hayes for Hackett in 60th min.

Nov 27th - Munster Intermediate Hurling First Round 04

Kildangan 2-17 St Catherine's (Cork) 1-13
Nenagh

Dec 4th - Munster Intermediate Hurling Semi final 04

Kildangan 1-17 Smith O Briens (Clare) 0-11
Nenagh

Dec 12th - Munster Club Intermediate Hurling Final 04

Kildangan 1-10 Dromin Athlacca (Limerick) 1-4
Limerick

Feb 13th - All-Ireland Intermediate Club Hurling Semi Final 05

Kildangan 1-10 St Thomas (Galway) 0-7 Birr

March 28th - All-Ireland Intermediate Club Hurling Final 05

Kildangan 2-13 Carrickshock (Kilkenny) 1-13 Semple Stadium



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Kildangan intermediate hurlers acknowledge their support at the homecoming party in Puckane.



Action from the All-Ireland Intermediate Final at Semple Stadium.



Listening to Former President of the GAA Joe McDonagh's address at Kildangan GAA Dinner Dance are (L to R) - Donal Flannery, Pat Gleeson, Paddy Coen, Patricia Flannery, Michael Fitzgibbon and Breda Fitzgibbon.



Top table at the Kildangan GAA Dinner Dance in January 2005
 Standing: Michael 'Spike' Nolan (County Board Treasurer), Michael O'Brien (County Board Secretary), Fr Hogan, Joe McDonagh (Special Guest), Liam Kelly (Chairman), Donie Shanahan (County Board Chairman), John Costigan (County Board Vice-Chairman), Fr Slattery
 Seated: Joan O'Brien, Gerard McKeogh (North Board Secretary), Catherine Gleeson (North Board Treasurer), Sean Fogarty (Munster Council Chairman), BeeMai Fogarty, Nora Kelly (RIP), Margaret Nolan.



Sean Gleeson comes in with the ball in the All-Ireland Intermediate Final.



Kildangan young fans at All-Ireland Intermediate Final.

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Kildangan's Trip to Scotland

by Liam Hogan

Kildangan Hurling team travelled to Scotland to play a Kingussie in a hurling/shinty compromise game. The trip was a prize for Kildangan team that won the All-Ireland intermediate club championship and to play one of the leading teams in the shinty premiership.

Catherine Gleeson, treasurer of the North Tipperary senior board and former club secretary, along with Mary Egan, local National School teacher, mother of Kildangan and Tipperary player, Darragh Egan, travelled with the party.

Recently, they spoke to Liam Hogan recalling the beauty of the countryside, the game and the pleasant memories they took home from the trip.

The town of Kingussie is situated in the Scottish Highlands and is a three and a half hour bus journey from Glasgow Airport. As the crow flies the journey is much shorter but the road over mountain terrain would not be conducive for driving.

"We travelled through Perth on a hundred mile journey through the scenic route of the Grampian Mountains and Dunblaine where the Dunblaine School massacre happened. "We saw the castle in where the film, Braveheart was filmed," said Mary Egan.

The scenery along the route was breathtaking they told me. Sheep farming is very prominent also, while many lakes and castles dot the country side. Barley is very plentiful and Kingussie is surrounded by many distilleries. It is significant that the Kingussie team is sponsored by a local distillery.

"The sign posts placed along the journey are written in both Scottish Gaelic and English. The similarity between the Scottish Gaelic and our own version is surprisingly similar. For instance, the Scottish version for Kingussie is Ceann Guiseach or the Head of the Pinewood," said Mary.

When the party arrived in Kingussie, the players stayed at a Hostel called Happy Days. Their girlfriends stayed in the nearby Topsy Laird while the supporters and officials plus partners

stayed at Loch Insh, a water park similar to Domineer, about six miles from Kingussie town.

The next day, the team trained in a local soccer field. Others availed of a fifty minute train journey to Inverness.

"The train fares are much cheaper there than here in Ireland. It cost 8.20 sterling return per adult and 4.10 per child. The train journey goes right into the centre of Inverness," said Catherine Gleeson.

Meanwhile, the lads retired for a game of golf or they could partake in some water sport activities in Loch Insh. The activities include kayaking, water ski-ing, canoeing and sailing. There was some dry slope ski-ing also.

On Saturday, the players had an early morning training session followed by a puck around. At 12 noon, the full party were invited to Newtonmore, three miles away, as guests to the McPherson's Clan Highland games.

"There were dozens of national flags from all over the world, each representing where a member of the McPherson Clan lived. Significantly, the Irish and Scottish flags flew highest, side by side, in the middle of the field. Seeing the Irish flag brought a lump in my throat," said Catherine.

"The games were held in a field about the size of the two GAA fields at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh. There was sheave throwing, tossing the caper, highland dancing and piper competitions. There were also many races for every age up to adult for both men and women. The seating arrangements were situated in rectangular shape sheltered with long strips of canvas cloth from the highland breeze," added Catherine.

At the perimeter of the ground, there were many large tents with the old fashioned red and white stripes prominent along with stalls selling many goods.

The Kildangan team were welcomed to the games by John McIntosh, president of the Scottish Shinty Bord or An Camanachd as it is known. John is recognised as the Christy Ring of shinty, a winner of eleven national titles in the code.

The President also welcomed Sean Fogarty, chairman of the Munster Council and Tommy Moran, chairman of the Connacht Council both of whom were representing the Gaelic Athletic Association

After tasting the flavour of the games, the Kildangan team had to make an early exit for Kingussie for the big game at 7.15pm. There were many posters placed all around the area in shop

fronts and poles. "The Celtic Cup Challenge", it said, Kingussie v Kildangan at the Dell, throw in 7.15 sharp.

"The Dell pitch is rented long term for 500 sterling a year to the Kingussie club. It's well manicured pitch is tended to by a full a professional greenkeeper. The pitch is surrounded by a guard rail and has two dug-outs situated, one at each side of the field.

"Kingussie have a great record," said Catherine. "They won the last seven premier leagues and 17 out of the last twenty. Shinty is usually twelve aside where the ball is struck along the ground,"

"For the compromise game, each team were allowed 14 a-side with the Scottish team allowed to play in their customary way of playing the ball along the ground. They were allowed two points if they scored from sideline ball or any placed ball. Neither side were allowed to kick the ball while Kildangan team were permitted to rise and strike the ball without catching it," "Prior to the game, a lone piper led the teams on to the middle of the field. Kildangan turned left and Kingussie to the right. Then, each team were presented to John McIntosh, chairman of the Scottish Shinty Federation and Liam Flannery, acting Chairman of the Kildangan team," explained Catherine. When the game got under way, the attendance was treated to a very competitive game. At the end, Kildangan won by 3-10 to 2-8. After the game, the Kildangan team presented with a Quaik, a whisky drinking dish made of sterling silver by John McIntosh, while Sean Fogarty presented same to the Kingussie team. The beautiful dish had two emblems placed at each side displaying two hurleys and two shinty sticks both crossed in similar fashion. After the game, it was back to the local for refreshments before retiring for the evening.

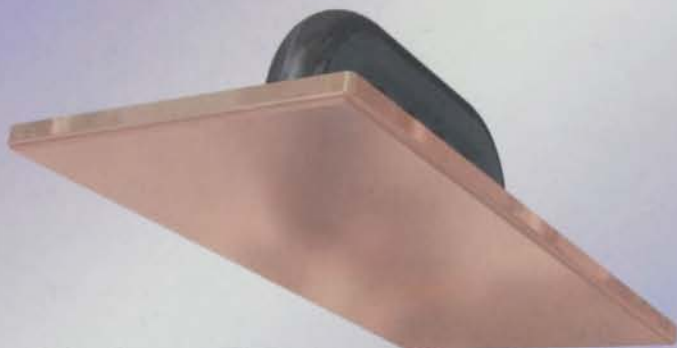
The following day, Catherine and Mary travelled to a museum in Newtonmore. It is situated on a 32 acre farm. The Museum is similar to Bunratty castle. It depicts the life of the people in the Highland area from the 1790s to the present day.

Just to prove the connection between Shinty and hurling, the local coffee shop, had many photos of shinty action but one photo stood out. It showed Declan Ryan in action in the 1991 All-Ireland final between Tipperary and Kilkenny.

Another memory in what was a memorable trip

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A Roller Coaster of Emotions.

By Liam Hogan

March 28th marked an unforgettable day in the history of Kildangan hurling. They won the All-Ireland Intermediate club final in Semple Stadium defeating a fancied Carrickshock team from Kilkenny.

For Eamon Kelly, the manager of the Kildangan team, the last five minutes of that All-Ireland final will live in his memory for ever. The moment had arrived when Eamon wondered if this hurling game was worth it such was the state of Dan Hackett's leg.

Dan Hackett was always the pivotal player on the Kildangan team. He starred at centre back and late in the game, he was just moved to the attack. He switched to there in the semi final also and scored the decisive goal. He did not score this time. On his second touch, he fell awkwardly on his leg.

"When Dan went down with his leg badly broken and he lay in agony, I had to think for two seconds between looking after him medically and having to make a change as well," says Eamon.

After a lengthy delay, Dan was stretchered off the field.

"What happened next was unbelievable," said Eamon. "Kildangan scored 2-1. I don't think Dan was off the field when we scored the first goal. I remember clasping Dan's hand and saying we will do this for you," he added.

In the end, Kildangan won by 2-13 to 1-13 and the parish and indeed, the whole of the county rejoiced as Ger Slattery received the cup from Sean Fogarty, chairman of the Munster Council. Eamon Kelly took on the role of manager in 2000. He remained at the helm except for one year. In 2004, he decided it would be his last year. Little did he think that fifteen games later Kildangan would be All-Ireland champions.

The journey began in June. Kildangan defeated Knockshe with a poor performance. They lost to Burgess in the second game before easily defeating Silvermines to claim a place in the knockout stages. Kildangan's approach was different this time.

Conscious of their experiences from the previous years, they aimed to be at peak fitness by September and not in June by which time they were "hopping off the ground," as Eamon declared.

In the early games, the team were missing a number of influential players from match to match including Conor Hayes and Darragh Egan, who were exam tied while Brian Kelly was out of the country. Their absence gave new players like Michael Ryan a chance to establish a prominent position. The right corner back was later named player of the year. "We were lucky against Ballina. They had a man sent off and we took our foot off the gas," Enter Ger Hegarty the former Limerick hurler and a friend of Eamon.

"I have to say that only for Ger Hegarty, we would not have won the county final. He is a great man to get the players in a proper frame

of mind. Ger watched the Ballina game from the bank before moving to the sideline for the semi final against Burgess.

Games between Kildangan and Burgess are always tense and close fought encounters. This semi final must rank with one of the best. Two rip roaring encounters which needed 150 minutes to separate the teams.

"It (the game) was a real roller coaster of emotions," said Eamon. "I gave out to the ref on the first day and I thought I had lost us the game. The ball was moved up and Burgess levelled the game.

"We had the game won the second day and they came back to get a goal and force extra time. Burgess went two points up at half time of extra time after playing against the breeze. I don't know where the lads got the resolve but they came back in the next period to win."

Kildangan were in the North final against Borrisokane.

"I think we were very lucky to get a win. There were massive crowds at the Burgess game so the hype for the final was high. Borris just sat back without a word about them. The game seemed gone from us. Conor Hayes got a great goal and brought us back into the game. Darragh Egan got a few frees. They had a short puckout and Darragh intercepted to level it. We were lucky to go on and win.

"Borris were a good side. They were unlucky not to reach the county final, (later on) and I would not be looking forward to meeting them again if they did."

At this point, three games stood between Kildangan and a much sought after county final. Not since 1971, did Kildangan last achieve that great moment. But first, there was the matter of St Marys and Moycarkey in the quarter final and semi finals respectively.

"We knew nothing about St Marys. We knew that Donnacha Fahy (former Tipp player) was not playing. The lads hurled well and won easily.

"The game against Moycarkey was the game that won us the All-Ireland. We played with the breeze in the first half and were a point down at half time. It looked like Moycarkey were going to win. I will never forget the lads in the dressing room at half time. There was fire in their eyes. They were rearing to get back out and they won that game in the second half.

"From that game on, Kildangan became a second half team," he added. "In the following games against Moyne, St Catherine's, Dromin Athlaca in the Munster final and St Thomas of Galway, every one of them were great second half finishes.

The county final against Moyne Templetuohy?

"That game had very little edge in it. We got a great start. Moyne never came back. There wasn't the same excitement in it maybe as there was in the other games. But it was a great achievement. We had achieved our goal and that was to win the county final from the beginning of the year."

Then there is the link with your father who captained the team that won the final in 71? "It was great for him." He went on. "It was great for him and my mother. It meant an awful lot. My mother washes the jerseys. My father spends a lot of time in the field either making tea or putting out the flags.

"Since I took over in 2000, the winning of a county final was the aim," he reiterated. "It was a great relief. We got caught in 2002 and that was used as a constant reminder in the dressing room," he added.

Kildangan had now entered the Munster

campaign. It was unknown territory. Some of the Kildangan selectors travelled down to Cork to see the intermediate final; and that was the morning after the county final celebrations.

St Catherine's from Cork were the first round opponents. They had a formidable side with two former Cork players, Denis Walsh and Cathal Casey on the team.

"We didn't do ourselves justice in the first half. At half time, we knew we had to lift our game similar to the game against Moycarkey. We knew we were there before. They were a very good side.

"Smith O Briens (Killaloe) were a far tougher side. We won well in the finish but for most it was a game of nip and tuck. They were without their captain, Michael Lenihan, who was a big loss.

Dromin Athlaca were the team between Kildangan and a Munster final. The game was played in the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick.

"We knew nothing about Dromin Athlaca except that they had an easy win over the Waterford champions. We saw their county final on video. They got off to a great start with a goal in the first few minutes. Again, our lads produced a great second half performance. Conor Hayes scored a goal. It was a tough day to play hurling. Very cold with a light mist falling all day."

Returning home with a third piece of silverware, the team received a great reception. Puckane was black with people that evening. It gave the players a thirst for more. Now the team had an eight-week rest before their quest for an All-Ireland would begin.

The All-Ireland semi-final opponents, St Thomas of Galway, had some well known players like current Galway senior, Richie Murray and former under age players like Enda Tannian and Maurice Headd. Kildangan had some injury problems.

"Darragh Egan could not start due to injury. We had hoped to play him in the second half at the same time we were hoping to have the breeze with us in that half."

That plan went out the window as soon as St Thomas elected to play against the breeze in the first half. They used a three man midfield. It was a low scoring game. Kildangan were not playing well and they had to introduce Egan earlier than anticipated to up the scoring power before the interval. It would also mean calling some player ashore. Eamon takes it from there.

"Michael Ryan was our extra man and as he was a man marker, we decided to take him off. He hadn't put a foot wrong all year and he was playing ok in this game as well. We brought him back on at half time. Again we produced a great second half performance.

After the victory, all roads led to Thurles for the final. The hype surpassed that of both the county and Munster finals.

"The hype in the run up to the final was unreal. It will probably stick in our minds for ever. People came from America, England and all over Ireland. I got cards from everywhere wishing us well. To see the scenes on the field after the game, I will never forget.

"After the final whistle, I headed for the medical room to tell Dan that we had won. It was a bit emotional. When I returned to the pitch, I failed to see the presentation because of so many people meeting me, shaking my hand. I never forgot the occasion for many, many reasons.

Burgess win Cidona County Intermediate title

By Club PRO Bridget Delaney



Back row: Pat Cremin (manager), Darrell Tucker (selector), Liam Hogan, Peter Carroll, Noel McDonnell, Patrick Tucker, Jonathon Maher, Timmy Hogan, Brian Hogan, Noel Gleeson, Damien O'Brien, Paul Hogan, Eoin Hogan, John Scroope, Shane Ryan, Robbie Cremin, Kevin Nealon, Tony Dunne, Tony Scroope.
Front row, left to right: Gerry Ryan, Garrett Howard, Paddy Hogan, Donagh Maher, Niall McGrath, Colm O'Brien, Conor Quigley, David Ryan, Shane Maher (capt.), Ger Fogarty, Leo Quigley, David Maher, Donie Nealon (selector), Pat Carroll (chairman).

Burgess were crowned intermediate hurling champions for the second time in the club's history on October 30th last, when they overcame the challenge of Mid champions Moycarkey-Borris. The game was played in atrocious weather conditions at Semple Stadium. Their previous county IHC win was in 1993 in a rain-drenched Kenyon Park, Templederry so bad weather was a good omen as many famous Burgess' victories came with the wind and the driving rain. Team players David and Shane Ryan also played in that occasion, while team selectors Darrell Tucker and Donie Nealon has links with the first win, Darrell played at corner-forward while Donie was team manager. The pressure was on to win this one as Burgess had lost five county finals since 2002 by margins no more than two points, these were intermediate (2003), junior (2003 and 2004), minor 'A' and under-21 'A' (2002). Also,

since the new Millennium four teams in the North division had won county IHC finals – Templederry (2000), Newport (2002), Kilruane MacDonaghs (2003), Kildangan (2004), and Silvermines were winners in 1999.

On June 11th last, Burgess began their winning journey, when they overcame Lorrha & Dorrha by 2-17 to 1-9 at Cloughjordan, the day that Pat Murray, the esteemed Burgess GAA President passed away. The Murray family requested that the match go ahead and a minutes silence was observed in his memory, before which North Board secretary, Ger McKeogh, availed of the public address system to outline his many achievements with club and county on the playing pitch. Two weeks later, the eve of the Munster final, Borrisokane provided a stubborn resistance before victory came Burgess way by 0-20 to 1-14. At as sunny MacDonagh Park, Cloughjordan

on July 16th, the green and gold boys accounted for Shannon Rovers by 2-17 to 2-10.

Three wins in the group series put Burgess in the North semi-final, where they overcame a stout challenge from Silvermines, 2-13 to 1-8. Shane Ryan and Eoin Hogan were promoted from the junior A team for this challenge and played a big part in the win. Ballina defeated Lorrha & Dorrha in the other semi-final after a tight finish and this pitted Burgess against Ballina in the Guardian North IHC final for the first time ever, with Burgess topping the roll of honour of intermediate North titles with 13, and Ballina appearing in their first intermediate final in over 30 years, and never winning one. Ballina did not do justice to themselves on Sept. 17th at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh going down by 2-8 to 1-23, with Burgess captain Shane Maher receiving the Fr Hewitt Cup from Nenagh Guardian editor, Gary Cotter.

On Saturday, October 1st at Templemore, Burgess had a comprehensive win over West finalists Eire Og (Anacarty) in the county quarter-final by double scores, 2-18 to 1-9 in a day of mixed emotions, as later in the day North junior champions, Burgess, went down narrowly to Cappawhite in the county JHC quarter-final at the Ragg.

Sunday, Oct. 23rd was the date, and Semple Stadium was the venue for the Cidona county intermediate semi-finals. In the curtain raiser Moycarkey-Borris accounted for South champions Aherlow by 2-17 to 0-13, while the rain came pouring down for the concluding half of the second match, when Burgess wore their impressive second strip to emerge convincing winners over last year's finalists Moyne-Templetuohy by 4-16 to 1-12.

Seven days later, the North and Mid champions met in the Cidona county intermediate final at the Stadium, with the Cidona county junior final between Drom & Inch and Knockshegowna acting as curtain raiser. Burgess took the game to Moycarkey from the beginning and led at the interval by 1-5

to 0-1. In the third quarter the teams matched each other score for score in trying conditions. Burgess were rocked with two quick goals by Moycarkey in the 45th minute to put the Mid boys trailing by just two points – game on. Burgess introduced Noel McDonnell and Eoin Hogan in the 50th minute to help stem the tide. The teams were deadlocked entering injury time, Burgess had two wides from frees before Tony Scroope slotted over the winning point after Eoin Hogan was fouled near the goalmouth and the blow of the long whistle from All Ireland senior hurling referee, Seamus Roche, brought music to ears of Burgess players, mentors, backroom team and supporters, with the rain being treated as liquid sunshine.

The inspirational Burgess captain rendered a most impressive speech while fans savoured the memories. Burgess midfielder Brian Hogan accepted the Cidona Man of the Match award from county board chairman, Donal Shanahan. The team travelled by bus, which was a new venture, and they helped quench their thirst at Stapleton's, Borrisoleigh and satisfy their hunger at the Five Alley. The night was still young when the home coming ceremony was staged at Burgess GAA Sports Complex in Kilcolman. The bus took the team and officials to Newtown village where the Jacksie Ryan Cup was introduced to the

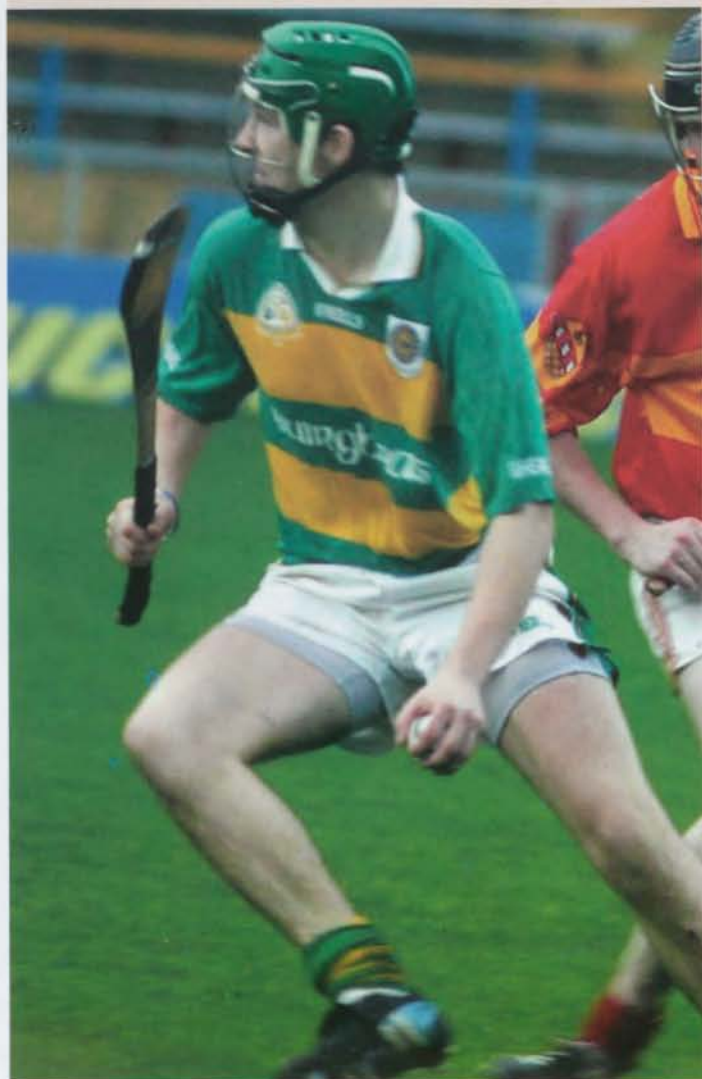


Coach Ollie Moran

local hostelrys Reidys and Barrys.

Statistics: In the eight championship games played, Burgess scored 14-135 and conceded 11-77. Twenty-one played in the campaign with all seven defenders holding their places. Seventeen-year-old Tony Dunne is the youngest player involved. Fourteen players got on the scoring sheet – Tony Scroope (3-57), Kevin Nealon (5-18), Noel Gleeson (3-21), Damien (0-12), Jonathan Maher (1-6), Shane Ryan (2-2), Tony Dunne (0-5), Brian Hogan (0-4), Eoin Hogan (0-3), Paul Hogan and Noel McDonnell (0-2 each), Garrett Howard, Shane Maher and Conor Quigley (0-1 each).

County final team & scorers: David Ryan, Ger Fogarty, David Maher, Leo Quigley, Conor Quigley, Shane Maher (captain), Robbie Cremin, Brian Hogan, Jonathan Maher (0-2), Tony Dunne (0-2), Damien O'Brien, Tony Scroope (0-5), Kevin Nealon (1-1), Shane Ryan, Noel Gleeson. Subs used – Noel McDonnell, Eoin Hogan (0-1). Other players used in campaign – Paul Hogan, Garrett Howard, Donagh Maher and Timmy Hogan. Other members on panel: Niall McGrath, Gerry Ryan, Liam Hogan, Colm O'Brien, Paddy Hogan, Peter Carroll, Paul Seymour. Team management – Pat Cremin (manager), Ollie Moran (coach), Darrell Tucker and Donie Nealon (selectors).



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SOME ACCOUNT OF WILLIAM PRENDERGAST OF CLONMEL

By Seamus O'Riain

WHO WAS WILLIAM PRENDERGAST?

The late Gerry O'Keeffe of Clonmel, former Secretary of the South Tipperary G.A.A. Board and also a former Chairman of the Munster Council, did some research on William Prendergast, but could not establish any very definite details except that he had many connections in the area of Chancellorstown, Derrygath and Ardinnan. He appears to have been in business for some time in a premises in Parnell St., Clonmel, later occupied by another well-known Gael, Larry Tobin. Prendergast was keenly interested in athletics, hurling and Gaelic life in general, and he was one of the most prominent members of the Clonmel Athletic Club, and wrote articles on the Club's activities in the local press. He was held in high regard by athletes and hurlers and this led to his election as Secretary of the Association. Maurice Davin drafted a new constitution for the reconstructed association which was adopted by the convention. (page 64 O'Sullivan 1916).

For weeks after the break-up of the 1887 G.A.A. Convention in Thurles, the dissolution of the association seemed to be imminent. However, gradually, concerned groups came together to consider means to adopt to avoid such a calamity. County Conventions were formed in many counties and special meetings were held among some of the leading figures including Archbishop Croke, Maurice Davin, John WJse Power, Michael Davitt and some others. Eventually a plan was formed to reconstruct the Association on the terms suggested by His Grace, the Archbishop. The first meeting of the reconstructed association was held in Thurles on the 4th January 1888 and the following officers were elected:

President: Maurice Davin
Treasurer: R.J.Frewen
Hon. Secretary: Wm.Prendergast, Clonmel
Hon. Secretary of the Council: T.O'Riordan, Cork
Record Secretary: J.J. Cullen, Kingstown

From 'The Story of the G.A.A.' by T.F. O'Sullivan 1916

The new secretary set to work immediately to arrange the hurling championships that had been neglected. He made arrangements for games to be played in Clonmel with the approval of the counties concerned, but the opponents of the new

Seamus O'Riain



executive upset all the arrangements made. Prendergast wrote to the Gael, the voice of the opposition, protesting about their actions in destroying his plans. The Gael refused to publish the letter so Prendergast sent it to Cusack who published it in The Celtic Times.

The letter is the only one extant from the pen of William Prendergast that I am aware of. It illustrates his exceptional writing style and his power of presenting an argument without having recourse to personal abuse which was a common feature of the period. It also gives an example of the kind of opposition which the new secretary had to face as he tried to direct the affairs of the revised association of Davin.

HEREWITH IS THE LETTER AS PRINTED IN 'THE CELTIC TIMES'

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

TIPPERARY WEATHERS THE GAEL

We have been favoured by Mr. Prendergast with the following, which is a copy of a letter he has addressed to the Editor of 'The Gael':-

'Under the above heading in the last issue of your journal (The Gael), I find that my name has cropped up in connection with the Championship Hurling Match, announced to take place here on Sunday 23rd of October. A copy of your paper was forwarded to me by a friend, as it is not sold here. Now, Sir, in order to let the public understand thoroughly what it means, the few following facts will, doubtless, speak volumes.

'I will commence by drawing attention to the Tournament which was arranged for Clonmel, 9th Oct., and for the holding of

which we had ample and elaborate arrangements made, not to speak of the expenditure incurred thereby. But how bitterly we were disappointed will be explained further down.

'It is within the knowledge of all that when Limerick and Kilkenny played for the Championship in Dublin, it resulted in a draw. Soon after the Executive met in Limerick, and decided to leave the selection of the next venue to the clubs themselves, and they mutually agreed to play off the match in Clonmel, intimation of which I received from Mr. Burris, President of Kilkenny County Champions, who called on me and requested me to provide a field for the occasion. We cheerfully complied with the request, and immediately posters were issued by the Railway Company, at the instance of the Limerick and Kilkenny secs. of the G.A.A., intimating to the people that excursions would from Waterford and Limerick to Clonmel.

'In the meantime I received communications from Thurles, Waterford and Moycarkey, asking if they would be afforded opportunity of contending in friendly rivalry on that date, and, to add eclat to the occasion, we gladly complied with their request, and took vigorous and active steps to make the day a memorable one in the history of athleticism; and to give you proof of our serious intentions and earnestness we gave the Waterford and Limerick Company a guarantee of £10 for a train between Thurles and Clonmel, besides posting the dead- walls of the various towns throughout Tipperary, Kilkenny and Waterford.

'All went merrily as a marriage bell until the evening of 8th October, when a message was flashed across the wires to me from Waterford, which stated that the match would not take place in Bansha the following day. I did not at the moment, nor could I, think of giving credence to the announcement received so late, and without chance of averting the disaster, but when Sunday morning dawned, and with it came the contingents and admirers of Gaelic pastimes, I was rudely awakened to my position, when I saw disappointment - rueful, pitiable disappointment - painted vividly on every face as the trains steamed out from Clonmel station, bringing their weighty burden to Bansha, save the train that arrived from Thurles, which only brought a very limited number; and this can be accounted for by the fact of the stationmaster refusing to book passengers to Clonmel, thus violating the agreement set forth in the posters announcing the excursion. The major portion of intending excursionists, amounting fully to four hundred persons, would not dream of going to Bansha, and, consequently, returned to their homes; and those included Tom O'Grady's men, of the Moycarkey team. The Captain himself put in an appearance, and expressed himself in burning words of

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indignation at the treatment to which the people of Cion me I were subjected at the hands of the Executive. I then arranged with Tom O'Grady to play on the first occasion possible, and that arose on the 23rd October, when we invited his team to play us. His team arrived on the field long before the champions, and were in the act of commencing the game when Mr. F. R. Maloney, who it seems was appointed referee, requested to see me and demanded the use of the field. I replied that both teams were then on the field and ready, and that it would be better to allow this match to be decided. Mr. Maloney remarked that the Moycarkey club was an expelled one. My rejoinder was, that I was not aware of such a state of things, and I had it on Mr. O'Grady's assertion, that he had no notification to this effect. He, Mr. Maloney, alleged that he attended a meeting of the Executive when Moycarkey was expelled. But owing to some bungling or neglect on the part of their secretary, he failed to notify the information to the Moycarkey team, and consequently I asserted that the rules of the organisation could not be put in force against that team. After the interview, I called several members of the Clonmel Committee together, and they were unanimous, when all was explained, in arriving at the conclusion of allowing the match to come off, as at first arranged.

'Allowing Mr. Maloney all praise for his good intentions and his anxiousness in promoting Gaelic pastimes, I must certainly be forced to the unreasonable conclusion that, did he display a little more prudence and discretion on the 23rd October, the Championship would be very conveniently held; but he seemed in toto against allowing the champion teams to decide their match on the same ground on which the men of Moycarkey hurled, although there was plenty of time for deciding the match, as nothing would give us greater pleasure than to be witnesses of it.

'We have been described as rebellionists. Yes, we rebel against all coercionists, whether National or otherwise, and the practice of coercion, so common in Ireland now that even bodies claiming to be Nationalists seem to have a taste for it, having violated Rules 14 and 5 of the G.A.A. Constitution, and seeing with our own eyes the informal manner in which things have been conducted. Our President resigned, the great Archbishop threatening to withdraw his patronage, other true and faithful representatives doing likewise, it is time that those who have a real interest in the G.A.A. should speak out their minds. We are governed by a most incompetent body of men, who were the first to violate the rule, and we have lost all confidence in them.

'Had they carried out the laws as constituted we would respect them, but the governing body seemed like a derelict vessel- rudderless and drifting hopelessly on the surging foam, not knowing how soon

she may sink amidst billows.
Wm. Prendergast, Hon. Sec.,

Clonmel G.A.C.

When the Invaders returned their effort was classed as a failure at home. Mainly due to divided loyalties in Ireland and also in the states, very little financial contributions were made to the project from either side of the Atlantic. Davin was subjected to strong criticism and as a result he resigned the presidency, and Prendergast became disillusioned with his role, and eventually within a few years emigrated to America.

From "The History of the GAA" by TF O'Sullivan, 1916 Prendergast looked around for a new way of living in New York and secured a position in the New York police force. He was appointed a patrolman in the Long Island area and he lived in No. 116 East 22nd St. He was a silent man and on his rounds studied the topography of the place and whenever he saw a likely property for sale he bought it and built up some real estate for himself. When the transport company was running a line through Long Island they had to deal with him in high figures. One plot of land he sold to an agent of J.D. Rockefeller for \$100,000. When he retired he was a wealthy man, but he did not forget his upbringing. He continued to take a deep interest in Gaelic Games and he devoted much time to organising Irish emigrants in hurling and athletics. He purchased Celtic Park and made it the playground of the Irish in New York. He was one of the founders of the Irish-American Athletic Association. It is reported that he returned to visit his relations in Clonmel on a short holiday and returned to New York.

Taken mainly from Nenagh News and Tipperary Vindicator 3/8/1907

Another important assignment which had to be completed by Davin and Prendergast was the arrangements for what became known as The American Invasion of 1886. Most of the work of selecting personnel, equipping them and engaging them in exhibitions, fell to a few leading officials who had to travel widely through the west and south of the country. Eventually, a party of over fifty set sail on the Wisconsin, and arrived safely in New York where they were given a rousing reception by a distinguished group of officials. Exhibitions of hurling and athletics were performed for delighted spectators in various cities, where their prowess in hurling and athletics was admired and applauded.

Mr Prendergast kept a complete and voluminous record of those early days when Gaelic Games were in their infancy in this country. These consist of letters, newspaper clippings, official records and books and magazines devoted to the sports of Ireland, a valuable and unique collection which would be difficult, if not impossible, to duplicate elsewhere.

Knowing also the work that has been done by The Irish World in the same cause, and realising the value of his records, Mr Prendergast, wishing that they would be preserved for the benefit of the cause to which he devoted his long and colourful life, has presented these records to The Irish World, together with a caman possessed of a unique history. In making this presentation, Mr Prendergast said he wanted these things to be kept by those who would honour and understand them, and that he knew no better way to do this than by giving them into the custody and care of The Irish World.

Another prized possession which Mr Prendergast turned over to The Irish World is a bound volume containing all the issues of the Celtic Times, published in Dublin, and devoted to the furthering of Irish games. The first number was published on January 1st 1887. It is described as a weekly newspaper for the preservation and cultivation of the language, literature, music and pastimes of the Celtic race. The pages of this interesting and valuable publication are full of the history and records of the early days of the movement to prevent the extinction of everything national in Ireland. The Nationalist, Wednesday July 19th 1931.

N.B. Can find no account of W. Prendergast's death.

The caman presented to The Irish World by Mr Prendergast is made from a naturally bent mountain ash. It is split and not bent, possessing its natural growth, as it should. In referring to it, Mr Prendergast said: "The design of this hurley was my own fancy. It was hurled with Maurice Davin. I had a very strong right arm. The caman may seem a bit short, but it suited me as I sometimes used only one hand." There is no other wood equal to mountain ash in making a hurley, and it must be split only. The caman, which is a beautiful piece of wood and which retains its pristine freshness in spite of its age and the scars of many battles, carries interesting records of its career. On one side is a picture of the Irish Harp, followed by the inscription: 'Gaelic Invasion of America, September

1888. Wm. Prendergast, Hon. Sec., played at Dublin, Dunleary, Wexford, Dundalk, Tullamore, Kilkenny, Thurles and Cork'.

On the opposite side is a picture of the American flag, followed by the names of the cities where games were played and in which this hurley took part: New York, Brooklyn, Boston, Lowell, Lawrence, Worcester, Troy, Albany, Yonkers, Paterson, Newark, Trenton and Philadelphia. It was also used by the famous Tom Kiely at St. Louis in 1904, and in Buffalo in 1901, where exhibitions were given for seven days. Surely there is no other caman in existence with such a record as this that it will not be necessary to assure that it will be preserved with loving care as long as The Irish World lasts.

TIPPERARY LADIES FOOTBALL 2005

Over the past ten years Ladies Football in Tipperary has made and is continuing to make great strides at all levels in the county and while we haven't made the breakthrough at inter county level at any grade yet, the signs are very good that this will happen in the next couple of years. 2005 continued this progress and Tipperary took part in all inter-county competitions from under-14 to junior. The junior team won division 3 of the Suzuki National League and in 2006 will be taking part in division 2

Under Age

Under 12

2005 saw 26 teams in the under 12 competition alone, with some clubs entering two teams, showing the growth of the game at underage level. Cahir club had success in 2005 in the under 12A competition winning the county title on a replay against the relative new comers to ladies football, Clonmel Commercials. This final went to a replay and in both games we had outstanding performances from Ashling McCarthy, sharp shooter supreme, and the captain, Ashling O Connor, lead by example orchestrating everything up front and motivating her team mates throughout the field. Commercials were not without their stars either and Chelsea Burke and Aoife O Reilly in the forward line combined with Karen Kavanagh in goals and Amy Peters in the back and Jessica Stokes in mid field made Cahir fight all the way the for under 12 title

Cahir: Rebecca Quinn, Donna Casey, Ruth Cummins, Emma Buckley, Shauna O'Donnell, Avril Hearne, Ashling Higgins, Claire Harris, Sabrina McGrath, Kirsty Downey, Ashling O'Connor (capt) Ashling McCarthy, Clionadh Higgins, Orla McEniry, Aoife O Gorman Subs: Lorna McEniry, Emma Corcoran, Niamh Walsh, Jane O'Donovan, Ashling Armitage, Ashling Moloney, Rebecca

Murphy, Aoife O'Brien
Clonmel Commercials: Karen Kavanagh, Sinead O'Meara, Amy Peters, Tanya Peters, Chloe McGuire, Emma Logue, Veronica Horgan, Jessica Stokes, Chelsea Burke, Nicole Tobin, Jessica Newman, Niamh White, Orla Hynes, Aoife O'Reilly, Caoimhe McCann.
Subs: Aisling O'Meara, Aisling Kelly, Louise Boland, Anna Brennan, Hailey Brogan, Lauren Brogan

The under-14 championship in 2005 was a hard fought-out affair, Cahir & Aherlow emerged to fight out the A final in Golden on a miserable wet July evening, while we had to wait until late September for the B final between Ballyporeen and Brian Boru's, which was played in glorious sunshine in Goatenbridge. This competition was played on a league basis to give the girls more competitive games and proved to be an excellent competition. Emly were the surprise team in the B section winning most of their matches in the league section only to come up against an "on song" Brian Boru's outfit in the semi-final in New Inn. Ballyporeen overcame a tough Mullinahone side and defeated Cappawhite comprehensively in their semi-final.

In the A competition Cahir defeated Moyle Rovers to set up a final with Aherlow. Cahir were very strong at under 14 and well prepared with some talented players available to them namely Leanne Barrett, Freda Casey, Nicola Armitage and Anne Marie O Gorman. Aherlow are a very new club to underage ladies football and fielded a young side in this final. Players to look out for in the future include Julie O'Meara, Lorraine Peters Ann Marie Fahey. Holly West between the posts for Aherlow on the day gave a great display of good goalkeeping even though they were comprehensively beaten. Cahir under-14 A county final winners: Sarah Harris, Leane Hickey, Nicola Armitage, Ruth Cummins, Claire S

Harris, Aoife Casey, Emer Collins, Geraldine O'Donnell, Freda Casey, Ann Marie O Gorman, Leanne Barrett, Bronagh Higgins, Stephanie O'Halloran, Gillian O'Keeffe, Aishling O'Connor, Aoife Burke, Avril Hearne, Shauna O'Donnell, Tracy Smith, Aishling Higgins, Clionagh Higgins, Stephanie Seery. Aherlow under-14 A runners-up: Holly West, Danielle Cunningham, Ciara O'Dwyer, Roisin McGrath, Laura Ivory, Julie O'Meara, Joanne Peters, Rachel Kennedy, Sarah McGlinchey, Dannielle Nevin, Lorraine Peters, Claire Mullins, Helena O'Brien, Ann Marie Fahey, Moya Donovan

The under-16 championship was a very interesting affair in 2005 with old rivals Cahir and Moyle Rovers in the A division and poised to meet in the final and meet they did. The A competition was a very strong competition with Moycarkey and Cappawhite also in contention. Cahir & Moyle Rovers had been neck and neck all the way up through under 12 and 14 and the players knew each other very well with Cahir ahead in the match stakes but just barely. In the B section you had Ardfinnan Ballyporeen, Aherlow, Brian Boru's Mullinahone and Emly with Ardfinnan and Ballyporeen reaching the final. In Group C there was strong competition also with Clonmel Og, Moyne Templetuohy, Clonmel Commercials, and Fethard all looking for honours. The C final was contested by Clonmel Commercials and Moyne Templetuohy

Cahir were chasing four in a row in under 16A competition and Moyle Rovers were looking to prevent it. Cahir looked like the three times champions they were for the 1st half but were very wasteful in front of the posts and it was obvious that the scoring talents of Leanne Barrett were missing. Freda Casey was master of the middle of the field and eighteen minutes into the half she was sin binned. This allowed Niamh Lonergan from Moyle Rovers to come more into the game and from

midfield she started the Moyle Rovers come back. Cahir coped well being reduced to fourteen players but Rovers picked off enough points to bring them back into contention and at the half time break there was only two points between the teams. The second half started with Cahir back to their full compliment of players and the game sea-sawed first one way and then the other, both sides wasting clear scoring chances but Moyle Rovers being less wasteful and opened up a four point lead with a well taken goal going into the last ten minutes. Edith Carroll stepped up to the mark and scored two nice points after a period of Cahir dominance and Ann Marie O Gorman scored to leave just one between the teams. Then the second sin binning happened Niamh Lonergan was sin binned with just eight minutes to go and Moyle Rovers under pressure. Cahir pilled on the pressure but could not break down the Moyle Rovers defence and Moyle Rovers were winners on a score line of Cahir 1-6 to Moyle Rovers 1-7.

Under 16B

Ardfinnan 8-8 Ballyporeen 2-6
Ciara McLoughlin lifted the trophy after a pulsating game of football in a sun drenched Newcastle. The two teams took the field resplendent in the traditional maroon of Ardfinnan and the red and black of Ballyporeen. A large crowd was there to see an excellent game of ladies football. The score line might suggest that it was an easy victory for Ardfinnan but it was well into the last quarter of the game before the managed to take control. Ballyporeen opened the scoring with a goal from full forward Bernadette Sisk and the same lady found the net again two minutes later. At this point Hannah Gearon had found her feet at midfield and was beginning to dominate and a shrewd move by Ardfinnan Manager moved Niamh Maher onto the Ballyporeen centre forward Gemma O'Brien who was causing all sorts of problems for the Ardfinnan defence early on. Soirse O Flynn played as a third midfielder soloed the ball through the Ballyporeen defence laid the ball off to Rebecca Maher who stuck it in the back of the net, that score ignited Ardfinnan, Jacinta McCarthy, a talented half forward, replied immediately with a fine point leaving the scores Ballyporeen 2-1 to Ardfinnan 1-00. Kelly Meaney was beginning to feed of the possession being gained by the hard working O Flynn and the Ballyporeen back line were unable to contain her and giving away a lot of frees Meaney herself converted two of them. Mollie O'Donnell still in primary school



The United Sports Panel made the following presentations to Tipperary G.A.A. Stars in 2004. L-R: Declan Browne (Moyle Rovers) Football, Una O'Dwyer (Cashel) Camogie, Aoife Casey (Captain On Behalf of the Cahir Club) Ladies Football, Richard Meagher (Chairman on behalf of Toomevara G.A.A. Club) Hurling.

collected the ball on the wing dummied two Bally players travelled along the end line and stuck the ball to the back of the net. Ardfinnan followed this fine goal with points from Rebecca Maher (0-2) and a goal and a point from Michelle Walsh leaving the half time scores Ardfinnan 3-5 Ballyporeen 2-3.

Ballyporeen started the second half brightly and two points from the hard working Siobhain Crotty and Jacinta McCarthy were soon nullified by a spectacular goal followed by a point from corner forward Michelle Walsh to put the game beyond Ballyporeen. Rebecca Maher added 2-2 and Samantha Lambert 1-0. To their credit Ballyporeen never gave up and Eve Kelly had three brilliant saves in the second half one from the penalty spot.

Ardfinnan: Jean Marsh, Dawn Dolan, Lisa Dillion, Deirdre Cashman, Niamh Maher, Ciara McLoughlin (capt) Sarah Kelly, Samantha Lambert, Hannah Gearon, Rebecca Maher, Kelly Meaney, Patricia O Mahony, Mollie O'Donnell, Soirse O Flynn, Michelle Walsh
Subs: Edel Coffey Margaret Ryan
Ballyporeen Eve Kelly, A Martin, Sarah Sheehy, Noreen Roche, Jenny Hickey, Aine Sisk, Breed Feeney, Annette Meaney, Bernadette Sisk, Kathleen Martin, Gemma O'Brien, Jacinta McCarthy, Katie Sheehy, Siobhain Crotty, Anne Marie Noonan.
Photo Ardfinnan & Ballyporeen Minor

The 2005 minor championship commenced in Mid - October with teams from Cahir, Moyle Rovers, Cappawhite, Ardfinnan, Brian Boru's, Templemore, & Moycarkey taking part and the competition isn't concluded at time of going to press.

Adult Competition within the county

Within the county there are two main competitions for adults, the junior championship and the intermediate championship. In the junior competitions it is broken down into three groups A, B and C. Some clubs within the county would have teams taking part in both the junior and intermediate championships. Only 4 teams took part in the intermediate championship in 2005 namely Cappawhite, Gleann Ard (a combination of Aherlow & Ardfinnan) Brian Boru's and Templemore. It was initially envisaged that this competition would be run on a league basis with the top two teams playing off in a final but for lots of reasons that didn't happen this year so our intermediate championship was run on a knock out basis with Cappawhite knocking out Brian Boru's in a bruising affair in the first semi-final and it took Gleann Ard two games to see off Templemore. The county final was played in Sean Treacy Park in Tipperary town in mid September with Cappawhite emerging victorious: On a very wet grey Saturday afternoon in Sean Treacy Park, Tipperary Town, Helen Kennedy captain of Cappawhite lifted the Meehan & Slattery cup after Cappawhite captured their 2nd Intermediate title in three years by defeating Gleann Ard on a scoreline of Cappawhite 4 -12 Gleann Ard 1-6.

Junior A

The junior A final was contested between old rivals Cahir & Moyle Rovers. This was Cahir's first appearance in a junior A final, while Moyle Rovers were trying to win for the third time in a row having been beaten in the previous two years by Templemore and Ardfinnan respectively.

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Ballyporeen Under 14 B County Champions 2005.

Back Row, L-R: Teresa Murray, Lisa Carey, Sarah Sheehy, Katie Sheehy, Ann Marie Noonan, Meave O'Connor, Jemma O'Brien, Rebekah Kearney, Anita Martin, Laura Williams, Claire Roche

Front Row, L-R: Mary Meaney, Niamh O'Mahony, Amy Sweeney, Jacinta MacCarthy, Kathleen Martin (Captain), Noreen Roche, Shauna Maher, Rosie Kiely, Joann Roche, Bernadette Sisk

Cahir Ladies Football 2005

Back: Team managers John O'Connor, Carl McCarthy, John Cummins, Mairead McEniry.

Back Row Players: Kirsty Downey, Shauna O'Donnell, Aisling Higgins, Ruth Cummins, Orla McEniry, Claire Harris, Donna Casey, Sabrina McGrath, Niamh Walsh, Aisling Armitage, Emma Corcoran

Front Row: Jane O'Donovan, Cliona Higgins, Aoife O'Gorman, Aisling MacCarty, Rebecca Quinn, Avril Ahearne, Aisling O'Connor, Lorna McEniry, Emma Buckley, Aisling Moloney.



County Intermediate Ladies Football Winners 2005.

Back Row, L-R: Eugene Maguire (Manager), Marian Anderson, Mairead Crowe, Michelle Ryan (P), Joyce Clancy, Tracy Maguire, Helen Kennedy (Captain), Marie O'Neill, Sheelagh Carew, Faustina Renehan, Elaine Renehan, Sandra Barry, Leonard Fitzgerald (Selector), Ann Brehony (Selector).

Front Row, L-R: Una Ryan, Jane Ann O'Neill, Ann O'Dwyer, Joanne O'Doherty, Angie McDermott, Siobhan Costello, Mary O'Meara, Deirdre Ryan (T), Mary Claire Ryan (T), Mary Horan

County Junior C Ladies Football Champions 2005.

Back Row, L-R: Leonard Fitzgerald (Manager), Aileen O'Keefe, Sandra Barry, Una Ryan, Noreen O'Grady, Bridget Barry, Cathy O'Neill, Catherine Kelly, Laura Mullins, Elaine Renehan, Marian Anderson, Martin Ryan (Selector).

Front Row, L-R: Chrissie Renehan (Selector), Mary Ann Callanan, Mary-Claire Ryan (T), Claire Mullins, Rebecca Cummins, Catriona Fitzgerald (Captain), Valerie O'Neill, Siobh-n O'Neill, Ena Meagher, Mary O'Dwyer, Jenny O'Dwyer, Faustina Renehan



Lorrha Under 14 Football team who were beaten by Clonmel Commercial on a scoreline of 6-4 to 3-4 in the County final in Templemore on July 25th 2005. This is Lorrha's first year ever to play football.

A Year To Remember As Cappawhite Ladies Football Reach Unprecedented Heights

By Leonard Fitzgerald

When the Cappawhite Ladies football club looks back on the past twelve months, it will remember recent high-points filled with delight and tremendous satisfaction in a season not to be forgotten by many an enthusiastic follower.

In 1980, the Cappawhite club came of age in claiming a first ever junior ladies county title. Twenty-five years on, Cappawhite duly honoured that milestone by becoming the first club to win two adult county titles in the same season.

The intermediate and junior teams went through their respective championships undefeated and justified their credentials with deserved county titles to honour it. As well, they added an Ireland Intermediate Sevens title on the eve of Ladies Football All-Ireland weekend, to bring their achievement to a national level.

I was fortunate to have an input into Cappawhite's truly unforgettable year just past. Being selector on the intermediates and manager of the juniors meant that any spare moment was spent in the local GAA field. The end result left me in no doubt that it was time well spent and I honestly loved every passing moment.

While the year is almost at a close, let me take you back through 2005 and a personal insight once again to the wondrous heights I experienced with the teams. Before ever a football was kicked, Cappawhite began the rigorous task of finding a coach for the season ahead. Out-going manager, Martin McDermott had moved to greener pastures after agreeing to join a three-man committee as selectors of the Tipperary ladies football for the forthcoming year. An approach was made to Eugene Maguire as manager and coach. After a short deliberation, he was immediately installed at the

helm with the club officers electing myself and Ann Breheny as his immediate selectors. After a short management -players meeting, winning respective intermediate and junior titles was detailed as prime objective for the coming months.

As manager of our second team, I included Martin Ryan (B) and Chrissie Renehan as selectors with immediate effect. Club secretary, Aideen O'Keeffe kept us informed of upcoming fixtures for both codes. Training commenced in early March, beginning with one night and stretching to two after the first weeks. Huge attendances made training beneficial with both sets of players being put through their paces by master tactician, Eugene Maguire. His football drills and fitness training allowed the girls sharpen their skills. Cappawhite entered into an inaugural Tipperary/Limerick Senior League. The new -look league structure featured eight teams, four from each county. With enormous ground work completed, Cappa began the league brightly notching three wins in quick succession to effectively top our group entering the knock-out stages. Our seeding enabled us receive a home semi-final draw against Mungret. After an energy sapping first half, Cappa led easily at the break. However cracks began to appear in defence, and after conceding two soft goals, hobbled past the winning post, 2-07 to 3-02. The final was scheduled was the following Saturday June 18th and a mouth-watering clash with Athea in Dromcollagher. The second half performance against Mungret was cause for concern, but we assumed the cracks would be ironed out before the final. The wind-affected decider allowed Cappa establish a handsome 1-08 to 0-00 half time advantage. The win was within our grasp, once Mary O'Meara added two points sandwiched between a Marie O'Neill goal to push us further ahead, 1-10 to 0-00. In the

final twenty minutes Athea began to use the wind to their advantage as Cappa's game plan completely floundered. Our first sin -binning of the season added insult to injury. Athea slowly reduced our lead by the minute before over-taking us at the finish to complete the unlikely of victories on a 2-08 to 1-10 final score -line.

That result was easily the year's low-point! An instant recovery was essential with the management needing to call on all their experience to get our season's aspirations back in forward motion. The Cappa juniors kicked into action with a series of league fixtures down for decision. Both Templemore's and Brian Boru's second string outfits failed to field teams so our lone tie against Fethard produced an easy victory to finish as group winners and a place in the up-coming semi-finals. Later in the season, Mullinahone played Cappa in New Inn with the victor a place in the Junior League final against Fethard, who over-turned Moyne -Templetuohy in the other semi-final. The juniors' worst performance of the year led to Mullinahone marching to victory. Their strength and power in all sectors meant that we were ultimately chasing the game there -after and in turn ending on the wrong side of an eight point drubbing. Mullinahone's power play made us believe that a different game -plan was needed if we were to retrieve some thing from the championship.

The Intermediate championship featured two straight semis. Cappa drew the short straw and an anticipated meeting with defending county champions, Brian Boru's, which was set for Sunday evening August 14th in New Inn. The clash of the titans produced the game of the year. Cappa wanted to exert revenge on last year's decider, while their southern opposition were anxious to maintain their form of 2004. The game ebbed and flowed from start to finish. Brian Boru's

established an early advantage but Cappa duly responded in the second half. Angie McDermott stepped up a gear in defence. Ann O' Dwyer, Sheelagh Carew, Siobhan Costello and Mary O' Meara performed heroics, while Mary Horan and Jane Ann O' Neill contributed valuable scores to give Cappa a much coveted single point winning margin at the final whistle. Our football year had taken a major turn in the right direction. A psychological boost no doubt ahead of the championship final.

A newly formed Aherlow/Ardfinnan combination emerged from the other semi-final in the form of Gleann Ard, stood between Cappa and a second county intermediate title in three years. On Saturday September 24th in Sean Treacy Park in Tipperary town, the scene was set for an intriguing battle. Playing against the breeze in the first half, the Cappa defence soaked up all the pressure, before threatening the opposition's goal -mouth later in the half. Siobhan Costello was one of Cappa's main instigators and she added scores to give Cappa some much needed return. Mary O' Meara added a crucial goal leaving our side seven to the good at the break, 1-05 to 0-01. On the resumption, Cappa took immediate control of proceedings with Siobhan Costello and Mary O' Meara coming to the fore. Both contributed vital goals that effectively rubber-stamped victory. Debutante Faustina Renehan also impressed in the final quarter. In the defensive sector, Ann O' Dwyer, Angie McDermott, Mairead Crowe and player of the match, Joanne O' Doherty, were colossal that in turn spear-headed victory on a crushing 4-12 to 1-06 full time score. Delirious scenes afterwards witnessed Cappa's return to the top table of county honours once more. The manner of victory achieved was all the more satisfying.

Team and Scorers: Helen Kennedy (Capt), Michelle Ryan (P), Joanne O' Doherty, Tracy Maguire, Mairead Crowe, Angie McDermott, Ann O' Dwyer, Sheelagh Carew (V. Capt), Jayne Clancy, Mary O' Meara (2-2), Siobhan Costello (1-5), Mary Horan (0-1), Faustina Renehan (1-1), Marie O' Neill (0-1), Jane Ann O' Neill (0-2). Subs: Bridget Barry, Noreen O' Grady, Aideen O' Keeffe, Mary O' Dwyer, Sandra Barry, Elaine Renehan, Marian Anderson, Rebecca Cummins, Siobhan O' Neill, Mary -Claire Ryan,

Deirdre Ryan.

One week later on Saturday October 1st, the team made the early rise for the long trip to the Naomh Mearnog/ St Sylvester's GAA grounds for the annual Ladies All -Ireland Sevens. After losing against Railyard (Kilkenny) in the opening game, they re-launched their challenge with victories against Donoghmore (Meath) and Clonguish (Longford), before making the Shield semi-finals after finishing second in a three way kick-off. Tired limbs took them to a meeting with Mungret (Limerick) and a close encounter saw Cappa emerge victorious and in turn earn a coveted All -Ireland Sevens Shield final meeting against defending champions, Aughawillian (Leitrim). Reserves of energy were needed and a never say die effort enabled Cappa secure a first national intermediate title by the slenderest of margins, 2-05 to 2-04 at the final whistle. Helen Kennedy lifting the Cup signalled another milestone in the Clubs history in becoming the second Tipperary club after Aherlow in 2000 to return with a prestigious All -Ireland Sevens title. Panel: Helen Kennedy, Tracy Maguire, Joanne O' Doherty, Sandra Barry, Angie McDermott, Mary O' Meara, Ann O' Dwyer, Mary O' Dwyer, Mairead Crowe, Siobhan Costello, Marie O' Neill and Jayne Clancy.

Hopes were high for the intermediates ahead of the Munster Club championship. With two trophies already in our possession, we were in a positive frame of mind facing Gerald Griffins (Limerick) in the provincial semi-final. Our expectations quickly turned to despair as Gerard Griffins completely destroyed any existing ambitions we had of progressing further in this championship. Our game plan deteriorated long before the game's conclusion with the Limerick outfit easy winners 4-08 to 1-06.

If the intermediates season had come to a halt, the juniors had their eyes on a county title. With victories over Moyne -Templetuohy and Mullinahone in the group stages, Cappa entered the knock-out stages as top seeds and a quarter-final clash with Clonmel Og in the South Tipp capital. They negotiated this encounter with consummate ease with a crushing 4-17 to 1-01. Five days later, it was Moyne -Templetuohy, who provided the opposition. After an indifferent first half performance, Cappa were a transformed side on the

resumption, before running out comprehensive winners, 4-13 to 1-02. A two goal salvo from Jenny O' Dwyer, ably assisted by Rebecca Cummins, Noreen O' Grady, Elaine Renehan and Mary -Claire Ryan paved the way for victory. Cappa had a six week wait for the Junior 'C' county final against debutants Newcastle in Monroe on October Bank Holiday Monday. Naturally delighted with their preparation, I was adamant that we would not -come home empty-handed. After losing to Cahir in 2003 and Upperchurch in 2004, the girls were determined on this occasion to make it third time lucky. From the throw-in, the girls took the game to their illustrious opponents. Playing with a strong breeze in the opening half, Cappa made the most of their advantage in piling on the scores with Jenny O' Dwyer, Noreen O' Grady and Mary Claire Ryan making handsome contributions. Rebecca Cummins added a second goal to stretch Cappa's lead to leave thirteen points between them at the break, 2-08 to 0-01. Newcastle came storming back in the second half, but the Cappa defence were magnificent, in limiting them to any free scoring opportunities. The victory was never in doubt as Cappa completed the elusive intermediate-junior double with a 2-12 to 1-07 victory. Player of the match Claire Mullins accumulated six points to the end scoreline. Valerie O' Neill and Mary -Claire Ryan were also hugely impressive. The players were clearly overjoyed immediately afterwards as jubilant Cappawhite captain, Catriona Fitzgerald, hoisted aloft the county crown to mark a perfect end to a perfect season. Since its inception twenty-six years ago, 2005 has witnessed Cappawhite ladies football reach unprecedented heights.

Team and Scorers: Bridget Barry, Marian Anderson, Cathy O' Neill, Siobhan O' Neill, Mary O' Dwyer, Aideen O' Keeffe, Catriona Fitzgerald (Capt), Elaine Renehan, Laura Mullins (V. Capt), Claire Mullins (0-6), Noreen O' Grady (1-0), Mary -Claire Ryan (0-3), Jenny O' Dwyer (0-2), Rebecca Cummins (1-1), Valerie O' Neill. Subs used: Sandra Barry for Siobhan O' Neill, Mary Ann Callanan for Jenny O' Dwyer, Una Ryan (B) for Rebecca Cummins, Catherine Kelly for Laura Mullins and Ena Meagher for Marian Anderson. Also: Antonette O' Doherty.

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Front L/R; Jimmy Gibson, Paddy Morrissey, Dinny Ryan, Paddy Collins.
Second Row L/R; Tim Mannion, Breeda Ryan for Con Ryan, Noel Kelly for Jimmy Kelly, Paddy Connors.
Third Row L/R; John McGrath, Noel Morris, Michael Conway, John Moloney.



Mid Div Sean Gael Awards 2005

Picture Above. Back row, left to right: Billy Quinn (Rahealty), John McGrath (Loughmore & Borrisoleigh), Paddy Sheehy (Boherlahan-Dualla), Breda Ryan (Holycross-Ballycahill), Mikey Ryan (Holycross-Ballycahill), Michael 'Haulie' Maher (J. K. Brackens).



South SeanGael
Front L/R; Joe Ahearne, Kitty O'Donnell, Frank Ryan, Tom Cusack, Fr. Sean Nugent.
Back Row L/R; John Moloney, Sean Organ, Tom Shelly, Tom Larkin, Patsy Myles.



West Tipperary Sean Gaels who received presentations recently from GAA president Sean Kelly in Bru Boru.

Front L/R: Philly Kiely, Aherlow; D.J. Treacy, Glengar; Mary Stapleton for Billa Stapleton, Solohead; Tom McCormack, Kickhams; John Moloney Chairman Cumann na Sean Gael.
Back L/R: Gerry White, Galtee Rovers; Mick Frawley, Emly; Tim Curran, Rockwell Rovers; Paddy Clancy, Emly; Sean Hayes, Arravale Rovers; Jim Doocey, Galtee Rovers.

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Tipperary Handball Report

Ken Conway

2005 was again a very busy and successful year for Tipperary handballers. All-Ireland successes were achieved in both 40 x 20 and 60 x 30 and a total of nine All-Irelands were brought to the county during the year. Fergal Collins and Ger Coonan from Ballina, Jim Ryan from Silvermines and Pakie Mullins from Clonmel each won two All-Irelands during the year.

40 x 20 Championships

We had a very successful year in the 40 x 20 Munster championship and won nine adult titles and one juvenile title. Our Munster successes were as follows:-

U.16 Singles:	Fergal Collins, Ballina
U.21 Singles:	Ger Coonan, Ballina
Ladies Junior B Singles:	Karen Collins, Ballina
Ladies Junior B Doubles:	Karen Collins and Cliona Collins, Ballina
Master B Doubles:	Pat O'Flaherty & Christy Griffin, Youghalarra
Silvermasters A Singles:	Tony O'Flaherty, Youghalarra
Silvermasters A Doubles:	Tony O'Flaherty & Pat Griffin, Youghalarra
Goldenmasters B Doubles:	Jim Quinn & Gary Howard, Youghalarra
Emeraldmasters A Singles:	Jim Ryan, Silvermines
Emeraldmasters A Doubles:	Jim Ryan, Silvermines & Billy McCarthy, Clonmel

Fergal Collins from the Ballina Handball Club came through a very tough Munster campaign and beat Seamus O'Carroll from Limerick in the Munster final. He then travelled to Ballinrobe to take on Nigel O'Dowd from Roscommon and came out an easy winner on a scoreline of 21-06,21-08. Fergal then made the long journey to

St. Paul's in Belfast where he was successful against his old adversary Brian Doheny from Tyrone in a very close game, which ended on a scoreline of 21-16,21-14.

Ger Coonan from Ballina accounted for Roscommon's Chris Doolan in the All-Ireland semi-final in two straight games and achieved All-Ireland success in Curraghboy, County Roscommon against Mark McGowan from Donegal on a scoreline of 21-15, 21-06.

Karen Collins represented the county at ladies junior B singles and lost out in the All-Ireland semi-final to Katie Costelloe from Roscommon. Karen teamed up with her sister, Cliona, to form a partnership in the ladies junior B doubles and accounted for Mayo's Olivia Kilbane and Lorraine McHale in Nenagh in the All-Ireland semi-final on a scoreline of 21-10, 21-15. However, they lost out in the All-Ireland final against Carlow's Ciara Mullins and Miriam Ryan.

Pat O'Flaherty and Christy Griffin were making their first appearance in the masters grade and came through a tough Munster campaign. However, they lost out to Galway's John Joe Farraher and Brendan McNeilly in the All-Ireland semi-final in Moycullen. Our lads took the second game 21-20 and were unlucky to loose in the decider by 21 to 13.

Tony Flaherty from Youghalarra was successful in the Silvermasters A singles Munster championship but lost out to Eamon Kenneally from Galway in two straight games. Tony teamed up with Pat Griffin and again lost out at All-Ireland stage to Mayo's Kevin Geraghty and Martin Cronin in the All-Ireland semi-final played in Ballaghadireen. Jim Quinn and Gary Howard were successful for the second year running in the Munster championship Goldenmasters B doubles but lost the All-Ireland semi-final to Mayo's Pdraig Geraghty and Ger Prendergast on a scoreline of 21-18,21-16, which was played in Nenagh.

Jim Ryan from Silvermines defeated Morgan d'Arcy from Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final in two straight games. He then went on to meet Paddy Reilly from Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final and defeated the well fancied Kilkenny player by 21-10,21-08 in the All-Ireland final played in Nenagh. Jim teamed up with Billy McCarthy from Clonmel in the Emeraldmasters A doubles and travelled to Claremorris to play Mayo in the All-Ireland semi-final and were successful in the third game against Tim Hughes and Michael Corbett from Mayo. They then travelled to Curraghboy, county Roscommon to play Cavan's Greg Sheridan and Patsy Hand in the All-Ireland final and Jim achieved a double success on a scoreline of 21-11,21-08.

60 x 30 Championships

We again had a very successful Munster Campaign winning 1 Juvenile and 6 Adult Titles.

U. 16 Singles:	Fergal Collins, Ballina
U.21 Singles:	Ger Coonan, Ballina
Junior Singles:	Martin McNerney, Ballina
Junior Doubles:	Martin McNerney and John McQuaid, Ballina
Emeraldmasters A Singles:	Pakie Mullins, Clonmel
Emeraldmasters A Doubles:	Pakie Mullins & Sean Doyle, Clonmel
Ladies Junior Doubles:	Marian Coleman & Karen Collins, Ballina

Fergal turned his attention to the 60 x 30 court and again came through the Munster campaign with ease. He again came up against Roscommon's Nigel O'Dowd in the All-Ireland semi-final and accounted for Nigel in two straight games. His opponent in the All-Ireland final was Wicklow's Martin O'Neill and Fergal again pulled out all the stops to beat the Wicklow player 21-05,21-09 to take his second All-Ireland title at U.16.

Ger Coonan beat Roscommon's Chris Doolan in the All-Ireland semi-final and went on to play Carlow's Gerry Kane in the All-Ireland final. Ger won the first game but surprisingly lost the second game to the Carlow player and he had to call on all his experience to win the third game on a scoreline of 21-11 to win the All-Ireland title.

Martin McNerney and John McQuaid from Ballina teamed up to take the Munster title in the junior doubles. They then played the Sligo pair of Shane Bruen and Kevin Meehan in the All-Ireland semi-final and were successful in the third game by 21-15. They then went on to meet the Clifford brothers from Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final but lost in two straight games.

Martin McNerney also came through the Munster campaign in junior singles and accounted for Roscommon's Lorcan Maughan in a very tough All-Ireland semi-final. In the junior singles final Martin was up against the experienced Billy Lowe from Kilkenny who was favourite to win out. However, Martin proved the experts wrong and despite having lost the first game 20-06 went on to take the second game 21-12 and beat the Kilkenny man in the deciding game on a scoreline of 21-19. Pakie Mullins from Clonmel had double Munster success winning the Emeraldmasters A singles and in partnership with Sean Doyle took the Emeraldmasters A doubles. Pakie travelled to Roscommon for his All-Ireland semi-final and accounted for Noel Raftery in two straight games. He then went on to beat the much fancied Paddy Reilly from Kilkenny in the final.

Pakie was partnered by Sean Doyle in the Emeraldmasters A doubles and they beat the Mayo pair of Matt Coady and Seamus Clarke in the All-Ireland semi-final and again were faced with Kilkenny's Paddy Reilly and Seamus Reid in the All-Ireland final. Reilly and Reid had been successful on the previous occasion but Pakie and Sean got sweet revenge by taking the All-Ireland decider by 21-15,21-05.

Marian Coleman and Karen Collins lost out at the All-Ireland semi-final stage to Roscommon's Hilary Rush and Katie Costelloe in the third game.

Irish Nationals

The Irish Nationals were again sponsored by FBD and the Nationals were held at the Kingscourt Handball Complex in County Cavan over a weeklong competition.

Fergal Collins from Ballina took part in the boys 15 and under competition and from an entry of 36 players, he was beaten in the final by Gary McConnell from Meath on a scoreline 8-21, 21-20, 11-06. The prize for the winner was a place on the Irish team to play in the US juniors in Phoenix in December.

Ger Coonan took part in the boys 19 and under competition and despite reaching the final, had to withdraw due to injury. The prize was again a place on the Irish team in the US juniors.

Inter Clubs

The Ballina team of Ger Coonan, Martin McInerney, John McQuaid, John Lee and Paul Coleman took part in the Munster 40 x 20 inter-club and beat Ballydesmond and Liscarroll to take the Munster title. The lads then accounted for Moycullen from Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final but lost out to the Clough team from County Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final which was played in Crinkle.

The Youghalarra team of Pat O'Flaherty, Tony O'Flaherty, Pat Griffin, Paul Griffin and Christy Griffin won the Munster junior 60 x 30 Championship but lost out to Williamstown of Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final.

The Clonmel team of Paul Mullins, Adrian Johnson, Kevin Dempsey, Pakie Mullins and Jimmy Mullins were also unsuccessful in the All-Ireland semi-final against Ballaghadreen from County Mayo.

Senior Championship

Ger Coonan and Martin McInerney from Ballina made their first venture at senior 60 x 30 handball. Ger took part in the senior singles but lost out in the first round to Colin Keelan from Wexford. Ger and Martin also lost out in the first round to the eventual finalists from Mayo of Dessie Keegan and Joe McCann.

40 x 20 Colleges

Karen Collins from Ballina representing St. Anne's College from Killaloe reached the semi-final of the All-Ireland 40 x 20 senior singles colleges but lost to Lisa McAleer representing the Technical College in two straight games.

Girls Inter Provincial

Karen Collins was again a member of the successful Munster team of ten who beat Connacht in the All-Ireland final on a scoreline of 122-99.

Connacht Open

Karen Collins reached the final of the girls U.17 Connacht open and lost to Karen Lawlor in two straight games. Ger Coonan also took part in the Connacht open in the mens B singles but lost out in the semi-final stages to Patrick Buckley from Cork.

USHA Juniors

Ger Coonan and Fergal Collins from Ballina both travelled to Des Moines, Illinois, USA to take part in the USH juniors in December 2004. Ger reached the semi-finals of the boys 19 and under but lost out to Alan Gardener from San Antonio, USA.

Ger teamed up with Gerry Kane from Carlow and again reached the boys 19 and under semi-finals but lost out to Alan Gardener and his brother Aaron in the semi-final on a scoreline of 21-14, 21-11. Fergal took part in the boys 15 and under and played extremely well at his first attempt at international competition in the USA.

USHA Nationals

Ger Coonan again travelled to the USA in June to take part in the USHA boys 19 and under Nationals and reached the final but lost out to Victor Lepierre, New York on a very close scoreline of 21-20, 21-20

Hardball

John Lee and John McQuaid from Ballina and Jason Tobin from Carrick On Suir were our representatives in junior hardball championships. John Lee competed in the singles but lost out to Colm Jordan from Cork. Jason Tobin was partnered by John McQuaid in the doubles championship and were again unsuccessful against the Cork pairing of Colm Jordan and Patrick Buckley.



Two Munster Council Award Recipients Marty Morrissey (Media Award) and Suzanne Kelly (Camogie Award) with GAA President Sean Kelly and former Munster Council Secretary Donie Nealon

Tony O'Flaherty – Double Medal Winner for Ireland in Handball

By Ed Donnelly (County PRO)

As a nation, Ireland has often over-achieved in various sporting pursuits over the generations. While good performances by Irish teams and individuals are often the norm, ultimate success in competitions at a world level are often rare. One need only look at the very select list of Olympic Gold medal winners in Ireland's history to illustrate this point.

Based on such a backdrop, the success of Tony O'Flaherty at the World and Police Fire Games in recent years is deserving of note. The 11th World Police and Fire Games took place in Quebec this summer. These games are held every two years along similar lines as the Olympics and it is a confined competition. Competitors can include policemen, prison officers, firemen and customs & revenue from a number of different countries. More than 10,000 athletes took part in 62 sports played at over 40 different venues. About 80 Irish were involved in this years games in competitions such as track and field, boxing, swimming, volleyball, shooting and, of course, handball.

Tony began playing handball at the age of 10 in the local 60 x 30 court in Youghalarra but strangely enough, did not achieve a lot of success at juvenile level. Tony Ryan was one of the more prominent players of that generation and dominated the juvenile scene in the county in those years before going on to achieve more success at adult level. The first significant success for Tony came in 1990 when along with his brother Pat, they won the Novice All-Ireland title in Kingscourt in Cavan, defeating Meath in the final. To this day, this remains Tony's best moment playing handball. The following year Tony and Pat progressed in to the junior ranks and again reached the All-Ireland. As Tony recalls though, the final did not exactly go to plan. "We are probably the only pair to lose an All-Ireland final after winning a game 21-0. We lost the first game 21-7 and won their second game 21-0. However, we lost the third game 21-13. The final was played in Croke Park, our first appearance there and we were not used to the surroundings and were disappointed to lose". Other titles were

achieved subsequently at Munster intermediate and junior level but Tony narrowly missed out on an All-Ireland intermediate title which would have seen him play at the top level, the senior grade.

Tony's handball career got a second wind when he passed his 40th birthday. He teamed up with Pat Griffin of Youghalarra to win an All-Ireland Over-40s title, defeating Antrim in the final before losing the final of the following year. Success also came at singles level winning the Waterford Crystal Irish National Singles title at Over-40's level.

And so to the World Police and Fire Games of 2005 in Quebec. Tony qualified for the Games by winning the annual Garda handball championships 40 x 20 open doubles title in Roscommon with Paddy Donovan from Portlaoise. They subsequently decided to stay together from that point and focused on the Quebec Games, training twice a week from October to June. Both players were determined to do well in the competition. Tony takes up the story - "We knew we had a chance of a medal in the O-39's singles competition. There is no doubles competition at the O-39's age group so we entered the Open doubles competition. When the draw was made we thought at best we would qualify for a playoff for a bronze medal. Canadians Larry Salmon and Jeff Kearney were on our side of the draw and we knew we would meet them in a semi-final if the draw worked out. They are two fabulous players and subsequently qualified for the Open Singles finals as the two best players in that competition. If we took part in the Open Singles, we would not have been in the same level as those players - they were in a different league."

As things transpired in the Open Doubles competition, Tony and Paddy Donovan qualified through to the semi-final and as predicted, Salmon and Kearney were their opponents. Despite being underdogs, the Irish pair won the first game 21-19. They had a chance to win the match in the second game but lost out narrowly 21-20. On the law of averages, the younger Canadian pair should have been favourites to win the tie-breaker but Tony and Paddy were in determined mood and caused an upset by winning the third game by 11-7. "I still can't believe that we beat them. It was a day where everything went right for us, we got every break. There was hardly a cover ball in the three games, they were two absolute gentlemen to play against." In the gold medal match, the Irish duo continued their good form to defeat another Canadian pair of



Tony O'Flaherty (Youghalarra Handball Club) won a Gold and Silver medal in the World Police and Fire Games at Quebec Canada. He teamed up with Paddy Donovan (Laois) to win the Handball Opens Doubles Final and was runner up in the over 40s Handball Singles Competition

Lobas & Herrieb by 21-19 21-16 to become the first ever Irish players to win a gold medal in an open handball competition.

There was little time to celebrate however as immediately following the Open doubles final came the O-39 singles final. Strangely, this final pitted the winning Irish doubles pair against each other. Tony had defeated Paddy Donovan in the earlier rounds of the competition but in the final, the tables were turned and Tony had to be content with a silver medal. However, defeat allowed Tony to complete a somewhat unique honour of now having in his possession a gold and silver medal from these games to go with a bronze medal from the World Police and Fire Games in 1991. "I am always disappointed to lose a final but at the same time, when I have time to look back and to think about it, I was probably glad as I now have the full collection of medals".

Handball is of course one of the original sports of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Yet, the exploits of numerous players up and down the country do not receive anything near the publicity they should. As a player, Tony has some definite views on the publicity which handball receives in the media. "There is not a lot of coverage of fixtures and results, even for the top competitions. It is very discouraging for young fellows in particular. It is important that the game of handball is given more coverage and those involved in handball at local and national level need to play a role in this as much as the local and national media."

Here's hoping that promotion of handball is improved in the future and rest assured, within the Premier County there are many handballers young and old who are achieving great things in the handball courts of Ireland.

NO SENIOR JOY FOR TIPP CAMOGIE WITH ONLY 2ND DEFEAT IN 30 GAMES

By Gerry Slevin

The ending that every Tipperary person dearly wished for on September 18th, namely that Deirdre Hughes would raise the O'Duffy Cup in triumph, alas, failed to materialise. For only the second time in thirty championship games since July 1999, were Tipp forced to taste defeat. Truly, an astonishing record, one that provided all players with ample reason to be hailed as worthy to take their place among the all-time greats of the game.

Thurles man Paddy, GAA Development Officer with Tipperary Institute in his native town, had steered the minor hurlers to three successive provincial titles up to 2004. He had decided to put his feet up for a short while at least, before re-embarking on team management affairs, at whatever level. Then came the call to succeed Raymie Ryan as team manager, an offer he couldn't refuse and things were on the move again.

With Paddy on selection duties were Martin Bourke from Clonmore and Olivia Hogan from Kildangan. The 2005 season would have a special significance in that the captain's arm-band would be worn by Deirdre Hughes and what this meant in the context of Tipperary camogie needed no elaboration.

As soon as Toomevara had dethroned Drom-Inch in the 2004 county final, it was clear that Deirdre would lead Tipp's bid for yet another All Ireland title. And none was more deserving of that honour.

So, the season began. There were three titles to defend but, of course, the keenest eye would be on the O'Duffy Cup. Tipp would be seeking their 6th title in seven years, their second three-in-a-row achievement in that same period.

Cork came out on top when the sides met in Cork in the league and it was yet another Tipp-Cork Munster final, neither side at anything near full strength with Tipp avenging that league defeat.

Anyway, with two competitions out of the way, it was time to concentrate on the All Ireland. Tipp were grouped with Antrim, Kilkenny and Limerick. Cork, Galway and Wexford comprised the other group. However, only days before they were scheduled to travel to meet Tipp in the

opening encounter, the Glens ladies pulled out of the competition. Now, we had an All Ireland championship confined to a mere SIX counties, and that championship would provide a total of only NINE games, one less than the Tyrone footballers played in order to regain the Sam Maguire trophy! On the day that Tipp should have been

Nowlan Park on Saturday July 16th. Una O'Dwyer's absence because of cruciate ligament trouble saw Niamh Harkin at full back, flanked by Suzanne Kelly and Maedhbh Corcoran. The half back line was the same and at mid field Tricia O'Halloran partnered Angie McDermott. Sheena Howard was at centre forward, the remainder of the attack as we had come to know it. Not a spectacular performance from the All Ireland champions, sufficient for the day probably summing it up. Though the final score of 0-13 to 1-6 might suggest a somewhat close match, it wasn't. Tipp built up a 0-7 to 0-3 interval lead and by the three quarter stage had added five points to their opponents one. The Kilkenny defence did not stand on ceremony, so that the Tipp attack was not allowed all the space it would have wished for. Kilkenny did get through for the game's only goal nine minutes from time and they finished well. However, Una Kearney's final whistle saw Tipp through to the semi final irrespective of the Limerick game result. Kilkenny, alas, had departed the championship scene.



Tipperary's Sheena Howard goes highest against Limerick in the All-Ireland series at Semple Stadium

playing Antrim, we had the first upset of the season, Kilkenny's defeat by Limerick. Maybe now, we thought, this competition mightn't be the two horse race we all felt it would be. It was a result that placed much pressure on Kilkenny. Quite simply, they couldn't afford another loss and even though they had home venue for the visit of Tipp, the signs were there that Kilkenny needed more than that to inspire them.

Deirdre Hughes led her colleagues out in

Incidentally, that was the first occasion that Tipp had failed to score a goal since the All Ireland final of 1999, their opponents then also being Kilkenny.

Tipp and Limerick had played a game apiece, each winning ones, so they moved directly to the All Ireland semis. Their Semple Stadium clash on Saturday July 30th would have no importance other than to decide the group winner, which in turn would meet the runner-up in the other group, come semi final day.

Cork had cleared both the Galway and Wexford hurdles en route to the semis but Galway were at home to Wexford earlier on the 30th and expected to get through. Not so, however, a surprise result here that was known in the Stadium before Tipp and Limerick moved into action. Una O'Dwyer after her long lay off fronted Jovita Delaney in a Tipp side that saw Julie Kirwan restored to the left full back berth. Joanne Ryan moved to mid field beside Angie and Emily Hayden was at centre forward with Ger Kinane in Jill Horan's corner. Jill was in far off Detroit on a soccer scholarship.

Former Limerick hurler Ger Hegarty had taken up the management of his county's cailini and with Kilkenny's scalps under their belts they were not a side to be treated lightly. Tipp hadn't had any great bother against the Treaty sides in previous years but Limerick's credentials in getting over the Cats augured well for them and if Tipp were to avoid a semi final meeting with Cork – a game they did not want at that stage of proceedings – then there could be no slackening off.

The opening five minutes saw the teams share four points but when a move involving Eimear McDonnell

and Deirdre Hughes ended with an Emily Hayden goal after ten minutes, the game took on an appearance that didn't bode well for the visitors. By half time it was 2-9 to 0-5 and worse was to follow from a Limerick viewpoint. Despite the fact that Deirdre Hughes failed to score, Tipp moved away with the greatest of ease ending up with a 5-17 to 0-8 victory. Five subs were also given a run, one of them Louise Young figuring in the scoring (1-1) to add to the exploits of such as Claire Grogan 0-7, Emily Hayden 2-2 and

Nothing whatever was learned from this outing as attention turned to Kilkenny's Nowlan Park on Saturday August 20th for the two semi finals

The Cork-Limerick semi was every bit as one-sided as the Tipp-Limerick clash had been, even down to both Tipp and Cork recording the exact same score, 5-17! Limerick with 0-5 managed three points less than they did in Semple Stadium. Philly Fogarty back in the Tipp colours at midfield for her first championship game of the season. In fact Tipp lined out as they did in the 2004 final against Cork and from the way the game began it looked as though they would blow Wexford away. Less than a half minute from the throw-in, Eimear McDonnell got possession, rounded her opponent, headed goal ward and planted the sliotar well beyond the opposing keeper's reach. Two minutes later she added a point but Wexford received a huge boost after ten minutes when on failing to lift a close in free, Kitty Kelly struck the ball on the ground and it totally deceived the Tipp defence, flying into the top right hand corner of the net. Tipp recovered well and benefited from this Wexford goal more than their opponents did, tapping over some excellent points and taking the interval break with a 1-10 to 1-1 lead.

But what a difference the second half was. Shades of 2004 at the same stage of the competition, at the same venue. Wexford returned with determination in every move and as they chipped away at Tipp's lead, the champions were not at all happy. In fact, following an early Claire Grogan point it took them all of thirteen minutes to add to it. Point by point Wexford continued to reduce the margin, Tipp's defence placed under immense pressure, and for the first time what

and Cork would fight out possession of the O'Duffy Cup for the 4th successive season on Sunday September 18th in Croke Park. Tipp would be seeking possession of the famed trophy for the third successive year and hoping to emulate the feat of the 2001 side.

The official attendance of just under 15,000 was disappointing for the final. That figure had been exceeded by at least 10,000 the previous year, which was Centenary Year.

As usual, busloads of young and not so young supporters left the county on the morning of the final. Croke Park, as is now usual for camogie and ladies football deciders, reverberated to the sound of hooters, continuous shouting and cheering, accelerating the decibel levels appreciably. Tipp lined out as they began the semi final which was also the same team that had faced and defeated Cork in the 2004 final. Cork had eleven of the side that began that final, probably the most notable aspect of their line out being the move of 2004 captain Stephanie Dunlea from full back all the way up to full forward. It was a move than began during the league and was persevered with because of its success.

Every Tipp-Cork clash is special and this final was no different. It was tense throughout, the opening ten minutes very close before a series of fine points edged Tipp ahead to a 0-5 to 0-2 lead at the end of the first quarter. Jill Horan, Claire Grogan, Joanne Ryan, Eimear McDonnell and Philly Fogarty were Tipp's scorers. Cork fought back and with three minutes of the first half remaining there was only a point in it, 0-7 to 0-6. Claire

Grogan then collected a pass from Noelle Kennedy and her high dipping shot deceived Cork's keeper, the ball finding its way over the goal line to the joy and delight of the Tipp team and supporters. Half time came with Tipp ahead 1-10 to 0-8. It was no more than they deserved, as they had been the more enterprising side. It was a half that had seen them display many of the exquisite skills they had honed over the years and in all sectors they seemed to have the edge on Cork.

Thirty minutes still remained, a half-hour that would change the order of things dramatically. Cork resumed with a new mid field pairing, conscious, no doubt, of the need to put the shackles on a rampant Philly Fogarty and Angie McDermott who had been so influential in that sector throughout the first half. Some judicious switches in personnel were also made as the challengers set out to transform that title into that of champions.

Cork set the pace from the second half throw-in. Three points saw the margin reduced to two by the 7th minute. The supply to the Tipp attack was being cut drastically. The Tipp half back line was under immense pressure and not coping. Therese Brophy moved to the centre. Scoring opportunities at the other end were few and far between, although Jill Horan was very unlucky with two attempts at points. Thanks to a defiant inner defence line, Tipp still managed to



Joan Byrne bursts through with the ball

keep heads above water and precariously they seemed to be holding out. Noelle Kennedy was replaced by Emily Hayden and Michelle Shortt stepped in for Ciara Gaynor. It was all of twenty-one minutes of the half before Tipp added to their interval score of 1-10. Claire Grogan pointed a free after Deirdre Hughes had been fouled. Then, just a minute later, Cork defender Amanda O'Regan lofted a huge free into the Tipp goal area. The ball skidded off Una O'Dwyer's leg and over the line to the dismay of herself and Jovita Delaney standing just behind her. Eight minutes remained and Cork were ahead. But back came Tipp and a Deirdre Hughes point levelled up matters before Claire Grogan regained the lead with a point from a free after she had been fouled soloing through.

1-13 to 1-12 and two minutes remained. Could Tipp hold out? It was a question posed and answered positively in many a previous encounter, but not this time, alas. Two Emer Dillon points saw Cork back in front and there they stayed, finishing very strongly as three points were quickly added to have the O'Duffy Cup snatched away by a 1-17 to 1-13 score line.

Claire Grogan, top scorer in the final, had the satisfaction of being the game's top championship scorer for the season. Going into the final she was in 3rd place with 0-17, behind Wexford's Kitty Kelly (3-12) and Jennifer O'Leary, Cork on 0-19. By scoring 1-5 in the final, Claire leapfrogged over the pair to end the season on 1-22 (25 points) with the Cork girl moving into 2nd spot (0-23) after her four All Ireland final points.

Of course it was disappointing to lose; of course winning a 6th title in seven years would have been fantastic and as the players and mentors stood around on Croke Park's sod with family, friends and supporters afterwards, they knew they had given their all and they were as gracious and complimentary in defeat as they had been so often in victory.

Over that six-year period Tipp had met Cork each year except 1999. In all they clashed seven times, twice in 2001 when it took a replay to separate them at the semi final stage. Tipp faced Kilkenny six times, Wexford five, Limerick three, Down, Clare, Galway and Dublin twice each and Antrim once. But, despite how some might feel about it, that September 18th defeat is by no means the end of an era. It is still a young team and a glance through the substitutes list reveals a wealth of fine talent that will continue to strive for a places.

A blip in a record of rare distinction might be the most apt way of describing the defeat. Deirdre Hughes and her team mates of 2005 deserve no less in defeat than they received in their many victories. Camogie's future in the Premier County is bright and there will be many more great occasions to celebrate.



Cashel's Philly Fogarty gets away on Jerry O'Halloran in the senior camogie County Final reply at Holycross.

was seen as an impregnable sector, the half back line, failed to live up to its reputation. Add in the stranglehold, which the Wexford half back line had on their immediate opponents and the manner in which the flow of ball to the lethal Tipp full forward line was stifled.

As they had shown a year earlier Wexford were a match for the best and they had reduced the nine point interval lead to three with normal time almost up. But Tipp rallied. The introduction of Sheena Howard proved to be a good move and when well placed by Deirdre Hughes, she knew where the posts were and put four points between the teams. Though Claire Grogan ended the scoring with a pointed free, it took two fine Jovita saves to keep the Wexford challenge at bay, Tipp's winning margin being a flattering five points, 1-13 to 1-8. The end result of those Saturday afternoon exertions in Nowlan Park was that at Tipp

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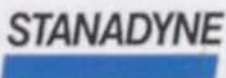


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Camogie Report

COUNTY JUNIOR TEAM

This year Sheila Delaney, Biddy Philips and Brian Lawlor were appointed to take charge of Tipperary's junior team. After a decent league campaign the team were defeated by Clare in the first round of the championship by 3 points. Many people may see this as a huge disappointment that the team didn't progress further but one must take into account that the girls were beaten by a very good Clare side who, as the year went on, would win the Munster final and contest the All-Ireland final on October 8th.

In March and early April the league was run and after wins over Kilkenny and Dublin the team were defeated by Cork and Offaly. The girls continued to train and prepare for their championship meeting against Clare which took place in Newmarket-On-Fergus. Despite a hat-trick of goals from Tipperary's Mary Looby it was Clare who claimed victory on a scoreline of 2-13 to 3-7, and went on to beat Cork in the Munster semi-final. It was a game which Tipperary could have won but credit to Clare they fought hard and scored some great points to keep them in front. The score at half-time was Clare 1-10 Tipperary 2-4. The majority of the players also represented Tipperary at intermediate level and gave a great display against a fancied Cork side in the Munster championship. Unfortunately despite their best efforts Cork won on a scoreline of 1-14 to 1-09.

The All-Ireland championship was subsequently cancelled which was disappointing. The junior panel against Clare was as follows:

Rosanna Kenneally, Andrea Davis, Caroline Greed, Ciara Heffernan, Julie Delaney, Niamh Harkin, Mairead Luttrell, Lorraine Davis, Mary Ryan, Jackie O'Connor, Michelle Shortt, Alison Lonergan, Katie Kennedy, Mary Looby, Siobhan Ryan.

Subs: Teresa Maher Noreen Flanagan Siobhan Maher, Margurite Fryday, Jane Ryan, Ciara Callinan, Alish Langton, Ciara Johnston, Roseanne Quirke, Caroline Ryan, Louise Ryan, Deirdre Dunne.



President of the Camogie Association Miriam O'Callaghan (Tullamore), presents Fiona Young (Captain) with the runner up-medals after her side lost to Kilkenny on a score line of Kilkenny 4.7, Tipperary 2.7

U-18 TEAM

On Bank Holiday Monday August 1st Tipperary recorded a comfortable win over Waterford in the u-18 Munster semi-final. Waterford made the journey to the Ragg hoping to book their place in the Munster final on September 5th but came up against a strong Tipperary outfit that easily defeated the visitors. At half time the match was well and truly over with Tipperary leading by 4-10 to no score. In the second half Tipperary continued to dominate and Waterford had to be content with two consolation goals. All in all it was a very good display. Then on Monday evening September 15th Tipperary travelled to Glanmire in Cork to take on the home side in the Munster final. Cork started brightly and after 2 minutes took the lead when Mary Coleman pointed. Three minutes later Tipperary were stunned by a fine goal from Mary Coleman to put Cork in a commanding position. Cork led by 1-6 to 0-2 at the interval and, despite a great fight back in the second half, Tipperary lost by seven points. This year the team was managed by Sean Johnson and selectors Niamh Harkin and Stephen Fitzgerald.

Team: Rosanna Kenneally, Andrea Davis, Mairead Luttrell, Ciara Heffernan, Michelle Kirwan, Lorraine Davis, Joanne Nolan, Mary Ryan, Cora Hennessey, Ciara Johnston, Ciara O'Sullivan, Noreen Flanagan, Alison Lonergan, Katie Kennessy, Deirdre Dunne.

Subs: Ailish Langton, Ciara Callahan, Linda Fanning, Siobhan Bourke, Ann-Marie O'Dwyer.

MINOR TEAM

This year Tipperary's minor team provided the county with lots of entertainment producing great displays to earn them a Munster final victory and to come so close to All-Ireland victory. On Sunday August 7th families and supporters made the trip to Parnell Park in Dublin in anticipation that this gallant young team could make history by capturing the county's first minor All-Ireland title since 1993. In recent years Tipperary's senior camogie team has enjoyed great success winning 5 All-Irelands in 6 years. However this hasn't always coincided with success at minor level. This year a huge effort was made to alter this and after capturing the Munster title (the first since 2000) the girls then set their sights on a place in the All-Ireland final, which they achieved by defeating Antrim. In the beginning of the year former Tipperary hurler and all-star Pat McLoughney was appointed manager of the minor team. Pat has been involved with Shannon Rovers camogie club for a number of years where he has had plenty of

success. Assisting Pat was Helen Kiely (Drom-Inch), Paula Ryan (Toomevara) and Paula Bulfin (Cashel). All three selectors are well known camogie players and hold All-Ireland senior camogie medals along with senior county titles with their respective clubs. In February the management team put a strong panel together and began training in the astro-turf in the Ursuline convent Thurles. On Saturday



Dearbhla (left) and Shauna Butler (right) with Sean Kelly at the All-Ireland finals on September 11th.

April 9th the girls had their first game in the Championship a Munster semi-final pairing against 2004 Munster champions Clare in Dolla. Tipperary won on a scoreline of 3-2 to 6 points in difficult conditions for camogie. This win meant they now faced Cork in the Munster final on April 30th in Charleville. For the next 3 weeks the management team put the girls through their paces and after an exciting game of camogie Tipperary emerged victorious by the narrowest of margins on a scoreline of 3-5 to 1-10. This was a fantastic win and everyone concerned were delighted with the result. The girls then had to wait until July 3rd to play Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final. The game took place in the Ragg and after a fine team display Tipperary ran out comfortable winners on a scoreline of 3-13 to 3 points. So on August 7th the team travelled in hope that captain Fiona Young would bring the Corn Tailteann cup back to Tipperary for the first time since 1993. Unfortunately it was not to be and after an entertaining game of camogie it was Kilkenny who claimed victory on a scoreline of 4-7 to 2-7. Two goals is very little in a game of camogie but Kilkenny who defeated Galway in the semi-final were just that bit stronger than the premier side and also led by 6 points at the break scoring 2-6 to Tipperary's 1-3. Tipperary put in a great performance in the second half and only a goal separated the sides in Kilkenny's favour when Tipperary got a close-in free. The goal shot was blocked, the ball cleared and Kilkenny got down the field to score a goal, which gave them a six point victory. It was heartbreak for the Tipperary girls who worked so hard all year and came very close to capturing the All-Ireland title. They have displayed great camogie throughout the year and provided lots of thrilling encounters for their loyal supporters who once again travelled in strong numbers to Dublin.

Tipperary Team: C.Kenneally, M.Ryan, S.Morrissey, G.Stapleton, F.Young, D.Ryan, T.Shortt, C.Maher, A.Shinners, M.Gleeson, B.Kennedy S.McGrath A.McLoughney
Subs: A. O'Connell for S.Hayes, L.Young for M.Gleeson, T.Flanagan for N.O'Connell, N.Costigan, P.McGrath, S.Nolan, A.Kennedy, C.Ryan, L. O'Brien, R.McGrath,

Templemore Are County Junior 'A' Camogie Champions



Back Row (L-R) - Mattie Burke, Michael Curley, Nora Costigan, Lorraine Davis, Siobhan Bourke, Ailish Delaney, Michelle Lawlor, Noelle Bergin, Fiona Loughane, Sara Hennessy, ?, Martin Bourke, Mick Curley.

Kneeling: Grace Ormond, Emma Taylor, Cathriona Maher, Ailish O'Connell, SORCHA LOUGHANE, Niamh Connolly (Captain), Fiona Connolly, Emer Buckley, Sara Nolan, Deirdre Brennan, Elaine Burke



President Mary McAleese meets with the Primary Game Captains from Tipperary and Cork. The Tipperary Captain is Aine O'Carroll (St Marys Nenagh and Bungess Club). Also in the photo are Munster Council Chairman Sean Fogarty and Martin McAleese.



Siobhan Tynan of Sportsman Dream in Nenagh presents the Captain of the Minor All-Ireland Finalists Fiona Young (Toomevara) with jackets. Also in photo is Aoife McLoughney (Shannon Rovers), Rose Mannion (Co Treasurer), Marian Ryan (Shannon Rovers), Paula Ryan (Selector), Pat McLoughney (Coach)



Toomevara players on the Tipperary senior camogie panel at the homecoming ceremony at Toomevara (L-R) - Suzanne Kelly, Maria Tynan, Deirdre Hughes (Captain), Louise Young and Noelle Kennedy



Cumann na mBunscoil representatives for Tipperary, Noirin Stapleton and Aoife Ryan Toomevara Camogie Club

Tipperary Camogie Supporter's Club

Since Tipperary made the breakthrough by winning their first All Ireland senior title in 1999 they have changed the face of camogie and indeed by the standard to which they play, have changed the way ladies sport is viewed around the country. On Sunday September 18th they contested their seventh final in a row and although defeated they put in a great effort and were only piped in the final moments. In the last seven years five All Ireland titles have been won and the teams success does not come about by chance and is a reflection of the enormous time, effort, sacrifice and commitment the players are prepared to make each year over an eight month period, starting with training in early February and concluding in mid September with the All Ireland final. It takes a special and very committed bunch of girls to continue training two and three times weekly over a thirty week period and when you allow for travelling from places as far as Cork, Kerry, Dublin, Waterford and Limerick one gets a picture of the enormous effort and commitment that these players freely put in, the sole reward required being to keep Tipperary at the top of the camogie world.

Martin Bourke and some members of the Camogie Supporters Club



It was as a result of the team's achievements and to ensure that the players were adequately looked after that the Tipperary Camogie Supporters Club was founded in 2002. In three short years we have made great progress and continue to grow from strength to strength and to meet our main objective of providing the necessary financial support to ensure the continued success of our senior camogie team. While our main aim is to cater for the senior team other teams have also benefited and in 2005 a presentation of kit bags was made to the Ursuline Convent in Thurles who contested the All Ireland senior colleges final, kit bags and track suit bottoms were presented to the Tipperary minor team for the Munster and All Ireland finals, track suit tops were presented to the Tipperary U-18 team for the Munster final. During 2005 the club funded its activities by a successful dog night in Thurles track on Saturday April 9th, a Camogie Supporters Club membership which was launched by Michael O'Muircheartaigh in May and a bucket collection taken up at the county senior hurling final on October 17th.

The officers and the committee of Tipperary Camogie Supporters Club are as follows:

Chairperson – Michael Cleary

Secretary – Meadhbh Stokes

Treasurers – Tom Egan, Jean Hayden

PRO – Martin Bourke

Committee – Martin O'Dwyer, Stephen Fitzgerald, Kathleen Hughes, Sean Fogarty

COUNTY CAMOGIE PITCH NEEDS VIEWING STAND

By this stage, it's a good assumption to make that everyone involved in Camogie in Tipperary knows where the County Camogie Pitch and Dressing Rooms are located. It's also a fairly reasonable assumption to make that most of the thirty clubs that are affiliated to the Board, have at some stage or other, over the years, played in this pitch whether it be a semi-final, final or tournament and if they haven't, then there's no doubt that some day they certainly will.

It is a fact however and not an assumption, that the pitch is one of the finest you will find in Ireland and another fact is that the Tipperary Camogie board are the only County Board to have their own playing pitch at their disposal. This is indeed a wonderful achievement for the Board and the development Committee of that time back in the late '80's, who had the foresight and vision to acquire these grounds. However, all of this did not come about easily and many will recall all the fundraising ventures that were undertaken to get to this stage.

So why then I hear you ask, as indeed I ask too, I can assure you, are some of our games played elsewhere, in particular our Senior Championship? Well the answer is obvious. The County grounds is unable to facilitate the spectators who want to view a match in comfort and undercover from the elements thrown up by our weather.

The various camogie development committee's that have strived over the years to bring the present facilities to the stage that all players to the pitch can now enjoy, are to be complimented for their foresight and endeavor and the people who gave so generously over the years to this project, can now see for themselves where their money was spent. Funding was also secured through the National Lottery, but our next stage of this project, the viewing stand, does not feature as a priority for funding, so we must come up with the cost ourselves. We the development committee, agreed to do the work necessary, in different stages so as not to be exerting too much pressure on clubs to come up with the funds. This stage of the development is going to cost in the region of 40,000, which by to-day's standards of building, is not a huge amount of money to be looking for, as I'm sure you will agree. When this target is reached, another stage of the development can then be looked further at, but remember, the work at the County pitch is nearing completion so the demand for fundraising will be lighter and the benefits for both players and spectators will be a huge benefit. And so the fundraising round begins for this stage, which is hoped we can get underway shortly and before the end of 2005.

The members of the Development committee are Chairman John Harkin (0504) 51363,

Secretary Margaret Skehan (0504) 21901 (after 7p.m.) Vice Chair and P.R.O. Rose Mannion (086) 8647166, John O'Connor (087) 79215

THE CLUB SCENE

Templemore Camogie

By Geraldine Kinane

In the first round of the Junior A championship on July 8th in Fethard, Templemore defeated Fethard by 4-8 to 0-2 but went down to Shannon Rovers in Templemore on July 23rd by 4-7 to 2-5. On August 9th in Templemore they defeated Kilruane McDonaghs by 3-6 to 1-2 to qualify for the semi final and on August 21st in the Ragg they overcame the challenge of Portroe to record a victory on the scoreline 3-5 to 3-3. On Saturday evening September 3rd in the Ragg Templemore gave a star-studded performance to defeat a fancied Shannon Rovers team on the score 3-8 to 2-2.



Captain of the Templemore team Niamh Connolly accepts the John Hogan Cup from County Chairman Stephen Fitzgerald.

Templemore played with the breeze in the first half and took the game to the Rovers and after ten minutes led by four Fiona Loughnane pointed frees. Noelle Bergin added two well-taken points from play and Templemore led by six points after fifteen minutes. Numerous stoppages in the play did not help Templemore's relentless onslaught and any Rovers attacks were met with a rock solid defence in which centre back Niamh Connolly was outstanding. The crucial score came just before the interval when Noelle Bergin collected a long delivery, and she brushed past her opponent before planting the ball in the bottom corner of the net. Although the Rovers responded with a pointed free two minutes later the score gave Templemore a great boost and at the interval they fully deserved their eight points lead, 1-6 to 0-1.

With the breeze to face for the second half, one wondered if the interval lead would be sufficient and they were to receive a big setback with the concession of a soft goal one minute on resumption. Templemore did not drop

the heads but quite the contrary happened and they dug deep to prevent another Rovers score for the next twenty-nine minutes. Every ball was being contested as if their lives depended on the outcome and everyone worked so hard for each other. Templemore laid siege on the Rovers goal and it was only going to be a matter of time when the continuous pressure would payoff. It happened in the fifteenth minute when substitute Ailish Delaney gained possession and laid it off to Cathriona Maher who made no mistake from a close range. This goal was followed four minutes later by a similar score from Noelle Bergin who was a constant tom in the Rovers defence and a pointed Fiona Loughnane free opened up a twelve points margin. It was in injury time when the Rovers registered their final goal and a point. There were scenes of jubilation afterwards with the presentation of the John Hogan cup by county chairman Stephen Fitzgerald to captain Niamh Connolly.



Templemore, Tipperary Junior A Champions 2005

Back Row, (L-R) - Christine Bergin, Caitriona Maher, Matty Bourke, Ailish O'Connell, Sara Nolan, Noelle Bergin, Mick Cortigan, Eimear Buckley, Elaine Burke, Mick Curley, Sara Hennessy, Fiona Loughnane, Ailish Delaney, Martin Bourke.
Front (L-R) - Sorchá Loughnane, Michelle Lawlor, Siobhan Bourke, Niamh Connolly (Captain), Nora Cortigan, Lorraine Bourke, Fiona Connolly, Emma Taylor, Grace Ormond
Missing - Deirdre Brennan



County Minor All-Ireland Camogie Finalists 2005

Back Row, (L to R) - Aine Brislane (Toomevara), Ruth Barry (Burgess), Patricia McGrath, Antoinette Kennedy (Drom/Inch), Fiona Young, Captain, (Toomevara), Sarah Nolan (Templemore), Marian Ryan (Shannon Rovers), Sharon Hayes, Deirdre Ryan (Cashel), Niamh O'Connell (Knockvilla), Christina Kenneally (Drom/Inch), Bonnie Kennedy (Toomevara), Marie Ryan, Karen Seymour (Kilruane), Tracey Flanagan (Boherlahan), Catherine Kelly (Annacarty)

Middle: Laura Young (Toomevara), Sarah Dwyer (Boherlahan), Mary Gleeson (Slievenamon), Caitriona Maher (Templemore), Geraldine Stapleton (Silvermines), Sarah Morrissey (Cashel), Aoife McLoughney (Shannon Rovers), Aoife Shinnors (Newport), Therese Shortt, Patricia McGrath (Drom/Inch), Sheena Ryan (Knockvilla), Rita McGrath (Cashel), Cathriona Walsh (Moycarkey), Ailish O'Connell (Templemore), Eimear Shannahan (Drom/Inch).

Front: Cliona Ryan, Margaret Kirwan (Moneygall), Louise O'Brien (St. Cronan's) Norah Costigan (Templemore), Marie Horan (Cashel).

Tipperary County Under 14 Camogie Panel who won the Limerick Colleges Shield in April.

Back Row, L to R: George Mahony (Mentor, Burgess), Becky O'Brien, Cait Devane (Clonoulty), Michelle Moten, Cliona Ryan (Moneygall), Aoife Butler (Drom/Inch), Aoife Murphy, Aine Brislane (Captain), Ethna Canning, Sandra Dunne (Toomevara), Laura Mahony (Burgess), Anne-Marie Quinlan (Kilraune), Michaela Cooley Courtney (Kildangan), Emer Ryan (Burgess), Laura Power (Silvermines), Johnny Kirwan (Mentor, Moneygall)

Middle: Margaret Collins, Mary Kate Burke (Thurles), Emma Spillane (Holycross), Olivia McCarthy (Brian Boru), Catherine Shortt (Drom/Inch), Amy Kennedy (Burgess), Laura Greene (Silvermines), Jennifer Lewis (Lorrha), Niamh Williams (Kilruane), Sinead Moloney, Claire McGrath (Roscrea).

Front: Donie Kelly (Mentor, Toomevara), Aoife Cronin (Carrick-Swans), Sarah Kirwan (Moneygall), Laura Duane (Holycross), Michelle Walsh (Brian Boru), Catherine O'Meara (Lorrha), Emma Mulqueen (Kildangan), Sarah Kennedy (Portroe), Niamh Kelly (Toomevara).



Annacarty Junior 'B' Camogie League Co. Champions 2005 who brought the title to the parish for the first time.



Brian Borus County U - 14 Camogie Champions 2005

Back Row: Eileen Myles and Mary Condon (Mentors), Riona Grant, Michelle Walsh, Lisa Dillon, Laura Cooney, Sarah Fahey, Eimear Myles, Aisling Kenneally, Ellen Ryan, Larissa Hogan, Teresa McGrath, SinÉad Tobin and Donal McCarthy (Trainer).

Front Row: Lisa Loneragan, Jackie Heffernan, Samantha Lambert, Shauna Ryan, Olivia McCarthy (Captain), Niamh Kenneally, Rachel Doyle, Jade Looby, Shauna Maher, Denise Magill, Aisling Condon and Jacinta McCarthy.



Bungess U-10 Camogie Panel - County Blitz Champions.

Back Row: (L to R) - Aisling O'Halloran, SORCHA Houlihan, Amanda Egan, Aisling Gegan, Rachel Hodgins, Isobel Ryan, Amy Seymour,

Middle Row: Claire Kearns, Orla Deering, Eimear Byrne, Aileen Byrne, Natasha Ryan, Una Quigley, Sinead Quigley, Ciardha Maher, Danielle Curtin

Front: Shona O'Donoghue, Ciara Bourke, Aoife Deering, Aileen Duggan, Caoimhe Maher, Laura Costello, Tara O'Brien, Sinead O'Brien.

Missing from photographs Tara Kennedy, Eimear Foley, Grainne Gleeson, Aoife Griffin





Bungess U-12 Camogie Panel - County 'B' Finalists.

Back Row (L to R) - Hughie Ryan, Fiona Riordan, Catherine Slattery, Shanna Flood, Mairead Griffin, Caoimhe Maher, Eimear Griffin, Ciara Houlihan, Caitriona Kenny, Mairead Murphy, Julia Cahalan, Lisa Carroll, Timmy Maher

Middle Row: Roisin Comer, Brenda O'Sullivan, Claire Mahoney, Lisa Mulgreen, Niamh O'Donoghue (Captain), Eimear Foley, Tara Kennedy, Claire Murphy, Denise Collins, Aisling Cremin

Front: Niamh O'Connor, Sarah Maxwell, Joanna King, Amanda Egan, Claire Kearns, Isobel Ryan, Marie Ryan, Alice Hodgins

Bungess U-14 Camogie Panel - County 'A' Champions.

Back Row: (L to R) - Gerry Mahoney (Manager), Cathy Anne Mulcahy, Emma Kellett, Laura Carroll, Aine Murphy, Bernie Scrupe, Hannah Kelly, Hazel O'Brien, Louise Hayes, Ruth Darcy, Sinead Ryan, Ciara Cleary, Paudie Grace (Selector)

Front Row: Ashleigh Bugler, Aine O'Halloran, Niamh Foley, Gemma Grace, Aine O'Carroll, Amy Kennedy, Catherine Curtin, Laura Mahoney (Captain), Eadaoin Ryan, Aine Lacey, Emma Hickey, Maeve O'Connell, Eimear Ryan



*Holycross / Ballycahill U-10 Camogie Players 2005
Winners of U-10 Blitz 10th September 2005.*

Back Row L-R:

Micheala Condon-O'Shea, Laura McGrath, Molly Ryan, Jenny Dunne, Kayleigh Foley

Front Row L-R:

Roisin Fitzpatrick, Roisin Comerford, Pamela Morris, Kim Ryan, Rachel Spillane, Missing from photo is Zoe Clegg (Captain)

*Knockavilla Under 15 'B' Camogie Co. Champions.
This was a trial competition for the summer of 2005.*



Moneygall U-12 Camogie Panel - County 'B' Champions and 'A' Finalists

Back Row (L to R) - Team Mentors Joan Hogan, Michael Bergin, Seamus Hogan, Amanda Moten and Alice Bergin

2nd Row: Grainne Ryan, Claire Hogan, Emily Bergin, Elizabeth Cahill, Shauna Kirwan, Niamh Larkin, Edwina King, Alie Kennedy, Lisa Costelloe, Charleen O'Brien

3rd Row: Amy O'Rourke, Aoife Deane, Monica Kirwan, Katie Coonan, Deirdre Madden, Cianna Maher, Niamh Hayes, Jean O'Connor, Eimear Ryan, Carol Hogan, Rachael Egan

Front: Leanne O'Brien, Amy Ryan, Margaret Cleary, Ciara O'Brien, Tara Hogan, Clodagh Jones, Roisin Ryan



St Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh - County U-15 Champions.

Back Row, (L to R) - Caitriona Kennedy, Launa Maloney, Laura Seymour, Geraldine Ryan, Louise Fleming, Denise O'Meara, Anna Marie Quigley, Eimear Ryan

Middle: Emma Louise Coffey, Catherine Curtin, Sarah Kelly, Kathy Anne Mulcahy, Laura Green, Elisha Slattery, Melissa Quilligan, Leanne O'Dwyer, Aoife Molamphy, Sarah Kennedy, Ger Dillon (Manager)

Seated: Cliona Ryan, Hazel Harty, Laura Reid, Aisling Whelan, Geraldine Stapleton, Martina Gleeson (Captain), Aine Murphy, Danielle Slattery, Lorna Bergin

Tipp County U14 Camogie Panel who won the Limerick Colleges



Shannon Rovers Junior 'A' League County Champion 2005

Front Row (L to R) - Sinead Cahalan, Ann Cleary, Aoife McLoughney, Antoinette King, Rita Burke, Tess Burke (Captain), Margaret Tierney, Helen Tierney, Andrea Davis.

Back: Joanna Stack, Vanessa Austin, Sabrina Larkin, Laura Tierney, Marian Ryan, Lorraine Davis, Amanda Burke, Michelle Ryan, Brid Morris, Melissa Austin, Grainne Horan, Olive Guest, Maria Kennedy, Laura Brophy





U 14 County Feile Champions 2005
 Back: Suzanne Kelly (Coach), Ruth Shanahan, Emer O'Brien, Aisling Shanahan, Kate Duggan, Anne Marie Quigley, Michelle Ryan, Aoife Murphy, Christine Kenny, Aine Brislane, Laura McCormack, Eithne Canning, Annie Ryan, Sandra Dunne (Captain), Niamh Gleeson, Niamh Finnegan, Nikki Whelan, Donal Kelly (Coach).
 Front: Elaine Martin, Rianna Minogue, Noelle Hassett, Niamh Kelly, Sile Ryan, Moira Ryan, Aoife Ryan, Orlaith Maher, Nicole Walsh, Noirin Stapleton, Marguerite Cleary, Hazel Harty, Ciara Murphy, Aoife Grace.

Ursuline Secondary School, Thurles - Munster Senior Camogie Champions and All-Ireland Colleges Finalists 2004 - 2005

Back row, left to right: Ms Olivia Hogan (Trainer / Coach), Therese Hearn, Olivia Flynn, Ceire Deevey, Elaine Crosse, Danielle Campion, Grace Glendennen, Siobh-n Butler, Antoinette Kennedy, Maura O'Regan, Elaine Ryan, Sarah Ryan, Elaine Sweeney, Laura Medley, Rachel Clegg, Ashley Ryan, Nicola O'Brien, Laura English.
 Front row, left to right: Amy O'Gorman, Katie O'Gorman, Eimear Sheehan, Georgina Kennedy, Siobh-n McGrath, Laura Kavanagh, Therese Shortt, Patricia McGrath, Ciara Johnston, Linda Fanning, Ciara Callinan (Captain), Sinead Shelley, Kate O'Dwyer, Mary Rose Flanagan, Theresa Burke, Niamh O'Connell



Winners of the Community Games



County Feile Skills Winner Aine Brislane Toomevara Camogie Club



U 14 County Feile Champions 2005
 Back: Suzanne Kelly (Coach), Ruth Shanahan, Emer O'Brien, Aisling Shanahan, Kate Duggan, Anne Marie Quigley, Michelle Ryan, Aoife Murphy, Christine Kenny, Aine Brislane, Laura McCormack, Eithne Canning, Annie Ryan, Sandra Dunne (Captain), Niamh Gleeson, Niamh Finnegan, Nikki Whelan, Donal Kelly (Coach).
 Front: Elaine Martin, Rianna Minogue, Noelle Hassett, Niamh Kelly, Sile Ryan, Moira Ryan, Aoife Ryan, Orlaith Maher, Nicole Walsh, Noirin Stapleton, Marguerite Cleary, Hazel Harty, Ciara Murphy, Aoife Grace.



The Successful Toomevara captains in recent years present tokens to people who have trained camogie teams in the club's 30 years existence (L to R) - Roger Mounsey, Mary Rose Ryan, John Joe Ryan, Aine Shanahan, Bertie Sherlock and Trish Ryan.

Toomevara Camogie U12 A County Champions 2005

Back (l-r): Nora Ryan, Sile Ryan, Michelle Ryan, Ellie Cullen, Niamh Finnegan, Nicole Walsh, Ciara Murphy, Moira Ryan, Ruth Shanahan, Eithne Cahill, Katie English, Geraldine Kelly.

Front (l-r): Karen Kenny, Claire Ryan, Aoife Ryan, Theresa Ryan, Sinead Grace, Annie Dunne, Julie Anne Bourke, Rianna Minogue, Mary Hanly, Edel Cummins



Toomevara Camogie U15 A County Champions 2005

Back: Fiona Young, Nessa Ryan, Michelle Harty, Kate Duggan, Christine Kenny, Niamh Gleeson, Eithne Canning, Emma Louise Coffey, Anne Marie Quigley, Bonnie Kennedy, Aoife Shanahan (Captain), Annie Ryan, Katie Duignan, Laura McCormack, Sandra Dunne, Aine Brislane, Cheryl Bentley.

Front: Aoife Murphy, Michelle Ryan, Nikki Whelan, Katie Cullen, Elaine Martin, Noirin Stapleton, Noelle Hassett, Niamh Kelly, Aisling Whelan, Emer O'Brien, Aoife Grace, Aisling Whelan, Emer O'Brien, Aoife Grace, Aisling Shanahan, Orlaith Maher, Hazel Harty.



Toomevara Senior Camogie Panel 2004 got their County Senior Championship medals at the club's Victory Dinner Dance at Nenagh Abbey Court Hotel.

Back Row (L to R) - Mary Rose Ryan, Niamh Kinane, Mairead Ryan, Paula Ryan, Lena Woods, Lizzie Woods, Mary Bradshaw, Therese Maxwell, Elaine Young, Samantha McLoughney, Fiona Young, Trisha Ryan, Mairead Devaney, Aine Shanahan, Lily Whelan (representing her daughter Aisling Whelan), Triona Dunne, Catherine Byrne, Louise Young
Middle Row: Deirdre Hughes, Suzanne Kelly, Natalie Ryan, Aileen Delaney, Noelle Kennedy, Denise Ryan, Anna Woods, Breda O'Meara

Front: Sharon Young, Bonnie Kennedy, Laura Young, Christina Dunne, Michelle Harty, Sandra Dunne.

CASHEL CAMOGIE CLUB

by Anne Moloney

There is nothing more emotionally upsetting than to see a group of players distraught following the disappointment of defeat. Cashel camogie senior team know all about it. On Saturday, November 12, they endured the heartbreak of defeat at New Inn, in the All-Ireland semi-final by Davitts of Galway.

Time is a great healer and on reflection 2005 wasn't such a bad year at all. Playing in the league back in March, and with barely fifteen of the panel, we suffered defeats at the hands of Toomevara and Drom Inch. Plenty of time to regroup, perhaps, but prospects were not very good. Our first game in the championship was against a combination of Portroe and Burgess, a team called Duharra. This game didn't materialise due to a tragedy just half an hour before throw-in. Our next game was against Holycross, which we won by 2-18 to 2-6. We next beat Toomevara in Toom by 0-15 to 0-9, and a further victory over Drom Inch by 1-15 to 0-11 qualified us for the final against Duharra.

The final was played at the Ragg on October 2 and ended all square. The replay couldn't take place the following Sunday as the Munster Club semi-final was scheduled for that date. Cashel were nominated and defeated the Cork champions, Cloughduv, by 1-13 to 0-5. The replay of the county final took place at Holycross on October 16, with victory going to Cashel by 0-16 to 1-9.

There was no rest as the Munster Club final, against Limerick champions, Killeady, was set for the following Saturday at Cappawhite. Cashel came through easily enough, winning by 4-13 to 2-4, to take their third Munster title in five years.

There was a break of one week before the All-Ireland semi-final against Connacht champions, Davitts of Galway. This was played at Tynagh. Five games in six weeks was beginning to take its toll. Cashel were up by six points at half-time but a great comeback by the Galway side forced a draw, Cashel 1-13 Davitts 3-7.



Sarah Hayes

The replay was a week later, November 11, at New Inn. Davitts were physically stronger, a fresher team, and possibly possessed greater hunger. Although the sides were close near the end, Davitts pulled away in the final minutes to win by six points, on a scoreline of 4-9 to 2-9, and qualify for the All-Ireland final.

In spite of the defeat the team gave wonderful hours of enjoyment to their supporters during the year. Much credit for the year's successes goes to Liam Cahill and Joe Williams. Their workrate and dedication brought a new freshness to a team that were in the doldrums for a few years.

The panel of players were as follows: Jovita Delaney, Sarah Morrissey, Una O'Dwyer, Noelette O'Dwyer, Fiona O'Dwyer, Sinead Millea, Paula Bulfin, Linda Grogan, Philly Fogarty, Helen Grogan (capt.), Emily Hayden, Claire Grogan, Allison Lonergan, Cora Hennessy, Roseanne Quirke, Kaiffe Moloney, Helen Breen, Libby Twomey, Kira O'Sullivan, Deirdre Ryan,

Emma Williams, Sharon Hayes, Mairead Morrissey, Sile Nash, Roisin Nash, Kate O'Dwyer.

Many club players were members of county panels. Jovita Delaney, Una O'Dwyer, Philly Fogarty, Gill Horan, Claire Grogan, Paula Bulfin and Emily Hayden were on the senior panel. Jovita Delaney and Claire Grogan were awarded All-Stars. Allison Lonergan, Kira O'Sullivan and Cora Hennessy were on the under-18 panel. Sarah Morrissey, Deirdre Ryan, Sharon Hayes and Rita McGrath were on the minor panel.

Niamh Bonnar scores a goal



TIPPERARY GET FOUR ALL STAR AWARDS

By: Rose Mannion.

Several hundred people came together on Saturday night last in The City West Hotel in Saggart to view the cream of camogie receive their fitting tributes to another year of camogie in this the second awards year to recognise the greats of skill and craft on the field of play.

With seven nominations, three less than old rivals and all-Ireland champions Cork, Tipperary were indeed pleased to have received four all stars.

In all, thirty seven nominations were made from nine counties and when the final fifteen were decided by the powers that be, four from the fifteen were from Tipp.

Although nominated last year, but had no joy, Tipp goalie Jovita Delaney was first up to receive her award from special guest Ossie Kilkenny newly appointed chairperson of the Irish Sports Council and camogie's National President Miriam O'Callaghan. From the back line and another first time winner was Julie Kirwan, also nominated last year and who has enjoyed a great second season at senior ranks, while the Tipperary list was completed from the forwards in Claire Grogan who claimed her second all star, and while also unlucky to miss out last year, but up front this year was Eimear McDonnell another first time winner of this prestigious award. Unlucky to miss out was Therese Brophy, Suzanne Kelly and Philly Fogarty. Therese and Suzanne already hold all stars from last year.

In association with O'Neills, this glittering event also saw Tipp's minor forward Aoife McLoughney from the Shannon Rovers club, nominated for Young Player Of The Year award and while the other three nominees along with Aoife, Siobhan Flannery Offaly, Colette McSorley Armagh and Katie Power Kilkenny, received a plaque for the role they played for their respective

Counties, it was surprisingly Armagh's Colette McSorley who claimed the overall award as young player of the year. An new addition to the awards this year was Manager Of The Year and this went to John Cronin from Cork.

Uachtaran Cumann Camogaiochta na nGael Miriam O'Callaghan who ends her last year in office in just a few month's time, welcomed the crowd and also the thirty seven all-star nominees who entered the banqueting hall, each bearing a yellow rose, to a standing ovation from all present. Special guests included O'Nells managing director, the sponsors of the event Tony Towell, former G.A.A. president Joe McDonagh who is chairman of Foras na Gaeilge who sponsor the all Ireland senior championship. Unavoidably absent was the president of the G.A.A. Sean Kelly. Presenters for the evening were the popular Clare McNamara of RTE news sport and Michael Lyster RTE sport who took it in turn to announce the winners.

All Ireland champions Cork led the way with six awards with Tipperary in hot pursuit with four while Galway had two and Wexford, Dublin and Clare making up the remainder with one each. Dublin's Ciara Lucey, selected at midfield and Clare's Catherine O'Loughlin in the back line, were the two non senior players to be selected.

As like picking a team to take to the pitch, everyone has their own personal

opinion and indeed the All Stars occasion is certainly no different. Plenty of tension and sometimes controversy about the chosen fifteen and there's the added chat about the how's and why's which gives rise to several mind boggling re-plays and club games, which is possibly not even considered. But that will always be as long as there is competition.

Tipperary can be justly proud of their Four All-Stars and after a short winter break, may once again concentrate on bringing back the O'Duffy cup to the County, a County which has provided inspiration and awe to others and also which has been regarded by many as the County to be feared most in the Camogie world. It's good to see so much talent there still and young talent coming through too, so lets hope O'Duffy will be returning to the Premier County in 2006.

The Camogie 2005 All Stars in association with O'Neills are Jovita Delaney (Tipperary), Sinead Cahalan (Galway), Catherine O'Loughlin (Wexford), Julie Kirwan (Tipperary), Anna Geary (Cork), Mary O'Connor (Cork), Therese Maher (Galway), Gemma O'Connor (Cork), Ciara Lucey (Dublin), Jennifer O'Leary (Cork), Rachel Moloney (Cork), Claire Grogan (Tipperary), Eimear McDonnell (Tipperary), Catherine O'Loughlin (Clare), Emer Dillon (Cork).



All Stars from left: Julie Kirwan, Jovita Delaney, Eimear McDonnell, Claire Grogan.
Picture by Rose Mannion.

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MONEYGALL CAMOGIE CLUB

In October 1995 a small group of people met in the G.A.A. Centre in Moneygall to organise a Camogie Club in the parish. They were reviving a club which had been in existence intermittently down the years. During the ten years of its existence the club had many good years but these pale into insignificance when compared to the success and activity of the last twelve months. The adult team having promised much in recent years delivered on that promise by winning the county intermediate championship and the county intermediate league. In underage the outstanding team were the under-12 side who won a thrilling county B championship and lost out to Toomevara in the A final. Other underage teams were also very successful with the under-10, under-14 and under-15 teams having many memorable wins before losing the county A finals in each grade.

At the beginning of the year the intermediate team had their minds firmly set on winning the Championship. They had the unenviable record of having been the runners-up in the championship for the previous three years. They had finished 2004 on a high note by defeating Burgess in the inaugural senior B final late in the year.

The challenge before them was put into focus when early in 2005 they played newly-promoted Bournea in a league game in Clonakenny. Moneygall were well beaten and now knew that it would require a great effort if the championship were to be won.

The preparations intensified and by the middle of summer it was clear that the team was playing their best hurling. The form in the training field was repeated in the championship which came to a glorious end with hard fought convincing wins over Silvermines in the semi-final and Bournea in the county final. Ecstatic scenes greeted the final whistle in The Ragg as players and supporters celebrated a historic occasion.

The panel consisted of twenty-eight girls all, natives of the parish which is surely rare in camogie circles. The team had a great mix of youth and experience ranging from the three members of the Tipperary senior panel, Julie Kirwan, Eimear Ryan and Mary Ryan, right down to three of our under-14 team, Michelle Moten, Sarah Kirwan and Clíodhna Ryan who all played in the final. There was no weakness in the side and sterling leadership was provided by captain Brid Byrne who never had a bad game during the year. A special contribution came from the Kirwan families who provided nine members of the panel which included Julie, her two sisters and six cousins who all made a major contribution during the campaign.

County Final Line-out: Michelle Moten; Amanda Moten, Caroline Kirwan, Maire Kirwan; Aisling Kennedy, Julie Kirwan, Michelle Kirwan; Brid Byrne, Mary Ryan; Sylvia O'Rourke, Eileen Ryan, Margaret Kirwan; Sarah Doherty, Eimear Ryan, Sarah Kirwan. Subs: Clíodhna Ryan, Deirdre Kirwan, Maeve Kennedy, Sinead Kirwan, Deirdre Treacy, Aisling Kirwan, Mary Guest, Fiona Kennedy, Victorine Byrne, Maria Jones, Leonia O'Rourke, Julie Doherty, Joanne Maher.

The trainer of the team, Denis O'Dwyer was excellent all year and credit must also be given to the other selectors, Seamus Doherty, John Kirwan, Marie Kennedy and Seamus Ryan.

Next year the team have earned senior status and will compete in the senior championship. This will be a huge challenge for the girls since so many amalgamations and conglomerations play in that competition. However the Moneygall girls will approach the challenge in a positive frame of mind.

They have youth on their side since the oldest player in the county final was only twenty-two years old. A new chapter in Moneygall Camogie will commence when they take the field in the 2006 Tipperary Senior Championship—amazing progress since ten years ago when the small meeting was held in the G.A.A. Centre in Moneygall.

Under Age:

The county under-12 camogie B final was one of the most memorable of any game played anywhere in 2005. Moneygall qualified to meet Burgess and the game, played early in the summer, ended in a draw. The replay was not played until the end of August and it also ended in a draw which meant that extra time now had to be played. The very tired girls played out the extra twenty minutes at which stage the score showed that the teams were still level. Such was the intensity of the game that the huge attendance in the stand in Toomevara stood for a spontaneous ovation for the two teams when the final whistle sounded.

The teams and supporters returned to Toomevara the following week for the third and final meeting of these heroic sides. The intensity of the two drawn games prevailed once again. The important difference on this occasion was that the physically stronger Burgess team seemed to be getting the upper hand. Moneygall who had led in the two previous games were unable to score and it appeared that they may have missed their opportunity of winning.

Things looked hopeless for Moneygall when with six minutes remaining the scoreboard read Burgess 2-1, Moneygall 0-0.

The following six minutes will go down in Moneygall folklore among the greatest achievements on the hurling field. Supporters of both sides looked on in awe and amazement as the Moneygall rallied in amazing fashion. The first goal appeared to be just a consolation for Moneygall as it added respectability to the score line. When the sliotar struck the Burgess net for the second time with only three minutes remaining the Moneygall supporters hoped they might have time to score a point and salvage a draw. But in those last three minutes Moneygall scored a further 1-1 to grab an unbelievable and unlikely victory.

The game was followed by wild celebrations as star player and captain Niamh Larkin was presented with the winning trophy. Great credit is due to all the players for never giving up and persevering to achieve a glorious win. The Burgess players must also be commended for three outstanding games in which they played a huge part.

County Final Line-out: Roisin Ryan; Deirdre Madden, Shauna Kirwan, Monica Kirwan; Claire Hogan, Emily Bergin, Jean O'Connor; Elizabeth Cahill, Edwina King; Cianna Maher, Katie Coonan, Niamh Hayes Carol Hogan, Niamh Larkin, Mairead Teehan. Subs: Charlene O'Brien, Eimear Ryan.

The management team at juvenile level are playing a huge role in the community and deserve great credit for their selfless work with the young girls. They have more than seventy girls attending training and they are present in the training field on four and sometimes five nights per week. They are Seamus Hogan, Alice Bergin, Joan Hogan, Michael Bergin and Amanda Moten.

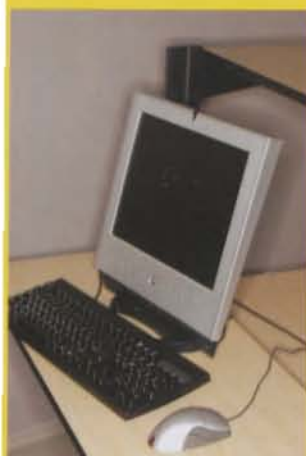
To finish off a memorable year four of the Under 12 girls Niamh Larkin, Elizabeth Cahill, Edwina King and Emily Bergin, played vital roles on the Moneygall team which won the county under-12 B hurling title in September by beating Fethard.



Moneygall Intermediate Camogie Team: Co. Champions 2005-10-09

Back Row (L to R) John Kirwan(Selector), Aisling Kirwan, Sinead Kirwan, Maeve Kennedy, Sarah Doherty, Margaret Kirwan, Amanda Moten, Michelle Kirwan, Michelle Moten, Clíodhna Ryan, Caroline Kirwan, Aialing Kennedy, Leonia O'Rourke, Maire Kirwan, Helen Maher, Sarah Kirwan, Caitriona Jones, Deirdre Treacy, Marie Kennedy(Selector).
Front Row(L to R) Denis Dwyer(Selector), Mary Guest, Julie Doherty, Deirdre Kirwan, Eimear Ryan, Eileen Ryan, Mary Ryan, Brid Byrne(Captain), Maria Jones, Julie Kirwan, Sylvia O'Rourke, Victorine Byrne, Fiona Kennedy, Seamus Ryan(Selector), Seamus Doherty(Selector)

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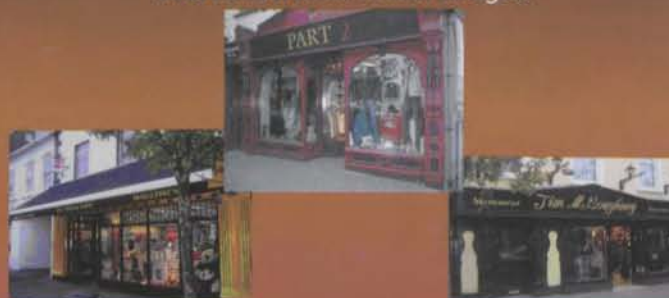
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Toomevara Camogie Celebrates 30 years

by Suzanne Kelly.

2005 saw Toomevara Camogie Club celebrating its 30th birthday. Camogie has been played since the 1930s, but the current club was founded in 1975. Founding members included James & Kathleen O Leary, Paddy Connors RIP and Mickie Martin RIP. Initially training began in Templeberry but fields were hard to come by the club was lucky enough that Jack Gleeson obliged providing the training fields for many years. With the base now in Kilkeary, the first county success came in 1979 with an U/16 title fittingly captained by Anne Gleeson. Bertie Sherlock and John Joe Ryan were the main driving force around this time with Rita Gleeson, Joan Hughes and Fr. Kennedy.

1983 saw the first adult title and finally in 1988 the intermediate title was claimed sealing the breakthrough into senior ranks. Roger Mounsey had now come on board and training moved to Ballinree. U14 and U/18 titles during the late 80s and early 90s ensured the platform for the senior team, with John Kennedy was now at the helm. Other influential people at the time were Margaret O Meara, Ellen and Catherine Guerin and Kathleen Hughes.

1992 finally saw the first senior title with a famous victory over Cashel. Toome recorded an impressive six in a row of senior titles and added a Munster club title, Kilmacud 7s and Pan Celtic during the 90s. 2004 saw the senior team take another senior title along with county success at junior, U/16, U/14 and U/12. Presently the hard work and commitment to the club continues with great enthusiasm.

30th Anniversary Celebrations

On Saturday 8th of October we held our massively successful fun day in the hurling field. Camogie players, young and old, gathered to celebrate the club's 30th birthday. The U10s got proceedings underway with their game and gave a fine exhibition of all the skills they have picked up during the year. The U/12 and U/14s were next to display their skills in two highly competitive games. A number of juniors and seniors also played and a selection of these remained in the field to take on the guest team of the day. With great excitement Auntie Joan led her team onto the field, a fine selection of players including Scream, Sr. Bernie, Winnie the Witch, Jordan, Crusty the Clown, Mammy Maura, Spike, Not so Young Margaret, Toome's newest signing Bernie M and Anne G who dusted off her boots for the occasion. In what was a closely contested game the referee decided in the interests of safety a draw was the fairest result. There was some consolation for the guests as Scream took the player of the match accolade. With all the camogie played celebrations continued with bouncing castles and face painting. Thanks to

all who attended the day and a special word of thanks to the organising committee, Joe and Mary Stapleton of Borrisoleigh Bouncing Castles and guest players who all added to the occasion.

From humble beginnings the club has grown to be a major force in the camogie world. 2005 is a further reflection of the continued growth. Teams were fielded in the A grades of U/10, U/12, U/14, U/15, U/16, U/18, junior and senior all teams competed in the grade of their relevant competitions.

The club was also to the fore on the county scene. On the senior front Deirdre Hughes captained the side which claimed the Munster final and just fell short to Cork in the All Ireland. Noelle Kennedy, Louise Young, Maria Tynan and Suzanne Kelly were also members of the senior team. Fiona Young captained the minors, who claimed the Munster final and were eventually defeated by Kilkenny in the All Ireland final along with Laura Young, Aine Brislane and Siobhan Kennedy. Donal Kelly served as an U/14 selector with a Tipperary side, that was captained by Aine Brislane along with Sandra Dunne, Eithne Canning, Aoife Murphy and Niamh Kelly. On the primary school team we had Aoife Ryan and Noirin Stapleton, who played in Pairc Ui Caoimh during the Munster final. Congratulations to all our girls who wore the blue and gold and we hope they have many more successful

against St Vincent's Dublin. This game was played at a ferocious pace and both teams matched each other play for play. We laid siege to the Vincent's goal but just could not find the goal we needed and Vincent's claimed the spoils by three points.

Our girls produced their finest performance of the year in Feile and were a credit to all involved. The commitment and passion shown by all our panel was an inspiration to watch. Although victory eluded us narrowly the girls were fantastic ambassadors for the club playing a brand of camogie that earned them many admirers over the weekend. Thanks to all who travelled with the girls throughout the year it has certainly been a long season and we hope that this panel can stay together and produce many more fine performances.

Toomevaras U/15s made history this year as they claimed the inaugural county title in the u/15A section of this competition. This team produced an exceptional performance on a September evening in Moneygall. They awed onlookers with their silken skills and score-taking notching up a total of 4.10 to 2.2 to claim the title. It is hoped that this team will form the foundation for the u/16 championship and we wish them the best luck in the competition. The U/18 competition is still ongoing at this stage we have reached the semi final stage.

The junior team was bolstered by their success in the league last year and was determined to have a say in this year's championship. Preparation was meticulous and the girls played some fine camogie all year. They were finally defeated by Shannon Rovers in the semi-final. Our senior team has similar designs on retaining the county championship but had to bow to the combination of Duharra and Cashel. Although all concerned were bitterly disappointed the spirit that exists amongst the players is constant and the focus is now firmly on the forthcoming season. Our thanks to the management team of Jackie Meagher, Catherine Byrne and Donal Kelly whose preparation of

both teams was second to none and undertaken with the utmost commitment. We hope that in the near future we can rely on the homegrown players we have developing through our underage ranks to serve the junior and senior panels.

By most club standards, claiming three county titles and competing at the highest grade in all competitions would be a fine achievement. However with the well of talent young and old that exists within the club we can surely set our sights on more titles for 2006. Our thanks to all managers, selectors and coaches who worked with the teams throughout the year all of you served the club with dignity and pride. To the parents of all our players who travelled the highways and byways we hope that you enjoyed the year and are looking forward to the coming season. Again we owe a depth of gratitude to our main sponsor Siobhan Tynan of A Sportsman's Dream also to the Toomevara GAA club for the use of the facilities. Many thanks to our loyal supporters who followed the teams throughout the year. Finally to the players the most essential element in any club there have been highs and lows this year nevertheless take heart tiocfaidh ár lá.



30th Celebrations Toomevara Camogie Guest Team
Back L-R: Mammy Maura, Bernie M, Anne G, Auntie Joan, Sr
Bernie, Not so Young Margaret, Crusty
Front L-R: Jordan, Winnie the Witch, Spike, Scream

years playing for Tipperary.

The U/10s has a magnificent year expertly guided by Nora Dwan, Grainne Shanahan and Mary Rose Ryan. They gained valuable experience with numerous challenge games throughout the year and their progress will continue to grow as they head indoors for the winter.

The U/12 team maintained the clubs record at this grade claiming the final against our near rivals Moneygall. The final was a keenly contested game witnessed by a large crowd. All the finer skills of the girls came to the fore as they produced their best camogie to take the final in style.

The U/14 team again claimed the honour of representing Tipperary in Feile na nGael. Defeating Drom & Inch, Moneygall and Burgess in the county championship we progressed as Tipperary champions to the finals in Cork. A very welcoming Ballincollig club hosted us and the girls had to be at the top of their game as they faced their hosts in the opening round. This was a keenly contested game and our girls pulled out all the stops to take the points. On Saturday Inniscarra were the opposition and once again the girls dug deep to produce a fine performance sealing a quarterfinal place

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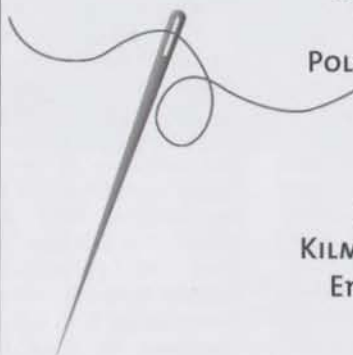
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Historic First for Boherlahan Camogie

Camogie in Tipperary has enjoyed unprecedented success in the past decade and that progress has filtered down to club level. In the parish of Boherlahan/Dualla a new surge of enthusiasm saw the revival of a camogie club in 2004, an initiative that was rewarded a year later with the club's first ever county title, won by the U12 team.

There have been many affiliated camogie clubs in Boherlahan in the past. The records show Boherlahan affiliated in 1932 and '33 before the game countywide went into decline in the second half of the thirties. By 1943 Boherlahan was again among the listed affiliations but the club soon disappeared and didn't re-emerge until 1961. The first half of the sixties saw an active camogie club in the parish before once more it disappears from affiliations and wasn't resurrected until 2004.

Not having an active camogie club in the parish didn't deter girls from playing the game and Boherlahan supplied Jovita Delaney and Una O'Dwyer to Tipperary's golden era commencing with the breakthrough All Ireland win in 1999.

Not surprisingly then Tipperary's success encouraged the setting up of a new camogie club in the parish and after much discussion it was formed in time for the 2004 season. In its inaugural year the club affiliated teams at U12 and U14 level and even though there was no immediate success, firm foundations had been laid. 2005 would see further development with an U16 team being affiliated and, crucially, the first county title ever coming to the parish.

The club approached the 2005 season in confident mood with much expected in particular from their

U12 team. With much useful work being done in the local primary school by principal, Paul Byrne, and many challenge games being organised by the management team of Monica Kennedy, Pat Kavanagh, Maureen Edinborough and Michael O'Dwyer the side was developing nicely.

The side, playing in the 'C' championship, had its campaign opener on May 10th against neighbours, Holycross. The game was played in Boherlahan with the locals coming through impressively on a final score line of 4-3 to 0-2. A few days later the team travelled to Annacarty where another impressive win was recorded. The score line this time was 6-2 to 0-0. They also kept their next opponents, Clonoulty, scoreless. When the teams clashed at Boherlahan on May 24th the locals were winners by 4-4 to 0-0.

By now the team had established itself as one of the frontrunners for honours. That impression was sustained on May 31st when a visit to Dundrum brought a 3-5 to 1-0 win over Kickhams. Unbeaten and heading for the knock out stages Boherlahan were given a walkover by Moycarkey in their final league round.

With the league section now behind them the team prepared for the quarterfinal of the championship where they were drawn against Cahir. The game was played at Boherlahan on June 28th with the sash-wearers once again ruling supreme. The final score was 3-4 to 0-0.

The semi final was to prove their toughest game of the campaign. On July 12th they faced a very strong Thurles selection and needed to be at their best to come through by the narrowest of margins. At half

time the sides were level on 1-0 each, Niamh Maher scoring the Boherlahan goal. In a very tight second half Boherlahan just scraped through with Dearbhla Kennedy scoring the winning point. It ended 1-1 to 1-0.

The final was played at The Ragg on July 15th where Boherlahan's opponents were Kilruane McDonaghs of North Tipperary. At half time Boherlahan were a goal ahead, 1-1 to 0-1, Aisling Kavanagh scoring the goal and Niamh Maher getting the point. In the second half Boherlahan confirmed their dominance with a Niamh Maher goal and a point from Kiara Edinborough ensuring a famous win. It ended 2-2 to 0-1 for a historic first-ever county title for Boherlahan.

County final winning panel: Elaine Devane, Orla Gleeson, Ciara Gleeson, Kelly Ann Fennell, Aisling Kavanagh, Aisling Barrett, Dearbhla Kennedy, Kiara Edinborough, Edel O'Dwyer, Sinead Ryan, Niamh Maher, Kelly Edinborough, Emer Lowth, Claire O'Dwyer, Sinead Kavanagh, Aine Devane, Grainne Manton, Sharon O'Reilly, Lauren Bergin, Aoife Clancy, Aoife Kennedy, Margaret Ann Geehan, Niamh O'Sullivan, Emma Jay, Eibhlis Maher.

Boherlahan-Dualla Camogie Club

President: Fr. Joe Egan P.P.

Vice President: Billy Kelly.

Chairman: Tommy Gleeson.

Secretary: Nicola Browne.

Treasurer: Marie Ryan.

P.R.O.: Aileen Sheehy.

Vice-Chairman: Michael O'Dwyer

Assistant Secretary: Monica Kennedy.

U12 "C" County Camogie Champions Finalist of 2005



Back Row: Grainne Manton, Sinead Kavanagh, Ciara Gleeson, Aisling Kavanagh (Captain), Dearbhla Kennedy, Niamh Maher, Kiara Edinborough, Kelly Anne Fennell, Orla Gleeson.

Front Row: Kelly Edinborough, Aoife Clancy, Aine Devane, Elaine Devane, Aoife Kennedy, Aisling Barrett, Sharon O'Reilly, Edel O'Dwyer, Clare O'Dwyer, Eimear Lowth.

Missing from picture: Sinead Ryan, Lauren Bergin, Emma Jay, Eibhlis Maher, Niamh O'Sullivan, Margaret Anne Geehan, Monica Kennedy (Manager), Michael O'Dwyer (Selector), Patrick Kavanagh (Selector) and Maureen Edinborough (Selector).

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The Modern Sliotar

by John G. O'Dwyer

(This article first appeared in the 'Irish Times' on August 13, 2005.)

This weekend hurling fans in Croke Park will enjoy what is arguably the greatest sporting spectacle in the world with the overwhelming majority of spectators present in the stadium disagreeing only with the inclusion of the word "arguably" in the above statement. These days we take it for granted that every hurling game is played at an incredibly fast pace, facilitated by fitter players, improved playing surfaces and better quality hurleys. It is easy to forget the contribution that high standard, high visibility, sure-flight sliotars have also made to the quality and spectacle of the modern game.

In the early days of the GAA, hurling balls were much larger when compared with those in use today. In 1904 the official GAA rules set the minimum weight for the sliotar at 7 ounces - about double the prescribed weight today. It is safe to conclude, therefore, that a century ago the large, cumbersome horse-hair filled sliotars and smaller bos hurls, which were a feature of the time, contributed to a much slower and less spectacular game dominated by ground hurling. This view is supported by the fact that, subsequent to the abolition of the side posts in 1910 - which offered a point for what would be a wide today - most games were characterised by the scoring of relatively few points. In the 1930s sliotars were reduced to approximately the size we know today and higher scoring became common. However, the difficulty of developing a uniform and durable hurling ball that would retain its shape through 60 minutes of intense competition, especially in wet conditions remained. The man who did most to research and eventually find a solution to this problem is now largely forgotten by GAA historians.

Johnny McAuliffe was born in Tullybrackey, Bruff, Co Limerick in 1896 and was by all accounts a hurler of some note in his youth, but he was also known for his expertise as the ball mender for the local hurling teams. In 1919, Johnny moved to Limerick City and found employment in a bakery. He joined the then famous Young Ireland GAA club, with whom he subsequently won a Limerick senior hurling championship.

After retiring from hurling in 1925, he remained actively associated with Young Ireland, both as a committee member and also in what was then an important role - mending the unreliable sliotars of the day. Eventually he was asked by fellow committee members at Young Ireland, who were

experiencing difficulty in obtaining uniform quality hurling balls, if he would go into the business of manufacturing sliotars. He took on the challenge and made some sliotars that were welcomed by the players as superior in terms of durability and shape retention to any that were presently being used. However, the biggest advantage of the new McAuliffe sliotar was its water resistant quality - unlike all previous hurling balls - it did not become heavy in wet conditions.

Word of the Tullybrackey man's success quickly spread and soon he was making a variety of hurling balls suitable for clubs, schools and camogie teams along with the standard sliotar for Munster hurling championship. The fame of the McAuliffe sliotars now travelled outside Munster and demand was so great that Johnny retired from his position in the city bakery in order to concentrate on his ball-making business. From his premises in Thomas Street, Limerick sliotars were soon pouring out in large quantities and the McAuliffe was soon the sliotar of choice in all the principal hurling areas, both within Ireland and overseas.

With the erection in 1937 of the old Cusack Stand in Croke Park there came complaints from spectators of an inability to pick out the flight of a brown hurling ball against the background of a crowded stand. Almost inevitably, McAuliffe was the man requested to find a solution. In response he produced the first white sliotar, which solved the problem of visibility within a crowded stadium. However, one difficulty remained - that of making a ball that would retain its whiteness when it came in contact with wet grass.

Here, a Limerick tannery came to the rescue, when, at Johnny's request, they produced the first hurling ball with a hard wearing, distinctive white finish, which was not only waterproof but also maintained its shape and colour over a hugely extended period. The new product was an immediate success and quickly came into use at all major hurling matches and remains the model for the stitched, two-piece, pigskin sliotar, with a core of cork, we are familiar with today. Indeed, the white sliotar is now of crucial importance since it facilitates the major technical challenge of capturing for television a tiny ball moving rapidly over an area, which is approximately twice the size of a soccer or rugby pitch.

When Johnny McAuliffe passed away in 1960 he had devoted much of his life to the perfection of the sliotar and thanks largely to his pioneering efforts you can be sure that Sunday's matchball will retain its shape and snow white finish throughout the game. For this, much credit goes to the work of a man originally who hailed from rural Tullybrackey, Co Limerick. (P.S. Sliotar: Etymology doubtful. Discussed by Liam P. O'Caithnia in *Scéal na hIomána*, pp215-219. Other spellings -

slidher, slíodar, slíter, slíthter, slíthter. Earliest form found - slidher. Sliotar referred to the cover of the ball, the interior of which was made from animal fur, horse-hair, thread, cork or guttapercha. First reference to a leather cover 1791. Sheep-skin often used. P.W. Joyce, in *English As We Speak It*, has the following note: slíthter: a kind of thick, soft leather; also a ball covered with that leather for hurling. From the context in which the word is found in some references in Irish, O'Caithnia thinks that sliotar originally meant a ram's scrotum! Cadairne is the modern term and football in the Kerry Gaeltacht is known as caid. A bull's scrotum was often used as a football, both here and in England, and a ram's may have been used in hurling. In time, the original meaning of sliotar was lost, and neither Dineen nor Ó Domhnaill has it in their dictionaries. (I am indebted to Liam P. O'Duibhir, Clonmel for this contribution. Ed.)



Borrisoleigh's Rory Kinane scores a goal against Nenagh Eire Og in the Hibernian North SHC Final

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THE TIPP DREAM TEAM OF THE 1960s

GERRY SLEVIN reflects on RTE's popular "Dream Team" series of last Spring which featured the great Tipperary hurling team of the 1960s.

RTE match commentator Micheal O'Muircheartaigh has edged them ahead of the Kilkenny team of the 1980s as hurling's greatest ever team and last Spring RTE paid its tribute to the great Tipperary hurling side of the '60s, featuring them in its popular 'Dream Team' series. It is hard to believe that it is all of four decades since those giants of the hurling world caught the imagination of so many, recovering from a shock defeat by Wexford in the 1960 All Ireland final to take control in '61, '62, '64 and '65. Those brilliant years were highlighted in film footage from RTE, from Gael Linn and the Irish Film Institute with Marty Morrissey's presentation, and a portrayal of the decade through the eyes of three players so influential in that period, John Doyle, Donie Nealon and Jimmy Doyle. John described life as being different then. He was working on a farm and so, he was never suffering "from these cramps or whatever they get nowadays. I wouldn't even know what they were". Jimmy said one had to be hungry for the game. "I never caught a hurley in my hand from the Monday night of the week of the All Ireland final. I put it away. When you'd catch the hurley on the morning of the final, it'd be like a cipin in your hand. You'd be mad for it". Donie spoke of one's disposition in the lead up to the All-Ireland final, the temperament. Maybe when he was younger, he recalled, and looking out at things happening on the field, his reaction might be to ask how a player could exist or indeed survive in the heat of battle. But when one became part of it, that didn't enter one's mind. Moving on to the All-Ireland finals of that decade, Marty Morrissey in his commentary said that the early 1960s were a tough time in Ireland but tough times bred tough people. Some were prepared to take great risks for the love of hurling. Jimmy told how he failed a fitness test for the '61 final against Dublin. He had fractured an ankle in the Munster final against Cork. Surgeon O'Donnell in Nenagh told him he would have to go into plaster for at least two to three months. There would be no All-Ireland for him. But Jimmy had the plaster removed two weeks before the final. He walked, and he walked and he walked, having a fitness test on the Friday night before the final. He failed the test but persuaded the team doctor to administer pain killing injections just minutes before the game. John admitted that Tipp had a powerful team at that time, adding that "the second best team

in Ireland one time was our own reserves!". Donie had no doubt that Tipp were very lucky to win that final ('61). They had come through Munster easily enough and were fortunate to beat a great Dublin team by one point. Dublin were supremely fit and hurled Tipp off the field in the second half. Lar Foley's dismissal opened up the Dublin defence and in the closing minutes Tipp came back to gain a very narrow win.

With a total of 16 points, Tipp became only the second team to win the All-Ireland final without scoring a goal. On to 1962, with Tipp eager to avenge the defeat by Wexford two years earlier.

Recalling that final, John said that despite Tipp getting off to a flying start, Wexford nearly caught them in the end. He described Wexford as a mighty team, all big men.

Said Donie: "We scored 2-2 in the opening five minutes. Wexford came back to lead us. They were a very sporting team to play against. Very big and strong and you'd know when they hit you! It was a very difficult final to win and we held out by two points. I was never as tired after any match". Jimmy was captain but an injury sustained late in the game prevented him from accepting the Liam McCarthy Cup, Sarsfields colleague Tony Wall deputising. "I had gone through the whole Munster championship free of injuries and hurled the All Ireland to the last ten minutes. I broke my collar bone and they wanted me to go up on the stretcher to accept the cup but I wouldn't do that" said Jimmy. With Tipp's style of hurling in that era described as tough and uncompromising, John had no hesitation in saying that the back line (of which he was a member) was exceptionally sound. "It wasn't too easy to get through our defence" he declared. Donie said everyone remembered the full back line of John Doyle, Michael Maher and Kieran Carey (Hell's Kitchen). If you ever met a stone wall, you met it there. Donie feels they have been unfairly treated. They were tough and hardy, determined and committed, but they weren't dirty. John's view? "Their name was worse than what they really were. I never saw anybody getting hit. There was no off the ball stuff. Big strong guys, yes but when you came up against the likes of Ned Wheeler you needed to be strong. Lord have mercy on Nicky Rackard, when he was playing; he was like a train". In 1964 Tipp were back once more in the All Ireland final, against the champions of '63, Kilkenny. Jimmy sees the Tipp team of '64 as one of the best teams of all. They beat Kilkenny by 5-13 to 2-8, that victory placing them on top of the Roll of Honour with twenty titles. For Donie it was a particularly auspicious final. Lining out in the corner in the first half, he got little from Fan Larkin. So, he moved out to the open spaces for the second half and was fortunate to score three goals. "We could beat Kilkenny then. We can't now! Donie laughed.

Moving on to '65 Jimmy says it was a tough All-Ireland against Wexford and admits Tipp were lucky to win. They were seeking their 21st title and John Doyle was in search of his record equalling (with Christy Ring) 8th All Ireland medal. Said John: "It was a time when people, even in our own county, were hoping we'd be beaten, because we were winning so much. We had some great players

in that era, Jimmy Doyle, Donie Nealon and Mackey McKenna in the forwards. If one had a bad day, the others hadn't. "A special day too for Jimmy. As captain he received the Cup this time. Four All Ireland titles in five years. The team that played in the '65 final had sixty two All Ireland medals between them. No doubt a hurling 'Dream Team. The programme also dealt with the youthful influence of others on the trio, also the trips to the US and it featured an interview John gave to a US television reporter shortly after the '65 final. No programme on Tipp teams of that era would be complete without reference to Christy Ring, whose hurling days were reaching an end when Tipp ruled the roost. "I idolised him" said Jimmy. "I followed him around the hurling field up here (Semple Stadium). I was a child and when the match'd be over I'd find myself getting into the dressing room where he'd be toggling in. I'd watch his hands. He had a big pair of hands and to think that I ended up hurling alongside him (with Munster). I couldn't believe it, that I hurled with Christy Ring. I learned a lot from Christy. It's hard to believe it that I should be saying these things being a Tipp man but I idolised him and he was something special. He was a great man"

John, of course was one of Christy's great opponents on field but on and off the field they respected each other tremendously. John recalled an occasion when in seeking a Senate seat he went to Cork to canvass support. He met Christy in Johnny Quirke's pub and there and then Christy spent two days with him canvassing. "I got a big Senate vote in Cork" said John. Other comments from the three spokesmen: Donie — I always said about hurling that you need to be fast and skilful, You want to have courage. If you felt afraid, you'd never hurl. If your mentality was that you might get injured, you wouldn't play at all. I'd love to be playing hurling still. My advice would be to play (for) as long as you can, as long as you feel that you are useful. There is something very enriching and satisfying in being able to hurl well. I would say to players try to develop your skills because you will enjoy it (the game) far more. It's more enriching, more fulfilling.

Jimmy — I have a hurley in the room there, beside the bed. I often catch it and walk around with it. Nobody'd see me. I'd bend it, twist it in my hand and leave it back., Still (hurling) in me blood and can't get it out of it. John — I started in the league in '48 and finished after the All Ireland of '67 when we were beaten (by Kilkenny). I won 8 All Irelands, 11 National Leagues and that's it. There's nothing you can do in life that compares with standing to attention for the National Anthem on the day of an All-Ireland final. You stand proudly representing your county.

The final word goes to Jimmy Doyle.

"I did things I shouldn't have done but I got away with it. If I was to start my life again, if God was to put me back to 15 (years) in the morning, I'd go and I'd close the door and then come back out with a hurley in my hand and start all over again. I love the game and fair play to the people who play it. I think it is the greatest game in the world"

DIVISIONAL REVIEW - NORTH

The Hibernian Inn North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship 2005

FINAL						
BORRIS-ILEIGH	1-12	0-12	NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG	NENAGH	SUN 7 TH AUG 2005	SEAN BRADSHAW

Nenagh Guardian North Tipperary Intermediate Hurling Championship 2005

FINAL						
BURGESS	1-23	2-08	BALLINA	NENAGH	SAT 17 TH SEP 2005	SEAMUS ROCHE

Watch Centre North Tipperary Junior "A" Hurling Championship 2005

FINAL						
BURGESS	2-17	2-14	KNOCKSHEGOWNA	NENAGH	SUN 25 TH SEP 2005	MICHAEL CAHILL

Watch Centre North Tipperary Junior "B" Hurling Championship 2005

FINAL						
TOOMEVARA	1-16	4-06	PORTROE	NENAGH	SAT 15 TH OCT 2005	P.J. CLEARY

Walsh's of Nenagh North Tipperary Under-21 "A" Hurling Championship 2005

FINAL						
TOOMEVARA			BURGESS			

Walsh's of Nenagh North Tipperary Under-21 "B" Hurling Championship 2005

FINAL						
TEMPLEDERRY KENYONS	2-14	1-13	BORRISOKANE	NENAGH	SAT 15 TH OCT 2005	TOMMY HOULIHAN

Ger Gavin North Tipperary Minor "A" Hurling Championship 2005

FINAL						
KILRUANE MAC DONAGHS	3-16	2-04	LORRHA / DORRHA	BORRISOKANE	SUN 4 TH SEP 2005	TOMMY RYAN

Ger Gavin North Tipperary Minor "B" Hurling Championship 2005

FINAL						
PORTROE	3-08	1-12	SILVERMINES	KILCOLMAN	WED 7 TH SEP 2005	T.P. SULLIVAN

North Tipperary Intermediate Football Championship 2005

FINAL						
NEWPORT	0-05	0-05	BALLINA	DOLLA	SAT 24 TH SEP 2005	DONIE CAHILL

FINAL (REPLAY)

NEWPORT	3-09	1-05	BALLINA	DOLLA	SAT 8 TH OCT 2005	BRIAN WHITE
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North Tipperary Junior "A" Football Championship 2005

FINAL						
SHANNON ROVERS			NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG			

North Tipperary Junior "B" Football Championship 2005

FINAL						
SILVERMINES			BALLINA			

North Tipperary Under-21 "A" Football Championship 2005

FINAL						
NEWPORT	1-09	0-09	BALLINA	DOLLA	SAT 2 ND APR 2005	JOHN CLEARY

North Tipperary Under-21 "B" Football Championship 2005

FINAL						
SILVERMINES	1-07	1-07	BORRISOKANE	PUCKANE	FRI 25 TH MAR 2005	TOMMY RYAN

FINAL (REPLAY)

SILVERMINES	2-07	0-12	BORRISOKANE	PUCKANE	FRI 1 ST APR 2005	JOHN KISSANE
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North Tipperary Minor "A" Football Championship 2005

FINAL						
INANE ROVERS	2-10	0-07	NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG	CLOUGHJORDAN	MON 8 TH AUG 2005	JOHN CLEARY

North Tipperary Minor "B" Football Championship 2005

FINAL						
SILVERMINES	4-08	0-04	LORRHA / DORRHA	PUCKANE	THU 4 TH AUG 2005	STEPHEN EGAN

North Tipperary Hogan Cup 2005

FINAL						
SILVERMINES			TOOMEVARA			

North Tipperary Intermediate Hurling League 2005

FINAL						
SILVERMINES	1-12	1-12	BURGESS	TOOMEVARA	SAT 7 TH MAY 2005	DAN DARCY

FINAL (REPLAY)

SILVERMINES	0-17	0-16	BURGESS	NENAGH (A.E.T.)	SUN 29 TH MAY 2005	JOHN STAPLETON
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North Tipperary Junior "A" Hurling League 2005

FINAL						
TOOMEVARA	2-15	3-11	NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG	DOLLA	FRI 17 TH JUN 2005	MARTIN GRIFFIN

North Tipperary Junior "B" Hurling League 2005

FINAL						
KILDANGAN	0-09	0-07	TOOMEVARA	CLOUGHJORDAN	MON 6 TH JUN 2005	BEN DARCY

North Tipperary Minor Hurling Shield 2005

FINAL						
TOOMEVARA	2-09	2-06	MONEYGALL	CLOUGHJORDAN	SAT 22 ND OCT 2005	NIAL MC GRATH

Club of the Year:	Burgess
Players of the Year:	Hurling
Senior:	Philip Rabbitte, Borrisoleigh
Intermediate:	Damien O' Brien, Burgess
Junior:	Brian Bond, Knockshegowna
U-21:	Shane McGrath, Ballinahinch
Minor:	Ray McLoughney, Kilruane MacDonaghs

FOOTBALL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

Intermediate:	Kevin Cosgrave, Ballina
Junior:	Leonard Ryan, Nenagh Eire Og
U-21:	Stephen Murphy, Kilruane MacDonaghs
Minor:	Daryl Darcy, Shannon Rovers.

NORTH BÓRD OFFICERS 2005

President:	Seamus Ó'Riain (Moneygall)
Chairman:	Jimmy Minogue (Nenagh Éire Óg)
Vice Chairman:	Michael Sheehy (Ballina)
	John Sherlock (Silvermines)
Secretary:	Gerard Mc Keogh (Ballina)
Treasurer:	Catherine Gleeson (Kildangan)
Youth Officer:	Eugene Ryan (Moneygall)
Registrar:	Tommy Mulcahy (Nenagh Éire Óg)
Trustee:	John Lawlor (Kilruane Mac Donaghs)

Hurler of the Year 2004: Diarmuid Fitzgerald (Roscrea)

Footballer of the Year 2004: David Hickey (Ballina)



Eoin Kelly Captain L.I.T. Winners 2005 (First Time) Fitzgibbon Cup with Michael & John O'Connor, Portroe

A Special Medal

A North divisional senior hurling medal won by John Quirke with Lorrha in 1905 has been donated to the Lorrha Club for display in their clubhouse by Eamon Sheppard. The medal belonged to Eamon's wife, who was a daughter of John Quirke, and he recently handed it over to former Lorrha hurler, Frank Larkin, who decided, with Eamon's consent, that the best place for it was in the clubhouse. The Picture shows Eamon handing over the medal to Frank. Left to Right: Mick O'Meara (Blakefield), Johnny O'Meara (Lorrha), Eamon Sheppard, all residents of St. Kieran's Nursing Home, Rathcabbin, with Frank Larkin.



Hall of Fame Hurling: P.J. Ryan (Carrick Davins), Footballer of the Year: Declan Browne (Moyle Rovers), Inter/Junior Footballer of the Year: Tony Doyle (Killenaule), Young Footballer of the Year: Kevin Harney (Commercials), Hurler of the Year: Eoin Kelly (Mullinahone), Inter/Junior Hurler of the Year: Cathal Holohan (Ballyneale), Younger Hurler of the Year: Kevin Lanigan (Carrick Swan)

Major Breakthrough for MacDonaghs Minors.

When captain Gilbert Williams lifted the Sean Treacy Cup high above his head in Semple Stadium in 1971 it was the first time that Kilruane MacDonaghs had won the county minor hurling championship. This victory heralded the beginning of a golden era for the club. Kilruane were rarely out of the honours list at both divisional and county level with the All-Ireland triumph in Croke Park against Buffers Alley in 1986 being the greatest day in MacDonaghs history. Although they reached the county minor decider against Moycarkey in 1972 and completed a three in a row divisional win in 1973, an extended barren spell at under eighteen level was to follow.

Since the 1973 triumph against Nenagh, Kilruane MacDonaghs were unsuccessful in their next six attempts to win the North championship. On four separate occasions they were foiled by Toomevara before the title was won again in 2004 against Roscrea. Prior to this win, which bridged a thirty one year gap, there were promising indicators that the breakthrough was imminent. In 2002 a young minor side qualified for the North semi-final and acquitted themselves well against Roscrea, who were the form team of the championship. The following year under the guidance of manager, Barney Naughtane, they made great strides and deservedly went unbeaten in the league section. In the final against Roscrea they played superbly but had to give way to the kinglypins of minor hurling in North Tipperary.

The thirty-one year divisional famine came to an end in 2004 with victory against Roscrea in the final. It was one of the best North championships in years with as many as five teams capable of taking the title. Dinny Cahill was now the manager and he built on the solid foundations of the previous two years. The decision to play Stephen Murphy at centreback was an inspired one as he turned out to be the outstanding player of the North championship. In the county semi-final MacDonaghs had to give best to the eventual champions, Carrick Swan.

This year the team went undefeated through the league campaign. There were wins against Nenagh, Borris-Ileigh, Toomevara and Moneygall. At the start of the campaign Dinny Cahill and his selectors opted to play the versatile Ray McLoughney at full forward. Ray had a tremendous year and his presence at the edge of the square gave the attack a cutting edge. In the semi-final MacDonaghs overcame Roscrea. One of the biggest attendances at a North minor final in years saw Kilruane and Lorrha do battle. Lorrha had been very impressive in the semi-final and were bidding for their first title.

However, they didn't play to their potential and MacDonaghs captured the Hamilton Cup for the second successive year. Ray McLoughney was in devastating form, helping himself to 3 – 9. In the county semi-final against Clonoulty it was the West champions who made the more impressive start. Without ever hurling with the same fluidity as in previous games, MacDonaghs slowly gained control and secured a place in the final with six points to spare.

Swan were to be our opponents in the final. Earlier in the year both clubs were united in grief with the passing of the late Dan O'Meara. Dan, a native of Kilruane had served both clubs with distinction. There were only going to be two certainties about county final day: the winners would wear black and white and whatever the result the late Dan O'Meara couldn't lose. There was a fantastic build-up in the parish as county final day approached. Flags, banners and buntings appeared and not since All-Ireland final week in March 1986 had Cloughjordan witnessed such a splash of colour. The five-week delay before the final enabled a number of key players regain full fitness. As hurling fever took hold in the parish, Dinny Cahill kept his young charges firmly focused on the formidable task that lay ahead.

Over twelve thousand people converged on Semple Stadium to witness the county finals. There was huge support for the MacDonaghs team. Swan made an explosive start and hit the first four points. What followed however, was some of the best hurling seen in Thurles for many a day. Kilruane turned a four-point deficit into a seven-point lead by half-time. Was there a better thirty minutes of midfield play than that given by Seamus Hennessy? One would want a long memory to recall any centre back playing as well as Eoin Hogan. At full forward Ray McLoughney was inspirational chalking up 1 – 11 to win the Man of the Match Award. The hooking, blocking, hassling and harrying by every Kilruane player was a joy to behold. No tackle was shirked, every ball was contested with vigour. The second half was very even and with four minutes of normal time remaining MacDonaghs had a seven-point lead and the Sean Treacy Cup seemed to be heading for Cloughjordan.

Then the game was sensationally turned on its head. Swan goaled and almost immediately followed up with another from a free. The momentum had swung dramatically in favour of the South champions. It was then that MacDonaghs displayed their renowned resilience and showed their true mettle. They responded magnificently and could have had two goals themselves. Two minutes into injury time referee John Ryan sounded the final whistle and Kilruane MacDonaghs were county minor champions. Swan had made a magnificent defence of their title and were very gracious in defeat. Few however, who were present in Semple Stadium, would deny that MacDonaghs were deserving winners. When captain, Martin Walsh, accepted the cup our supporters joy was unconfined. The team was given a tumultuous reception when they returned to Cloughjordan village.

Hurling still holds a special place in the hearts of our supporters. Long may it continue. MacDonaghs Abú!

Munster Success for Toomevara in 2004

By Liam Hogan

When the victorious Toomevara senior hurling team returned to Toomevara village, on the evening of last year's Cidona county senior hurling final, the Toome Coach, Sean Hehir, told their supporters that no stone would be left unturned; to ensure that Toome would go all the way. Earlier that day, Toomevara had easily defeated the Combo Eire Og/Golden at Thurles. The journey had just begun but everyone present knew in their hearts that it would take a monumental effort by players and mentor alike.

It was twelve years since they had last won the final and in 2003 Toome lost by three points to Newtownshan drum in the Munster semi final.

Toome's first outing was a visit to Lerrig, County Kerry to play Kilmoyley. The visit looked daunting following the meeting between the teams the previous year when they Kerry side put it up to Toome. This time, there were no problems as "The Greyhounds" ran out easy winners by 5-19 to 1-11. So it was to Semple Stadium to play in their eighth Munster club semi-final against the newly crowned Cork champions, Na Piersaigh, who had claimed their third Cork county championship following a 0-17 to 0-10 win over Cloyne.

Na Piersaigh had an impressive look about them with the O hAilpin brothers and John Gardiner forming a strong backbone to the team. As the game came nearer, it was realised that Setanta O hAilpin has returned to Australia to continue his Aussie Football career. Undoubtedly his absence was sorely missed.

By half time, Toome trailed by four points, 0-11 to 0-7, as they seemed to be in awe of the Cork side who were the better team in the first half. But the words of Sean Hehir were in the minds of these Toome players. For players like Tony Delaney and Tomas Dunne it was all or nothing. The younger players knew that and they gave it one hell of a battle. A fantastic ten minute spell, early in the second half, saw the team score two

quick goals, and the game swung in Toomevara's favour.

Ken Dunne (who had moved to full forward just before half time) had the first goal. Five minutes later came goal number two through Willie Ryan to put the Greyhounds 2-9 to 0-11 ahead. Toome were masters now and Ken Dunne could have added another goal, but he won a sixty five following a great tackle by John Gardiner. Tomas Dunne pointed. With Terry Dunne and Eoin Brislane dominating, the remaining 25 minutes, saw the Greyhounds outscore Na Piersaigh by 0-4 to 0-2 to win by 2-13 to 0-13. The Cork side were best served by John and Dave Gardiner plus Sean Og O'hAilpin.

The TOOMEVARA team was : Justin Cottrell, John Boland, Tony Delaney, Philip Shanahan, Terry Dunne, Benny Dunne, David Young; Padraig Hackett, Eoin Brislane 0-1, Ken Dunne 1-4(4 f), Francis Devaney 0-1, Tomas Dunne 1-3(1f and 1=65); Michael Bevens 0-2, Paddy O'Brien Capt 0-2, Willie Ryan 1-0.

Subs: John O'Brien for Ryan inj 38; Denis Kelly for O'Brien 60. Semple Stadium was the venue for the Munster final with Waterford's Mount Sion providing the opposition. The game marked the return of John O'Brien to the Toome colours after he had been out of the game for most of the year due to a serious arm injury. Throughout much of the game, Mount Sion looked the better team and they led Toomevara by four points at half time. Toomevara were playing second fiddle to Tony Brown, Ken McGrath and Eoin Kelly. Anthony Kirwin had curbed the threat of Ken Dunne. The lead increased to seven by the third quarter,

1-13 to 0-9. Then, the Toomevara comeback began. Paddy O'Brien cut over an excellent line ball on the 40th minute. Terry Dunne and Benny Dunne plus Padraig Hackett were beginning to win most of Ian O'Regan's puck outs. Ian O'Regan denied Willie Ryan with an excellent save. At the other end Justin Cottrell came off his line to deny Eoin Kelly. With three minutes to go, Paddy O'Brien hit a superb line ball from 35 metres with Ian O'Regan gaining possession. With all avenues blocked, he decided to throw up the ball in the small square but Willie Ryan read the situation to perfection and he expertly tapped the ball to an empty net. The Toome following could not believe it, but after both team missed chances, it wasn't until three minutes of additional time that John O'Brien bisected the posts from around forty five metres. It did not end there. From the puck out Mount Sion were awarded a free. Protests from Tomas Dunne and other Toome players saw the position of the free move ten metres closer. Up stepped Ken McGrath and much to the delight of the Toome following the free went to the right and wide. Eleven years is a long time for a team like Toomevara to be without any Munster silverware. For Paddy O'Brien it was a dream come through as he went up the steps of Ardan O'Riain to accept the cup from Sean Fogarty, chairman of the Munster council. The final score was 1-14 to 1-13. The final score was 1-14 to 1-13. TOOMEVARA: Justin Cottrell; John Boland, Tony Delaney, Philip Shanahan; Terry Dunne, Benny Dunne, David Young; Padraig Hackett, Eoin Brislane 0-1, Ken Dunne 0-4(4f), Francis Devaney 0-2, Tomas Dunne 0-2(1f); Michael Bevens, Paddy O'Brien Capt 0-3 (1 side and 1f), Willie Ryan 1-1. Subs: Bryan Duff for Young h/t, John O'Brien 0-1 for Bevens 42nd, Denis Kelly for Ryan 63.



Kilruane MacDonaghs U-8 hurling team who participated in the GO Games exhibition game played at Croke Park on all Ireland Semi-Final Day between Kilkenny and Galway.

Back Row, l to r - Gilbert Williams (Coach), Aidan Boyle, Conor Doheny, Darragh Peter.

Front Row, l to r - Kieran Brereton, Craig Morgan, James Cleary, Willie Ryan



Borrisoleigh Senior Hurlers County Premier League



Borrisoleigh Senior Hurlers - County Premier League Champions. Back Row (L to R) - Martin Maher, Matthew Stapleton, Philip Maher, Seamus Maher, David O'Connor, Jody Harkin, Rory Kinane, Philip Rabitte, Aidan Coen, Brendan Kenny, Shane Stapleton, Matthew Foley, Mark Stapleton, Robbie Stakelum, Angelo Walsh, Niall Hackett.

Kneeling: Declan Maher, Pauric Maher, Vinnie Stapleton, Martin Treacy, John Keane, Paddy Stapleton, Eoin Stapleton, Martin Treacy, John Keane, Paddy Stapleton, Eoin Stapleton, Pierce Ryan, Sean Maher, Tom Stakelum, Enda Hackett.



Bryan Duff clears for Toomevara in the AIB All-Ireland semi-final against Athenry supported by David Young and Justin Cottrell at Ennis



Burgess Junior A Panel



Burgess Intermediate Hurlers - North Tipperary and County Champions.
 Back Row (L to R): Pat Cremin (Manager), Darrell Tucker (S), Liam Hogan, Peter Carroll, Noel McDonnell, Patrick Tucker, Jonathan Maher, Timmy Hogan, Brian Hogan, Noel Gleeson, Damien O'Brien, Paul Hogan, Eoin Hogan, John Scroope, Shane Ryan, Robbie Cremin, Kevin Nealor, Tony Dunne, Tony Scroope.
 Kneeling: Gerry Ryan, Garrett Howard, Patrick Hogan, Donagh Maher, Niall McGrath, Colm O'Brien, Conor Quigley, David Ryan, Shane Maher (Captain), Ger Fogarty, Leo Quigley, David Maher, Donie Nealor (S), Pat Carroll (Chairman)

Burgess Team that won the 1984 Easter Tournament (also winners of the inaugural Intermediate League) were honoured at the club's Presentation function at Reidys, Newtown.

Back Row (L to R): Johnny Flynn, JP McDonnell, Paddy Ryan (representing his uncle Tony Ryan), Hughie Ryan, PJ Corrigan, John Maher, Pat Slattery, Joe Sherlock, Dinny Darcy, John Murray, Pat Grace, Ger Slattery, John Darcy
Seated: PJ Hogan (selector), Donie Nealor (representing his son Declan), Mackey McKenna (Guest), Nuala Nealor (representing her brother), Mary McCarthy (representing her son John), Patrick Hogan (representing his Uncle Liam and Father John) and Martin Dunne.



Kildangan Junior 'B' Panel - North League Champions

Back Row (L to R): Eamonn Kelly, Ciaran Madden, Niall Kelly, Aidan Ryan, Ger Quinn, Michael Slattery, Sean Forde, Cian Hayes, Gearoid Connors, Seamus Mulhall, Art Flannery, Anthony Sherlock, Brendan Kelly, Alan McGaher, Ollie Killeen (Selector), Nicholas Flannery, Johnny Gleeson.

2nd Row: Sean Gleeson, James Flannery, John Hayes, Colm Darcy, John Slattery, Eoin Kelly, Brian Freeman, Eoin Gleeson, Liam Ryan, Eddie Fogarty, Conor Foley, Willie Seymour, James Minihan, Brian McLoughlin.

Front: Seamus Gleeson with his children Shane and Rachael



Kilmane MacDonaghs Minor Hurlers 2004 received their North 'A' Championship medals from Tipperary All-Star Hurler Eoin Kelly at the club's Dinner Dance.

Back Row (L to R): Johnny Cahill, Jim Conway, Seamus Hennessy, Stephen Murphy, James Keogh, Declan Barrett, Kevin Prout, Shane Quinlan

Middle Row: Ger Corcoran, Tommy Williams, Martin Walsh, Freddie Williams, Gavin McAvinchey, Michael Costello, Liam Gibson.

Seated: Ray McLoughney, Eoin Hogan, Paudie Kelly, Colm Williams (Captain), Eoin Kelly (Special Guest), Kevin Ryan, Thomas Hayes.





Inane Rovers - Minor Football North Champions



Kilruane MacDonagh Minor 'A' Hurlers - North & County Champions

Back Row, (L to R) - Pat Quinlan (S), Dinny Cahill (Manager), Jonathan Cahill, Niall Murphy, Kevin Ryan, Tim Conway, Seamus Hennessy, Ray McLoughnan, Ger Corcoran, Declan Barrett, Kevin Prout, Liam Gibson, Gavin McAinchey, Dinny O'Meara (S)

2nd Row: Pat Conway, Brian Gaynor (S), Shane Hodgins, Luke Williams, Shane Quinlan, Freddie Williams, Martin Walsh (Captain), Thomas Williams, Padraig Kelly, Eoin Hogan, Michael Hogan (S)

Front: Brian O'Meara, Cian Williams, Michael Costelloe, Timmy Walsh and Ciaran Boyle

Morgan Ivors (Ballingarry) comes away with the ball challenged by Willie Ryan (Toomevara) in the Cidona SHC at Semple Stadium



Newport North IF Champions 2005
Back Row (L to R): Paddy Ryan, Michael Coffey, Cormac Sheridan, Eoin Bunfield, Christy Koyce, Conor O'Maloney, Eoin Larkin, Mark Harrington, John Ryan, Dinny Ryan, Martin Coffey, Kevin O'Brien
Front: Tom McGlynchy, Nigel Ryan, Eamonn Moylan, PJ O'Rourke, David Hickey, Andrew Hickey, Eoin Shinnors, Richard Ryan, Kieran O'Sullivan, Brian O'Sullivan



Newport U 21 Football Team - North Champions

Back Row (L to R): Eoin Shinnors, Shane Ryan, David Murray, Kieran O'Sullivan, Robert Harrington, Conor O'Mahony, Brian O'Sullivan, Wane Cullen, Joseph Powell, Eoin Larkin, Christy Doyle, Dermot Ryan, Dermot Duggan, David Shinnors, Martin Coffey
Kneeling: Darragh Ryan, Nigel Ryan, Michael O'Brien, Christopher Koyce, Andrew Hickey (Captain), Philip O'Brien, David Quinn, Darragh McDonald, Damien Burke, Michael Ryan

Portroe Minor 'B' Hurlers - North Champions

Back Row (L to R): Neville White, Adrian Lewis, Simon Kelly, Conor Ryan, Michael Creamer, Sean Slattery, Justin Conroy, David Gleeson, John Sheedy, Michael O'Connor, Cormac Shouldice, Fionn Ryan, Daragh McLoughlin, Liam Sheedy (Selector)

Middle Row (L to R) - Michael Kelly, James Seymour, Shane Tuohy, Keith Brereton, Jamie McCloskey, Darren Ahern, Gerry Ryan

Front Row (L to R): Keith O'Brien (Captain), Colm Gleeson, Michael Sheedy, Adrian Donovan, Mark Gennery, Shane O'Brien, John Sheedy (Manager)



Shannon Rovers Junior 'B' Football Team - North Champions 2004

Back Row, (L to R): Michael James Quinlan, Niall Calahan, Derek Horan, Sean O'Meara, Mike Burke, Roy Darcy, Fiona O'Gorman, Edward Brophy, Alan Byrne, Paddy Donnellan, Donal Leenane, David Ducie, Michael Hourigan
2nd Row: Darrell Darcy, Dan O'Meara (Mascot), Martin Cleary, Shane Carroll, James Stack, Pakie Burke, Dermot Costello, Martin Burke, Joe Darcy, Alan Slattery, Pat O'Meara, George Hannigan,
Front Row Mascots: Colm Cawley, Tom O'Meara and David Cawley

Silvermines Minor Footballers - North 'B' Champions

Back Row (L to R): Darragh Walsh, William Corcoran, Alan Corcoran, Ronan Sherlock, Damien Boland, Eoin Grace, Danny O'Donoghue, William Feehily, Kieran Walsh, Simon Gaynor, Andrew Kelly.

Front: Michael Abbot, Denis Fahey, Keith O'Flynn, Michael Hogan, Daniel Keogh, Noel Quirke, David Keogh, Matthew Collins, Kieran Fogarty





Silvermines U 21 Footballers - North 'B' Champions

Back Row (L to R): Alan Corcoran, Damien Corcoran, Sean Forde, Onnie Quirke, Cathal Sherlock, Declan Mulgreen, Shane Horan, Maurice Leahy, Gavin Steed, Ronan Sherlock, Kevin Cunneen (Captain), John Gleeson, William Corcoran, Danny O'Donoghue.

Kneeling: Eoin Grace, Michael Hogan, Keith O'Flynn, Daniel Keogh, Niall Quinn, Damien Boland, Mattie Ryan, David Keogh, Thomas Gleeson, Darragh Walsh

Silvermines - North Intermediate League Champions.

Back Row, (L to R): Sean Forde, Alan Ryan, Damien Boland, Cathal Gleeson, Donnacha Droney, Michael Murphy, David Boland, Brian O'Dwyer, Donal Keogh, Orrie Quirke, Ronan Sherlock, Niall Kelly, Matthew Ryan, Paul Sherlock, Gavin Steed, Sean Quirke, Anthony McGrath.

Front: Daniel Keogh, Kevin Cunneen, Eoin Quirke, William Keogh, Timmy Kelly, Declan Corcoran, Brendan Timmons, Declan Mulgreen, Maurice Teamy, Niall Sherlock, Skylen Kennedy, David Keogh



Templederry Senior Hurlers - Division 2 League Champions.

Back Row (L to R): Paul Conway, Alan Ryan, Padraig Ryan (O), Seamus Kennedy, Damien Quinn, Daniel Madden, Donal McGrath, Cathal Ryan, Billy Corcoran, Daniel Shanahan, Michael O'Leary, Thomas Stapleton, Pat Ryan, Alan Carey, JJ Fahey, Matthew Ryan, Pat Hogan (Selector), Jimmy Collins (Selector).

2nd Row: Eoin Murray, John Collins (Manager), James Hogan, Paudie Ryan (C), Michael Ryan (L), John Harkin, John Kennedy, Pat Minogue (Captain with his sister Joanne), Timmy Minogue, Gearoid Ryan, Gerard Kennedy, Eddie Fahey, Stephen Smith, Thomas Coughlan.

Front: Donie Kennedy and Tommy Hogan

Templederry U-21 Hurlers - North 'B' Champions

Back Row, (L to R): Alan Carey, Pat Ryan, Daniel Shanahan, Gearoid Ryan, Eddie Fahey, Padraig O'Leary, Billy Corcoran, M O'Leary, Eoghan Murray, Donal McGrath, Matthew Ryan

Kneeling: Gerard Kennedy, Tommy Hogan, Paul Conway, James Hogan, Paudie Ryan (Captain), Diarmuid Corcoran, Michael Ryan, JJ Fahey, Thomas Stapleton, Stephen Smith





Toomevara Junior A Hurlers - North League Champions
 Back Row (L to R): Thomas Ryan, Stephen O'Meara, John Kinnirons, Kieran Brislane, Tommy Carroll, Timmy Gleeson, Noel Kenneally, Michael O'Brien, Brian McCormack, Jackie Meagher, Thomas O'Meara, Paddy Kelly, Kevin McCormack, Bertie Sherlock (Trainer), Paul McGrath, Sean Delaney, Andrew Ryan (Captain), Barry Dunne, Darren Cuddihy, John Delaney, David Kennedy

Toomevara Junior 'B' Hurlers - North Champions

Back Row, (L to R): Thomas Maxwell, Gerard Cuddihy, Michael Hassett, Tommy Hogan, Kevin Hackett, Alan Hughes, Kieran Delaney, Michael Devaney, Michael Starr, Michael Haverty, Jamie Quigley, Kevin McCormack (Captain), Paddy Kelly, Noel Cahill, Emmet Galvin, Conor Maxwell, Alan Kennelly, Bill Duff

Kneeling: Michael O'Meara, John Paul O'Meara, Bertie Sherlock (Trainer), Ken Hall, Brian Hackett, Sean Delaney, Kieran McGrath, Sean Hogan, Paul Delaney, Kieran Brislane, Rory Morrissey, Niall McCormack, Michael Murphy, Brian McGrath



Toomevara Minor Hurlers - North Shield Champions

Back Row, (L to R): Mark O'Dwyer, Liam O'Meara, Paul Treacy, Diarmuid McGrath, Eoin Ryan, Seamus O'Meara, Jamie Quigley, Joey McLoughney, Timmy Gleeson, Jim Duignan, Alan Hughes, Colm McCarthy
 Kneeling: Gary Delaney, Peter Flynn, Kieran McGrath, Niall McCormack, Simon O'Meara, Brian Slattery (Captain), David Nolan, Darren Cuddihy, Robert Duff

Toomevara Senior Hurlers - Munster Club Champions 2004 received their County and Munster Medals at the Club's Victory Dinner Dance in Nenagh Abbey Court Hotel.

Back Row, (L to R) - John Tynan (PRO), Eddie French (Secretary), Liam Gleeson (Treasurer), David Kennedy, Pdraig Hackett, Tomas O'Meara, Tommy Dunne, Eoin Brislane, Andrew Ryan, Brian McCormack, Brian Duff, Barry Dunne, Denis Kelly, Jackie Meagher (Chairman), Stephen O'Meara

Middle Row: Sean Maxwell (Selector), Patrick Toohy, Timmy Gleeson, John Delaney, Francis Devaney, Benny Dunne, Ken Dunne, David Young, James McGrath, Kevin Cummins, John O'Brien, Philip Shanahan

Seated: Matt O'Meara (Selector), Joey McLoughney, Michael Bevans, Terry Dunne, Paddy O'Brien (Captain), Liam Conway (Sponsor), Tony Delaney, Willie Ryan, John Boland, Justin Cottrill, Bertie Sherlock (Trainer)



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Kilruane MacDonaghs Senior Football Champions in 1975.

By Liam Hogan

It may be a distant memory for many followers of Kilruane MacDonaghs, Hurling and Football club, but the 14th of September 1975 is a day that will last for a long time.

That day, Kilruane MacDonaghs became county senior football champions for their first and only time. Against the odds, they defeated Loughmore Castleiney by 3-6 to 1-10 in front of 4,000 people at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh.

Surprisingly, for a club more noted for its hurling heroics, this was the club's first county title at adult level. It would take two more years for the club to annex its first county senior hurling title.

Reaching the county final was a major milestone. Not many teams from the north had even reached the final not mind winning it. Previously, the title came north only four times. Nenagh won it in 1911 and 1915, while a North selection claimed honours in 1958, 1959 and 1961.

At this point, Kilruane were becoming a football stronghold in the North division. It had won four under-21 A football deciders in 1970, 73, 74 and 75. In addition there were two minor titles added in 70 and 72 and the club won its first north senior football final defeating Silvermines in 1972 also.

They reached the final in 73, but lost to Silvermines. The following year, Mines defeated them again in the semi final. That same year, the county senior football championship was run an open

draw basis. Kilruane competed, beaten in the first round.

In 1975, the open draw continued and in the first round, Kilruane travelled to Holycross to play Clonmel Commercials. It was an evening game and Kilruane had played a hurling challenge earlier in the day.

Kilruane matched their opponents in the opening half and a John Quinlan goal gave them a two point lead at the interval. They continued to keep pace and in the 41st minute, Jim O'Meara had a second major before Sean O Meara grabbed a third, four minutes later, giving Kilruane a shock 3-7 to 1-9 win.

Fethard, seven times county champions were the second round opponents at Thurles. Goals by Jim Williams and Sean O Meara helped Kilruane to a 2-6 to 1-7 victory making it to the last eight. In a quarter final, the team faced Fr Sheehys at Holycross, and came away with a comfortable 1-11 to 0-6 win.

For the semi finals, the team travelled to Cashel to face Kilsheelan. The game ended controversially. Kilruane were trailing near the end when a long free by Paddy Williams was guided to the net by Gilbert Williams. Kilruane added a point to win by 2-5 to 1-5. Kilsheelan had disputed the goal, claiming that they had a similar type goal disallowed, earlier in the game.

MacDonaghs were in the final against Loughmore Castleiney. It was a second county final appearance for the club as Kilruane's hurlers had also made it to the county senior hurling final, when they would face Moneygall.

By now the hurling final had to take a back seat. The football final was the main focus and Kilruane's opponents, Loughmore were a strong opposition. They were also becoming football specialists and had won the county championship in 1973.

Their team was boosted with players like Eddie Webster, (Michael's father) and Tipp FM's Tom McGrath. Webster and Sean Kearney had won Railway Cup medals with Munster that year.

The big day arrived and when the teams reached the half time break, Kilruane were trailing by 1-7 to 1-2. Not many would give them a chance.

The second half told a different story. Sean O Meara, who troubled Michael Webster all after noon, had Kilruane's second goal just after the interval. The game was too close to call as both teams matched each other and as the game drew to a close, the sides were level. Then, Noel Killackey, (R.I.P.) followed up on a pass from Sean O Meara by hammering home Kilruane's third goal.

At the other end, the Kilruane backline led by the late Brian O Reilly (R.I.P.) curtailed, Loughmore to a point as the game drew to a close. When referee, George Ryan, blew the full time whistle, the final score showed Kilruane MacDonaghs were winners on a scoreline of 3-6 to 1-10. The O Dwyer Cup had come to Cloughjordan for the first time.

Denis O Meara was the captain. The backroom team was, Hughie McDonnell (R.I.P.), Sgt Frank Brady and Paddy Quinlan who was native of Loughmore.

The team was that lined out that famous day was Tony Sheppard; Donnacha Minogue, Denis O Meara Capt, Brian O Reilly; John Kelly, Paddy Williams, Dinny Cahill; Phil Reddan Tom Killackey 1-0; Seamus Hennessey 0-1, Jim Williams, Jim O Meara; Gilbert Williams 0-1, Sean O Meara 1-4 (3f), John Quinlan.

The subs on the day were Bunny Keogh Sonny Killackey 1-0.

The remainder of the panel included Dinny Whelan, Kevin Dwan, Eddie Troy, J.J. Hyland, Bunny Keogh, John Sheppard Mackey Waters and Jim Reddan.



Presentation to Sean Kelly President GAA by County Chairman Donal Shanahan at T Murphy Cup Medals Presentation Function in Thurles. Also in picture is Patron of the GAA, His Grace Most Rev Dr. Dermot Clifford and Football Board Chairman Pete Savage.

Ballinahinch's Annus Mirabilis 1980

A Personal Reminiscence

Hurling, in the most positive sense, 'burgled the bank of my youth' like many a young Tipperary man. Growing up in the small rural North Tipperary parish of Ballinahinch and Killoscully, it could be no different. The greatest ambition – apart from a secret plan to take over Francis Loughnane's Tipp jersey when the great one retired – was to partake in the unfolding history of the community by lining out with friends and neighbours on the parish hurling team. When that opportunity eventually came, the experience was all that it had promised to be to a wide-eyed eight year-old. In the meantime, however, one had to make do with a supporter's role and it was – to use a euphemism – a character-building time. There was a 1975 Intermediate final defeat to Shannon Rovers, with their unfeasibly big supporters' hats, and unfeasibly big players. It was Burgess a year later, though secretly for a starry-eyed youngster, the presence of legends Donie Nealon and Mackey McKenna on that team cushioned the blow. It was Kildangan in an agonising replayed final in '77, then Kilruane, followed by Templederry in '79 when we had an extra man for much of it. Each year brought a new tale of woe, as we were caught, helpless, in a whirlpool of hard-luck stories. If the old adage about having to lose one to appreciate winning one is true, then the cup of success was sipped from with an unprecedented zeal when the near-misses finally ended in the most spectacular fashion possible in 1980. It was a glorious year, a dazzling time of adventure and new horizons – "bliss it was to be alive, but to be young was very heaven".

The cumulative effects of the continual disappointments prompted, if not justified, a step down to Junior in 1980 with a crack at the new county championship being a great incentive. What a young mind had not bargained on was one's own teacher, Cyril Gleeson, being brought in as team trainer. While personally being able to vouch for his knowledge, enthusiasm and attention to detail, being cheek by jowl with your teacher regularly between June and September wasn't really in the grand teenage plan. Of course, despite youthful reservations, his involvement was a masterstroke. Gone were the rushed shots, the stray passes to an invisible colleague, and the rushes of blood when all else failed. The team would now perform in a disciplined, streamlined fashion, not a hallmark, it has to be said, of some previous teams. Anslem Walsh – betimes a foe in the Shannon Rovers' colours but now very much a friend – would ensure litheness and suppleness of limb, while great club figures Phil Collins and the energetic PJ Kelly beavered away in the

background to ensure everything was in order.

The year began in promising fashion with victory in the Ballina tournament final played, according to a yellowing scrapbook, on 15th June at 7.30pm. This win over Portroe, had been preceded by a great win over Burgess in the semi-final. Two top intermediate teams had been beaten and as the medals were presented at a social night in Killoscully hall, a certain anticipation tinged the air. Music was provided that night by Newport's Tommy Ryan (B) who, almost as if by some sleight of camera that year, appeared in different guises, playing against us and celebrating with us. The championship started with a draw against Kilruane, at that stage firing on all cylinders across all grades. Old rivals Ballina also fell, before Newport decided against playing a dead match in the last round. The North quarter-final against an emerging Borrisokane was a huge game won by three points, a win which is put in some perspective by the fact that Borrisokane would be senior within three years.

Like a great army, Ballinahinch were now operating with equal facility on a few different fronts. Progress was made in the Newport tournament, and in the semi-final of that competition, the ominous spectre of Mid Tipp senior team Upperchurch/Drombane, appeared over the horizon. This is regularly singled out by many of the protagonists as a seminal match in that success story. This fine senior team was outplayed and fell by seven points at Lacken Park. Just a week earlier, I had returned from a "treimshe iontach i nGaeltacht Chiarrai" and after the delights of three weeks of the beach and the duskish walks home through the narrow West Kerry roads, enjoying the 'wink-and-elbow language of delight' with by now long-forgotten friends, I was quickly brought down to earth. Back home, the ante had been upped considerably, and on arrival I had a Newport man tell me that Ballinahinch would beat Upperchurch, and face Newport in a "winner-takes-all" battle as he smilingly – and rather disquietingly for me – chose to describe it. More of that anon.

Back in the less scary business of the knock-out championship, the North semi-final saw a comfortable win against Moneygall, opposition which by some quirk or other Ballinahinch often seem to play in good years. The final was a rematch with the mighty Kilruane on a Saturday evening in Nenagh, at a time when that great club's tentacles were everywhere from Dan Breen

day to Feile na nGael. But at this stage Ballinahinch were operating at a level above what one would normally associate with Junior hurling. The ball was swept across the pitch with unprecedented fluency and purpose, and scores gushed like water from a tap. A ten-point victory with points coming from all angles, had justified the step down from Intermediate, and Keeper's hills were again alive with the sound of music.

From now on it was uncharted territory. The idea of trip to Holycross took on a new and unholy purpose when Galtee Rovers were met there in the semi-final. A cortege of wonder and anticipation snaked its way from Shallee Cross towards the home of legends Doyle, Maher and Stakelum. When you saw old men light up like giddy teenagers at the mention of names like that, it was clear that this was different. The West champions fought gamely but were outgunned – by fifteen points in the end. But if we were impressed by Holycross, the playing of the final at Tom Semple's field was dreamland. The biggest game in the club's history would be played in hurling's greatest arena.

The cavernous dressing-rooms were straining at the seams, as everybody wanted to be a part of the build-up to the final clash with Kilsheelan. For a young boy, having unfettered access to the inner sanctum of the "field of dreams" was utopia. This was Thurles, the enchanted few acres which were the scene for a trove of folklore handed down habitually by a father as excited and engrossed in the telling, as I was in the listening. A magical place where history seemed to seep from the walls, and ghosts of glorious battles past beckoned from every nook and cranny. This was where Noel O'Dwyer sat. There was where Tadhg O'Connor toggled off. But in that very seat now, was your neighbour and friend, and with the way they had been playing they seemed to fill the seats of legends comfortably. After all the usual preparations in the dressing-room, came the piece de resistance – our parish priest Fr. Morris with his second homily of the day. He had – rather unfairly I thought – already called upon a higher power to influence the direction of the ball at the mass that day. I thought silently, as Gah Ahearne, the legendary Cork hurler, once said to a priest offering blessings before a game against Tipperary – "I'd rather bate them on the field, Father!". But he was again in full flow, and running well over his allotted time in Semple Stadium when the referee opened the door to announce a brief threat to award the game to the South champions. He was rebuked by an even briefer threat

from Fr. Morris, determined not to let an under-advised team out onto the famous sward. But even after the jihad had been declared, there was the laying of hands by the avuncular Paddy Carey – a man who could trace his lineage back to the foundation meetings of the club in 1886 – who sprinkled the combatants with his holy water; a ritual insisted on by players as an integral part of any Ballinahinch dressing-room for decades. Whatever special powers were passed on certainly worked, as the first-half performance was electric. 2-6 to nil at half-time. Game over. It doesn't get any better in a county final. I can now reveal after many years that I – with by now the self-declared freedom of Semple Stadium – managed to insinuate my way into the Kilsheelan dressing-room at the break, and it was a shattered scene of funereal silence. I patted – by way of consolation – a Kilsheelan player on the back. He looked up forlornly and gave this unrecognised young face a gentleman's smile, which given the underlying hurt in his face, displayed a dignity under duress that still touches me many years later.

Kilsheelan, to their great credit battled hard to retrieve the irretrievable, and had three goals to their credit by the end, but the final margin was much the same as at the half-time break. The scenes at the final whistle were unforgettable. For the people who had soldiered in Grace's field in one generation, and cycled to matches in another, it was payback time. This was deliverance day. This team of big, strong, fit, young players who had promised so much had finally delivered in spades, and as Cyril Gleeson said in the dressing-room after the game "it couldn't have happened to a nicer bunch of fellows". The memory of the classically teak-tough corner-back, Mick Lenihan, lying on the floor of the dressing-room after the game in floods of tears is indelible. Could the parish jersey ever have meant more to anybody? James Ryan collected the massive trophy from no less a man than Mick Maher, and we headed for the hills via the Anner hotel. Bonfires speckled the landscape of the parish, like distant lighthouses winking their approval, and such was the general goodwill engendered by this exemplary team that support appeared from all quarters. Even in neighbouring parishes, as Christy Moore once put it "people who'd been loyal for years spoke of changing coats" – well almost! By that stage – 25th October 1980 – the team had three trophies on the table, and an undefeated record, including many important wins against teams from higher grades. There was, however, one last obstacle to surmount – and as obstacles go, it was a veritable "Beecher's Brook". This one would tick all the boxes, and then some – another trophy, a team from a higher grade, and obviously the undefeated record on the line. Throw in the fact that it was neighbours and rivals Newport in the other corner, in their own tournament final,

on their own pitch, the stakes were, quite simply, never higher – even in the county final.

There's an old local song describing the crowds at the Fair days of old in Newport – "they were there from Murroe, Ballina, Killaloe, Castleconnell, Birdhill, and likewise Cappamore", which might have been invoked to describe this occasion. A couple of thousand people turned up for the match of the year, and those who did not come early got some unbargained-for exercise as they negotiated a long walk through the crawling traffic. Even the Sunday Independent had a match preview – I jest you not! Newport had enjoyed senior experience for a decade and a half until that year, and had Noel O'Gorman of Croke Park fame at full-back, the mighty Pat Shinnors at centre-back, and erstwhile musician and raconteur Tommy Ryan (B) at full-forward. It would be a huge challenge, and the display of trophies in a shop window in Newport in the weeks leading up to the match resembled the mustering of arms long ago. In the dressing-room beforehand, Anslem Walsh suggested a required commitment similar to that if we were facing fifteen British soldiers. As the spirit of Lacken Park would have assured us, they and their ilk had been seen off, but for us in the here and now, the challenge looked equally daunting. Mike Healy, as if to assure us that despite the cauldron atmosphere in the ground, everything would be as normal, billowed the net from a placed ball early on, but worryingly, Newport turned it around to lead by two at the break. A roller-coaster, nerve-tingling second-half which saw play swaying in all directions was steadied and decided gradually by the clinical Cyril Gleeson-induced ability of the Ballinahinch forwards to pick off points, while their defensive colleagues exerted an iron grip. After a white-knuckle finish, when Sean O'Grady blew the final whistle, we were two points to the good. It was as James Ryan said on receiving the trophy "the sweetest one of all". The aforementioned Cyril Gleeson played a discreet role that day as Newport is his native parish, but was treated to an impromptu and well-deserved spin around Lacken Park on the shoulders of the grateful players. An Everest ending to a Himalayan year.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the achievements of this great team and mentors is now upon us. The names bring the memories flooding back. Those gentlemen of hurling – Mick Lynch, Paddy Carey, Martin Clifford and Phil Collins along with the venerable Fr. Morris now hurl on Elysian fields. Gone but never forgotten by those who like them, glory in the clash of the ash. John Joe Bourke stood skilfully between the sticks as he did for more years than we had a right to expect. The full-back-line of Rocky McGrath, John Ryan (J) and Mick Lenihan comprised a formidable unit,

and would qualify at the very least as Junior Chefs in Hell's Kitchen. The half-back-line starred Joe Kelly, strong and solid, Mike Ryan (B) always reliable and often brilliant, and James Ryan (D) the consistent player who – to my youthful envy – collected all the trophies. Could I in my wildest young dreams ever hope to do likewise? The midfield featured an ideal complement of the fire-and-brimstone Liam Ryan (B) and the young, elegant John Healy. The self-effacing Mike Healy did not so much wear, as grace the number ten jersey with class and pinpoint accuracy; the fearless and indestructible Mike Kelly stood on the "forty"; and on his other side was Sean Ryan (B), whose honesty and toughness steadied the ship many a time down the years. The full-forward-line featured the subtlety and silken touches of Jimmy Ryan (G) and his brother John, along with the devilment and assassin-like finishing of Sean Ryan (N). John Carey, Philip Collins, Bill Lynch, PJ Ryan (B), Timmy Grace, John O'Donnell and the stalwart Denis Gleeson all played their sterling part both that year and in subsequent years. Mike Sheehy added his knowledge and great enthusiasm to the mix and still speaks of this team in reverential terms. John Ryan (F) as always, provided his unique and invaluable combination of wit, judgement, and the infectious belief that nothing was impossible once the privileges of wearing the Ballinahinch jersey had been opened up to you. In the background, Dermot Bourke, then as now, quietly epitomised what we mean when we talk of the quintessential GAA man. Then there was Mike Fitzgerald, who having failed hopelessly to conceal his enormous love of the sport and the team, both organised and entertained us, while Madge McLoughlin played a Shakespearian role by immortalising the team in verse.

Looking back now, it is difficult to believe that a quarter of a century has elapsed since those heady days, when the world, it seemed, would be forever young. Such is the gradual, creeping nature of time passing, and the tricks the memory plays, that it seems like yesterday for those of us who were there, though for those who don't remember, it is like another age. Many a change has been wrought since then, and fate has left its remorseless hand on every latch in the intervening period. While time may wield its emotionless wrecking ball with ruthless efficiency, the memories cannot be erased for those who saw those great times, and for this team, in that sense, their "eternal summer shall not fade". I now salute the finest bunch of men I have ever seen, or can reasonably expect to see, representing the parish. You did us proud and were a credit to your families, your parish and your sport. Despite the inexorable passage of time, in my mind's eye, and to all who saw them; like the poetic youthful fallen soldier – "they shall not grow old". Still heroes after all these years.

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Clonmel Oil Senior Football				
11/9/05	Fethard 1-20	Carrick Swan 1-4	Kilsheelan	J.Kelly
Martins Fruit and Veg Intermediate Hurling				
25/9/05	Carrick Davins 2-16	Fethard 0-21	Kilsheelan	W.Clohessey
South Tipp Today Intermediate Football				
2/10/05	Mullinahone 1-8	Clonmel Og 0-10	Carrick	P.Russell
John Quirke Junior Hurling A				
24/9/05	St Patricks 2-14	Newcastle 0-3	Clonmel	P.Shelley
Europlan Junior Hurling B				
St Patricks and Cahir in the Final				
Garrabridge Lighting Junior Football A				
13/11/05	St Patricks 1-7	Cahir 0-5	Clonmel	D.Cahill
Fitzpatrick Family Newcastle Junior Football B				
12/11/05	Carrick Davins 3-12	Grangemockler 1-9	Kilsheelan	K.O.Brien
Under 21 Football A				
30/3/05	Carrick Swan 1-10	Moyle Rovers 0-11	Kilsheelan	S.Roche
Under 21 Football B				
27/3/05	Clonmel Og 1-14	Ballyporeen 0-12	Ardfinnan	K.O.Brien
Under 21 Football C				
26/3/05	Newcastle 0-10	Moyle Rovers 0-8	Clonmel	M.Doyle
John Carew Investments Under 21 Hurling A				
16/10/05	Killenaule 2-9	Carrick Davins	Kilsheelan	N.Cosgrove
Pat Cleere Under 21 Hurling B				
22/10/05	Mullinahone 2-9	St Marys 0-4	Kilsheelan	A.Maloney
Pat Cleere Under 21 Hurling C				
1/10/05	Newcastle 0-14	Skeheenarinka 0-7	Clogheen	M.Doyle
Sureprint Minor Football A				
11/8/05	Commercials 1-9	Moyle Rovers 1-7	Fethard	K.O.Brien
Minor Football B				
11/8/05	St Patricks Gaels 2-8	Mullinahone 1-6	Kilsheelan	J.Dunne
Minor Football C				
11/9/05	Ballyporeen 2-6	Newcastle 1-8	Kilsheelan	P.Ivors
Chadwicks Minor Hurling A				
13/9/05	Carrick Swan 2-12	Ballingarry 1-12	Cloneen	S.Roche
M,K Sports Minor Hurling B				
4/9/05	Carrick Davins 1-13	Ballytbacon Grange 0-7	Clonmel	A.Maloney
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"The Kings of Fashion in Cashel"

Mullinahone win All-Ireland 7's

by Ricky Sheehan

Just when most were writing off Mullinahone as a senior hurling force in Co. Tipperary, C.J. Kickhams struck back. Perhaps there is something in the genes that gives Mullinahone advantage when it comes to 7s competition. Back in the 30s and 40s of the last century when Mullinahone was exclusively a football stronghold, they had one of the finest 7s teams in the county and were almost unbeatable. During that time they were unable to develop this into 15s competition and only reached one county final during that era in 1945 which they lost to a star-studded 10th Battalion team.

In 1989 Mullinahone won their first ever Tipperary junior hurling title and were invited as county champions to take part in the first St. Jude's All Ireland 7s for non-senior clubs. The panel and supporters headed for Dublin and in their very first 7s game lost to Galway's Portumna. They were, however, quick learners and battled back into the competition and got through to the final against Faythe Harriers (Wexford). In a thrilling final they won and this was to be the spark that ignited the club over the next 15-20 years and spurred them on into senior ranks.

Their tactics were simple in those bygone days. Get the ball into Leahy quickly, one on one, and he would do the rest. He did, scoring 20-7 in the course of the competition and becoming the first St. Jude's "Player of the Tournament". The goal posts changed and the Kilmacud senior 7s became the target. 2002 saw a serious challenge in Kilmacud. By now Leahy had been joined by Kellys and Currans, Pat Croke, Eddie Carey, Vinny Doherty and other serious hurlers. O'Meara had been there since 1990. The All-Ireland 7s was won with a win over Clarecastle. The glory of a county win was to soon follow. It hurt when Portumna took our title rather easily in the final of 2004.

The year 2005 had not been a good year for the club or Tipperary. Beaten by Ballingarry in our first outing in South Tipp; and well beaten by Toome in a bid to reach the last 16 in the county, saw us in crisis. The sun seemed to be setting for Leahy's warriors as they headed for Kilmacud. Thirty-six of Ireland's better hurling clubs were taking part divided into 9 pools of 4. We were grouped with O'Donovan Rossa (Antrim), Kiltormer (Galway) and Lucan Sarsfields (Dublin). The winners of our pool 7 went straight through to the quarter finals unlike the previous year when a playoff match between pool winners had cost us dearly in the semi-final and final. The other Tipp clubs who joined us in Kilmacud were Roscrea, Templederry, Portroe and Garda. Roscrea got to the quarter final and Portroe were unlucky not to do so losing out to Dublin's O'Tooles.

In our first game we defeated O'Donovan

Rossa and Kiltormer got the better of Lucan. The next game against Kiltormer looked to be a likely pool decider. We won it handier than we thought we might. A win over Lucan would now see us into the quarters. Mission accomplished. As Brian O'Meara stated "It is important to win your group games without too much effort and also to avoid having to playoff for a quarter final place". It is also important to avoid injury as the strain of having to play with only 9 or 8 will very soon catch up. The cream was now coming to the top.

The last eight standing were St. Catherine's (Cork) with Denis Walsh in charge, old rivals Portumna (Galway), Ahane (Limerick) of the Morans, Middleton (Cork) former winners, Roscrea (Tipperary) also former winners, the famous Dublin side O'Tooles, Carnmore (Galway) and ourselves. At this stage we had 10 fit enough players but injuries were soon to take their toll. Our ten were Paul Curran (capt.) Niall Curran, Alan Curran, Brian O'Meara, Pat Croke, Kyran Vaughan, Paul Kelly, Philip O'Shea, Donal Cody and John Leahy who kept goal.

Mullinahone drew St. Catherine's in the quarter final and started off this game in impressive style with two goals. The Cork lads responded with a goal and two points. Paul Kelly then got two goals from play and a point from a free. Mullinahone led at halftime 5-2 to 1-3, and began the second half with a goal from the off. Catherine's rallied briefly with a goal and two points but Mullinahone added a goal from Brian O'Meara and ran out convincing winners. We were joined in the semi-finals by O'Tooles, Portumna, and Middleton who put out Roscrea. Our clash with O'Tooles was a close fought affair with the ability to punish every mistake and turn possession into scores marking Mullinahone apart. Paul Kelly again stood out while John Leahy was a commanding figure in goal saving on the line and dropping long balls to Paul Kelly at the far end. O'Tooles failed to take every scoring opportunity, a critical requirement for 7s hurling. Halftime saw Mullinahone lead 3-2 to 0-6. O'Tooles got two second half goals and with three minutes left were only a point in arrears 3-6 to 2-8. Both teams exchanged goals and then a goal and a point saw Mullinahone final bound.

Portumna barred the way to victory. All Ireland duty the following day robbed them of Ollie Canning and Damian Hayes. Injury suffered in the county championship deprived us of Eoin Kelly. We both now had what we had. Donal Cody was no longer available but Brian O'Meara, who had begun the day carrying an injury, was back in action having had his forehead tattooed with marks from the guard of his helmet. The final proved if ever proof were needed that goals win matches. The

importance of the game was demonstrated that it was carried on television by Setanta Sports and an absorbing game it turned out to be. Portumna scored 15 times (all points) and lost by 10 points. Mullinahone only scored 13 times but 6 of them were goals backed up by 7 points. The half time score is a mirror of the final one, Mullinahone 3-2 Portumna 0-9. A goal line stop from a penalty by John Leahy on the stroke of half time was match winning. At the other end Paul Kelly was simply lethal (strong and fast). He scored 4 of the goals. Pat Croke got the other 2. Ky Vaughan had to retire injured in the final and the player count was down to 8. Just as against O'Tooles, Mullinahone finished strongly in the final 2 minutes scoring 2 goals and a point making the final score Mullinahone 6-7 Portumna 0-15 to avenge last year's defeat and set up Kilmacud 2006. After the final Paul Curran who was captain on the day accepted the AIB sponsored cup on behalf of Mullinahone. In a year when All-Ireland hurling trophies were scarce in Tipperary and in Mullinahone it was an honour not to be scoffed at. The "Player of the Tournament" award was deservedly won by Paul Kelly. His scoring tally over the 6 games was huge probably even greater than Leahy's 20-7 back in 1990 and that wasn't in senior ranks. Mullinahone's lowest total in a single game was 5 goals and 7 points. This was remarkable scoring by any standards. Their 7s record in the last few years, two wins and runners-up is also outstanding. Perhaps there is something in the genes after all. Knocknagow is not dead.

Path to Glory

Pool beat O'Donovan Rossa	5-7 to 1-6
Q/F beat St. Catherine's	8-5 to 2-7
beat Kiltormer	5-8 to 0-4
S/F beat O'Tooles	5-7 to 3-8
beat Lucan Sarsfields	6-6 to 2-8
Final beat Portumna	6-7 to 0-15

In the tournament Mullinahone scored 35-40 and conceded 08-48 an average of 6-6 to 1-9 per game. Eight of Mullinahone's ten had played championship hurling or football for Tipperary. Odd ones out were Philip O'Shea, and Donal Cody (17) who is eligible for minor in 2006.

Guinness Hurling Legend 1995-2005 Eoin Kelly was present at the game but could not play due to an injury sustained in the county championship.

Mullinahone scorers in the final were: Paul Kelly 4-4, Pat Croke 2-1. Philip O'Shea 0-1 and Brian O'Meara 0-1.

John Leahy and Brian O'Meara were on the 7s panel which won the St. Jude's 7s in 1990.

Six Tipperary clubs have won the Kilmacud 7s. They are: Borris-Ileigh, Roscrea, Kilruane McDonaghs, Eire Og, Nenagh, Portroe and Mullinahone. Borris-Ileigh and Mullinahone are multiple winners. Mullinahone are the only non-North Tipp team to have won the Kilmacud 7s.

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Moyle Rovers U16 Team who defeated Cahir in the County Final on Friday 20th May 2005.

Tara Wall, Joe McGrath, James Williams, Danielle Delahunty, Megan Kelly, Siun Smyth, Sarah Frisby, Fiona Dougliss, Emma Dolan, Gillian O'Brien, Ciara O'Donoghue, Fiona Keating, Grace Hogan, Kelly Walsh, Shauna Prendergast, Rachel Lonergan, John Casey. Front Row: Aisling Molly, Niamh Whyte, Aisling Dwyer, Naomi Long, Sarah Boland, Rita McGrath, Eimear O'Donnell, Niamh Lonergan, Claire Clancy, Kelly Aylward, Marie Kelly.

Missing from the Photo: Kiera Maher & Claire Lonergan.

Clonmel Commercials

Clonmel Commercials are one of the most famed football clubs in the country and have down the years contributed handsomely to the cause of Tipperary football. Sean Cleary, Liam Boland, Gene McGrath, Franny Kelly, and Philly Ryan are just a handful of the names of former players that are known throughout Ireland where ever gaelic football is spoken of. Since their formation in 1932 Clonmel

Commercials have enjoyed success at all levels and currently stand on 99 south and county titles at adult level with even more juvenile titles to their credit.

2005 has been a tremendous year for Clonmel Commercials juveniles with both boys and girls teams having a hugely successful year on the playing fields of Tipperary. Anyone who witnessed some of the performances of the boys at all ages could not but be impressed. The under 12 's having impressed in winning the south championship the county semi final saw Clonoulty beaten. In a most memorable evening in Thurles the under 12s thrilled the crowds in Semple Stadium their county final defeat of Loughmore Castleiney. The level of ability of this team was simply outstanding. This was a typical performance from a well-coached and well prepared team who performed brilliantly throughout the championship. This victory in a juvenile county championship bridged a 12-year gap since the club last won a county juvenile county final.

The under 14 's having lost their first three games in the South championship turned it all around in round four when they beat Moyle Rovers. This was the turning point for the team and after reaching a play off and beating Ardfinnan, Commercials caused the shock of the championship by defeating a highly fancied Cahir side in the semi-final. In the South Final Commercials overcame Moyle Rovers with a powerful first half display laying the foundations for a great win. In the county semi-final Clonoulty /Rossmore proved too good and a county final appearance rarely looked likely but the side lost nothing in defeat and really from a poor start the year this team achieved a great deal in winning divisional honours.

The Clonmel Commercials under 16 team of 2005 was a team of extraordinary ability. Their skill levels and strength of character made them stand out from the others in this grade. On a beautiful evening in Goatenbridge, Commercials and Moyle Rovers lined out for the south under 16 final. With an outstanding display in the opening half Moyle Rovers led by nine points at the break. Enter the character that I speak of. In the second half Commercials proceeded to turn the game on it's head and within 11 minutes of the restart were level and Moyle Rovers were reeling. Commercials went on to dominate and win a title that looked totally out of reach at the break. A brilliant display against Arravale Rovers delivered an easy win in the county semi final. In the county final, Commercials again were dominated by Nenagh Eire Og but their character shone through again to save the day with a draw having trailed by 8 points with just seven minutes from the clock. However a four-goal blitz in the closing stages was enough to farce a draw. In the replay, played in Clonoulty, Commercials again performed brilliantly and ran out comfortable winners to cap a brilliant year for

our Juvenile club.

A south minor title was added to the club's haul with the aid of many of the under 16 's. Few who witnessed the semi-final tussles with Moyle Rovers, both drawn game and replay, will ever forget the skill and commitment by both teams as they gave the large attendances on both days the highest quality of entertainment. To emerge winners and it has to be said that Commercials were deserving over the two days of their win was hugely satisfying. In the county semi-final, which came just three days, later Commercials were unable to re-produce the heroics of the south final going down to eventual county champions Thurles Sarsfields.

The Clonmel Commercials' fledgling girls club had a highly successful year in 2005. Entered in competitions in 3 age groups the club reached the county final in all grades. At under 12 and 16 the club had to suffer the pain of replay defeats, with the under 16 's going to extra time before conceding a late goal to Moyne Templetohy. Our under 12 's were defeated by Cahir following a replay. The under 14 girls were the first girls team in the club to bring home silverware and did so in same style against a highly rated Lorrha side. This was a wonderful achievement and a testimony to the hard work being put in by the girls and coaches alike.

The seeds for the successes of 2005 were of course laid years before. Saturday morning in the Sports field in Clonmel over 200 boys and girls aged from 5 upwards go through their paces under the watchful eye of the club coaches. At these sessions the basic skills are attained and this coaching continues throughout their playing days in the club. With this foundation there is no doubt that the famous Clonmel outfit can look forward to many other summer evenings of glory. Mol an óige agus tiocaih sí.



Cumann Luthchleas Gael Coiste Thiobraid Árann Thiar

West Tipperary G.A.A. Bórd wish to thank all the clubs, players, team mentors, sponsors, officers, grounds people and supporters who helped or supported the Bord in any way this year.

We also wish to thank our Referees, Gate Checkers
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Finally a peaceful Christmas & a Happy New Year to all.

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Secretary: Jerry Ring

Treasurer: Eamon Buckley

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KILLENAULE, SOUTH SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 2005



Back row, L to R

Joe Caesar, Matthew O Donnell, Kieran Bergin, Barry Murphy, Michael O Connor, Patrick Kerwick, Damien Gleeson, Richie Maher, Johnny Grace, Jonathan O Dwyer, Declan Fanning, Peter Kennedy, Jonathan Gleeson, Ian Murphy, Mark Murphy, Jonathan Berry.

Front row L to R;

Kenneth Browne, Vinny Hannigan, Michael Doyle, Thomas Fitzgerald, Keith Kennedy, Michael Farrell, Tony Doyle, Gerry Kennedy, Kenneth Cleary, Paul Shelly, Delan Ryan, Conor O Donnell, Niall Berry, Michael Fitzgerald.

Mascot: Gus Browne

As the evening light dwindled in the Fethard GAA grounds on the 28th of August, Killenaule's Senior Hurling Captain, Tony Doyle, raised the South Senior Hurling Trophy skywards and declared: "the famine is over". Killenaule: South Champions 2005!

It is fourteen years since Killenaule's last South title but the club has had so much success at minor and under-21 level in recent years that the weight of expectation on the senior team was getting heavier each season. Now that the breakthrough has been made we hope to be county championship contenders in the very near future. This was a hard-won and well-earned South title, with both the South semi-final and final going to replays, and both replays going to extra time! The 12th of June was the first game of the campaign, with Carrick Swan the opposition. The first half of this game in Clonmel saw four goals, two for each side. Killenaule led at half-time, 2-8 to 2-4. Early in the second half, Swan scored their third goal, from a placed ball, and their confidence was high. However, the Killenaule team held their concentration, and their lead, until Carrick Swan goaled again, dramatically, close to full time. The scoreboard then read 4-8 to 2-13. With time running out, Killenaule were awarded a free inside the Carrick half, which Joe Ceaser struck through the posts to equalise. By keeping their cool in a tense finish, Killenaule earned themselves a replay.

The replay took place on the third of July. The team was slow to get going in the first half of the game and there were a lot of wides, but Joe Ceaser's accuracy from frees kept them in touch with Carrick. Just before half-time however Jonathon Gleeson managed to produce a bit of

magic when he kicked the sliotar to the back of the Carrick net. Killenaule were then leading 1-6 to 0-4. Carrick came out meaning business in the second half and hurled much better with the wind than Killenaule had, but they could not pull away. At the end of normal time the teams were level, 1-9 to 0-12, and so it headed to extra time. Killenaule produced their best hurling of the day in the first period of extra time, during which Tony Doyle scored their second goal. This and a Mickey Farrell point put them ahead by three at the changeover. They added another two points in the second period, and this was enough to win the game for Killenaule. Final score Killenaule 2-12, Carrick Swan 0-14.

And so on to the South final and the meeting with Ballingarry. This game was played in glorious sunshine in Fethard on the 7th of August. Killenaule looked like winners for most of the game, with the forwards creating plenty of scoring chances. The half-time score was Killenaule 1-8, Ballingarry 1-6, though Killenaule could have been further ahead if players had taken their points instead of going for goal. Shane Ivors was proving very hard to beat in the Ballingarry goal! Ballingarry were awarded a penalty early in the second half, which was brilliantly saved. The sides exchanged points but neither team could pull away. The score was 1-18 all when substitute Kenneth Browne sent over what many felt must have been the winning point for Killenaule. However, from the puckout the ball found its way to Trevor Ivors who sent it over Gerry Kennedy's crossbar to draw the game.

The replay was set for 6pm on the 28th of August. We were in for an epic duel that would not produce a winner until it was almost dark! The game

started tamely enough and though Ballingarry had key-man Liam Cahill sent off in the first half, they led 8 points to 5 at the break. Killenaule managed to pull ahead in the second half and were leading 15 points to 13 when dangerously close to full-time, Ballingarry scored a goal from a penalty. But Killenaule were not going to let the men in maroon snatch victory in such a cruel way! Patrick Kerwick scored the vital, last minute point to bring the match to extra-time. Killenaule were sufficiently warmed up by now, and produced their best hurling of the night in the first period of extra time. Paul Shelly produced two goals. Keith Kennedy and Patrick Kerwick had a point each. This made it 2-18 to 2-14 at the changeover. In the second period of extra-time, Kieran Bergin added two points and Jonathon Gleeson had one from a free. Killenaule were 2-21 to 2-16 ahead. A late Ballingarry goal reduced the winning margin to two points, but Killenaule had won and that was what mattered. The Killenaule supporters raced on to the field in delight and the celebrations began. The team was keen to keep the momentum of their South victory going when they met Loughmore-Castleiney in the county quarter-final on September 17th. Unfortunately, Loughmore came out on top but we were not far behind. And so the season ended with disappointment but the memories of the South final victory are still vibrant and will keep us going through the winter. There is a lot to look forward to with this young and improving Killenaule team. Congratulations to the thirty-man panel, who worked hard for this South title, the team manager Tony Shelley, the selectors and everyone involved in this very important and special victory for the club.



Cumann Luthchleas Gael Béal Átha Lubaigh/Caisléan Gras Ballylooby/Castlegrace G.A.A Club

The year 2005 has been an eventful year for our small club, both on and off the field. Despite losing our pitch half way through the season it has relatively unaffected our preparations for this years championships thanks mainly to the help of our neighbouring clubs, who were quick to offer us the use of their facilities and accommodated us for matches and training as best they could. Great praise and thanks must also go to the players and to their parents for their continued commitment to the club and the extra effort made by all to get to trainings and matches.

Fortunately we managed to overcome our "off-field" problems and build on our successes of 2004, in which the club won its first ever county title. This year we managed to equal that feat as we captured our second county title in as many years when the U14 footballers defeated North champions, Silvermines.

Earlier in the year we also contested the under-16 County football final against Solohead, in which we were defeated by a much older team. It was especially heartening to see the under-16s progress through their South championship, after beating neighbours Newcastle and Fr. Sheehys, as seventeen of the twenty strong panel are underage again next year proving that our club has a bright future ahead.

Unlike our football teams, the clubs hurlers were unlucky not to win any major silver ware, with our under-14 and under-16 hurlers defeated at semi-final stages and our under-12 hurlers were narrowly beaten in the South final by Skeheenarinka.

As 2005 draws to a close preparations are being made for the development of our newly acquired land at Kilroe, which we hope to have ready for the 2007 season. Hopefully this will give further incentive to our players and mentors to build on this years successes. As the old saying goes "Mól an óige agus tiocfaidh sí".

Golden year For Ballyporeen-Skeheenarinka Juveniles

The year 2005 will be remembered as the most successful year for our juvenile club. We secured our first county title in under-14 B football, and our first county hurling titles in under-12 C and under-14 C.

The footballers had a fantastic year and came through the South qualifying stages winning all their games. We faced Ballingarry in what was a nail-biting semi-final, and held on for a great victory against valiant opposition. Carrick Swan provided the opposition in the final but once again the lads stepped up to the mark to take the title. In the county semi-final we had a little to spare over Golden-Kilfeacle, and onward we marched to the county final against Moyne-Templetuohy at Cashel. This was a tremendous game with the tide going one way and then another, and back again. Nails bitten to the end, hearts pumping, there was a great sense of joy and relief when we heard the final whistle with four points to spare.

In the under-12 hurling championship, after a series of impressive wins over Ballylooby, Ballyneale and Fr. Sheehys, we qualified for the final against Ballylooby/Castlegrace. Having played poorly in the first half against a much-improved opposition, our lads fought back well in the final quarter to take the title. Straight to a county final against Nenagh Eire Og, we travelled to Semple Stadium where we recorded our first title ever in great style. It was a great sight to see captain, Tommie Sweeney, in the orange and blue collect the Jacksie Ryan Cup.

Our under-14 hurlers had an equally good year beating Newcastle in the South final. Onward to Semple Stadium again where we faced Sean Treacys. It was a very one-sided game and the lads triumphed with ease, and within three weeks we had secured our second-ever juvenile hurling title.

The under-16 hurlers had a great year after a tentative start. Drawing against Ballylooby in the opening round and subsequently recording great wins over Fr. Sheehy's and Newcastle, it was the latter we faced in the South final. Expecting a tough encounter our boys rose to the occasion and ran out comfortable winners. Unfortunately there was no county at C level. This game brought the curtain down on a very successful year for the club.



Tipperary Co-Op Super Valu has sponsored the West Tipperary SHC for the past number of years, and prior to the SHC game between Cappawhite and Galtee Rovers, a presentation of sponsorship took place. In the picture L/R are Tim Dullea, General manager Tipperary Co-Op, Paddy Julian, Cappawhite captain, Billy Ryan West Board Chairman, Matt Quinlan, Chairman, Tipperary Co-Op, Michael O'Grady Tipperary Co-Op and Pa Morrissey Galtee Rovers Captain.



Cumann Luthcleas Gael Coiste Thiobraid Arann Thiar

The Board wishes to thank Clubs and Gaels of West Tipperary for their continuing support and encouragement in the promotion of Gaelic Games in the Division.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL DIVISIONAL AND COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

We also wish to acknowledge the generous sponsorship support received for all our competitions - which are listed below. We ask you also to support our sponsors.

Chairman: Billy Ryan; Vice-Chairmen: Matty Finnerty, Willie O'Grady;
Secretary: Jerry Ring; Treasurer: Eamon Buckley; P.R.O. Leonard Fitzgerald



St Patricks South Tipperary Junior A Hurling Champions 2005

Back Row L to R: Frank Britton (Selector), John Hayden, Jimmy O'Brien, Kenny Brett, Robert McCormack, Chris Foley, Derek Noonan, Sean Horan, John O'Brien, John Brett, Richie Horan, Brian McCormack, Colm Duggan, Patrick Brett, Mick O'Connell, Philip Britton, Anthony Barry, Tom McGrath, Patrick Moroney, Adrian Britton, Michael Britton.

Front Row L to R: Tom O'Connor, Noel Brett, Danny Gleeson, William McCormack, Mark McCormack, Kieran Clancy, Tommy Griffin (Captain), T.J. Noonan, Damien McCormack, Noel Lyons, Declan Ryan, Eoghan McCormack, Conor Barry, Billy Brett (Team Manager)



St Patricks - Grangemoekler South Tipperary Minor B Football Champions 2005

Back Row L to R: Jack Hickey (First Aid), Tom McGrath, Sam Morrissey, Dean Madden, Stuart Broderick, Eoghan McCormack, Enda Fogarty, Dean Landy, Darren O'Connell, Eamon Hall(Masseur), Jason Hayes, Aaron Cronin, Conor Barry, Gerry Mullally, Danny Gleeson (on crutches), Gerry Ryan (Selector)

Front Row L to R: Richard Needham, Shane Norton, John Moroney, Tom Burke, Patrick Moroney, Brian Hickey, Robbie Ryan (Captain), Robert McCormack, Shane Gorey, Damien McCormack, Michael Broderick (Selector), Absent Due to Family Bereavement was Team Manager Eugene McCormack



*South Board Chairman Barry O'Brien
Presenting Cup To Robert Ryan Captain of
the St Patricks - Grangemoekler Minor
Football Team, South Tipperary B
Champions 2005*



Carrick Davins minor B hurling captain, A.J. Cronin, received the county trophy from county chairman, Donal Shanahan.



Carrick Davins - South & County Minor B Champions
 Back row, L to R: Stephen Harris, Lee Mackey, Luke Foran, William O Dwyer, Patrick Harris, Mike Cronin, Jason Butler, Tommy Cronin, William O Gorman.
 Front row, L to R: A.J. Cronin (capt.), Michael Coady, Ian O Dwyer, Jonathan Coady, Philip Dalton, James Waters.



Lee Mackey, who received the man of the match award in the county B hurling final. Carrick Davins.



County Football B Champions Ballygarra. Front Row L to R Michael Ivors, Ian Ivors, Brian Kelly, Kevin Croke, Ciaran Shelly, Gerard Fitzgerald, Jack Fennelly, Michael Power, Kevin Shelly (Manager).
 Back: Peter Logue, Michael Horan (Mentors) Billy Horan, Daniel Fennelly, Kevin Fitzgerald, Tomas Fitzgerald (Mentor) Matthew Treacy, Brendan Ivors, James Logue, Daniel Fitzgerald, Adrian Cleere, Carl Rotheran (Capt), Ciaran Fitzgerald, Timmy Cleere (Mentor).
 Pic: Rose Mannion.

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Review Of 2005 In Mid Tipperary

The annual convention took place in Loughmore Hall on Thursday 2nd December. The following officers were elected:

Chairman:	Johnny Doyle. [Holycross/Ballycahill];
Vice-chairmen,[2]:	Pat Gleeson [Loughmore/Castleiney] P.J.Maher [Boherlahan/Dualla].
Secretary:	Mattie Connolly [Boherlahan/Dualla] Assistant Secretary: Michael Egan [Gortnahoe/Glengoole]
Treasurer:	Tom Maher [Moyne/Templetuohy].
Assistant Treasurer:	John O'Donovan [Rahealty/Kickhams] PRO. P.J.Leahy [Moyne/Templetuohy].
Youth Officer:	Jonathan Cullen [Loughmore/Castleiney].
Co Board Trustee:	Pat Cullen [Loughmore/Castleiney]

Mid Awards For 2004 Were Announced As Follows:

Hurler Of The Year:	David Kennedy [Loughmore/Castleiney].
Young Hurler Of The Year:	Darragh Hickey [Boherlahan/Dualla].
Footballer Of The Year:	Michael Webster [Loughmore/Castleiney].
Young Footballer of The Year:	Edward Connolly[Loughmore/C].
Hall Of Fame:	Johnny Everard [Moyne/Templetuohy].
Senior Club Of The Year:	Loughmore/Castleiney.
Junior Club Of The Year:	Moyne/Templetuohy.

Results For 2005.

MacLochlainn[Road Markings] Ltd. Senior hurling final.

Sunday 7th August in Holy Cross,Thurles	Sarsfields 1.17.	Drom/Inch 2.14.	Ref, Noel Cosgrave.
Replay, Sunday 21st August in Holycross. Thurles	Sarsfields. 1.17	Drom/Inch 0.13.	Ref John Cleary.

Roadstone Provinces Ltd, intermediate hurling final.

Saturday 3rd September in Holycross.	Moycarkey/Borris. 1.15.	Moyne/Templetuohy. 2.12.	Ref Andy Moloney.
Replay,10th September in Holycross	Moycarkey/Borris.2.14.	Moyne/Templetuohy.2.10.	Ref John Ryan[B].

The County Bar, U21-A-hurling final.

Drom/Inch.	Loughmore/Castleiney.
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The County Bar U21-B-hurling final.

The Ragg, on Saturday 22nd Oct.	Upperchurch/Drombane, 1.11.	Holycross/Ballycahill. 1.07.	Ref W. Clohessy.
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Thurles Cr dit Union minor hurling championship.

The -A-Final, 6th Sept in Boherlahan.	Moycarkey/Borris. 2.09.	Thurles Sarsfields. 0.12.	Ref John Ryan.
The -B-Final, 1st Sept. in The Ragg.	Holycross/Ballycahill. 2.10.	Loughmore/Castleiney. 3.05.	Ref Patsy Ralph.

As there was only one team in the C competition, Clonakenny represented the Mid in the County Championship.

Roskeen Construction junior hurling championship.

The-A-Final, Sept 4th in Templemore	Ref J.Sweeney.	Drom/Inch. 0.12.	Thurles Sarsfields. 1.08.
The -B-Final 5th Nov in Templetuohy	Ref Patsy Ralph.	Drom/Inch.1.14	Killea.0.13.

Cahill Cup final

Holycross Oct 1st	Ref. J Sweeney.	Holycross/Ballycahill.0.16.	Boherlahan/Dualla. 1.08.
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Junior Hurling Leagues.

Div. 1. final

Littleton, on Sun 29th May.	Ref J. Kelly.	Holycross/Ballycahill, 1.15.	Drom/Inch. 2.12.
Replay played on Fri 3rd June in Holycross,	Ref D. Curtis.	Drom/Inch, 4.17.	Holycross/Ballycahill, 2.11.

Div.2.final

Kickham Pk.on Sun 29th May,	Ref M. Treacy.	Loughmore/Castleiney.2.12.	Moycarkey/Borris, 2. 06.
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Div.3 final

11th June in Drombane,	Ref, Patsy Ralph.	Rahealty/Kickhams,2.14.	Clonakenny, 1.17.
Replay, Templetuohy on Sat 16th July,	Ref. Pat Cullen.	Clonakenny. 1.17.	Rahealty/Kickhams. 1.15.

Gleesons Quarries, senior football final

28th Aug in Templetuohy	Ref Brian Tyrill.	Loughmore/Castleiney. 0.12.	J.K.Brackens. 0.10.
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Eddie Joe's, intermediate football final,

24th Sept in Holycross.	Ref John Kissane.	Moyne/Templetuohy. 1.11.	Upperchurch/Drombane. 1.10.
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A.I.B. Junior-A-football final

13th Nov in Templetuohy.	Ref. John Kelly.	Loughmore/Castleiney.	Gortnahoe/Glengoole.
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Jerry Chawke. Junior-B-football final

12th Nov in Ballycahill.	Ref Martin Treacy.	Upperchurch/Drombane.	Clonakenny.
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Bank Of Ireland. Minor -A- football final,

7th Aug in Holy cross ,	Ref Martin Treacy.	Thurles Sarsfields, 2.10.	Moycarkey/Borris. 2.08.
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Bank Of Ireland Minor-B- football final

8th May in The Ragg.	Ref Michael Jordan.	Moyne/Templetuohy.2.05.	Holycross/Ballycahill. 2.05.
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The Replay, The Ragg

14th May in The Ragg	Ref Patsy Ralph.	Moyne/Templetuohy. 0.15.	Holycross/Ballycahill. 0.05.
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Minor-C-Football. and u-21 C hurling, Clonakenny, the only team in these competitions, represented this division in the county championship.

Back to Back Under-21 Football Titles

by Pat Healy, P.R.O.

Loughmore-Castleiney made it back to back titles when they won the under-21 A football title of 2005. They started out their campaign with a victory over Boherlahan-Dualla by 2-11 to 1-7 in the Mid championship. The vagaries of the draw gave them the same opposition in the semi-final, which was played at Boherlahan on March 25. Missing a number of stronger players Loughmore-Castleiney were lucky to survive, 1-11 each, at the end of the hour, but they gave a big improvement in their performance in extra time to win by 1-17 to 1-12. The final was against J. K. Brackens at Drombane on March 28. This was expected to be a stiff hurdle but on the day the team played a fine brand of football to take the

title on a 1-12 to 0-7 scoreline.

The county semi-final, against Carrick Swan, was played on April 22 on a wet and windy evening at Cashel. It was a tough encounter in which Loughmore-Castleiney led by 2-1 to 0-3 at the interval. But, a very good second-half display held the Swan to a point, and Loughmore came through winners by 1-9 to 2-2.

The final was at the same venue two nights later, with Arravale Rovers in opposition. Conditions were much improved and in a fast flowing game of football, Loughmore led by 1-3 to 0-4 at the interval. As in previous game Loughmore reserved their stronger performance for the second half, and went on to win convincingly by 1-10 to 0-7. This was a fantastic achievement by players and mentors, and manager, Jimmy Sweeney, who was with the players from under-12 up. The success augurs well for the club's future. The panel was as follows: Thomas Maher, Eoin Brennan, David McGrath, Colm Campion, Diarmuid Brennan, Edward Connolly, Eoin Ryan, Paul Brennan (capt.), Kieran McGrath, James Egan, Derek Bourke, Brendan Healy, Ronan Stapleton, Evan Sweeney, Noel McGrath, Shane Purcell, Shane Hennessy, Stephen Ryan, Leonard Ryan, David Moore, John Scully, John Campion, Martin Ryan

Matty Connolly (Boherlahan-Dualla)

On January 8th, 2005 many people had gathered for Saturday evening mass in Boherlahan. It was also the anniversary mass for a great Gael, the late Tim Maher. It was a total shock when prayers were asked for his neighbour and colleague, Matty Connolly who had died just an hour previously.

Many people will have known Matty through his position as Mid Board secretary, a position he held from 1991 until his death last January.

Matty was born and spent almost all his life in Ardmayle, and like many others, the GAA played a huge part in his life. From his early days with Suir View, and later with Boherlahan-Dualla, he played and followed the games. He began his administrative career as club secretary in the mid seventies and represented the club at board level and on fixtures.

Matty contested and won the position of Mid secretary in 1991,

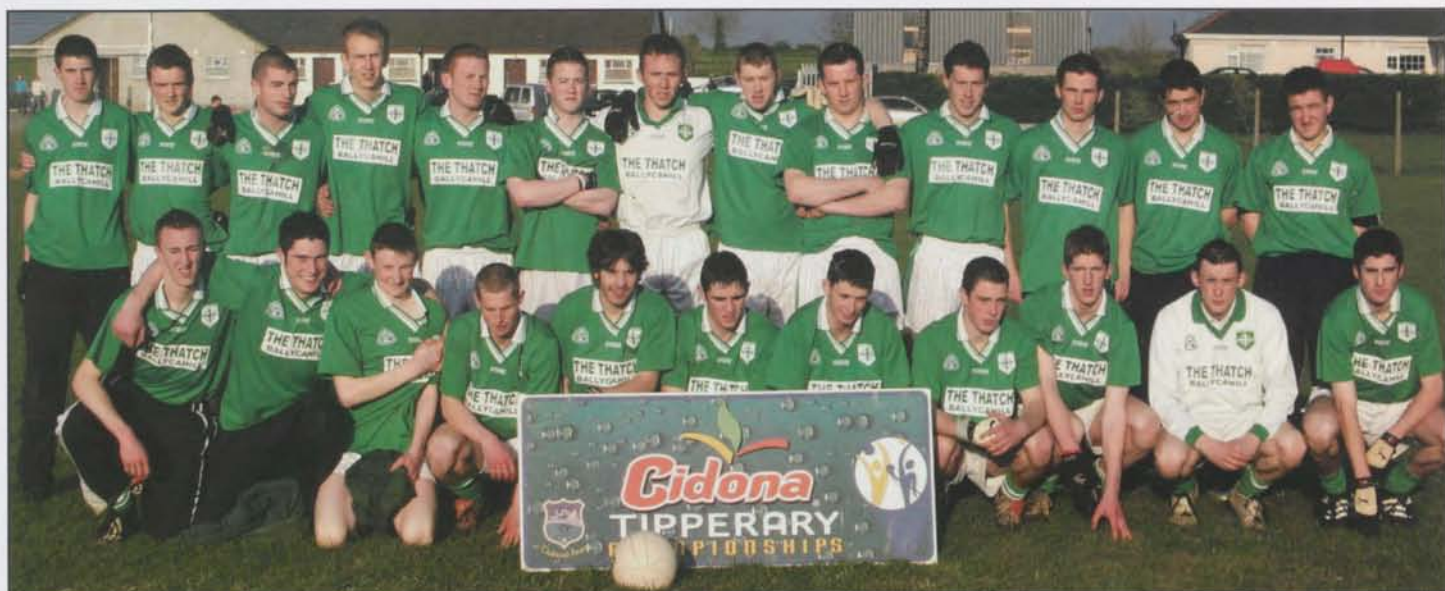
succeeding the late Tom O'Hara and he was also following in the footsteps of his late father-in-law, Paddy 'Sweeper' Ryan. From then until his untimely death, Matty served the clubs and board with courtesy and consideration. The large crowds who attended the funeral were a fitting testimony to the esteem in which he was held. Outside of the GAA, he had a great interest in politics, he enjoyed the game of cards and was always willing to chat, no matter what hurry you were in!

The GAA family has lost one of its great characters, and he will be greatly missed, especially by his wife Ann and family. Matches throughout the county are not the same without his cheery presence.

Ar dheis Lamh De go raibh a Anam uasal.



New Officers for the Mid Tipperary GAA Board. On right of picture Tom Maher Moyne Templeuohy was elected Secretary to succeed the late Matty Connolly Boherlahan Dualla and on left of picture John O Donovan Rahealty Kickhams was elected Treasurer to succeed Tom Maher. In centre of picture Mid Board Chairman John Doyle Holycross Ballycahill.



The Holycross Ballycahill Panel that defeated Silvermines in the Cidona sponsored County U/21 B Football Final. Picture Back Row L to R Pierse Stakelum, Padraig Comerford, Michael King, Donnacha Duggan, Eamon Lowry, Kevin O Dwyer, PJ Ryan (Captain), Patrick Byrnes, Ciarain Barrett, William Dillon, Tomas Stakelum, David English, Tadhg Flanagan.
Front Row L to R Hilton Feehan, Sean Stakelum, Tossy Lowry, Gerry Ryan, Colm McGrath, Shane Lanigan, Brian Barrett, John King, Stephen Ryan, John Byrnes, Patrick Stakelum.



The Holycross Ballycahill Panel that defeated Moyne Templetoohy in the Mid Tipperary U/21 B Football Final. Picture Back Row L to R Stephen Ryan, Eamon Lowry, Tossy Lowry, Donnacha Duggan, Ciarain Barrett, Michael King, Patrick Byrnes, PJ Ryan, William Dillon, Patrick Stakelum, Padraig Comerford. Front Row L to R Kevin O Dwyer, Gerry Ryan, Colm McGrath, Sean Stakelum, Pierce Stakelum, Shane Lanigan, Brian Barrett, Tomas Stakelum, Tagdh Flanagan, David English, John King.



The JK Brackens Team that defeated Aherlow in the County Senior Football Premier Division League Final Replay. Picture Back Row L to R Sean Collum, Kevin Mulryan, Padraic Kealy, Fergal McDonald, Mervin Bradish, Lorcan Egan, David Owens, Padraic Maher, Shane Scully.
Front Row L to R John Dunne, Joe Shiels (Capt), Peter Maher, Richard O'Brien, Darren Owens, David Ryan.



The Loughmore Castleiney Panel that defeated JK Brackens in the Gleeson Quarries Mid Tipperary Senior Football Championship Final. Picture Back Row L to R David McGrath, Pat McGrath, David Kennedy, Noel Cahill, Ken O Keefe, Micheal Webster, Paul Brennan, Derek Bourke, Paul Ormonde, Declan Laffin, Jim Egan, Michael Ormonde. Front Row L to R Alvy Stapleton, Gary Sweeney, Kieran McGrath, Tommy Long, Martin Gleeson, Evan Sweeney, Dominic Brennan, Eddie Connolly, Ned Ryan, Dermot Brennan.



The Loughmore Castleiney Panel that defeated JK Brackens in the Mid Tipperary U/21 A Football final. Picture Back Row L to R John Campion, Shane Purcell, John Scully, David Moore, Colm Campion, Tomas Maher, James Egan, Brendan Maher, David McGrath, Paul Brennan (Captain). Front Row L to R Evan Sweeney, Martin Ryan, Andrew Sweeney, Eoin Sweeney, Eoin Ryan, Steve Ryan, Kieran McGrath, Edward Connolly, Diarmuid Brennan, Eoin Brennan, Ronan Stapleton, Leonard Ryan.



The Moyne Templetuohy Panel that defeated Silvermines in the Cidona County Minor B Football Final. Picture Back Row L to R Shane Everard, Brian Kelly, Paul Carroll, PJ O'Brien, Tony Buston, Thomas Lanigan, Liam Flynn, Thomas Hassett, David Costigan, Eoin Butler, Joe O Grady, Eddie Liston, Conor Quinlan. Front Row L to R Jack Fogarty, Eugene Davey, David Bourke, John Coughlin, Liam Butler, Liam Ryan, John Paul Lanigan, Gearoid Leahy, Tadgh Butler.



The Moyne Templetuohy Panel that defeated Upperchurch Drombane in the Eddie Joe's Mid Tipperary Intermediate Football Championship Final. Picture Back Row L to R Michael Esmonde, Marty Ryan, Hugh Coughlan, Padraic Costigan, Daniel Egan, Louis Everard, Cathal Ely, Joe Leahy, Thomas Costigan, Daniel Bergin, Pierce Butler, Niall Russell, Ronan Ely. Front Row L to R John Sweeney, Diarmuid Costigan, Daryl Lloyd, John Hassett, Kevin Fogarty, Simon Everard, Sean Everard, Timmie Bergin, Tom Guilfoyle, Colm Everard, Thomas Hassett.



The Moyne Templeuohy Panel that defeated Holycross Ballycahill in the Mid Tipperary Minor B Football Final Replay. Picture Back Row L to R Joe Grady, John Coughlan, Eoin Butler, Tony Buston, Paul Carroll, PJ O'Brien, Thomas Lanagan, David Costigan, Tomas Hassett, Edmund Liston, Brian Kelly. Front Row L to R John Paul Lanagan, Gearoid Leahy, Jack Fogarty, Conor Quinlan, Tadhg Butler, David Bourke, Eugene Davey, Shane Everard, Liam Flynn.



The Thurles Sarsfields Panel that defeated Arravale Rovers in the Cidona Tipperary Co Minor A Football Championship Final. Picture Back Row L to R John Callanan, Scott Grey, Joseph O Mahoney, Pa Burke, Ian Maher, Jody O Grady, Shane Meagher, Brian White, David Shannon, Gareth Foxton, Shane Dorney, Liam Phelan, Gordon Carey. Front Row L to R Kevin O Halloran, Stephen Fewer, Padraig Maher, Conor Maloney, Adrian O Mahoney, Paul Connors, Padraig Maher, John Maher, Stephen Dorney, Michael Gleeson, Michael Cahill.



The Thurles Sarsfields Panel that defeated Moycarkey Borris in the Thurles Bank of Ireland sponsored Mid Tipperary Minor A Football Final. Picture Back Row L to R Ian Maher, Joseph O Mahony, Scott Grey, Gareth Foxton, Shane Meagher, Ciaran Carroll, Pa Burke, Brian Whyte, Kevin O Halloran, David Shannon, Conor Maloney, Peter Donnelly, Gordon Carey. Front Row L to R Shane Dorney, Liam Phelan, Padraig Maher, Keith Stapleton, Jodie O Grady, Adrian O Mahony, John Joe Bourke, Stephen Dorney, John Callanan, Eoin Cantwell, Michael Cahill.

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The Boherlahan Dualla Team that defeated JK Brackens in the Division 1 County Senior Hurling League Final. Picture Back Row L to R Ger Flanagan, Paul Ryan, Darragh Hickey, James Hayes, David Maher (Captain), Tomas Hayes, John O Dwyer. Front Row L to R Joe Ryan, Garrett McLoughlin, Brian Maher, Johnny Maher, Derrick Patterson, David Ryan, David Burke, Willie Hickey.



The Clonakenny Panel that defeated Newcastle in the Cidona County Tipperary U/21 C Hurling Final. Picture Back Row L to R Prionsios Matthews, Stephen Carroll, John Treacy, Tomas Carroll, Andrew Crampton, John Costigan, William Moloughney, David Cody, Michael Costigan, Peadar Byrne, Conor Ryan. Front Row L to R Brian Mullally, Jamie Maxwell, James Cody, Niall Matthews, Gerard Smith, Donal Greed, Jonathon Cody, Nicholas Ryan, Michael Coonan, Emmett Keeshan.



The Clonakenny Panel that defeated Rahaeltly Kickhams in the Mid Tipperary Junior Hurling League Division 3 Final Replay. Picture Back Row L to R Michael Leamy, Peter Jennings, Jonathon Cody, Walter Byrne, Peadar Byrne, Joe Bourke, John Costigan, Pat Shelly, Conor Ryan, Dave Crampton, Andrew Crampton. Front Row L to R Donal Greed, Emmett Keeshan, Brian Bourke, Jim Costigan, Gerard Smith, Boddy Martin, Leo Crampton, Declan O'Dwyer, Colm Murray, James Cody, Niall Matthews. Missing from Photo Mark O'Dwyer and Michael Costigan.



The Clonakenny Panel that defeated Rahaelty Kickhams in the Mid Tipperary Junior Hurling League Division 3 Final Replay. Picture Back Row L to R Michael Leamy, Peter Jennings, Jonathon Cody, Walter Byrne, Peadar Byrne, Joe Bourke, John Costigan, Pat Shelly, Conor Ryan, Dave Crampton, Andrew Crampton. Front Row L to R Donal Greed, Emmett Keeshan, Brian Bourke, Jim Costigan, Gerard Smith, Bobby Martin, Leo Crampton, Declan O Dwyer, Colm Murray, James Cody, Niall Matthews. Missing from Photo Mark O Dwyer and Michael Costigan.



The Drom Inch Panel that defeated Thurles Sarsfields in the Roskeen Construction Mid Tipperary Junior A Hurling Final. Picture Back Row L to R Eric Woodlock, Johnathon O Connor, Seamus Cahill, Paul Stapleton, Johnny Ryan, Eamon Ryan, Robert Hicks. Front Row L to R Willie Ryan, John McGrath, James Ryan, Michael Cantwell, PJ Nolan, Nicky Ryan, Declan Ryan, Liam Kennedy.



The Drom Inch Panel that defeated Killea in the Roskeen Construction Mid Tipperary Junior B Hurling Final. Picture Back Row L to R Joe McGrath, Seamus Hassett, Daniel McGrath, Richard Kennedy, Dessie Hennessy, Eamon Kiely, Michael Brett, Michael Sheridan, Padraig Ryan, Michael Cahill, Mark Jordan, Adrian Dempsey, Kieran Young, Matthew McGrath, Michael Kennedy, Colm Dooley, Pat Looby, Matt Ryan. Front Row L to R Michael Cahill, Joe Egan, Matty Shanahan, Kieran Hassett, Liam McLoughlin, Fergal McLoughlin, Oliver Dwan, Trevor Hassett, Kevin Nolan, Michael Long, Enda Walsh, John Egan, Alan Ryan, Melissa Stapleton.



The Drom Inch Panel that defeated Holycross Ballycahill in the Mid Tipperary Junior Hurling League Division 1 final Replay. Picture back row L to R Matty Ryan, Joe McGrath, Eamon Ryan, Tom Cantwell, Seamus Cahill, Eddie Kinnane, Patrick Kennedy, Seamus Walsh, Ollie Dwan, James Kennedy, Eamon Kiely, Keith Nolan, Cathal Flynn. Front Row L to R Pat Looby, Michael Butler, Johnny Ryan, Liam Kennedy, Willie Ryan, James Ryan, Johnny O Connor, Kieran Hassett, Michael Kiely.



The Holycross Ballycahill Panel that defeated Boherlahan Dualla in the Cahill Cup Senior Hurling Final in Holycross.



The Holycross Ballycahill Panel that defeated Loughmore Castleiney in the Thurles Credit Union sponsored Mid Tipperary Minor B Hurling Final. Picture Back Row L to R Daniel Fennessy, Liam Dwan, Pierce Stakelum, Michael Kennedy, Thomas Lowry, James Kennedy, Liam Ryan, James Dunne, Darren Ryan, Jamie Purcell, Robert Watters, Eoin Bourke. Front Row L to R Thomas Comerford, Michael Doyle, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Brian Barrett, Conor Morrissey, Stephen Ryan, Michael Harty, Seanie Comerford, Philip Kennedy, Edward Kennedy.



The Loughmore Castleiney Panel that defeated Moycarkey Borris in the Mid Tipperary Junior Hurling League Division 2. Picture Back Row L to R James Egan, Paul Brennan, Derek Bourke, Tom Maher, Brendan Healy, David McGrath, Pat McGrath. Front Row L to R Mick McGrath (K), Colm Campion, Ronan Stapleton, Seamus Bohan, Diarmuid Brennan, John Scully, Darren Dannagher, James Connolly.



Contestants in Mid Tipperary Long Puck Final. Picture Back Row L to R Patrick McCormack (Thurles Sarsfields), Eddie Kelly Winner (Moyne Templetuohy), John Ferncombe Runner Up (Holycross Ballycahill), Martin Goldsboro (Gortnahoe Glengoole).



The Moycarkey Borris Panel that defeated Moyne Templetuohy in the Roadstone Province Mid Tipperary Intermediate Hurling Final Replay. Picture Back Row L to R Tony Flanagan, Eoin Butler, Eamon Ryan, Rick Quigley, Donnacha Hennessy, Paul Dempsey, Phil Kelly, Patrick Carey (Captain), Kevin Moran, David Sheppard, Colm Ryan, Austin Cooney, Daniel Kirby, Gerard Dempsey. Front Row L to R Brian Moran, Ciaran Clohessy, Cathal Ryan, Michael Hassett, Kieran Shortall, Joe Dixon, Johnny Flanagan, William Dempsey, Eamon Donnelly, Pat Coman, John Kelly, David Morris.



The Moycarkey Borris Panel that defeated Thurles Sarsfields in the Thurles Credit Union Mid Tipperary Minor A Hurling Final. Picture Back Row L to R Patrick Shorthall, Lawrence Power, Eoin O Dwyer, John Shorthall, Gerry McGuire, Kevin Moran, Peter O'Brien, Shane Barry, Rory Ryan, Phil Kelly, Eoin Cantwell, Tom Quinn, Eddie Power, Tony Flanagan, David Kinnane. Front Row L to R Jamie Barry, Jamie Fanning, Conor Bourke, Eamon Flanagan, Paul Kennedy, Kieran Morris, David Morris, Ciaran Clohessy, Noel Kinnane, Anthony Healy, Brian Moran (Captain), Aidan Ryan.



The Thurles Sarsfields Panel that defeated Drom Inch in the MacLochlainn Road Markings Ltd Mid Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship Final Replay. Picture Back row L to R Lar Corbett, John Connors, David Kearns, Aidan Dundon, Jim Mackey, Declan Ryan, Eddie Enright, Brendan Carroll, Lee Shanahan, Eoin Russell, Jamie Murphy, Jim Corbett, Eamon Walsh, Tony Connolly. Front Row L to R Tommy Collins, Michael Collins, David O Dwyer, Tom King, Stephen Mason, Ger O Grady (Captain with his daughter Lorna), Stephen Lillis, Patrick McCormack, Brendan O Sullivan, Pat Lawlor (with Jamie Curtis), Richie Ruth, Shane Ryan, Eoin Costello, Brian Graydon.



The Upperchurch Drombane Panel that defeated Holycross Ballycahill in the County Bar Thurles Mid Tipperary U/21 B Hurling Final. Picture Back Row L to R Padraig Stapleton, Matt Ryan, Colm Stapleton, Leonard Purcell, Ollie Ralph, Jack Ryan (Capt), Philip Bourke, David Carey, Michael Ryan, Martin Bourke, Michael Harty, James Greene, Eoin Shanahan, Gerard Crowe, Matthew Greene. Front Row L to R Eamon Fogarty, Colm Ryan, L J Ryan, Joe McGuire, Pat Shortt, James Barry, Andy Kinnane, Colm Kennedy, Noel Ryan, Patrick Purcell, Aidan Brett, Michael Ryan.

Mid Tipperary GAA Convention



Jonathon Cullen, Loughmore, Castleiney receiving the Mid Tipperary Senior Club of the Year Award from Mid Tipperary GAA Chairman John Doyle at the Mid Convention in Loughmore Hall.



Connie Costigan, Moyne Templetuohy receiving the Mid Tipperary Junior / Intermediate Club of the Year Award from Mid Tipperary Board Chairman John Doyle at the Mid Convention in Loughmore Hall



Johnny Everard and Members of Moyne Templetuohy Club at the Presentation of Mid Tipperary Hall of Fame Award. Pictured Back Row, LtoR: Lorna Leahy, Eileen Costigan, Connie Costigan, Dominic Everard, Tom Maher, PJ Leahy. Front Row, L to R: Mary Bowe, Teresa Everard, Josephene Everard, Johnny Everard, Aine Maher



Johnny Everard Moyne Templetuohy receiving the Mid Tipperary Hall of Fame Award from Mid Board President Bob Stakelum. Pictured LtoR: Pierce Everard, Mary Bowe, Josephine Everard, Conor Everard, Brendan Everard, Bob Stakelum, Diarmuid Everard, Sean Everard, Missing from photo, Enda Everard



Loughmore Casteliney Delegates and Supporters at the Mid Tipperary GAA Convention in Loughmore Hall. Pictured, Back Row L to R: Pat Cullen, Sean Mockler, Jonathon Cullen, Pat Gleeson, Batt O'Dea, Eamonn Sweeney, Jimmy Sweeney. Front Row, L to R: Pat Healy, Mary McGrath, Annette Healy, Bernie McGrath, Dolores Hennessy, Maureen Connolly, Tom McGrath



Mid Tipperary, Senior Hurler of the Year David Kennedy receiving his Trophy from Mid Tipperary GAA Chairman John Doyle at the Mid Convention in Loughmore Hall.



Mid Tipperary Young Hurler of the Year Darragh Hickey receiving his Trophy from Mid Tipperary Chairman John Doyle



Mid Tipperary, Young Footballer of the Year Eddie Connolly receiving his Trophy from Mid Tipperary GAA Chairman John Doyle at the Mid Convention in Loughmore Hall.



Moyne Templetuohy Delegates with the Junior / Intermediate Club of the Year Award Trophy at the Mid Convention in Loughmore Hall. Pictured L to R: PJ Leahy, Tom Flynn, Willie Fogarty, Tom Maher, Connie Costigan.



Officers and Guests at the Mid Tipperary GAA Board Annual Convention 2005 in Loughmore Hall.

Back Row, L to R: Pat Cullen (Trustee), Jim Max (Semple Stadium Rep), Batt O'Dea (Gate Checker), Jonathon Cullen (Youth Officer), PJ Maher (Vice Chairman), PJ Leahy (P.R.O.), John Costigan (Vice Chairman County Board), Pat Gleeson (Vice Chairman). Front Row, L to R: Micheal Egan (Asst Secretary), John O'Donovan (Asst Treasurer), Tom Maher (Treasurer), John Doyle (Chairman), Donie Shanahan (Chairman Tipperary County Board), Matty Connolly (Secretary), Bob Stakelum (President)

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Sarsfields' Minors Make History as they Claim Football Title

By Noel Dundon (Tipperary Star)

There have been many glorious days in the wonderful history of famed Thurles Sarsfields - Friday August 26th will stand out amongst them now.

You see that was the evening that Sarsfields won their first ever county minor A football title when they defeated Arravale Rovers in Cashel in a fine game of football.

It has always been said in Thurles that footballers are about aplenty and that it only requires effort and commitment to the code on the part of the clubs to achieve success. Durlas Og juvenile club have been leading the way and many of the players who won the county minor A title with Sarsfields were on the u-16 team which lost to Arravale Rovers in 2004.

The Mid final victory over Moycarkey Borris was the first sign that this Sarsfields team had something special. They played a lovely open brand of football with free flowing play exploiting the space and took some wonderful scores in the process. Of course all of this didn't just happen by accident - the management team of Michael Gleeson (Manager), John Dorney, Gary Mernagh, Tommy Collins and Thomas Callanan

had the squad well drilled and they played with a style and grace that was fitting of champions.

The Mid final proved to be a significant stepping stone. Next up was the county semi-final against Clonmel Commericals. One of the strongholds of Tipperary football, the Clonmel lads were highly fancied and indeed they started out with a very confident and assured opening quarter. But, Sarsfields character came to the forefront and they slowly chipped away at the Commercial's lead - a number of goals helping their cause greatly. In the end they emerged victorious much to the delight of the sizeable support base which had latched onto this side and taken them to heart.

The final was eagerly awaited. Here was a real chance for the minors to make history and make their mark. They prepared like never before, were extremely focused, and were armed with a real determination to get their hands on the cup for the first time. They did, but it took a huge effort.

Arravale Rovers were the opponents in Cashel and they tried everything in their power to overturn the Sarsfields men. But, the Thurles character shone through and they staved off a late challenge to emerge victorious on the night. The scenes of jubilation matched any witnessed by Sarsfields folk in recent times. There was great satisfaction and joy at the achievement and for those who had ploughed the sometimes lonely furrow on behalf of the big ball in the club, there was justification. Thurles can play football with the best of them when the mind is set up for it and the minors proved it.

County Football Board chairman, Pete Savage, presented the cup to Sarsfields captain, David Shannon, as the celebrations began.

The Blues had achieved another famous milestone.

HOLYCROSS-BALLYCAHILL UNDER-21 B FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Holycross-Ballycahill made their own bit of history on April 16 when they beat Silvermines in the under-21 B football county final. The game was played at the Ragg and the winning score was 2-8 to 0-12.

Training for this success had begun in the Ursuline Sports Complex, Thurles on January 10. Several challenge games followed and the team seemed well-prepared when the Mid championship commenced in March. A heavy defeat by Moyne-Templetuohy was a rude awakening. Selectors Michael Ferncombe, Donal Duggan and Paddy Dwan had to rethink their plans.

A restructured team beat Upperchurch-Drombane after extra time to get back on track. Easter weekend brought real progress. On Good Friday there was a four-point win over Moycarkey-Borris, and a place in the divisional final. Easter Monday brought a comprehensive win in the final over first round conquerors, Moyne-Templetuohy. The victory gave solid proof of huge improvement.

A trip to New Inn for the county semi-final on April 9 seemed to be going badly wrong as Clonmel Óg led by 3-4 to 0-5 after twenty minutes. Again the team and selectors found the means to turn things around. Shrewd switches on the line and a huge all-round improvement on the field turned the tide and brought an uplifting 2-13 to 3-6 win. A week later came the county final against a fancied Silvermines outfit. It was another display of character and skill, decorated by a brace of Brian Barrett goals, and the result was the sight of captain, P. J. Ryan, lifting the county trophy on behalf of the entire panel and selectors. Thanks is due to all connected with the wonderful achievement.

The members of the panel were: P. J. Ryan (capt.), Patrick Byrnes, Tadhg Flanagan, William Dillon, Patrick Stakelum, Ciaran Barrett, Colm McGrath, Shane Lanigan, Padraig Comeford, John King, Donncha Duggan, Brian Barrett, David English, Michael King, Tomas Stakelum, John Byrnes, Gerry Ryan, Kevin O'Dwyer, Eamon Lowry, Hilton Feehan, Sean Stakelum, Pierce Stakelum, Tomás Lowry, Stephen Ryan, Conor Brady.



UNLUCKY 13!

Templeduff's Gearoid Ryan shows the pain of relegation after his club lost to Holycross Ballycahill at the Ragg

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West Tipperary Review 2005

WEST FINALS 2005				
Date	Venue	Winner	Runner Up	Referee
TIPPERARY CO-OP SUPER VALU SHC				
7.08	Golden	Cappawhite	2.20 Cashel	1.10 W Barrett
GLEESON CONCRETE CROSCO CUP SHL				
27.11	Cashel	Kick/Eire	Galt/Gold	
TIPPERARY CREDIT UNION IHC				
11.09	Golden	Aherlow	1.24 Eire Og/Anac.	1.15 J Cleary
GLEESON CONCRETE JHC 'A'				
11.09	Golden	Kickhams	2.13 Cappawhite	1.12 F .Kearney
TIPPERARY CO-OP SUPER VALU JHC 'B'				
6.11	S T Park	Eire Og/Anac	1.09 . Sean Treacys	1.07 E. Browne
O'DWYER STEEL U21HC 'A'				
17.09	Cashel	Clonoulty	1.10 Kickhams	1.07 R . Barry
LOWRY'S BAR U21HC 'B'				
8.10	Dundrum	Cappawhite	2.11 Rock/Rose	0.10 S .Bradshaw
DUNDRUM HOUSE HOTEL MHC 'A'				
16.08	Golden	Clonoulty	2.05 Kickhams	0.11 D. Grogan
23.08	Replay in Cashel	Clonoulty	2.16 Kickhams	1.15 John RyanC
MATT KAVANAGH COACHES MHC 'B'				
23.08	Dundrum	Sean Treacys	3.12 Rock/Rose	3.06 R O Connor
BALLINILARD TRANSPORT SFC				
21.08	Golden	Aherlow	0.11 Galtee Rvs.	0.08 B Tyrell
BALLINILARD TRANSPORT SFL				
33.10	O'Don Cup in New Inn	Galtee Rvs.	3.10 Arravale Rvs.	1.05 P. Russell
IFC				
15.10	S.T.Park	Kickhams	0.10 Cashel	0.07 D Cahill
C&C ENGINEERING JFC 'A'				
29.10	Dundrum	Rockwell Rvs.	2.12 Solohead	0.05 D. Grogan
AIB JFC 'B'				
20.11	JFC B	Aher/Treacy	Cappawhite	
McGRATH OIL U21FC 'A'				
28.03	Golden	Arravale Rvs.	0.12 Galtee Rvs.	1.04 P. Russell
McGRATH OIL U21FC 'B'				
2.04	S.T.Park	Rockwell Rvs.	3.10 Emly	1.02 E. Browne
McGRATH OIL U21FC 'C'				
26.03	Dundrum	Eire Og	3.13 Sean Treacys	3.04 Phil Ryan
O'MURCHU FINANCIAL SERVICES MFC 'A'				
4.08	Dundrum	Arravale Rvs.	1.12 Galtee Rvs.	1.09 Phil Ryan
PA SHEEHY BUTCHERS MFC 'B'				
6.07	Golden	Kickhams	2.06 Clonoulty	1.07 R O Connor
MFC C				
11.09	Cappawhite	Eire Og/Anac.	4.11 Eire Og/Anac.	1.04 Ger Riordan



Front L/R: David McCahill, Mark Shanahan, Kieran O'Halloran, Ted Lowry, Kevin Browne, Shane Hogan, Tommy Lowry, Ronan Fogarty, Sean Brennan.
Back L/R: Frank Ryan, Stephen Cunningham, Michael Bailey, Darragh Crowe, Pearse Richardson, Niall Fitzgerald, John Kearns, Samuel Noonan, Niall Leahy, Conal O'Brien, David Kiely, James Gubbins - Arranvale Rovers Summer Camp.



Front L/R: Fergal O'Reilly, Robbie Creamer, Alan Kiely, Phillip Ryan, Roger O'Connor, Stephen Spillane, Timmy Dalton, Cormac Moore, Paul Ryan, Brian Jones, Denis O'Brien, Thomas O'Dwyer, Andrew Lacey.
Back L/R: Matty O'Doherty, Sean Walsh, James O'Brien, Niall Sheehan, Manager, Bernard O'Callaghan, Thomas Gleeson, Barry Quinn, Lee Dudley, Damien Kiely, Adrian Fitzgerald, Anthony Glasheen, Niall Ryan, James Mulhair, Padraig Ryan, John O'Brien. - Arranvale Rovers U21F.



Kickhams M.F.C. 'B'. Front L/R: Paul Kennedy, Thomas Hewitt, Jason Loughman, Tommy Comerford, Patrick O'Brien, Padraig Hayes, Conor Horan, Pádraig Farrell, Shane Morrissey.
Back L/R: Darragh Browne, Trevor O'Brien, Sean Keogh, John Slattery, Richard O'Brien, Capt., Michael Morrissey, Michael Heelan, Eoin Butler, Killian Heney, Padraig Morrissey, Stephen Buckley.



Front L/R: Declan Leahy, Shane Neville, Kevin Mulchrone, Thomas O'Donoghue, Mikey Cunningham, Sean Landers, Jack Healy.
Second Row L/R: Ciaran Gannon, Michael Mulchrone, Niall Enright, Thomas O'Donoghue, Tom Healy, Jason O'Brien, Brendan O'Sullivan, Liam Cunningham, James Landers, Darren Neville, Mikey O'Dwyer, Sean Kiely.
Back L/R: Eamon Buckley, selector, Anthony Leahy, James Franks, Davcid Cooney, Aaron Kenny, Thomas Mulchrone, Gerry McCahill, Cormac O'Donoghue, Patrick Corcoran, Michael Morrissey, Mark Russell, Padraig Finnin, Sean Cunningham, David O'Heney, Graham Nelson, Sean O'Donoghue Manager.



A happy Fox family group, from left, Brian and Kevin with their father Kevin and uncle Pat, all after playing on the victorious Éire Óg team in the West JHC B final winning side against Sean Treacys.



Front L/R: Sean Bowes, Maurice Mulhair, Oriu Cassidy, Kalib O'Dwyer, Micheal Sharpe, Alan Flynn, Julian Leuk, Matthew O'Brien, Nathan Crowe, Luke Kinnane, Cormac Maher - Arravale Rovers Summer Camp.



Front L/R: Ian O'Brien, Liam Kavanagh, Brendan McGrath, Patrick Kavanagh, Colin Power, Capt., Danny Crowe, Noel O'Brien, making the presentation, William Quirke, Maurice Crowe, Ross McGrath.
Back L/R: David White, Conor Sullivan, John Petyers, James Smith, Darren O'Dwyer, Stephen Barry, Pdraig Lonergan, Damien Noonan, Emmet Ryan, Aidan Kennedy, Christopher O'Halloran.



Annavale Rovers U14 Girls at Summer Camp. Front L/R: Jenny McCahill, Alice McCarthy, Sara Finnan, Sara O'Dwyer, Elaine Moloney, Rachel O'Keefe, Aisling O'Connor. Back L/R: Ian Richardson, Danielle Nevin, Eileen O'Dwyer, Amy O'Connor, Bernadette Heney, Aisling Heney, Jesse Hogan, James Hogan.



Paddy Julian receives the SHC Cup from West Board Chairman Billy Ryan. Also in picture is Tom Maher Stores manager Tipperary Co-Op and on right Matt Quinlan Chairman of Tipperary Co-Op.



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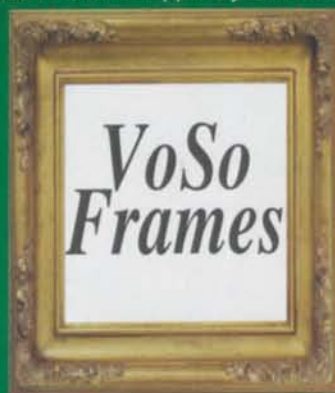
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Galtee Rovers Summer Camp. Front L/R: Jack White, Eoin White, Dylan O'Gorman, David O'Sullivan, Patrick Gallagher, Brendan McGrath, Niall Daly, Maurice Crowe, Adam Quinn, Conor O'Sullivan.
Back L/R: Christopher O'Halloran, Stephen Barry, Damien Bourke, David Morrissey, David Finnan, Daniel Bresnan, William Quirke, Patrick Kavanagh, Darren McGrath, Emmet Ryan, Ian O'Brien.



Kickhams I.F.C. Winners. Front L/R: Killian Heney, Ger Butler, Joe Breen, Brian Horgan, Derek Breen, Capt., Fergal Horgan, Pat Ryan, Damien McGrath, Alan Horgan, Eoin Morrissey, Eamon Browne, Aidan Butler.
Back L/R: Aidan Heney, Ollie Keogh, Aidan Murphy, Richard Horgan, Ger Farrell, Tony Farrell, Manager, Paul Breen, David Horgan, Michael Heelan, Michael Shanahan, Eoin Butler, Seamus Hickey, Jimmy Farrell, Vincent Kelly, John McCormack, Gerry Cahill, Selector.
(Missing from photo ;Kevin Farrell.)



Kickhams J.H.C. 'A' Winners. Front L/R; Maurice Ryan, Phil Ryan, Christopher Keane, Joe Breen, Kevin Farrell, Capt., Barry Ryan, Aidan Slattery, David Shanahan, Noel O'Brien, Sean Bradshaw, Tommy Hayes, Sec., Ger Farrell, seated, Paudie Slattery, seated.
Back L/R: John Farrell, Seanie O'Brien, selector, Michael Shanahan, Joe Shanahan, Killian Heney, Eamon Browne, Fergal O'Brien, Paul Breen, David Horgan, Harry Horgan, Tony Farrell, Aidan Murphy, Jimmy Farrell, Peter Comerford, Michael Slattery, Seamus O'Dwyer, Chairman, Con Ryan, Manager.

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Aherlow West I.H. Champions - Front L/R: Cathal O'Shea, Michael Carey, Ben Carey, Thomas Hanley, George Kiely, Michael Moroney, Ciaran Moroney, Denis O'Shea, Conor O'Shea, Laurence Coskeran, Paddy Hennessy, Barry Grogan, Diarmuid Riordan and Tommy Richardson. Back L/R: Kieran Moroney, Emer Riordan, Anne Marie Fahy, Sean Dillon, Liam Richardson, Sean Mullins, Cathal Dillon, Seamus Grogan Billy Reardon, Philly Kiely, Anthony Moroney, Danny M Hennessy, Stephen Chapman, Brian Moroney, Robert Hennessy, James Noonan, Mark Leonard, Joe Fahy, Eddie Moroney, Redmond Moroney, Damien Peters, David Grogan and Tom Leonard.



West Tipperary U16 Hurling squad received a presentation of kit bags from Tipperary Co Op, on their way to Charleville for their game with Cork City. L/R: Michael O'Grady, Tipp Co Op, Kevin Fox selector, Sean Spillane, Kevin Fox (jnr.), Sean Keogh, Captain, Paul Fortune, Tipp Co Op, Richard O'Connor, West Bord na nOg Chairman, Gerry O'Neill, Noel Browne, Selector and Padraig O'Dwyer.



Rockwell Rovers U21 F.C. 'B' Winners. Front L/R: Eamon Peters, Gearoid Moloney, Michael Prendergast, Robbie O'Halloran, John O'Gorman, Stephen Quirke, James Dudley, Pat Prendergast (Capt.), John Flanagan, Eoin Barrett, Paul Hally, Liam Harty. Back L/R: John Heaney (Manager), Tommy Byrne, Fintan McGurk, Noel Barrett, Shane Moloney, Eoin Shine, Evan Moore, David Byrne, Pat Hally, Stephen Byrne, Joe O'Rourke, John O'Donnell, David Hally, Donal Moloney.



Rockwell Rovers J.F.C. 'A' Winners. Front L/R: PJ Moloney, Michael Fahy, Kevin Heaney, Tommy Flynn, Paul Hally, Donal Moloney, Robbie O'Halloran, John Heaney (Capt.), Colm Heaney, Martin Boland, Stephen Quirke, Barry O'Donnell. Back L/R: Tom Buckley, John Cooney, Patrick Prendergast, Andy Hennessy, Pat Hally, James Heffernan, Kevin Hally, Peter Farrell, Oliver Hally, Eoin Shine, James O'Halloran, Michael Prendergast, Liam Harty, Tom Shine.



Aherlow S.F. Winners, with selectors and supporters, West SF Champions for only the second time in their clubs history. Front L/R: Damien Peters, Denis O'Shea, Mark O'Brien, Lionel Leonard, Derry Peters, Shane Leonard, Joss O'Brien, Paddy Hennessy, Cathal O'Shea, Kieran Moroney, Mark O'Shea, Tommy Russell, Fergal Clifford, Seamus Grogan, Laurence Coskeran, Timmy Leonard, Peter Leonard. Back L/R: Lar Ivory, Seamie Frewen, Tom Peters, Tom O'Shea, Anthony Moroney, Mark Leonard, Leo Leonard, David Cleary, John Hennessy, Conor O'Shea, Richie Cleary, Barry Grogan, Seanie Peters, Kieran Moroney, Pat Moroney.



Annavale Rovers Summer Camp.
Front Row L/R: Christopher McCahill, Jamie O'Brien, Dylan Browne, Tony Byrnes, Jordan O'Brien, Peter Mulhaire, Dara Coughlan, Kieran Flynn.

Middle Row L/R: Dan Hassett, Gavin Hogan, Stephen Withero, James Hogan, Padraig Bowes, Emmet Fitzpatrick, Petyer Hayes.

Back Row L/R: James Kinnane, Eoin Loneragan, Marco Vettraino, Declan Rogers, Paul O'Connor, Conor Kissane, Derek Withero, Ciaran Lowry.

Annavale Rovers West MFC 'A' Winners - Front L/R: Paul Ryan, Michael O'Dwyer, Conor McNamara, Michael O'Sullivan, Ned Lowry, Jason Sutton, Stephen Spillane, Damien Kiely, Jack O'Dwyer, Alan Kiely, Timmy Dalton, Robert Kiely.
Back L/R: Stephen Quinn, Ian Richardson, Declan Ryan, Michael Crowe, Darren Lowry, Sean Spillane, James Ryan, James Mulhair, Brian Jones, Alan Kenny, Paddy Finnan, Sean Walsh, Cormac Molloy, James O'Leary, David McCormack



Clonoulty / R West U14 F.A. Winners
Front L/R: Liam Maher, James Coffey, Jack Spillane, Kevin Maher, Brian Armstrong, Joe Slattery, Aidan Ryan, Padraig Heffernan, Aaron Ryan, Richard Coffey, Conor Hammersley, Aidan Whyte, Phillip Quirke.
Back L/R: Fr. Jim O'Donnell, Kieran Ryan, Kieran Carroll, Phillip Ryan, Martin Sadlier, Thomas Butler, Seamus Carew, Phillip Kearney, Cait Devane, Michael Quinn, Neil Shanahan, Shane Fryday, T.J. Ryan, John Coffey.



Eire Og County MFC 'C' Winners

Front L/R: Vinny Ryan, Selector, Jeremy Furlong, William English, Noel Leahy, Brian Fox, Sean Hogan, Capt., Kevin Fox, Diarmuid Ryan, Gearoid Ryan, Conor O'Brien, selector.

Back L/R: Tom English, selector, James Ryan, William O'Neill, Karl Greaney, Eddie Ryan, Peter O'Dwyer, Cahal Hayes, Liam Horan, Richard Ryan, Eoin Kennedy, Padraic O'Dwyer, Denis O'Dwyer.



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Cappawhite U21HC 'B' Winners - Front L/R: Tom Carr, Ciaran McCarthy, Daniel Kelly, Gerard Ryan(P), Paul Fitzgerald, Richie Barry, Jim McGrath, Michael O'Neill, Declan O'Meara.
Back L/R: John Mc Grath, Brendan Buckley, Frankie Kelly, Gerry O'Neill, Timmy Cranley, Michael P Buckley, Eoin Ryan (T), Michael R Buckley, Ross



Cappawhite SHC Winners - Front L/R: John Ryan(P), John P. Julian, Dessie Ryan (P), Eugene O'Neill, Ciaran Ryan(P), Paddy Julian, Shane McDermott, Stevie Grisewood, Gerard Ryan(P), Brian O'Neill, Michael O'Neill, Denis Kelly.
Back L/R: Tom Julian, Sean Ryan, Cian Creedon, Pa O'Neill, Patrick Fahy, Tom Costelloe, Ross Dunne, Paul Fitzgerald, Matthew Kennedy, Declan Costelloe, Alan O'Neill, Kevin O'Keeffe, William O'Neill, John Fitzgerald, Donal Ryan(P), Pat O'Neill, Daniel Kelly.



Clonoulty / R U21 HCA Winner - Front L/R: Liam Devane, Thomas Lyng, Brian Ryan, David Kennedy, Patrick Ryan, Jason Forrester, John O'Keeffe, Fiachra O'Keeffe, James Heffernan, Joe O'Keeffe, Anthony Kearney.
Back L/R: Timmie Hammersley, Rory Ryan, Phillip Ryan, Tommy Hennessy, Tommy Maher, Diarmuid Cullen, Tadhg Ryan, James Manton, David Maher, Padraic White, John O'Neill, Kevin Horan.

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The Hong Kong Experience

by Seán Ó Nuinseán

With the Football All Stars

Haven't we come a long way in the G.A.A. in recent years? Who would have thought some years back that the All Stars would play in Hong Kong? Then if we look back into our history we find that we were always a travelling Association. We had what was called the American invasion in 1888, when two teams of hurlers and a number of athletes took America by storm and played a number of exhibition games and athletic events travelling to nine cities in the States, and nearly broke the G.A.A. in the process. Our fondness to travel was also in evidence in 1896 when exhibition games and athletic events were held in Stamford Bridge London. Some Clubs also travelled to Scotland around that time to take part in Shinty tournaments as well

In recent years the whole scene has taken off and the sky's the limit in terms of worldwide travel for G.A.A. teams, all the exotic parts of the World are now on the agenda for successful county teams and even club teams are now getting in on the act. Sure isn't it great for players to be rewarded in this way. It has been my experience in recent years that if you want to go abroad on a holiday then going on an organised trip makes things very handy, you just make the booking and fall in line with all the arrangements. There are usually extra trips or entertainments associated with a large group travelling and you can avail of these or do your own thing if you so wish and so it was with the Hong Kong experience.

Dublin Airport then in mid January and after the luggage was sent on its way we engaged in a bit of All Star spotting. Peter Canavan was easily recognisable; Pádraig Joyce of Galway, Colm Cooper of Kerry and Matty Forde of Wexford were much in evidence as was our own Declan Browne. Team managers Mickey Harte and John Maughan were present and then we met Cathaoirleach of the Seanad, Rory Kiely of Limerick who was very helpful to us, he of course being a seasoned traveller. Very shortly we were on our way to Amsterdam where we connected with our direct Hong Kong flight. A long flight of approx thirteen hours lay ahead and watching the television monitor as we travelled along one was conscious of the various remote parts of the World that we were passing over, places like Uzbekistan and the Himalayas. We arrived in Hong Kong sometime on Thursday morning and went direct by coach to the Hong Kong Football Club in Happy Valley where the Hong Kong G.A.A. club had arranged a reception. On our way from the airport the tour guide on the coach gave us a running commentary on the sights and scenes of Hong Kong. We knew from just looking out the window that this was a place vastly different from anywhere we had been before. A population of six million living in a small area. No houses as we know them but high-rise apartments as far as the eye could see. Hong Kong is comprised of a number of Islands all linked together by tunnels very much like the Jack Lynch tunnel. After the reception we went to our hotels to catch up on much needed sleep and as we travelled to the centre city locations we were aware of the vast numbers of people on the streets and of the huge shopping centres and the general hustle

and bustle of one of the busiest cities in the World.

Thursday evening was a recovery from jet lag one but on Friday we went on a cruise of the Hong Kong harbour area. This was a sight to behold with the lighting of high-rise buildings on either side reflecting on the water creating a kaleidoscope of colour. All enjoyed a meal in a nearby hotel later and this proved to be an ideal bonding session for everyone and particularly for the players from both All Star selections 2003 and 2004.

Saturday then was the big day with the games in the Happy Valley Stadium. What an evening of entertainment was in store. We were amazed at the organisation of the event by all concerned and of the interest shown by the Irish in Hong Kong and indeed other nationalities. The organisers of the event had also organised the Asian football sevens competition, which had taken place in Hong Kong in October 2004 and we could see from the match programme that this had been a highly successful event with teams from Singapore, Japan, Korea, Beijing, Shanghai, and other exotic places taking part. In all thirty teams were involved, of which twelve were ladies. The programme in the Happy Valley stadium started at 3.00pm and concluded at around 7.30pm. Four games were played on the pitch which was extended in size for the occasion. The programme started off with a Gaelic football game between local sides and followed with a ladies game, which was of a high standard. Next we had a Compromise Rules game between an Asian selection and the Hong Kong Aussie Dragons. In between we had the entertainment of the Hong Kong Police Band and in advance of the big game we had a bit of pageantry with the entry of a Lion onto the field who was introduced to the referee and to various dignitaries including our Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, who was present with a large Irish trade delegation.

The Vodafone All Stars then took the field with the 2004 side led by Mattie Forde of Wexford and what a proud moment for the few Tipperary people present when Declan Browne led out the 2003 team as captain. Tournament games like this are often a stroll in the park for players but this was something different. What a spectacle of Gaelic football this was, played at a blistering pace with passing movements between Declan Browne and Peter Canavan on one side and Colm Cooper and Pádraig Joyce on the other which were a delight to watch. The 2003 side won the day and it was with great pleasure that we watched Declan Browne being presented with the cup on behalf of his team. The thought struck me after the match that we would never see those great players playing together again and what a pity.

After the game there was a Gala Dinner for approx 600 people including the complete Irish party, this again was superbly organised and rounded off the evening in splendid fashion. We found at this function that it is a small world after all, while seated at a table a man put his hand on my shoulder from behind and said in the name of God what are you doing here. I recognised the face but could not put a name on him and he turned out to be from Ballyporeen. Later we met a Donegal man who had spent a long part of his life in Hong Kong. When learning that we were from Tipperary he said he worked in Mullinahone many years ago and knew the Vaughans there, particularly John Vaughan. It's true then that if you haven't been to Mullinahone that you haven't travelled at all. Sunday was a day at the races at the famous Sha Tin Racecourse. We travelled by coach and on arrival were whisked into the hospitality area

where we spent a lovely afternoon in surroundings very much like Croke Park in terms of the stand and facilities. There was a huge attendance at the races the Chinese of course being a great gambling people. Bets were won and lost but none of our crowd lost their shirt and all returned to the city in high spirits. On Monday we travelled into Mainland China and visited the cities of Shenzhen and Guangzhou. In Shenzhen we saw the Terra-Cotta Warriors in the Qin Shi Huang Mausoleum and in Guangzhou visited Dr Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall. The market in Guangzhou was an interesting place with foods of every kind and description including scorpions, which are eaten by the Chinese. Everywhere we went we were struck by the activity and industry of the Chinese.

The remainder of the visit was spent exploring Hong Kong and the Islands around it. Macau Island was special where we visited a Buddhist Temple and climbed up to a massive Buda on the hillside. We had a special request by a friend at home to visit the grave of a Jesuit Priest, who died in Hong Kong some years ago. We first had to find the cemetery, which we did by visiting the Jesuit House in the City. We met a lovely Irish priest and had a cup of tea with him. He told us the location but said we might have some difficulty in locating the grave as the Chinese only leave bodies in the ground for a seven to ten year period, they then exhume the remains and they are put through a treatment system and are then re-interred in a box in the wall of the cemetery. We went to the cemetery and searched through the tombstones for a long time without success. We then checked the wall on the perimeter of the cemetery and eventually found the box in the wall with the name of the Irish priest. We said a prayer and placed the items that the family sent from Ireland on the box. An interesting point to note about this episode is that Hong Kong is a very expensive place to die and be laid to rest. I checked the cost of funerals in Hong Kong on the notice board in the cemetery and found that the cost is like paying for three funerals at home.

To describe Hong Kong and its people in a few sentences our experience would be that the people are very welcoming kind and helpful, the city is a shopper's paradise with shopping centres that have to be seen to be believed. Prices are reasonable but not cheap. It has an air pollution problem and while the weather was lovely for our visit it's not a sunshine holiday destination in January. The crime level is low and the public transport system of metro, train, bus and tram is excellent. Only a small number of Hong Kong residents have cars and 95% of traffic on the roads is public transport. If you want a made to measure suit in Hong Kong you can have one made up in a few hours for a very reasonable price in a place called Tsim Sha Tsui which is famous for this. We had some great fun with the Chinese tailors in the bargaining associated with the transaction.

All good things must come to an end and so our holiday over we returned to Hong Kong International Airport for the long journey back to Ireland. We left Hong Kong with some great memories after our short stay there. The trip made us realise how important visits like this are to Irish communities abroad and the support it gives them in promoting our games and culture in many distant parts of the world. We were conscious that the games help to bring Irish people together abroad in many ways like they do at home. The organisers in Croke Park and in Hong Kong did a superb job in ensuring that everything went like clockwork and that all enjoyed the trip and the associated activities. Long may these trips continue.

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COUNTY TIPPERARY

BORD NA nÓG

by John Smith, P.R.O.

2005 was another busy year for County Bord na nÓg with nineteen county titles being decided. Skeheenarinky won their first ever county juvenile hurling title in winning the under 12 'C' and four weeks later they added the under 14 'C' title. Portroe also achieved a first football title when they won the under 12 'C' final. Hereunder is a brief report on each of the championships.

Football

Under 12

Clonmel Commercial made amends for losing last years 'A' final when they defeated Loughmore-Castleiney in the final. Commercial were a very strong and well drilled team and they set up victory with an impressive first half display leading by 1-6 to 1-0 at the interval. Both sides scored one point each in the second half. Commercial and Loughmore had convincing semi final victories over Clonoulty-Rossmore and Nenagh Eire Óg respectively.

The 'B' final was a thriller with Moycarkey-Borris having one point to spare over Carrick Swan at the full time whistle. Timmy Ryan was the Moycarkey match winner scoring 2-1 of his side's total of 2-2. Moycarkey defeated Ballina in the first semi final and Carrick Swan were victorious over Rockwell Rovers in the other semi final.

Portroe won their first ever county juvenile football title when they edged out a young Moyle Rovers 'B' team by the narrowest of margins (2-2 to 1-4) in the 'C' decider. This was a very close final with very little separating the sides throughout. Both teams qualified direct for the final as there were no teams graded at 'C' level in the Mid and North.

Under 14

J.K. Brackens defeated Clonoulty-Rossmore in a replay to capture the 'A' title. The teams finished level at 0-3 each in the final and a week later Brackens inspired by a magnificent display by Michael Carroll had a five point winning margin. In the semi finals Brackens had a good win over Nenagh Eire Óg while Clonoulty-Rossmore surprised a fancied Clonmel Commercial side.

Ballyporeen captured the 'B' title with a great win over Moyne-Templetuohy. The result was in doubt up to the final whistle. Ballyporeen's Kevin Crotty gave an outstanding display in the final scoring 1-5 and setting up many other scores. Ballyporeen defeated Golden-Kilfeacle in the semi final with Moyne-Templetuohy overcoming Shannon Rovers Gaels to qualify for the final.

The 'C' final was won by Ballylooby-Castlegrace who scored a comprehensive win over Silvermines. Ballylooby got some delightful scores and played excellent football to capture the title. Luke Murphy who scored six points was a tower of strength at centre forward for the winners. Ballylooby were too strong for Sean Treacys in the semi final while Silvermines had no semi final opponents as Mid had no team graded 'C'.

Under 16

It took two matches to decide the destination of the 'A' title. Clonmel Commercial scored 2-2 in the last six minutes to snatch a draw with Nenagh Eire Óg in the final. Commercial took full advantage of getting a second chance and scored a convincing win in the replay. Commercial and Nenagh Eire Óg defeated Arravale Rovers and Durlas Óg respectively in the semi finals.

Ballingarry scored an impressive win over



Tipperary County Bord na nÓg U/16 Championship Winning Captains at the County Bord na nÓg Medal Presentation night in Hayes hotel.

Pictured L to R: Paul Ryan (Arravale Rovers U/16A Football), Darragh Walsh (Silvermines U/16 C Hurling), Liam Mackey (Carrig Davins U/16 C Football), David Morris (Durlas og U/16 A Hurling).

Lorrha in the 'B' final with their centre forward, James Logue scoring 1-9. Ballingarry defeated Rockwell Rovers in the semi final while Lorrha accounted for Holycross-Ballycahill in the other semi final.

A great second half display in which they scored three goals gave Solohead a deserved victory over Ballylooby-Castlegrace in the 'C' final. There were no semi finals as Mid and North had no teams graded 'C'.

Peil na nÓg

Arravale Rovers came from seven points in arrears after five minutes to go on to win by five points over J.K. Brackens in the final. Arravale scored a narrow win over Cahir in the semi final while Brackens had to go to extra time to defeat Nenagh Eire Óg in the other semi final. Arravale Rovers went on to represent Tipperary in the All-Ireland finals in Limerick. They won their three group matches to qualify for the semi final where they lost to the eventual winners, Padraig Pearse (Roscommon).

Hurling

Under 12

Clonoulty-Rossmore completed a magnificent three in a row of 'A' titles when they defeated their neighbours Holycross-Ballycahill in an exciting final. Conor Hammersley was the man of the match scoring 3-4 of Clonoulty's total of 3-5. In the semi finals Clonoulty defeated St. Mary's and Holycross defeated Roscrea.

The 'B' final went to a replay with Fethard and Moneygall finishing level at 0-4 each. The replay was a game of contrasting halves due to the strong breeze. Moneygall held a six point interval lead and despite only scoring one point in the second half held on for a four point winning margin. Moneygall defeated Boherlahan-Dualla in the first semi final with Fethard defeating Golden-Kilfeacle in the other. History was created in Semple Stadium on Sunday 4th September when Skeheenarinky won their first ever juvenile county title when they easily defeated a very young Nenagh Eire

Óg 'B' team in the 'C' final. Like the under 12 'C' football there were no semi finals as Mid and West had no teams graded 'C'.

Under 14

Durlas Óg gave a great display of hurling to score a convincing win over Clonmel Óg in the 'A' decider. Durlas Óg easily accounted for Nenagh Eire Óg in the semi final while Clonmel Óg scored a narrow win over a fancied Knockavilla Kickhams side in the other semi final.

It took two games to decide the 'B' final. Borris-Ileigh and Killenaule served up a thrilling final with Killenaule equalising in additional time to force a replay. Killenaule made no mistake in the replay and had an eight point winning margin. In the semi finals Killenaule and Borris-Ileigh defeated Cappawhite and Moyne-Templetuohy respectively.

Skeheenarinky won their second county title in four weeks when they easily accounted for Sean Treacys in the 'C' final. Again there were no semi finals as Mid and North had no teams

graded 'C'.

Under 16

Durlas Óg retained their 'A' title following victory over Moyle Rovers in the final. The Thurles side were always in control and they played some delightful hurling scoring 1-12 of their total of 1-17 from play. Durlas Óg and Moyle Rovers defeated Nenagh Eire Óg and Arravale Rovers respectively in the semi finals. Upperchurch-Drombane edged out St. Patrick's in a thrilling 'B' decider. Upperchurch led by one point at the interval and they defended brilliantly in the final quarter to hold on for a three point winning margin.

There was no 'C' final as the South was the only division to have teams graded at 'C' level this year.

Feile na nGael

Two first half goals were decisive as Durlas Óg defeated Clonoulty-Rossmore in the final. Both Durlas Óg and Clonoulty-Rossmore scored convincing semi final wins over Nenagh Eire Óg and Clonmel Óg respectively. Durlas Óg represented Tipperary in the All Ireland finals in Cork. They failed to make the semi finals losing narrowly to Cork teams Glen Rovers and Na Piarsaigh and defeating Limerick's Na Piarsaigh in their group matches. Kevin Johnston (Loughmore-Castleiney) won the county final of the Feile na nGael Skills and went on to represent Tipperary in the national finals in Cork.

INTER DIVISIONAL COMPETITIONS

Garda Cup

The Under 16 Garda Cup inter divisional hurling was won by North Tipp who defeated South Tipp in the final. The early exchanges were keenly contested with little separating the sides in the opening twenty five minutes. However two goals in as many minutes just before the interval set up victory for a very strong North team who went on to completely dominate the second half and go on to record a convincing victory. West Tipp scored a thrilling win over Mid Tipp in the Shield final.

Peadar Cummins Tournament

Mid Tipp won the Peadar Cummins Under 14 hurling tournament hosted by the Borrisoleigh club. Two vital second half goals gave them a narrow win over South Tipp in the final. North Tipp had a big winning margin over West Tipp in the Shield final.

Friends of Tipperary Under 16 Football

North Tipp had a one point winning margin over South Tipp in a highly entertaining final. North held a three point interval lead having played with the strong wind. Their defence was excellent in the second half and they held on to bring the cup to the North of the county for the first time since 2000. South defeated West in the first semi final with North easily accounting for Mid in the second semi final.

Under 14 Football

South Tipp following an easy win over West Tipp in the semi final went on to prove too strong for North Tipp in the final. North Tipp had to go to extra time to defeat Mid Tipp in their semi final.

County Teams

Arrabawn Co-Op Under 16 Hurling

Tipperary began their campaign in this year's Arrabawn Co-Op All Ireland under-16 hurling championship in Pairc na nÓg, Thurles. They were in a round robin group involving Dublin and Wexford.

Tipp's first match was against Dublin. The home team were sluggish and took a long time to get into their stride. Tipp lead by 0-6 to 1-2 at the interval. Tipperary began the second half much sharper and Patrick Maher goaled in the first minute. A further Tipp goal from Ciaran McGrath in the 42nd minute set Tipp up for victory on a scoreline of Tipperary 2-11



Officers elected at the 2005 Tipperary County Bord na nÓg convention. Pictured L to R: Paddy Nagle (Secretary), J.C. Ryan (Chairman), Frank Morris (Treasurer), John Smith (PRO).

Dublin 1-6.

Because Dublin had already beaten Wexford by a point Tipperary needed to beat, draw with or lose to Wexford by no more than four points to advance to the semi finals. Goals from

Galway edging out Dublin in the Shield final after extra time.

The Tipperary line-out for the Kilkenny match was: Ger Corcoran (Kilruane McDonagh's); Paul Breen (Roscrea), Pádraig Maher (Durlas Óg), Lorcan Ryan (Kilsheelan-Kilcash); Michael Cahill (Durlas Óg), Brendan Maher (Borris-Ileigh), Ger O'Sullivan (Boherlahan-Dualla); John Coughlan (Moynempletuohy), Michael Heffernan (Nenagh Eire Óg); Ciaran McGrath (Toomevara), John Cahill (Kilruane McDonagh's), David Gleeson (Portroe); Darragh O'Brien (Cashel King Cormacs), Patrick Maher (Lorrha), Dwayne Fogarty (Carrick Swan). Subs used Seamus Hennessy (Kilruane McDonagh's), Freddie Williams (Kilruane McDonagh's), Paul Maher (Borris-Ileigh). The other panel members were James Logue (Ballingarry), Paddy Bourke (Moyle Rovers), Stephen Dorney (Durlas Óg), James Dunne (Hollycross-Ballycahill), Darragh Bourke (J.K. Brackens), Liam Dwan (Hollycross-Ballycahill), Páirc Hickey (Kilsheelan-Kilcash), Darren O'Connor (Roscrea), Jerry O'Neill (Cappawhite), Pádraig O'Dwyer (Eire Óg, Annacarty), Joey O'Meara (Mullinahone), Joey Maguire (Upperchurch-Drombane), James Stokes (Gortnahoe-Glengoolie). The selectors were Seamus Barry (Upperchurch-Drombane), John Ryan (Kilsheelan-Kilcash), Noel Browne (Galtee Rovers), Eamon Kelly (Kildangan). Tommy Kennedy (Upperchurch-Drombane) was coach.

Tony Forristal Under 14 Hurling

Tipperary failed in their bid to retain the Tony Forristal title in Waterford. Tipp were in a very



Tipperary County Bord na nÓg U/14 Championship Winning Captains at the County Bord na nÓg Medal Presentation Night in Hayes Hotel.

Picture L to R: Joe Gallagher (Kildangan Feile na nGael), Declan Ryan (Arravale Rovers U/14 A Football), Ciaran Lorrigan (Moyle Rovers U/14 A Hurling), Lee Ryan (Hollycross Ballycahill U/14 B Hurling), Noel Lane (Lorrha U/14 B Football), Peter Acheson (Moyle Rovers Peil na nÓg)

Darragh O'Brien and Dwayne Fogarty gave Tipperary a 2-3 to 0-3 interval lead. Tipp scored a further five points to Wexford's four in the second half to set up a semi final with Kilkenny. Final score Tipperary 2-8 Wexford 0-7.

Tipperary and Kilkenny met in the semi final at Pairc na nÓg. The first half was evenly balanced with Kilkenny holding a two point interval lead (1-6 to 1-4). Patrick Maher was the goal scorer. Kilkenny upped the tempo in the second half and picked off some great points to record a deserving victory (1-17 to 1-7) and qualify for the final against Cork. Kilkenny defeated Cork in the final with

competitive group with Kilkenny, Cork and Galway.

In the first game Tipperary were drawn to play Kilkenny. Tipperary started the stronger and thanks to a John O'Dwyer goal led by 1-4 to 0-3 midway through the half. Kilkenny scored 1-2 without reply to lead by 1-5 to 1-4 at the break. Kilkenny scored 1-1 in the early stages of the second half to increase their lead. Tipperary countered scoring points to Kilkenny's one, but despite sustained pressure were unable to equalise, the final score being Kilkenny 2-7 Tipperary 1-9.

In the second match Tipperary faced Cork, after 20 minutes of intense hurling scores were

level at half-time at 1-5 a piece, Sean MacCormack contributing 1-1. The second half was lost mainly due to the accuracy of the Cork freetaker contributing five points from placed balls, whereas Tipperary squandered three goal chances to again finish trailing by the minimum Cork 1-11 Tipperary 2-7.

Galway having defeated Cork and Kilkenny were our final opponents, a draw or a win would see them into the final on Sunday. Tipperary with a revamped team took the game to Galway and trailed by 1-4 to 1-3 at half time, Sean MacCormack tormenting the Galway defence scoring 1-1. In the second half a re-arranged Tipperary team totally dominated, scoring 2-3 to Galway's 0-4 to leave the final score Tipperary 3-6 Galway 1-8.

The panel was Paul Ryan (Upperchurch-Drombane), Kevin Johnston (Loughmore-Castleiney), Shane Maher (Nenagh Eire Og), Jack Fennelly (Ballingarry), Willie Ryan (Clonakenny), Liam Butler (Moynempletuohy), Adrian Cleere (Ballingarry), Thomas Butler (Clonoulty-Rossmore), Ruairi Gleeson (Kildangan), Kenneth Horgan (Knockavilla Kickhams), John O'Dwyer (Killenale), Sean McCormack (Borrisoleigh), Padraig Heffernan (Clonoulty-Rossmore), Aidan McGrath (Loughmore-Castleiney), Aidan Fogarty (JK Brackens), Kevin Hogan (Carrick Swans), Denis Maher (Durlas Og), Eoin O'Connell (Fethard), Michael Russell (Durlas Og), Alan Hogan (Shannon Rovers), Pat Molloy (Moycarkey-Borris), Neil Gleeson (St Patricks, Drangan), Sean Harty (Upperchurch-Drombane), Michael Ivors (Ballingarry), Paddy Grace (Toomevara).
Selectors: Tony Hogan (Carrick Swan), Tom O'Donnell (Golden-Kilfeacle), Seanie Johnston (Loughmore-Castleiney), Liam Flannery (Nenagh Eire Og). Coach: Martin Treacy (Hollycross-Ballycahill). First Aid: Maurice Ryan (Knockavilla Kickhams).

Carrighoun Under 15 Hurling Tournament

Tipperary were drawn against Limerick, Cork, Clare and Waterford in this years Carrighoun Under 15 tournament in Cork.

In the opening game Tipp defeated Limerick by 0-10 to 1-3. At the interval Tipp were leading by 0-6 to 1-2. Tipperary's second game was against Cork. With five minutes to go, Tipp looked in trouble trailing by five points. Then they dug deep and David Nolan, who scored Tipp's goal in the first half, got his second and his side added two points to bring about a draw. Final score Tipperary 2-6 Cork 1-9.

Two games played and three points. Had Tipp enough in reserve for their third game against Clare? Tipp led from the throw in and at half time had a 0-6 to 0-4 lead. After the break, Tipp were pushed all the way but David Nolan and Paddy O'Brien had a score each with Noel McGrath pointing three frees to give Tipperary another win (0-11 to 1-6). The final game was against Waterford and despite having played three hard games Tipperary gave a great display to record a two point winning margin on a scoreline of Tipperary 0-11 Waterford 2-3. This result gave Tipp a place in the final against Cork.

The final was keenly contested with very little separating the teams in the first half. Tipp held a two point interval lead. A few refereeing decisions went Cork's way in the second half and their ace freetaker pointed on each occasion to punish Tipperary. Tipp fought back but time ran out and at the full time whistle Cork held a five point lead (2-13 to 1-11).

The Tipperary panel was: Ciarán Lorrigan

(Moyle Rovers), Ciarán Shelly (Ballingarry), Kieran Murphy (Killenale), Patrick Coates (Cashel King Cormacs), John O'Neill (Clonoulty-Rossmore), Patrick O'Brien (Knockavilla Kickhams), Gerry Horgan (Knockavilla Kickhams), Gavin Ryan (Rockwell Rovers), Mark Flannery (Nenagh Eire Og), Patrick Murphy (Nenagh Eire Og), Joe Gallagher (Kildangan), Cian Hayes (Kildangan), Eanna Gleeson (Kildangan), Ciaran Hough (Lorrha), Ciaran Duggan (Lorrha), William Donnelly (Borrisoleigh), David Nolan (Toomevara), Lorcan O'Riordan (Roscrea), David Butler (Drom-Inch), James Barry (Upperchurch), Colm Ryan (Upperchurch-Drombane), Seamie Leahy (Boherlahan-Dualla), Rory Ryan (Moycarkey-Borris), Thomas O'Keeffe (Gortnahoe-Glengoole), Noel McGrath (Loughmore-Castleiney), Bill McCormack (Durlas Og).
The selectors were Kevin Shelly (Ballingarry), Gerry Beary (Cappawhite), Matt Lillis (Nenagh Eire Og), Ger O'Keeffe (Gortnahoe-Glengoole).

Munster Under 16 Football Championship

Tipperary travelled to Limerick for the Munster championship. They were drawn to play Clare in the first round but the Banner County withdrew from the competition and Tipperary received a walk-over. South Kerry were the opposition in the semi final. Tipperary started well and despite a Kerry goal in the first minute Tipperary battled back to score three unanswered points to level the match at the end of the first quarter. Kerry got some excellent points in the closing stages of the first half to lead by 1-8 to 0-5 at the interval. The stronger and very skilful Kerry side pulled away in the second half and ran out convincing winners on a scoreline of South Kerry 3-18 Tipperary 0-8.

The Tipperary team was: Ciaran Kerwick (Moyle Rovers), Brian Silke (Cashel King Cormacs), Freddie Williams (Kilruane McDonaghs), Michael O'Sullivan (Arravale Rovers) (Captain); Christopher Sheehan (Fethard), Diarmuid O'Sullivan (Ardfinnan), Jamie Power (Clonmel Commercial); Keith McMahon (Inane Rovers), Paddy Murphy (Nenagh Eire Og); Alan Moloney (Rockwell Rovers), Seamus Hennessy (Kilruane McDonaghs), John Coughlan (Moynempletuohy); Darragh O'Brien (Cashel King Cormacs), Gavin Ryan (Rockwell Rovers), Sean Carey (Moyle Rovers). Substitutes: Peter Acheson (Moyle Rovers), Fergal McNamara (Arravale Rovers), Eanna Gleeson (Kildangan), Conor Byrnes (Cashel King Cormacs), Cian Doyle (Inane Rovers), Jonathan Cody (Clonakenny), Cian Hayes (Kildangan), Shane Looby (Golden-Kilfeacle), Carl Ryan (Newcastle), James Dunne (Hollycross-Ballycahill), Liam O'Donoghue (Clonmel Commercial), Billy O'Meara (Aherlow).

The selectors were Tommy Fitzgerald (Solohead), Neil Ryan (Hollycross-Ballycahill), Paul Comer (Burgess) and Christy Alyward (Clonmel Og). The coach was Donnacha Horan (Eire Og Annacarty).

County Under 15 Football

The annual Munster Under 15 football blitz was held in Cork. Tipperary acquitted themselves very well losing to Clare in the Plate final. This was a match Tipperary could have won as Clare scored two late goals to snatch victory. Tipperary's best display on the day was against a highly rated Cork side who got a controversial late goal to win by the minimum margin.

The following was the team that lined out against Clare in the Plate final: Aaron Savage (Nenagh Eire Og); Sean O'Brien (Newport), Declan Ryan (Arravale Rovers) (Captain), John O' Heney (Lattin-Cullen); David Kent (Ballina), Kevin O'Riordan (J.K. Brackens), Robert Kiely (Arravale Rovers); Donnacha Lonergan (Kilsheelan-Kilcash), Eoin McCarthy (Arravale Rovers); Prionsios Matthews (Clonakenny), Paddy Finnan (Arravale Rovers), Declan Riordan (Solohead); Paul Conway (Kilruane



In 2004 the U/12 - U/14 - U/16 A County Football Championships were won by Arravale Rovers surely an unique achievement. Pictured here the three winning captains, Shane Leahy U/12 (Standing in Front), Declan Ryan U/14 (Back Left), Paul Ryan U/16 (Back Right)

McDonaghs), Billy Quinn (Galtee Rovers), Aaron O'Donovan (Fethard). Substitutes: Paul McEvoy (Cahir), Darren Moloney (Newport), Michael O'Dwyer (Arravale Rovers), Kieran Doherty (Newport), John McCarthy (Ballylooby-Castlegrace), Brian Mullally (Clonakenny), Kevin McGlinchey (Newport), David Farrelly (J.K. Brackens).

The selectors were Patsy Farrell (Nenagh Eire Og), Nicholas McCarthy (Arravale Rovers) and Gerry Hennebray (Kilsheelan-Kilcash).

Jim Power Under 14 Inter County Football

Tipperary participated in the annual Jim Power memorial Under 14 inter county football tournament in Waterford. They were narrowly defeated by Cork City in their opening match. This defeat put them into the Plate semi final



Tipperary County Bord na nOg U/12 Championship Winning Captains at the County Bord na nOg Medal Presentation Night in Hayes Hotel. Picture L to R: Shane Leahy (Arravale Rovers U/12 A Football), Joe Dwyer (Killanaule U/12 B Hurling), Philip Ryan (Clonoulty Rossmore U/12 A Hurling), Michael Rafter (Gortnahoe Glenagoole U/12 B Football), Donnacha Heffernan (Nenagh Eire Og U/12 (Hurling))

where the opposition was Laois. Tipperary suffered a heavy defeat to a very good Laois side in this match. The Tipperary panel was: Dara Haugh (Shannon Rovers), Sean O'Connor (Cahir), Shane Russell (Latin-Cullen), Ciaran O'Donnell (Ballylooby-Castlegrace), Eanna Murray (Templederry), Shane McCormack (Moyle Rovers), Eamon Connolly (Loughmore-Castleiney), Jason Lonergan (Carrick Swan), Adam Stafford (Clonmel Commercials), Brian Stapleton (Templederry), Sean O'Meara (Arravale Rovers), Roger Peters (Cahir), Luke Murphy (Ballylooby-Castlegrace), Jason Coffey (Ardfinnan), Michael Hickey (Cahir), Kevin Crotty (Ballyporeen), Diarmuid Fogarty (Moynē-Templetuohy), Matthew Fitzgerald (Fethard), Shane Foley (Moyle Rovers), Tommy Kavanagh (Borris-Ileigh), Cian Hogan (Clonmel Og), William Eviston (Loughmore-Castleiney), Michael O'Connell (Templederry), Padraig Greene (Upperchurch-Drombane), Paul Walsh (Carrick Swan).
The selectors were Roddy Lowry (Upperchurch-Drombane), Patsy Farrell (Nenagh Eire Og) and Kieran Hogan (Clonmel Og).

RESULTS

Campion Insurance Group Football Championships 2005

U/12 'A'
Clonmel Commercial 1-7 Loughmore-Castleiney 1-1
Semple Stadium 20th June 2005 W. Kennedy
U/12 'B'
Moycarkey-Borris 2-2 Carrick Swan 1-4
Semple Stadium 20th June 2005 J. Kissane
U/12 'C'
Portroe 2-2 Moyle Rovers 'B' 1-4
Semple Stadium 20th June 2005 H. Coughlan
U/14 'A'
J.K. Brackens 0-3 Clonoulty-Rossmore 0-3
The Ragg 1st October 2005 M. Griffin
U/14 'A' Replay
J.K. Brackens 3-2 Clonoulty-Rossmore 0-6
Drombane 9th October 2005 K. Delahunty
U/14 'B'
Ballyporeen 4-7 Moynē-Templetuohy 3-7
Cashel 25th July 2005 R. O'Connor
U/14 'C'
Ballylooby-Castlegrace 4-13 Silvermines 3-0
Semple Stadium 1st August 2005 G. O'Shea

U/16 'A'
Clonmel Commercials 3-7 Nenagh Eire Og 4-4
Hollycross 4th July 2005 P. Cullen
U/16 'A' Replay
Clonmel Commercials 3-19 Nenagh Eire Og 2-5
Clonoulty 18th August 2005 J. Kelly
U/16 'B'
Ballingarry 2-16 Lorrha 2-8
Borrisoleigh 15th August 2005 G. O'Shea
U/16 'C'
Solohead 3-7 Ballylooby-Castlegrace 0-8
Hollycross 4th July 2005 P. Ralph
Peil na nOg
Arravale Rovers 2-8 J.K. Brackens 2-3
Boherlahan 12th May 2005 F. O'Brien

Campion Insurance Group Hurling Championships 2005

U/12 'A'
Clonoulty-Rossmore 3-5 Hollycross-Ballycahill 1-7
Semple Stadium 4th September 2005 B. White
U/12 'B'
Moneygall 0-4 Fethard 0-4
Semple Stadium 4th September 2005 P. Ralph
U/12 'B' Replay
Moneygall 0-8 Fethard 0-4 Borrisoleigh
18th September 2005 K. Butler
U/12 'C'
Skeheenarinka 6-7 Nenagh Eire Og 'B' 0-1
Semple Stadium 4th September 2005 W. Kennedy
U/14 'A'
Durlas Og 4-12 Clonmel Og 0-4 Semple
Stadium 25th September 2005 J. Cleary
U/14 'B'
Killenaule 2-7 Borris-Ileigh 1-10
The Ragg 1st October 2005 J. Kelly
U/14 'B' Replay
Killenaule 3-8 Borris-Ileigh 2-3
Templetuohy 8th October 2005 G. O'Shea
U/14 'C'
Skeheenarinka 8-18 Sean Treacys 1-1 Semple
Stadium 25th September 2005 P.J. Leahy
U/16 'A'
Durlas Og 1-17 Moyle Rovers 1-6 Cashel
22nd October 2005 John Ryan
U/16 'B'
Upperchurch-Drombane 1-10 St. Patrick 1-7
Boherlahan 15th October 2005 T. Fitzgerald
Feile na nGael
Durlas Og 3-5 Clonoulty-Rossmore 0-4

Boherlahan 12th May 2005 F. O'Brien

Interdivisional Competitions

Garda Cup Under 16 Hurling

Final

North 5-15 South 1-6.

Venue: The Ragg.

Date: 5th March 2005

Shield Final

West 1-10 Mid 0-11.

Venue: Clonoulty.

Date: 5th March 2005

Peadar Cummins Under 14 Hurling

Final

Mid 2-15 South 2-9. Venue: Borrisoleigh.

Date: 9th July 2005.

Friends of Tipperary Under 16 Football

Final

North 0-7 South 0-6. Venue: Pairc na nOg.

Date: 1st May 2005.

Under 14 Football

Final

South beat North. Venue: Pairc na nOg.

Date: 6th August 2005.

ARRABAWN CO-OP ALL IRELAND

Group A (Pairc na nOg – 27th August 2005)

Tipperary 2-11 Dublin 1-6; Dublin 1-11 Wexford 0-13; Tipperary 2-8 Wexford 0-7

Group B (Thurles Sarsfields Pitch – 27th August 2005)

Kilkenny 2-11 Laois 1-6; Laois 0-9 Carlow 0-7; Kilkenny 2-16 Carlow 1-2.

Group C (The Ragg – 27th August 2005)

Waterford 2-8 Limerick 1-4; Limerick 3-6 Offaly 2-5; Waterford 1-12 Offaly 2-2.

Group D (Borrisoleigh – 27th August 2005)

Cork 2-14 Clare 1-7; Galway 1-10 Clare 0-10; Cork 0-11 Galway 0-8.

Semi Finals

Kilkenny 1-17 Tipperary 1-7 (Pairc na nOg – 27th August 2005)

Cork 1-7 Waterford 2-3 (The Ragg – 27th August 2005)

Final (McDonagh Park, Nenagh – 28th August 2005)

Kilkenny 3-11 Cork 0-14

Shield Semi Finals

Dublin 0-14 Laois 1-9 (Thurles Sarsfields Pitch – 27th August 2005)

Galway 4-12 Limerick 0-16 (after extra time) (Borrisoleigh – 27th August 2005)

Shield Final (McDonagh Park, Nenagh – 28th August 2005)

Galway 1-15 Dublin 1-13 (after extra time).

County Bord na nOg Officers 2005

Chairman: J.C. Ryan (Upperchurch-Drombane)

Secretary: Paddy Nagle (Carrick Davins)

Treasurer: Frank Morris (J.K. Brackens)

P.R.O.: John Smith (Durlas Og)

Rep. to senior Board: Jim Lynch (Cahir)

Divisional Representatives

Mid: Roddy Lowry (Upperchurch-Drombane), Neil Ryan (Hollycross-Ballycahill), Martin Treacy (Hollycross-Ballycahill), Joe Moran (Moycarkey-Borris).

North: Sean Creamer (Portroe), Ann McGrath (Burgess), Sheila Delaney (Borrisoleigh), Gerry O'Flynn (Silvermines).

South: Dick Egan (Mullinahone), Liam Bolger (St. Marys), Martin Cody (Mullinahone), Michael Lonergan (Ardfinnan).

West: Richard O'Connor (Arravale Rovers), John Hally (Rockwell Rovers), Gerry Beary (Cappawhite), Tom Fitzgerald (Solohead).

South Tipperary Bórd na nÓg 2005.

Kieran Hogan PRO

The U/16 Hurling finals brought the curtain down on what has been an intense and exhausting season both on and off the field. There were twenty titles down for decision, which necessitated the playing of close on 440 games. History was made also as Clerihan fielded juvenile teams for the first time ever when they became the latest recruits to our ranks. The Péil and Féile competitions got our season going with Cahir taking the Péil competition with impressive ease when they defeated Commercials in the final. In the Féile equivalent Clonmel Óg took the title when they overcame Ballingarry in a rip-roaring final in atrocious conditions.

The Hurling Championships were keenly contested this year and the Skeheenarinky club will have good reason to remember 2005 as they won all three C Titles. St Mary's took the U/12 A honours with Fethard taking the B equivalent. The U/14 B title went to Killenaule and Clonmel Óg followed up their Féile success by capturing the A championship. It took a replay and extra time before Moyle Rovers overcame Mulinahone in the U/16 A final. St Patrick's Gaels took the U/16 B championship when they defeated Carrick Swan.

Commercials had a year to remember when they won the U/12A, U/14A and U/16 A football titles. This was a fantastic achievement for the Clonmel club. Their comeback against Moyle Rovers in the U/16 Final will be remembered for a long time in G.A.A. circles in South Tipperary. Ballingarry were the victors in the U/16 B grade while Ballylooby/Castlegrace took the C Title. Ballyporeen won the U/14 B championship with Ballylooby/Castlegrace successful in the C grade and at U/12 level Carrick Swan took the B honours with Moyle Rovers B taking the C title.

Our divisional teams had some success with pride of place going to our U/14 footballers who were convincing winners of the inter-divisional title. Our U/14 hurlers reached the final before losing to a very strong Mid side. Our U/16 footballers succumbed to the North division in their final but our U/16 hurlers failed to gain a victory in the Garda Cup despite their best efforts. They fared better in the Munster championship with some hard won victories.

We could not have got through the season without the co-operation of a lot of people. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the referees for their continued support. We also had great support from all clubs and their delegates and to our sponsors a big thank you for your continued support.

The officers of the board deserve tremendous credit for the selfless efforts they have put in again this year and there is no resting on their collective laurels as a new U/13 Football commences within the next week and with a 100% positive response with could see underage competition heading in a new direction.



Carrick Swan Under 12 B South Football Champions and beaten finalists in South A Hurling Championships

Back Row, L to R: Ciaran Coady, Stephen Benesch, Mikey Loughman, Shane O'Dwyer, Shane Torpey, Ian Roche, Jamie Torpey, David Ryan, Colin Waters, Alex Whitty, Liam Bates, Adam Keys, Killian Keever, Gavin O'Halloran

Front Row, L to R: Randall Barlow, Aidan Ryan, Michael Morrissey, Colin Loughman, Martin Griffin, Eoin Wells (Captain), Evan Hogan, Jack Doherty, Kieran Lonergan, Tomas Power, James O'Hanlon



St Mary's Under 12 A South Champions 2005

Back Row, L to R: Gavin Maher, Kealan Maher, Harry Murphy, Evan Comerford, Ian Fahey, Michael Quinlivan, Shean O'Loughlin, Michael McCullagh, Ross Smith, Jason Mullins, Shane Flynn, Alex Connolly, Seamus Kennedy (Captain), Michael Quinlivan

Front Row, L to R: Liam Merchain, Padraigh Loran, Joey Phelan, Coleman Kennedy, Samuel Ryan, Alex Purcell, David Collins, Michael Boland, Noel Williams, James O'Sullivan, Ciaran Brady, Stephen Allen

St Patrick Under 10 B Hurling Team winners of the South Final Championship

Front Row (left to right) Cillian Slattery, Conor Clancy, James Lahart, Cathal Meagher, Kieran O'Brien, Gerard Horan (capt), Aidan Buckley, Dylan Burgess, Stephan O'Brien, Shauna Moloney

2nd Row (left to right) Daragh Wilson, Brian Kenny, Conor Gorey, Ciaran Mockler, Stephen McGrath, James Buckley, Mark Mullally, Cathal Mahoney, Stephan Lawless, Darren Boland, Jack Hennessey

Also included Tom Mahoney (selector) Paddy Gorey (Selector), Michael Kenny (Selector).





Commercials Under 12 Panel 2005

Back Row, L to R: Shane McCausland, Darren Cass, Neil Butler, Brian Walsh, Jason Clarke, Shane O'Loughlin, Levi Whelan, Coleman Kennedy, Seamus Kennedy, Padraig Quinlivan, Michael Quinlivan, Evan Comerford, Cormac Rea, Ian Fahy, Harry Murphy, Cathal McGeever, Liam Murchan, Gavin Wynne, Michael Kelly

Front Row, L to R: Michael Boland, Brian Bates, Michael Doyle, Alex Connolly, Rohan Khan, James O'Sullivan, Aidan Rea, Ciaran Brady, Keith Browne, Cian Mackey, Joey Phelan, Ryan Conran, Christopher O'Gorman, Emmet Kelly, Padraig White, Padraig Loomam, Shane Flynn

Missing from Photograph: Michael McCullagh, Adam O'Dwyer, Alex Purcell, Eoin Lynch

Gerard Kenny Memorial Shield Winners.
Skeheenarinka Under 11 Team Winners of the
Bride Rovers, Co Cork 9 a side hurling blitz

Front Row, L to R: Fionain "Suilleabhan,
William English, Rioin O'Callaghan, Tommy
Sweeney, Seamus O'Callaghan (Captain), Noel
Vaughan, Bobby Breedy, Adam Finn.
Standing: Sean O'Reilly, Eoin Morrissey, Adam
Macken, Ben Macken, Micky Sweeney, John
Martin

Back Row, L to R: Noel O'Callaghan (Mentor),
Mike & Margaret Kenny (Memorial Shield
Sponsors), Eddie Maher (Manager)



Skeheenarinka Under 14 South Champions
and County Champions

Front Row: P. Cole, S. O'Callaghan, J. Martin,
K. Crotty, P. Quinlan (Captain), T. Sweeney, A.
Crotty, J. McCarthy, N. King, J. O'Callaghan
2nd Row: Mike McGrath (Selector), N. Barrett,
D. Kennedy, S. Fitzgibbon, D. Barrett, J.
O'Brien, M. Hennessy, K. Carey, M. Hannon,
A. Breedy, S.O'Farrell, L. McEniry, T. Feeny
Third Row: Conor O'Farrell (Manager), Declan
Duggan (Selector)

Under 16 South County Champions.

Back Row, L to R: John O'Brien, Steven
O'Dwyer, Daniel Harvey, Colm Nolan, Colin
Mullins, Liam O'Donoghue, Jamie Power,
Steven Buckley, Owen Carey, Darragh Ryan,
Paul Dempsey, Alan Loneragan, Conor Walsh,
Brendan O'Sullivan, David Hayne

Front Row, L to R: Glenn Nugent, Jason
Barnes, James McGrath, Mark Power, Luke
Moore, Simon Scully, Martin O'Brien, Donal
Lynch (Captain), Dale Philips, Brian O'Hara,
Billy Hewitt, Emmett Donlon



St Patrick's Grangemockler, Winners of Co
Tipperary Minor Football League 2005.

Front Row, L to R: Enda Fogarty, Shane Gorey,
John Moroney, Jason Hayes, Tom McGrath,
Eoghan McCormack, Robert McCormack,
Dean Madden, Damian McCormack, Patrick
Moroney.

Back Row, L to R: Danny Gleeson, Brian
Hickey, Stuart Broderick, Tom Burke, Aaron
Cronin, Darren O'Connell, Sam Morrissey,
Robert Ryan, Gerry Mullally, Richard Needham



Under 14 B South Tipperary Champions. Sunday July 3rd 2005 @ Monroe v's Carrick Swans

Back Row, Standing: Matt Hannon, Shane O'Farrell, Mark Hennessy, Kevin Carey, Paul Quinlan, Johnny O'Brien, Kev Crotty, Danny Barrett, Patrick Cole, Michael O'Neill, David Kennedy and Pat Coffey (Selector)
Front Row, Kneeling: Maurice O'Callaghan (Selector), Gemma O'Brien, Anthony Crotty, John O'Callaghan, Colm O'Callaghan, Thomas Feeney, Nicholas King, Anthony Breedy, Jacinta McCarthy and Kathleen Martin

Under 12 Girls County Finalists

Back Row, L to R: Chloe Mullins, Veronica Horgan, Emma Logue, Sinead O'Meara, Niamh White, Aoife O'Reilly, Amy Peters, Tanya Peters, Aidy Ni Challig, Jessica Stokes, Keeva McCann

Front Row, L to R: Louise Boland, Nicole Toibin, Chelsea Burke (Captain), Karen Kavanagh, Orla Hynes, Jessica Newman, Anna Brennan, Loran Grogan, Haylie Grogan



Under 14 South Champions

Back Row, L to R: Shane O'Gorman, Denis Twomey, Darren Bray, Shane Fehily, Conor O'Keefe, Craig Brew, Simon Corcorn, Liam Glendon, Ean'n Linnane, Adam Stafford, Conor Ryan, Steven O'Sullivan, Billy Hewitt, Shane Power

Front Row, L to R: Matthew Hynes, Peter Powell, Evan McGuire, Paul Nolan, Aldo Mettassa, James Corcorn, Gerard Buckley, Emmett Ryan, Jamie Peters, Matthew Morris

Missing from Photo: John Ryan



Under 14 Girls County Champions

Back Row, L to R: Susan Logue, Lisa Guiney, Siobhan Mulhall, Aine Dundon, Christine Humphries (Captain), Caroline Kennedy, Niamh Hanrahan, Amy Dudley, Joanne Walsh
Front Row, L to R: Chelsea Burke, Karen Lyons, Aoife O'Reilly, Laura Griffin, Leah Brennan, Jade Looby, Avril Toibin, Jessica English, Aisling Lyons, Lisa Kerton, Coimhe Bowles



Ballina U-12 Footballers - North 'B' Champions

Back Row (L to R): Raymond Webster, Dylan Ryan, Shane Ward, Adam Maguire, John Floyd, Bill Molloy, Michael Robert Breen, Shane O'Leary, Brian Hanley, Stephen O'Brien, Niall O'Hagan, Johanna King, Declan Ryan
Kneeling: Shane McCormack, Niall Sheedy, Eamon Hayes, Sean Seymour (Captain), Adrian Hanley, Andrew Devereux, James Ryan, Emer McCormack, Christopher O'Meara

Borrisoleigh U-14 hurling panel - North 'B' champions



Burgess U-12 Hurlers - North 'Plate' Champions

Back Row, team mentors: John Hogan, Ted O'Halloran, Michael O'Dwyer, Vinny Ryan and Michael Morrissey.
Middle Row, Tadhg O'Halloran, William Ryan, Robbie Malgneen, Bill O'Flaherty, Jack O'Flaherty, Cian Comerford, John O'Dwyer, Tony Hogan, Eion Gleeson, Vincent Kearns, Kevin Seymour, Niamh O'Donaghue, Caoimhe Maher, Daniel Ryan, Lisa Malgreen
Front Row: William Forby, Hughie O'Brien, Jamie Maxwell, Daniel Collins, John O'Brien, John O'Flaherty, Robbie Reidy, Pdraig Gill, Christopher Armitage, Kevin O'Flaherty (Captain), Jack O'Donovan, Brian McGrath, Conor Gill, Patrick Morrissey, Derek Mulgreen

Tipperary Hurler Eamonn Corcoran was special guest at Burgess GAA Juvenile Club Presentation in Kilcoleman where he is pictured with victorious captains who led their respective teams to North championship honours.

(L-R) Eoin Hogan (U-12 Hurling), JP Gunne (U-12 Football) and Denis Carroll (U-16 Football with Burgess Gaels)



History makers Kildangan who won the North under 16 'B' Hurling title for the first time when they beat Lorrha 1.13 to 1.7. in the final.

North Bord na nOg Results 2005

U-12 "A" Football Semi-final

Nenagh Eire Og 1-5 Inane Rovers 1-3

Final

Nenagh Eire Og 2-4 Burgess 1-3

U-12 "B" Semi-finals

Borrisokane 3-6 Templederry 1-4

Ballina 3-4 Kildangan 0-2

Final

Ballina 3-2 Borrisokane 1-4

U-12 "C" Semi-final

Portroe 6-11 Ballinahinch 2-0

Final

Portroe 4-9 Silvermines 2-6

U-14 "A" Semi-finals

Newport 1-12 Borris-Ileigh 2-4

Nenagh Eire Og 2-12 Kilruane MacDonaghs 2-5

Final

Nenagh Eire Og 6-10 Newport 1-5

U-14 "B" Semi-final

Shannon Rovers Gaels 1-5 Templederry 0-6

Final

Shannon Rovers Gaels 2-9 Lorrha 2-2

U-14 "C" Semi-final

Silvermines 4-4 Ballina 0-1

Final

Silvermines 4-7 Ballinahinch 3-3

U-16 "A" Semi-finals

Nenagh Eire Og 2-14 Newport 0-3

Kilruane MacDonaghs 3-9 Inane Rovers 2-10

Final

Not played as yet

U-16 "B" Semi-finals

Lorrha 4-7 Kildangan 1-8

Burgess 1-9 Ballina/Ballinahinch 1-7

Final

Lorrha 3-9 Burgess 2-8

U-12 "A" Hurling Semi-finals

Roscrea 1-14 Toomevara 3-6

Nenagh Eire Og 3-5 Kilruane MacDonaghs 1-2

Final

Nenagh Eire Og 2-6 Roscrea 1-9

Replay: Roscrea 0-7 Nenagh Eire Og 1-2

U-12 "B" Semi-Finals

Templederry 3-4 Borrisokane 2-5

Moneygall 1-5 Ballina 0-3

Final

Moneygall 1-4 Templederry 2-0

U-12 "C" Semi-final

Ballinahinch 6-4 Burgess "B" 3-1

Final

Nenagh Eire Og "B" 5-4 Ballinahinch 1-3

U-14 "A" Semi-finals

Roscrea 3-6 Burgess 0-1

Nenagh Eire Og 6-8 Kilruane MacDonaghs 2-4

Final

Nenagh Eire Og 2-11 Roscrea 1-7

U-14 "B" Semi-finals

Borris-Ileigh 5-11 Borrisokane 2-8

Shannon Rovers Gaels 7-8 Moneygall 1-1

Final

Borris-Ileigh 3-12 Shannon Rovers Gaels 0-4

U-16 "A" Semi-finals

Nenagh Eire Og 3-12 Roscrea 0-4

Kilruane MacDonaghs 1-13 Borris-Ileigh 0-7

Final

Nenagh Eire Og 3-5 Kilruane MacDonaghs 0-9

U-16 "B" Semi-finals

Kildangan 1-15 Portroe 0-14

Lorrha 5-12 Shannon Rovers Gaels 2-5

Final

Kildangan 1-10 Lorrha 1-6

Nenagh Eire Og Juvenile Club

Nenagh Eire Og juvenile club had a very successful year in 2005 both on and off the pitch. The wearing of the club jersey and being part of a team play an important role in the lives of our juveniles. At the start of the year the juvenile committee arranged new initiatives for our players from under-8s to under-16s. All juveniles were supplied with membership cards and agreements were reached with retailers to give members discounts on production of the card. We also arranged the purchase of complete kits for our teams from Community Games up to under 16s.

This was a major undertaking by the juvenile club but was very important in ensuring that our players have an "identity" when representing the club. We would not have been able to undertake such initiatives but for the tremendous support from parents, supporters and the Nenagh business community in our various fund raising activities throughout the year.

Success on the field

The effort and commitment by the players and mentors resulted in a very successful year in both hurling and football for the juvenile club. The club are North champions in the following competitions: Feile na nGael (hurling and football); under 12 C (hurling); under 12A (football); under 14A (hurling); under 14A (football); under 16A (hurling).

Eire Og under 16 footballers were beaten by Clonmel Og in the county final after a replay. This team represented the division as the North final has still to take place against Kilruane.

In addition to the above, our Community Games teams had a successful year. We were finalists in the North section of the hurling and after a great display our footballers lost in the county final to Cahir. Also, our under 12A hurling team were beaten in a replay in the North final by Roscrea.

Our under 12C hurling team got to the county final but were beaten by Skeheenarinky who were winning their first Juvenile title.

We also had teams competing in various tournaments at under 10s and under 8s during the year.

Our Summer Camp was the most successful to date with 140 boys and girls enjoying hurling and football coaching in glorious sunshine.

The club was represented on various divisional and county teams over the past year and we look forward to these players wearing the county colours in future.

The juvenile club is fortunate to have coaches and officers who give so much of their time to the club. At present there are over 80 boys under 10yrs. attending training on a regular basis and this age group is seen as the future of the club with coaching a vital component in this regard.

Best of luck to all our teams in 2006.

Best Wishes to Tipperary GAA 2006

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Best Wishes to Tipperary GAA 2006

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Killaloe Tournament: Congratulations to our under 10 hurlers who entered the GAA history books on Monday last when they became the first Tipperary Club to win the final of Killaloe u10 Tournament. Portroe defeated teams from South Liberties, Moneygall, Feakle and Parteen in four very close and well contested games to win the final. Thanks to the Sheedy Family, Killaloe who have organised this tournament for the last 7 years in memory of their son Noel who lost his life through Meningitis. Thanks also to manager Donnacha Keating and Selector Anthony O'Connor who had the players in fit form for the tournament. The club and the boy's parents can be very proud of their performance last weekend and can look forward to more success in the future. The panel of players lined out were as follows: Conor Byrne, Nigel Flood, Conor Leo, Niall Gleeson, Ian O'Donnell, Kevin O'Halloran, Jack Keating Ciaran Qulligan, Joseph Knight, Shane Ryan, Michael O'Connor (Captain) and Subs: Shane Cody, Michael Malone and Greg O'Brien. Well Done to All.

Lorrha & Dorra U-16 Footballers - North 'B' Champions

Back Row (L to R): Conor Haugh, Aidan Haugh, (No 23), Cian Hogan, Andrew Hector, Ciaran Duggan, Ronan Moore, Diarmuid Mannion (Captain), Patrick Maher, James Hooton, Sean Cleary, Ciaran Haugh
Kneeling: Noel Lane, Sean O'Meara, David Fogarty, James Duggan, Brendan Fogarty, Brendan O'Brien, William Maher, Eoin O'Meara, Graham Houlihan, Conor Glynn.



Moneygall U -12 Hurling Panel - North and County 'B' Champions

Mentors: Eamonn Toohey, Rudy Spillane, Kevin Maher, Michael Maher
Back Row: Niamh Larkin, Elizabeth Cahill, Edwina King, Emily Bergin, Michael Treacy, Aidan Fanning, Ben O'Connor, Brendan Quinlan, Paul Quinlan
Middle Row: Sean Fogarty, Jack Maher, Anthony Devereux, Ciaran Quinlan, Cathal Kennedy, Alan Maher, Brendan Toohey, Patrick Devereux
Front Row: Philip Donovan, Eoin Greene, Patrick Egan, Liam Carroll
Missing: Brian Teehan, Stephen O'Meara, Kevin Powell.

Nenagh Eire Og U -12 Footballers - Nth 'C' Champions



Nenagh Eire Og U-14 Footballers - North Peil na nOg Champions

Back Row (L to R): John Donnellan (Selector), Adrian Brennan, Billy Heffernan, Eoin Byrne, Joshua Burke, Daniel Ryan, Pearse O'Brien, David Cleary, Taz Kevin, Shane Maher, Willie O'Connor, Oisín McGlynn, Patsy Farrell (Manager)
Kneeling: Christopher Tinkler, David Hickey, Dwayne Kennedy, Daire Quinn, Matthew Corrigan, Kevin O'Gorman, Conor Cusack, Cliff Moloney (Captain), Sean Byrne, Tommy Heffernan, John Minogue



Nenagh Eire Og U-12 Football Panel - North Champions

Back Row (L to R): Aayush Tripathi, Kevin Gubbins, Daryl McGee, Henreio Casey, Conor Kennedy, Gary Power, Mark Tuite, Mark Higginbottom, Daragh Walsh, Kevin Flynn, Cronin Gleeson, Donnacha Heffernan, Wesley Heenan

Kneeling: Gordan DeVita, Brendan O'Brien, Stephen Nagle, Joseph Geaney, Daryl McCormack (Captain), Wally Ali, Sean Geaney, Andrew Wineman, Paddy Sheahan, Adam Grattan

Nenagh Eire Og U-14 Football Panel - North Champions

Back Row, L-R: Michael Hanlon, Patsy Farrell, Eoin Byrne, Duane Kennedy, Willie O'Connor, David Cleary, Shane Maher, Alan Kevin, Conor Fahy, Pearse O'Brien, John Minogue, Mark Tuite, Adrian Brennan, Joshua Burke, Matthew Corrigan, John Donellan
Kneeling: Billy Heffernan, Cliff Moloney, Kevin O'Gorman, Tommy Heffernan, Conor Cusack, Danny Ryan, Eddie Darcy, Sean Byrne, Daire Quinn, Lisa Maher, Elizabeth Powell, Christopher Tinkler, Oisín McGlynn



Nenagh Eire Og U-16 Hurlers - North Champions

Back Row (L to R): David Cleary, Brian Gleeson, Michael Heffernan, Shane O'Carroll, Mark Grace, Thomas O'Brien, Willie Bolger, Michael Hynes, Patrick Murphy, Shane Maher, Cian Tucker, William O'Connor, Alan Kelly
Front: Patrick Flynn, Sean Healy, Cliff Moloney, Billy Heffernan, Niall Madden, Eoin Slattery, Pearse Morris, Mark Flannery, Damien Ely, Paul Carey, Peter O'Connor, Jamie Gallagher

Nenagh Eire Og U-16 Football Panel - County Finalists

Back Row, L-R: Leonard Ryan, David Cleary, Alan Kelly, Alan Stanley, Peter O'Connor, Michael Heinz, Paddy Murphy, Michael Heffernan, Sean Healy, Thomas O'Brien, Johnny Donnellan
Kneeling: Cliff Moloney, Niall Madden, James Redden, Aran Savage, Pearse Morris, Damien Ely, Mark Fleming, Mark Grace, Willie O'Connor, Shane Maher



Portroe under 12 'C' Football Champions 2005 after they beat Silvermines in the final.



Roscrea U-12 Hurling Team - North 'A' Champions

Selectors - Ger Fitzpatrick, Kieran Stone, Brenny Ryan, Buddy Conlon, John Pyne, Willie Stapleton.

Back Row, L-R: Christopher Neville, Brian O'Lone, Jack Ryan, Michael Campion, Ethan Flynn, Shane Kealy, Thomas Ryan, Stevan Simmons, Kieran Stone.

Middle Row, L-R: Adam Ryan, Shane Davis, Jeff Ryan, Darren Wren, Daryl Ryan, Joe Ryan, David Lupton

Front Row, L-R: Conor Sheedy, Jack Feeney, Craig Loughnane, Micheal Ryan, David Hickey, Michael Fitzgerald, Colin Hassett

Shannon Rovers Gaels under 14 North Football Champions with the Michael McGowan Cup.



Front Row, L-R: Willie Lennox (Selector), Paddy Heenan, Ross Ryan, Sean Donoghue, Darragh McMahon, Alan Hogan, Andrew Byrne, Peter Donoghue (Captain), John Costelloe, Cian Bourke, Philip Kennedy, Grace Ryan, George Ryan (Selector)

Back: Ger Hogan (Selector), Padraic O'Meara, Paul Bourke, David Downey, Darragh Hough, Collie Brown, Danny Bourke, Niall Bourke, Patrick Bourke, Eddie Kennedy, John Ryan, John Costello (Selector)



Shannon Rovers U-14 Football Panel - North 'B' Champions

Back Row (L to R): Ross Ryan, Danny Burke, Collie Brown, Daragh Haugh, David Downey, Padraic O'Meara, Andrew Byrne, Alan Hogan, Eddie Kennedy, John Ryan, Philip Kennedy
Kneeling: Darragh McMahon, Sean O'Donoghue, Paddy Heenan, Paul Burke, Peter Donoghue (Captain), John Costelloe, Niall Burke, Cian Burke, Patrick Burke, Grace Ryan

Silvermines under 14 'C' Football Champions 2005



Toomevara U-14 Panel - North Tipperary Plate Champions

Back Row (L to R): Colm Canning, Conor O'Meara, Andrew Ryan, Kieran Ryan, Micheal Ryan (S), Brian Shanahan, Pandie Maxwell, Brian Delaney, Aidan Cahill, Michael Hogan, Brian Dunne, Paddy Grace (Captain)
Kneeling: Kieran McCarthy, Rodgie Hanly, Padraic Shanahan, Darren Delaney, James McCormack, Marty O'Meara, Michael Ryan (G), Mark Harty, Paudie Bourke, Shane Nolan

Mid Board na nOg Review 2005

By Neil O'Riain (Runai)

The 2005 season in Mid Tipperary as usual commenced with the staging of Peil and Feile tournaments. The first games of Peil were played during the last week in February, with the final taking place in mid March. This was followed immediately with the staging of the Feile and the final being played in the last week in April. Even though those tournaments are "A" grade we allowed every grade to participate so as accommodate pre season club practice games.

Our football championships commenced in April with the last final being played on July 6th. Then it was down to the hurling, which had, its number of drawn games to add to the already bulging fixture list.

Our first final was on August 12th and the last on October 1st.

One hundred and ninety five games were played and served up to the usual high standard of quality and excitement.

In September we ran an U/11 football blitz over two Saturdays with three clubs being hosts for the days. We had two more Saturdays of U/11 hurling blitz run on a similar format to the football. On October 1st all the clubs were in Dr. Morris Park for the third and final day of our hurling blitz. At the conclusion of both blitz's refreshments were thoroughly enjoyed by all our young players and we thank all our hosts clubs for providing their facilities.

On the county scene our division has been very successful. Durlas Og won the county finals in the Feile, U/14 A hurling and secured the U/16 A hurling county title to record two in a row.

Upperchurch/Drombane defended brilliantly in the closing stages against south champions St. Patrick's to become U/16 B hurling champions thereby ensuring our divisional dominance at this grade.

J.K.Brackens went down narrowly to the west champions Arravale Rovers in Peil county final but in October made amends by being victorious in the replay of the U/14 A football county final against west champions, Clonoulty Rossmore.

Moycarkey Borris were successful in bringing the U/12 B football county title to our division by ousting south champions Carrick Swans by the slimmest of margins. Well done to Loughmore Castleiney and Holycross Ballycahill our two U/12 A county finalists in the football and hurling championships respectively.

Our divisional U/14 hurling panel also brought honour to us in winning the Peadar Cummins inter divisional U/14 hurling tournament overcoming the South in the final.

Our under 16 divisional hurling panel were overcome by our colleagues from the

North in the semi finals of the Garda cup and Munster championship. Our U-15 hurlers went down narrowly in the final of the Carrigduinn tournament against Cork.

Our U-16 footballers were overcome by the North in the Friends of Tipperary football semi final and came up against very strong opposition in the Munster u-16 football championship going down against a very strong South Kerry side. We sincerely would like to thank all our players that represented us on the county teams.

We greatly appreciate the cooperation of all our clubs during the very long and arduous season that has come to an end. To our referees a very special thanks and special thanks to John McLoughney for covering all our finals with the camera and to the Tipperary Star for the coverage of our activities. To the officers of the Mid Senior Bord and the County Bord na nOg for their cooperation.

To the manager and friendly reception staff at Hayes Hotel thank you all.

Organising and running games for the good of our young boys and girls involves a huge commitment from a lot of volunteers, for this we say Many Thanks. To our main sponsors Campbell's Soups and to Thurles Credit Union our sponsors for the hurling and football blitz many thanks.

To our individual competition sponsors who are mentioned in the results records thank you.

Our deepest sympathy to the families of all our friends who sadly passed away during the year.

Finally Mid Bord Na nOg wishes all our loyal supporters, friends and sponsors a very pleasant Christmas and fortunate 2006.

Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg Officers 2005

President:	Andy O Gorman	Gortnahoe/Glengoole
Vice President	Liam McGrath	Holycross/Ballycahill
Chairman	Roger Lowry	Upperchurch/Drombane
Vice chairmen	Joe Kennedy	Moyne/Templetuohy
	Joe Moran	Moycarkey/Borris
Secretary	Neil Ryan	Holycross/Ballycahill
Treasurer	Lua Fitzpatrick	J.K.Brackens
P.R.O.	John Smith	Durlas Og
County Bord Reps.	Joe Moran	Moycarkey/Borris
	Martin Treacy	Holycross/Ballycahill
Senior Bord Rep	J.C.Ryan	Upperchurch/Drombane

Mid Bord na nOg Results 2005

Grade	Referee	Date	Result	Venue
Morans U-12'A' Football	Hugh Coghlan	26th May	Loughmore/Castleiney 2-15 Holycross/Ballycahill 2-01	Templetuohy
Morans U-12'A' Football	Pat Cullen	8th June	Moycarkey/Borris 5-08 Drom/Inch 0-06	Templemore
14 'A' Football John J. Ronayne	John Kelly	6th July	Brackens v Loughmore/Castleiney Game awarded to J.K. Brackens	Templetuohy
14 'B' Football	Michael Jordan	4th July	Moyne/Templetuohy 0-06 Moycarkey/Borris 0-06	Gortnahoe
Replay	Martin Treacy	18th July	Moyne/Templetuohy 4-11 Moycarkey/Borris 2-02	The Ragg
Lisheen Mines U-16 'A' Football	Patsy Ralph	9th May	Durlas Og 3-03 J.K. Brackens 0-11	Holycross
John Waters U-16 'B' Football	Gary O'Shea	23rd May	Holycross/Ballycahill 3-08 Moyne/Templetuohy 4-03	The Ragg
Peil na nOg (Sponsor Jimmy Coppinger)	Michael Jordan	19th March	J.K. Brackens 6-10 Durlas Og 0-00	Garda Field
Kevin Darmody U-12 'A' Hurling	Hugh Coghlan	15th August	Holycross/Ballycahill 1-05 Moycarkey/Borris 1-05	Boherlahan
Replay	Willie Clohessy	22nd August	Holycross/Ballycahill 4-06 Moycarkey/Borris 3-07	Boherlahan
Centenary Co-op U-12 'B' Hurling	Michael Jordan	12th August	Boherlahan/Dualla 2-06 Moyne/Templetuohy 1-06	Paire na Nog
U-14 'A' Hurling (Sponsor Spain Family)	Martin Treacy	8th September	Durlas Og 1-06 Loughmore/Castleiney 1-05	The Ragg
Stakelums Hardware U-14 'B' Hurling	Aodan Wrenn	9th September	Moyne/Templetuohy 1-07 Upperchurch/Drombane 1-06	Templemore
Thurles Credit Union U-16 'A' Hurling	Patsy Ralph	25th September	Durlas Og 3-18 J.K. Brackens 0-05	Templetuohy
Mid West Oil U-16 'B' Hurling	Denis Curtis	1st October	Upperchurch/Drombane 1-11 Drom/Inch 0-07	Holycross
Feile na nGael (Sponsor Jimmy Coppinger)	Patsy Ralph	25th April	Durlas Og 4-06 Loughmore/Castleiney 1-02	Garda Field
Feile Skills/Long Puck	Kevin Johnson		Loughmore/Castleiney Divisional and county winner	



Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg Chairman Roddy Lowry presenting Club of the Year Trophy to Eamon Sweeney former Chairman of Loughmore Castleiney. On the left of the picture is Pat O'Connor of Loughmore Castleiney Juvenile Club.



Neil Ryan Secretary Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg makes a presentation to Jimmy Coppinger to mark his retirement as President of the Board

Football Captains at the Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg Presentation Night for Championship Winning Captains in the Hayes Hotel. Pictured - Back Row, L to R: Liam McGrath (Erin Foods Main Sponsors), Jimmy Copinger (Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg President), Paul Connors (Durlas Og Under 16 A Football), Tomas Quinn (Loughmore Castleiney, Peil na nOg), Declan Curran (Gortnahoe Glengoole Under 14 B Football), Brendan de Burca (Drom Inch Under 16 B Football), John Smith (Mid Bord na nOg PRO) Neil Ryan (Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg Secretary)

Front Row, L to R: Joe Kerrigan (Centenary Co-Op Sponsor), Kieran Hackett (Loughmore Castleiney Under 14 A Football), Michael Rafter (Gortnahoe Glengoole Under 12 B Football), Seamus Butler (Special Guest), Mich-il Webster (Special Guest), Tomas McGrath (Loughmore Castleiney Under 12 A Hurling), Joe Moran (Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg Chairman)



Hurling Captains at the Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg Presentation Night for Championship Winning Captains in the Hayes Hotel. Pictured - Back Row, L to R: Liam McGrath (Erin Foods Main Sponsors), Jimmy Copinger (Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg President), Tim Leahy (JK Brackens Under 16 B Hurling), James Barry (Upperchurch Drombane), David Morris (Durlas Og Under 16 A Hurling), John Short (Durlas Og Feile na nGael), Lee Ryan (Holycross Ballycahill Under 14 B Hurling), Neil Ryan (Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg Secretary), John Smith (Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg P.R.O)

Front Row, L to R: Joe Kerrigan (Centenary Co-Op Sponsor), Aidan McGrath (Loughmore Castleiney Under 14 A Hurling), Peter Cleary (Gortnahoe Glengoole Under 12 B Hurling), Seamus Butler (Special Guest), Mich-il Webster (Special Guest), Patrick Nolan (Loughmore Castleiney Under 12 A Hurling), Joe Moran (Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg Chairman)



Outgoing Chairman Joe Moran makes a presentation to Frank O'Regan who retired after many years as Treasurer at the Mid Bord na nOg Convention.



Officers and Guests at the Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg GAA Convention. Picture Back Row, L to R: Matty Connolly (Mid Board Secretary), JC Ryan (Chairman - Tipperary County Bord na nOg), John Smith PRO Mid Bord na nOg, John Doyle (Mid Board Chairman), Jonathan Cullen (Mid Board Youth Officer)

Front Row, L to R: Martin Treacy (County Board Representative), Neil Ryan (Mid Bord na nOg Secretary), Roddy Lowry (Chairman Mid Bord na nOg), Lua Fitzpatrick (Treasurer Mid Bord na nOg), Joe Moran (Outgoing Chairman Mid Bord na nOg)

MID TIPP BORD NA nÓG



The Arravale Rovers Panel that defeated JK Brackens in County Tipperary Bord na nOg Peil na nOg U/14 Final. Picture Back Row L to R Paddy O Connor, Vincent Crowe, Kieran Crowe, Michael Ryan, Joseph O Connor, Diarmuid O Donnell, Michael John Ryan, David Heffernan (Capt), Niall Donovan, Gerard O Dwyer, Morgan O Brien, Paul Ryan, Sean Kilcoyne, Michael Kennedy, Darragh Fitzpatrick, Fergal O Reilly. Front Row L to R John Doherty, Shane Leahy, Barry Collins, Kieran Crowe, Gerard Mulhaire, Sean O Meara, Brian Lowry, Donagh Leahy, Patrick Dalton, Jon Brehony, Brian Kissane, Conor Duggan.

The Ballylooby Castlegrace Panel that defeated Silvermines in the Campion Insurance Group County Tipperary Bord na nOg U/14 C Football Final. Picture Back Row L to R Luke Murphy, Sean Myles, John Doyle, Daniel Fahy, Ciaran O Donnell, Thomas Lonergan, John Sweeney, Kyle Buckley. Front Row L to R Michael Murphy, Daniel Morgan, Ian Burns, Ciaran Maher, Ger Beary, PJ Hanrahan, Thomas Sampson, Dealga Roche.



The Ballyporeen Panel that defeated Moyne Templetuohy in the Campion Insurance Group County Tipperary U/14 B Football Final. Picture Back Row L to R Nicholas King, Anthony Breedy, Kevin Crotty, David Kennedy, Matt Hannon, Danny Barrett, Paul Quinlan, Patrick Cole, Mark Hennessy, Johnny O Brien, Mikey O Neill, Thomas Feeney. Front Row L to R Jacinta McCarthy, Kathleen Martin, Niall Barrett, Ita Macken, Colm O Callaghan, John O Callaghan, Liam McEniry, Shane O Farrell, Gemma O Brien, Anthony Crotty.

The Clonmel Commercials Panel that defeated Eire Og Nenagh in the Campion Insurance County Tipperary Bord na nOg U/16 A Football Replay. Picture Back Row L to R Allen Lonergan, Ebhan Kennedy, Darragh Ryan, Brian O Sullivan, Allen Ward, Jamie Power, Daniel Harvey, Donal Lynch, Liam O Donoghue, Glen Nugent, Eoin Carey, James Mcgrath, Conor Walsh, Paul Dempsey, Sean O Brien, David Hoyne. Front row L to R Padraic White, Jason Barnes, Luke Moore, Brian O Hara, Mark Power, Emmett Donlan, Martin Kennedy, Dale Phillips, Colm Nolan, Simon Sculy, Colm Mullins, Stephen Buckley, Billy Hewitte.



The Clonmel Commercials Panel that defeated Loughmore Castleiney in the Campion Insurance Group County Bord na nOg U/12 A Football Final.



The Durlas Og Panel that defeated JK Brackens in the Lisheen Mines sponsored U/16 A Football Final. Picture Back Row L to R Shane Maher, Sean Smith, Michael McGrath, Laurence Bourke, Stephen Dorney, John Joe Bourke, Sean Moloney, Eoghan Dwyer, Brian Callanan, Patrick Leahy, Rodney Mason, Conor Ryan, Philip Cullen, Bill McCormack, Jonathan Shannon. Front Row L to R John Shortt, Damien Grimes, Padraic Maher, Michael Keane, Ciaran O Shea, Kevin O Gorman, Michael Cahill, Jamie Lennon, Darragh Stakelum, Darren O'Neill, Bobby Stakelum, Shane Maher.

The Holycross Ballycahill Panel that defeated Moyne Templetuohy in the Thurles Bacon sponsored Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg U/16 B Football Final. Picture Back Row L to R Lee Ryan, David Lowry, Tony Leahy, Sean Donnelly, John Slattery, Gary Brady, James Dunne, Justin Shelly, Stephan McLoughlin, Mark O Gorman, Daniel Fennessy, Kieran Gleeson, Daniel Quirke, Aidan Medley. Front Row L to R Denis Ferncombe, Seamus Harty Robery Waters, Liam Dwan, Sean Comerford (Capt), Jack Doyle, Michael Doyle, Colm Moloney, CATHal Carroll, Thomas Comerford.



JK Brackens Mid Tipperary U/14 A Football Champions. Picture Back Row L to R Donal Fitzpatrick, Eoin Bourke, Toby Morgan, Martin Lee, Eoin Fitzpatrick, Austin Purcell, Aidan Fogarty, Jeffrey Morrissey, Michael Carroll, Francis Kennedy, Keith Morris, Francis Sage. Front Row L to R James Newe, Shane Cashman, Patrick Brett, Eoin Kennedy, Patrick Delaney, David Murphy, Joseph Bergin, Keith Kennedy, Richard Buckley, Padraig Bourke, Daniel Bourke, Alan O Riordan, Damien Coffey.

The JK Brackens Panel that defeated Durlas Og in the Mid Tipperary Final of Peil na Nog. Picture Back Row L to R Francis Kennedy, Eoin Fitzpatrick, Austin Purcell, Aidan Fogarty, Noel McLoughlin, Toby Morgan, Patrick Delaney, Donal Fitzpatrick, Martin Lee, Michael Carroll, Joe Bergin, Eoin Bourke, Keith Morris, Keith Kennedy. Front Row L to R Geoffrey Morris, James Newe, Shane Cashman, Patrick Brett, Fergal Byrne, Eoin Kennedy, Damien Bourke, Richard Buckley, Damien Coffey, Jamie Hammell, David Murphy.



The Loughmore Castleiney Panel that defeated Holycross Ballycahill in the Mid Tipperary Bord na nOg Morans U/12 A Football final. Picture Back Row L to R Fionn O Riann Broin, Cian O Riann Broinn, Matthew Flanagan, Brian McGrath, Craig Cleary, Darragh Butler, Liam McGrath, Aaron Sweeney, John McGrath, Andrew Cummins, Lorcan Egan, John Meagher, Patricia McGrath, Aoife McGrath. Front Row L to R Keith Manton, Richard Maher, Joseph Nyland, Martin Meagher, Kevin O Connell, Joseph Hennessy, Noel O Connell, Joseph Hayden, Padraic Hennessy, Denis Brereton, Thomas Maher, Paul Morris, Evan Egan.

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The Moycarkey Borris Panel that defeated Drom Inch in the Mid Tipperary U/12 B Football Final. Picture Back Row L to R Conor Scanlan, Pat Ralph, Timmy Ryan, Richard O Keefe, Geoff Fallon, Niall O Sullivan (Capt), James Bourke, Jamie Costelloe, James O Gorman, Rory O Regan, Shane Byrne, Ciaran Lyons. Front Row L to R Jamie Fitzpatrick, Conor Hayes, Aidan Slattery, Jamie Maher, Michael Cussen, Richard O Keefe, Rory O Regan, Ciaran Flanagan, Greg Healy, Sean Dalton, Ian Corcoran, Pat Maher.

The Moycarkey Borris Panel that defeated Carrick Swans in the Campion Insurance Group County Bord na nOg U/12 B Football Final. Picture Back Row L to R Ciaran Flanagan, Conor Scanlan, Jamie Maher, James Bourke, Aidan Fitzpatrick, Timmy Ryan, Conor Hayes, Jamie Costelloe, Niall O Sullivan (Capt), Richard O Keefe, Pat Ralph, James O Gorman, Pat Maher. Front Row L to R Aidan Slattery, Geoff Fallon, Sean Dillon, Rory O Regan, Michael Cussen, Ciaran Quinn, Shane byrnes, Jamie Fitzpatrick, Ciaran Lyons, John McKenna, Ian Corcoran Greg Healy.

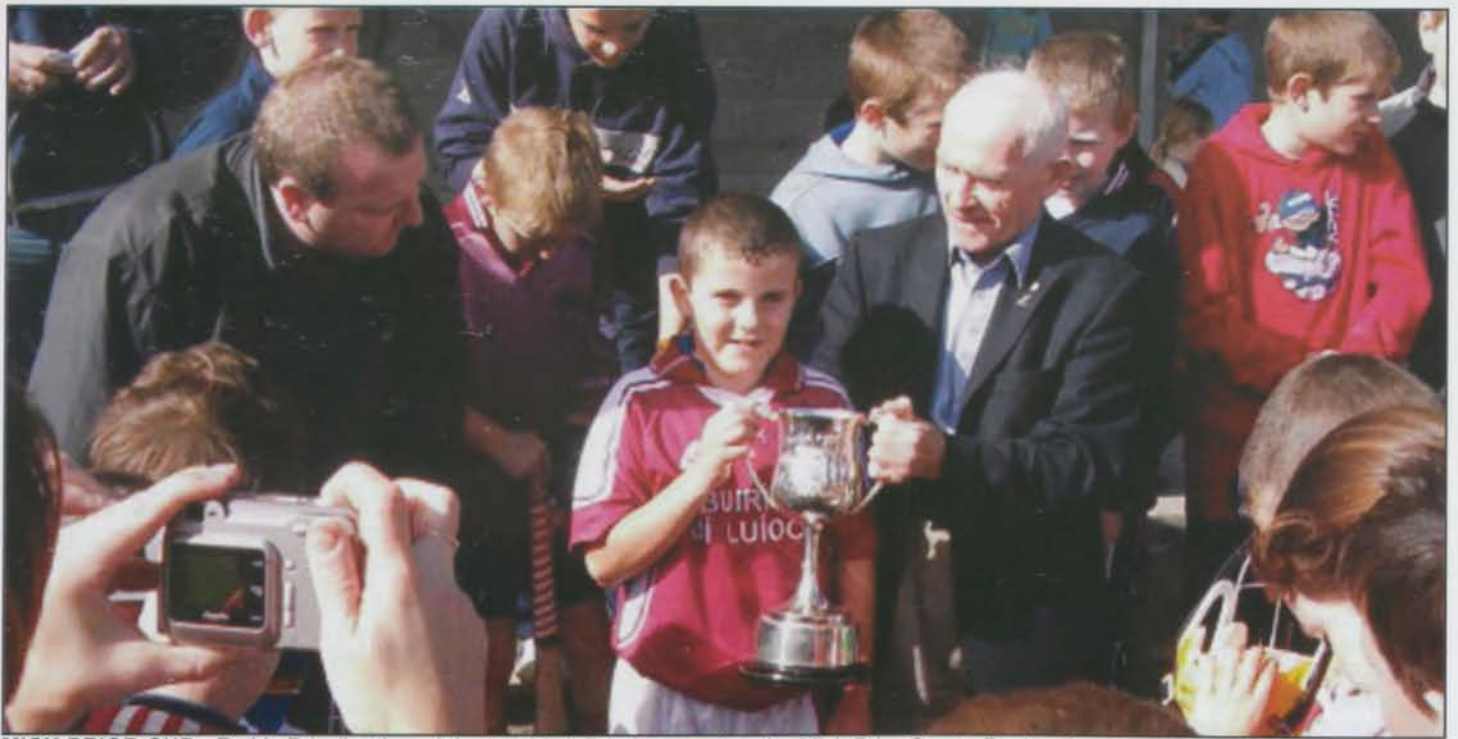


The Moyne Templetuohy Panel that defeated Moycarkey Borris in the John J Ronayne Ltd Mid Tipperary U/14 B Football Final. Picture Back Row L to R Sean Everard, Liam Kelly, Niamh Everard, Joe Bergin, Emma Russell, David Fogarty, Matthew Ryan, James Butler, Jennifer Russell, Liam Ryan, Liam Butler, John Leahy, Diarmuid Fogarty, Martin Kelly, Gary Moore. Front Row L to R Paddy Kelly, Tony Cantwell, Brian Geehan, Ronan Fanning, James Moloney, Martin Sutcliffe, Pierce Meade, Jason Bergin, Aidan Kelly (Captain), Tom Meade, Donnacha Dunne, Ronan Fanning, Paul Bourke.

The Portroe Panel that defeated Moyle Rovers in the Campion Insurance Group sponsored County Bord na nOg U/12 C Football Final. Picture Back Row L to R Colin Hogan, Conor Leo, Michael Shanahan, Ian O'Donnell, Christopher O Riordan, Stephan Kennedy (Capt), Fionan Lawlor, Cathal O'Brien, Nigel Flood, Shane Ryan, Jack Donah. Front Row L to R Ciaran Quilligan, Greg O'Brien, Anthony Flynn, Kevin O'Halloran, Jack Keating, Conor Byrne, Michael O'Connor, Sean Nightengale, Shane Cody. Standing at Back Mick Donnellan, Colm Gleeson, Keith O'Brien.



The Solohead Panel that defeated Ballylooby Castlergrace in the County Bord na nOg U/16 C Football Final.



MICK PRIOR CUP - Paddy Prior(brother of the late Mick Prior) presenting the Mick Prior Cup to Declan Ryan captain of the Borrisoleigh team.

On Saturday October 1st. 2005 the annual Mick Prior Tournament for U10 Hurlers took place in Borrisoleigh. Competing in this very important event in the Borrisoleigh Juvenile Club's calender were Borrisoleigh, Loughmore-Castleiney, Templederrey and Silvermines. After some close and exciting round robin matches where the young hurlers present displayed all of the skills of the game of hurling, hosts Borrisoleigh and Templederrey emerged to contest the final. In a keenly contested first half Borrisoleigh held the advantage at half time despite playing against the wind. Further scores early in the second half allowed Borrisoleigh to pull away and win the Mick Prior Cup for the first time since 2002. Paddy Prior(brother of the late Mick), presenting the cup to Declan Ryan captain of the victorious Borrisoleigh team, said that he was delighted to represent his brother Mick and the Prior family in their association with the tournament and congratulated Borrisoleigh Juvenile club on hosting a very successful tournament.



Borrisoleigh Winners of Mick Prior Cup 2005

Front Row L to R: Jane McCormack, Sean Kenny Stephen Doolan

2nd. Row L to R: Philip McCormack, Thomas Ryan, Dylan Reid, Declan Ryan Capt., Kieran Maher Seamus Bourke, Dean Ryan, Micheal Ryan, Lauren Ryan.

3rd. Row L to R: Sarah Ryan(G), Sarah Ryan(C), Grace O'Mahony, Danny Ryan, Shane Kenny, Sean Ryan, Sam Devaney, Matt Stapleton, Liam Ryan, Jack Hogan, Edward Addis

Back Row L to R: Paddy Prior(Brother of the late Mick Prior) and Borris-Ileigh Mentors, Christy Reid, Seamus Devaney, Michael Carey, John Hogan, Ruairi O'Connell.

West BORD NA NÓG Report

Football

Fitzpatrick Printers Tipperary U/12(A) Football

West Final Clonoulty Rossmore: 2-9 Arravale Rovers: 0-3
[Referee S Bradshaw]

PP O'Dwyer Hardware Dundrum U/12 (B) Football

West Final Rockwell Rovers: 1-5 Lattin/Cullen: 1-3 [Referee F Kearney]

Friends of Tipperary U/12 (C) Football

West Final Emly: 5-11 Eire Óg: 2-6 [Referee T Fitzgerald]

Friends Of Tipperary U/12 Shield Final

West Final Golden Kilfeacle: 2-4 Galtee Rovers: 2-1 (replay)
[Referee P Ryan]

Peak Restaurant Tipperary U/12 Plate

West Final Sean Treacy's: 3-6 Aherlow: 1-5 [Referee W Kennedy]

Hanly Tyre Centre Tipperary U/14 (A) Football

West Final Clonoulty Rossmore: 2-7 Arravale Rovers: 0-2
[Referee P Ryan]

Sergeant Peppers Tipperary U/14 (B) Football

West Final Golden Kilfeacle: 2-2 Rockwell Rovers: 1-4 [Referee R O'Connor]

D.J. Butler Centre Dundrum U/14 Shield Football

West Final Galtee Rovers: 4-7 Kickhams: 2-6 [Referee T Fitzgerald]

AIB Tipperary U/16 (A) Football

West Final Arravale Rovers: 3-6 Kickhams: 2-5 [Referee P Russell]

John Quirke Jewellers Cahir U/16 (B) Football

West Final Rockwell Rovers: 5-9 Galtee Rovers: 1-8 [Referee E Browne]

Cashel Credit Union U/16(C) Football

West Final Sologhead: 3-4 Emly: 2-6 [Referee G Howe]

County Final Sologhead: 3-7 Ballylooby Castle/Grace: 0-8

PALL Ireland Tipperary U/14 Feile Peil na Nog Football

West Final Arravale Rovers: 4-5 Kickhams: 1-1 [Referee F Kearney]

Garda Cup U/16 Football Final

Kickhams: 4-7 Rockwell Rovers: 2-6 [Referee M Meade (Limerick)]

Hurling

Gleeson Concrete U/12 (A) Hurling

West Final Clonoulty Rossmore: 3-8 Kickhams: 0-2 [Referee P Russell]

County Final Clonoulty Rossmore: 3-5 Holycross/Ballycahill: 1-7

Tipperary Co-Op U/12 (B) Hurling

West Final Golden Kilfeacle: 2-4 Cappawhite: 1-5 (Replay)
[Referee T Fitzgerald]

Donovan Auctioneers Tipperary U/12 (C) Hurling

West Final Lattin Cullen: 6-4 Emly: 1-2 [Referee T Fitzgerald]

Peak Restaurant Tipperary U/12 Plate

Arravale Rovers: 3-6 Eire Óg: 1-3 [Referee T Fitzgerald]

John Kelly Soft Drinks Tipperary U/14 (A) Hurling

West Final Kickhams: 2-10 Clonoulty Rossmore: 2-6 [Referee D Grogan]

Caulfields Super Value Tipperary U/14 (B) Hurling

West Final Cappawhite: 3-9 Cashel KC: 1-4 [Referee P Ryan]

Michael Martin Accountants Tipperary U/14 (C) Hurling

West Final Golden Kilfeacle: 5-11 Rockwell Rovers: 0-3
[Referee S Bradshaw]

Permanent TSB Cashel U/14 Shield Hurling

West Final Galtee Rovers: 2-5 Lattin Cullen: 0-7 [Referee W Kennedy]

Coca Cola Feile na nGael U/14 Hurling

West Final Clonoulty Rossmore: 2-7 Kickhams: 2-2 [Referee W Kennedy]

Tipperary Credit Union U/16 (A) Hurling

West Final Arravale Rovers: 3-4 Cashel KC: 0-8 [Referee T Fitzgerald]

Centenary Co-Op U/16 (B) Hurling

West Final Eire Óg: 1-15 Rockwell Rovers: 1-5 [Referee M McCormack (Fethard)]

U/16 (C) Hurling

West Final Aherlow: 2-5 Emly: 1-7 [Referee G Howe]

Peadar Cummins U/14 Hurling (Inter-divisional)

South Tipp: 5-11 West Tipp: 1-4

Garda Cup U/16 Hurling (Inter-divisional Shield Final)

West Tipp: 1-10 Mid Tipp: 0-11

Munster Championship U/16 Hurling

Cork City: 3-20 West Tipp: 0-6

Feile Na Gael skills; Damien Ryan (Sologhead)

Poc Fáda; Dean O'Dwyer (Cappawhite)

2005 WEST BORD NA nOG COMMITTEE

Chairman – Richard O'Connor (Arravale Rovers)

Vice Chairman – Michael Long (Golden/Kilfeacle)

Secretary – John Hally (Rockwell Rovers)

Assistant Secretary / Referee co-ordinator – Liam O'Dwyer (Eire Óg)

Treasurer – DJ Carr (Golden Kilfeacle)

PRO – Tommy Fitzgerald (Sologhead)

Registrar – Rodger Ryan (Cashel)

REPRESENTATIVE TO SENIOR BOARD

D.J Carr (Golden Kilfeacle)

REPRESENTATIVE TO FOOTBALL BOARD

Liam O'Dwyer (Eire Óg)

REPRESENTATIVE TO COUNTY BORD NA NÓG

Liam O'Dwyer (Eire Óg)

Tommy Fitzgerald (Sologhead)



Participants in the Hurling Banding Course organised by the Munster and Tipperary GAA Games Development in Thurles CBS.

Pictured Back Row, L to R: Dan Taylor, Eamonn Ryan, Kevin Shelly, John Healy, Eamonn Cornally, Garry Kavanagh, Martin O Leary, Joe Barrett, Kevin O Sullivan, Noel Dundon.

Front Row L to R Declan McGrath, James Barry, Jimmy O Gorman (Vice Chairman Munster Council), Philip Ryan, John O Sullivan (Tutor), Muiris O Sullivan (Secretary Munster Council Games Development).



Thurles CBS Students at the Hurling Banding Course organised by the Munster Council Games development and Tipperary Games Development held in Thurles CBS.

Pictured, L to R: James Barry (UpperChurch/ Drombane), Jimmy O Gorman (Vice Chairman Munster Council), Philip Ryan (Clonoulty Rossmore), John O Sullivan (instructor)



Liam Shinnors Newport, County Long Puck Winner receives the trophy from Denis Floyd Chairman of County Games Development Committee.



Participants in the Referees Course organised by Tipperary GAA County Referees Committee. Picture Back Row L to R John McConigley Ballylooby/Castlegrace, Tom Ryan Eire Og Annacarty, John Coughlin Moyne Templetuohy, Brian Fox Eire Og Annacarty, Hugh Coughlin Moyne Templetuohy. Front Row L to R John O'Brien Arravale Rovers, Fiona Ryan Kilruane McDonaghs, Niamh Enright Kilruane McDonaghs, Brian Barrett Holycross Ballycahill, Sean Lonergan Moyle Rovers. Missing from Photo Michael O Dwyer Boherlahan Dualla, Paul Darcy Kilruane McDonaghs, Neil McGrath Burgess, Paula Ralph Moycarkey Borris.

Hurling Development Programme

By Micheál Hassett

An exciting new initiative took place in Tipperary during the months of July and August. The Hurling Development Scheme was run in conjunction with the Irish Sports Council, Munster Council, Tipperary Games and Development and Tipperary Institute GAA. This scheme involved clubs from throughout the county being invited to Thurles for a hurling skills development session. These sessions included nutritional advice, teamwork and physical fitness coaching.

The sessions were conducted at Dr Morris Park and Pairc na nOg. Coaches involved in the scheme included Eoin Morrissey, Micheál Hassett, Paddy McCormack, Lar Corbett, John Devane, Paddy Moore, James Hogan, Sandra Molloy, Shane Walsh and Gary Mernagh.

Thirty-seven clubs and over 1,500 young players took part in the programme. Coaching was also provided to Development Squads (U/17) and the U14 and U/15 Schools of Excellence. A typical day involved a club being coached from 11:00am to 1:00pm, break for lunch, followed by a visit to the GAA museum, Lár na Páirce. Many of the younger groups were also brought to Semple Stadium as part of their day out.

Participants ages varied from under 8's up to under 16's. Thanks to all involved for making the programme a great success.

THE SMALL PRINT!

Seamus O' Doherty

In the 'Munster Express' – where Jamie O'Keeffe writes a very enjoyable 'studs up sports/soapbox' column high on G.A.A. issues – their enthusiasm to keep an eye on other league games while Waterford are playing is laudable.

In the edition dated 18/3/05 they did a seven-line preview on the Antrim V. Cork game in Belfast and the Tipp V. Down game in the North! Unfortunately Tipp had played Down in Thurles on 20th February while Cork's meeting with Antrim was on 13th March the Sunday before publication.

Cashel Rugby Club celebrated victory in the Munster Challenge Cup - they beat Nenagh Ormond in the final last January, and among their stalwarts were Pat O' Donoghue and T.J. Connolly whose contribution to Cashel K.C. hurling club is well known and yes they were there in 1991!

Is has further proof that the GAA has a closer relationship with rugby than soccer?? Congratulations to the two players it - is a worthwhile achievement.

'The Star' (8/1/05 carried the final part of Ger. Loughnane's review of Clare's 1995 triumph. The key message was that there isn't ever a perfect and totally united team because players are always thinking of themselves and their own interests. "It is the Manager's job to subdue this urge and force them to play and think as a unit because when they do this the result is far greater than the sum of their parts'.

Tipperary's humbling experience of 'A two-point side cut' was limited to their league game V. Cork on 27th March at Semple Stadium. Tom Kenny scored for Cork into the town each and his feat was greeted with umpire Tomás Ó Reachtabhra waving a red and a white flag! Up Cork All Right!

Eoin Kelly landed Tipp's first two-pointer in the N.H.L. game V. Galway on April 17th. He repeated the feat a week later against Kilkenny.

"Our aim for the year is to get to the All Ireland Quarter final but for the present we'll look no further than our Munster championship date with Limerick in May". Ken Hogan 'Irish Examiner' 5/2/2005.

"This is a mid to long term assignment for McCarthy but he will stay with it, just as he did in the past". Martin Breheny 'Irish Independent' 5/2/05. "New Bosses begin life on the block". (With reference to Tipp football Manager S. McCarthy).

Hurling followers will recall the exploits of Limerick I.T. in the Fitzgibbon Cup 2005.

Eoin Kelly's high score was notable but the media seemed to have problems with the referee's name for the quarter final game against Cork I.T. at Shannon.

What emerged? N. Cosgrave (Clare) "Sunday Tribune" N. Morrissey (Tipperary) "Irish Examiner" The correct answer was Noel Cosgrove (Tipperary). Some payers didn't list the referee at all.

A note in 'The Nationalist' (9/4/05) preview of the Tipp V. Clare N.H.L. game 2nd phase suggested that in the previous year Tipperary didn't even make this section of the League... "Alas Tipp lost to Clare beat Galway and drew with Waterford in the second phase of the 2004 N.H.L. Naturally 'Westside' referred to the corresponding fixture last year on the previous page!

The opening sentence of Phil Fanning's preview of the Munster Minor Football Championship in the 'Waterford News and Star' (8/4/05) read "With the County seniors and under 21's having scored recent wins over the Premier County, Waterford football squad could be deemed to have the measure of Tipperary at the moment". The result was Tipperary 7 – 12 Waterford 1 – 1. Enough said!

'You can't drop a lad after one bad game, you have to stick with him and let him develop'.

Ken Hogan in an interview with John Harrington 'The Star Sunday' (6/3/05).

During the search for a Limerick Supremo to succeed P.J. Whelehan the name of Ger Cunningham (University of Limerick and Newtownshandrum fame) was mentioned. He ruled himself out after committing himself to coach Thurles Sarsfields. He told 'The Irish Times' (11/3/05) that he met the Sarsfields chairman (John English) (Try Enright!!) to reassure him that he was committed to the club. The irony is that John Enright Senior is a Limerick native!

"Soccer is not the G.A.A.'s problem, drink is" Gerard Houlihan former Armagh GAA footballer (and soccer player!) in an interview with 'The Sunday Independent's Kevin Kimmage (3/4/05).

Full marks to Damian Lawlor for predicting a draw in the Tipp V. Limerick championship meeting in 'The Star' (14/5/05). Pity when the Star Sports supplement displayed the result on (16/5/05) it was 1 – 14 to 1 – 14 instead of 2 – 14 all round! Damian then predicted A Limerick win in the replay.

From the pages of the 'Daily Mirror' (1/8/05) Nicky English observed about Galway's win over Tipp. 'They were much stronger in the finish and for that reason alone Galway

probably deserved to win. He thought the replacement full back choice was "a strange decision" with proven championship full backs available in John Devane and Paul Curran.

More inaccuracy in 'The Irish Independent' (22/4/05) claiming that Clare hadn't reached the N.H.L. final since 1995. What about 2001 when they lost to Tipp?

Not wishing to dig up that issue again but we must correct 'The Irish Times' (30/4/05) which proclaimed that 'Daly, who from the pulpit in Thurles denounced the tradition of Clare as the whipping boys of Munster...'. Try Páirc Uí Chaoimh on (6/7/1997)! Enough said!

'The Star' (30/4/05) in its Saturday supplement told us that 'Seamus Butler has not been included in the senior squad so far this year' in its report on the review of the Tipp hurling panel. Just for the record he scored 0 – 2 in the opening league game V. Down.

One of the popular GAA books of the year was Eoghan Corry's 'God and the Referee'. Pity that several quotes attributed to Tipp's Camogie Captain gave her name as Liz O' Dwyer!

Ger Loughnane asked an interesting question in his 'Star' Column (4/6/05). "How could a team win a championship match with Francis Devanney and Michael Webster in the central line of attack against Clare's wounded lions of Brian Lohan and Sean McMahon?" The answer was 2 – 14 to 0 – 14! The same pundit referred to "Conor" Fanning in his Munster. Final Preview (25/6/05)

Finally, "The Sunday Tribune" 25/09/2005 carried an article entitled "Man in the middle" written by John Burke which focused on the role that Michael Monaghan would have as referee of today's All-Ireland Football final. Reference was made to assaults on referees and the famous 1986 incident where Mr. Johnny Price was locked in a car boot after a game in Wicklow. A quote attributed to Mr. Price "I still referee games" was noted by the Sunday Times, 02/10/2005 as being given "this weekend". However, the Sunday Times went on to point out that Mr. Price died earlier this year on a pilgrimage to France. "The referee knew the story would follow him to the grave....". Now that is a quote for "God and the Referee". Happy Christmas.

Tipperary's involvement in Third Level Colleges Hurling 2005

By Ed Donnelly (County PRO)

Young Tipperary hurlers have made a significant contribution to the various colleges in Ireland over the years, and the 2004/2005 campaign was no different. If anything, the influence of Tipperary hurlers is as strong as ever when one looks at the Fitzgibbon Cup Final weekend last spring.

Preparations for the Fitzgibbon Cup normally begin early in the school year and 2004/2005 was no exception. Every college has aspirations of winning the Fitzgibbon Cup but the main goal for each college is to qualify for the Fitzgibbon Cup weekend. Any college in the last four is usually good enough to win the title outright but getting there is often the hard part. Most of the top colleges had a Tipperary influence and I will begin by outlining the colleges which did not make the last four.

Starting closest to home, the Garda College included inter-county stars such as Jerry O'Connor (Cork), Darren Rooney (Laois) and Tony Carmody (Clare). The Tipperary players involved were Emmett Dunphy (Roscrea), David Boland (Silvermines), Alan Kelly (Ballinahinch), William Hickey (Boherlahan-Dualla), Hugh Coughlan (Moyne-Templetuohy) and Brian Coen (Fethard). They lost out to Galway and Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) in the first round by 3-11 to 1-13.

GMIT went on to push the University of Limerick (UL) all the way in the quarter-final, losing out eventually by one point, 0-12 to 1-8. Sean Kennedy (Moneygall), Niall McGrath (Burgess) and David Lawlor (Kilruane McDonaghs) were all involved on the GMIT panel.

University College Dublin (UCD) under the guidance of "Babs" Keating prepared for the Fitzgibbon Cup in the best possible way by winning the 2004 Dublin county final and losing out in Leinster Club final by only a point to James Stephens. Darragh Walton (Ballingarry), Colm Everard (Moyne-Templetuohy), Eamonn Ryan (Moycarkey-Borris), Colm Ryan (Moycarkey-Borris), Diarmaid Fitzgerald (Roscrea), Paul Ormonde (Loughmore-Castleiney), Tommy

Fitzgerald (Roscrea) and Pa Morrissey (Galtee Rovers) were among those involved from the Premier County. However, UCD lost out to Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) in the quarter-final by 0-10 to 0-5.

Dublin Institute of Technology are an up and coming school in the Fitzgibbon Cup and lost out to UL in the first round by 0-17 to 0-11. The backbone of the team was provided by centre-back James Moran (Ballylooby-Castlegrace) and centre-forward Kieran Bergin (Killenaule).

UCC as always fancied their changes, no doubt helped by the likes of Richie Flannery (Nenagh Eire Óg), Evan Hanley (Lattin-Cullen) and Ronan O'Brien (Eire Óg Annacarty). However, NUI Galway caused a surprise in the quarter-final with a surprise 1-15 to 1-11 victory over UCC.

Cork IT (CIT) are another college looking for their first Fitzgibbon Cup having lost the 2003 final. Joe Dixon (Moycarkey-Borris) was on the CIT panel which lost to Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) by 2-12 to 2-10 in the quarter-final.

The Fitzgibbon Cup weekend was hosted by the Limerick Institute of Technology with the semi-finals taking place on the Friday. Waterford Institute of Technology were favoured to get through to the final but despite the presence of Hugh Moloney (Nenagh Eire Óg) at wing-back and substitute Willie Ryan (Toomevara), they lost out to the University of Limerick. Conor O'Brien (Eire Óg Anacarty) was also part of the WIT panel while Colm Bonnar was the team trainer. In the other semi-final, NUI Galway lost out to LIT. NUIG were captained by Damian O'Brien (Burgess) with Tony Scroope (Burgess) and Darragh Egan (Kildangan) also involved on the starting line-up. Brendan O'Sullivan of Thurles Sarsfields was on the panel and was on the NUIG Freshers team. Eamon O'Shea of Kilruane McDonaghs was the coach of the NUIG team.

And so to the final – an all Limerick affair for the first time ever. After their impressive semi-final performance, the University of

Limerick fancied their changes. But the Limerick Institute of Technology, coached by Clare's Davy Fitzgerald, had a game plan to counteract UL's running game and when this was successful, LIT's chances of victory were enhanced. Eoin Kelly scored 1-2 from frees in the opening five minutes and this helped LIT to a 1-9 to 2-1 half-time lead. A second LIT goal from Aonghus Callanan 13 minutes after the restart secured the title for LIT, winning out by 2-13 to 3-4.

Both captains were from the Premier County and ended up marking each other, namely LIT's Eoin Kelly from Mullinahone and UL's John Devane from Clonoulty-Rossmore. While Kelly contributed 1-8 of LIT's total, John Devane restricted him to just 2 points from play. Devane's contribution to this final earned him the man of the match award afterwards. A deserved call up to the Tipperary senior hurling panel soon followed for Devane and also LIT's corner-back Conor O'Mahoney of Newport. Other Tipperary men involved on the day included LIT's Shane McGrath (Ballinahinch) and David Morrissey (Galtee Rovers), both lining out at wing-back while Philip O'Shea (Mullinahone) came on as a substitute for LIT in the semi-final. David Young (Toomevara), Padraig Ryan (Sean Treacys) and Alan Byrne (Shannon Rovers) were also on the LIT panel. For UL, in addition to Devane, Richie Ruth (Thurles Sarsfields) and John Ryan (Cappawhite) were also involved with UL.

The main question which is asked each year is how many of these young Tipperary players will make the grade at senior level for the county? In recent years, the intensity of the Fitzgibbon Cup competition has been such that if a player can hold his own in third level competition, then his chances of making his inter-county team are enhanced. Whatever about the prospects for the individuals, collectively these young players make the Fitzgibbon Cup an excellent competition. Why not take in a match in the coming months as the colleges strive to win this All-Ireland competition. Chances are, you won't be disappointed.

TIPPERARY INSTITUTE GAA CLUB

Tipperary Institute opened its doors to students only six short years ago. The realisation of a third level institute in Tipperary came after a long hard struggle by the people of this county. At present there is in excess of 500 students studying courses at our Thurles and Clonmel campuses.

Tipperary Institute GAA club was founded in the inaugural year of the college. Starting from humble beginnings, it was the drive and enthusiasm of a core group of people that saw the club get off the ground and keep it alive.

The aim of TI GAA club is to continue to offer an outlet to students in the Institute in order to practise the games they enjoy and to entice new players and get them interested in the world of sport and particularly GAA- being part of a sports club/society during one's college years can be an important way of easing the stress of day-to-day college life and to meet new people in a new environment.

Victories over larger colleges and universities with more sporting tradition has always been a source of great pride to the club and the college, not to mention the people of Tipperary and those with friends and relations involved. Many of these successes have been due as much to astute minds on the sideline as star players on the field.

Since TI won the Ryan Cup in 2003, the club continues to compete not only in hurling, but also in the spheres of camogie, Gaelic football, ladies football and handball, striving to bring back more silverware to Thurles and Clonmel.

At the TI GAA AGM the following officers were elected:

Fr. Jimmy O'Donnell, Honorary President	
Kevin Butler	Chairman
Seamus Carey	Secretary
Owen Shortt	Treasurer
Maura Maher	PRO
Paddy McCormack	GPO
Chris O'Flaherty (TI Clonmel)	Liaison Officer
Gerard Carey (St. Patrick's College)	Liaison Officer

The year began brightly as many new faces appeared around the campus, as well as some of the old die hards. This was the inaugural year of TI's affiliation with St. Patrick's College, and it was a welcome bonus to the GAA club when permission was granted by Croke Park

for the hurlers and footballers of St. Patrick's to play with TI. The ladies football and camogie teams also benefited greatly from this new injection of life into the college.

The year therefore began with great optimism, as TI GAA Club entered the Division 2 Hurling League in late October 2004. Having lost players from 2003/2004 season and building a new team with newly registered students, the League is a great opportunity to bring together new and old players and build a team in preparation for the Ryan Cup series. TI lost their first two matches in the League to Tralee IT and Mary Immaculate College Limerick and were successful in following two matches - beating Cork College of Further Education and Carlow IT. As the League progressed the excellent performances from many players was a great boost before the serious business of the Ryan Cup in the New Year.

Ryan Cup 2005

A new year, new optimism and top of everyone's mind was the draw for the first round of the Ryan Cup. TI were drawn against University of Ulster, Jordanstown. This was a game which TI were very wary about as UUJ contained many county players from Antrim and Down, including the Herron brothers from Antrim. This game proved to be a classic. After a bad start TI settled in and played some good hurling. The second half was evenly contested and eventually TI began to take over and won on a score line of 2-11 to 2-7. This game put TI through to the quarter-finals against more Northern opposition, Queens University, Belfast.

TI again travelled to Dublin to face QUB. TI quickly settled and dominated proceedings for the duration of the game. There was some outstanding hurling played, and in the second half TI began to pull away to win by ten points. This was an excellent team performance and a result granted TI the right to play in their third Ryan Cup weekend in a row, an outstanding achievement for an institute of its size. This game finished TI 2-8, QUB 0-4.

The Ryan Cup Weekend for 2005 was hosted by Limerick IT. TI were drawn to face Sligo IT. With a lot of hard training sessions and good preparation confidence was high but despite having played their hearts out TI came off second best. On a day when no player

could be faulted TI went down on a score line of 0-9 to 3-9, thus ending their involvement in the Ryan Cup for 2005.

Football

This was the first year that TI entered a competitive football competition. Their first competitive league game was against UCC. Despite the result it was encouraging to see that TI were able to hold their own against a college, which had a far greater pick of players. TI were beaten on a score line of 1-16 to 0-11.

In early 2005, TI began their preparations for the quarter-finals of the Corn MacLeinn competition, an off-shoot of the Sigerson Cup, by beating GMIT Letterfrack in Galway on a scoreline of 3-8 to 2-9 and earned a place in the all Ireland semi-finals. TI faced Mater Dei College, Dublin in the semi-final and were beaten. This finished their involvement in the football for this year.

The TI Camogie Club also hosted the 3rd Level Seven-A-Side competition for 3rd Level Camogie clubs. Here TI competed against some of the strongest colleges in Ireland including UCC and the eventual winners WIT.

TI GAA Club enjoyed many great social occasions which included the Scholarship Night. Many thanks to the sponsors of those scholarships, which included Tipperary County Board, The Munster Council, Thurles Sarsfields, The Horse and Jockey Hotel and Tipperary Institute.

Many thanks also to our sponsors and supporters during 2005 including Clonmel Oil, Elvery Sports, Morrisseys Bar, Fogartys Sports Bar, Philly Butler-Morris Park, Jim Kennedy's and Thurles Sarsfields. Once again the old die hards included Fr. Jimmy O'Donnell, Maura Maher and Paddy McCormack without whom the club could not function. Also a special thanks to TI Students Union who sponsored a set of tracksuits for the Ryan Cup Weekend. Padraig Culbert, CEO and Tipperary Institute have always given great support and 2005 was no exception as they supported our every endeavour.

Cumann Na Meanscoileanna

Results 2004-2005.

Canon Fitzgerald Under-17 A Hurling Championship
Thurles C.B.S. defeated Our Lady's, Templemore
Canon Fitzgerald Shield Under-17 A Hurling Championship
Borrisokane C.C. defeated Scoil Ruain, Killenaule
Croke Cup under-15 A Hurling Championship
Borrisokane C.C. defeated Our Lady's, Templemore
Hennessy Cup Under-15 B Hurling Championship
Presentation Ballingarry defeated Convent of Mercy, Newport

Corn Ui Cathain First year Hurling A League
Our lady's, Templemore defeated Nenagh C.B.S.
Sciath Ui Cathain First Year Hurling B League
Colaiste Dun Iascaigh defeated Scoil Ruain, Killenaule
MacGabhann Cup Senior Football A Championship
Abbey C.B.S. Tipperary defeated Cashel C.C.
MacGabhann Shield Senior Football B Championship
Presentation, Ballingarry defeated Nenagh C.B.S.
Cusack Cup Under-15 A Football Championship
Abbey C.B.S. Tipperary defeated High School, Clonmel.
Cusack Shield Under-15 B Football Championship
Thurles C.B.S. defeated Presentation, Ballingarry.



L/R Seated: Brian Lowry, Donagh Leahy, Paddy Dalton, Mark Hanly, Shane Leahy, Cathal Martin, Tommy O'Mahony, Pat Quirke (manager).
Middle Row L/R: Paddy Kelly (Trainer), James Power, Ross McGrath, Gerard Mulhair, Christopher Ryan, Shane Enright, Ian O'Brien, Shane Russell
Capt., Gerard O'Dwyer, Niall Donovan, Aidan Ryan, Damien Ryan.
Back Row L/R: Emmett Ryan, Michael Kennedy, Sean Kilcoyne, William O'Dwyer, Thomas Sheridan, Darragh Fitzpatrick, Michael John Ryan, David Heffernan, Diarmuid Hayes, Aaron Moloney, Sean O'Meara, John Condon, Jack Donovan.



Front L/R: Eoin O'Dwyer, Thomas O'Dwyer, Paul Ryan, Damien O'Brien, Manager, Laurence Coskeran, Capt., Conor Reale, selector, James O'Leary, Adrian Grace, Damien Ryan,
Second Row L/R: Tom O'Donoghue Vice-Principal, Seamus Grogan, Brian Jones, Richard Ryan, John Hennessy, Ian Burke, Sean Walsh, William Levingstone, Alan Noonan, Thomas Gleeson, Michael Shanahan, Damien Kiely, John O'Kelly.
Back L/R: Cahal Dillon, Shane Egan, Timmy Dalton, Tommy O'Neill, Andrew O'Halloran, Sean Mullins, Denis Scully, Seamus Hayes, Denis O'Malley, Stephen McGrath. (Inset: Shane Whelan)



GAA President, County Board Officers, John Leahy, Sponsors, Management and Staff at St Joseph's College, Borrisoleigh attending the AIB sponsored Drug Awareness Programme.

Back Row, L to R: John Mulcahy, Kevin McCarthy, Nicholas Moroney, Micheal O'Brien (Secretary), Kevin O'Dwyer, Pat Crowley, Timmy Floyd (Marketing Manager), Tom Collum, John Costigan (Vice Chairman)

Seated: Molly Black(AIB), Paul Anglim(AIB), Donie Shanahan (Chairman), Sean Kelly (GAA President), John Leahy and Padraig O'Shea (St Joseph's Principal)



Borrisokane Community College Captain Ray McLoughney lifts the All-Ireland Cup after his side won the All-Ireland Vocational Schools final at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny



Borrisokane Community College Under 15 Croke Cup Winners

Back Row L to R: MacDara McLoughlin (Manager), Michael Rafferty, Shane Sherre, Ross Ryan, Eamonn Murphy, Damien Bovans, Niall Kennedy, Jamie Brennan, Scott Hodgins, Cian Hayes, Brian O'Meara, Joseph Gallagher, Ruairi Gleeson, Enda Houlihan, Pairic Kelly, Jer Gaynor (Trainer)

Middle Row L to R: William Cleary, Marty O'Meara, Ronan O'Meara, Graham Houlihan, Eoghan O'Meara, Ciaran Hough (Captain), Damien Calalan, Alan Hogan, Cian McLoughney, Conor Haugh,

Front Row, L to R: Eanna Gleeson and James McLoughney



Francis Kearney makes a presentation to Pat Moroney St Ailbes Tipperary in recognition of his years of service to Vocational Schools GAA in Tipperary.



Francis Kearney makes a presentation to Eoin Kelly after he presented the 2004 Tipperary Vocational School Panel with their All Ireland Medals.



Frank Slattery makes a presentation to Cyril Gleeson Newport in recognition of his years of service to Vocational Schools GAA in Tipperary.

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Frank Slattery makes a presentation to Mick Keely Templemore in recognition of his years of service to Vocational Schools GAA in Tipperary.



Frank Slattery makes a presentation to TJ Egan Borrisokane in recognition of his years of service to Vocational Schools GAA in Tipperary.



George Hannigan (Shannon Rovers) and Daniel McMahon (Burgess) hold the Harty Cup after their team St Flannans Ennis won the final at Nenagh. George and Daniel went on to win an All-Ireland senior colleges medal with St Flannan's when they defeated St Kieran's Kilkenny in the final at Thurles.



Nenagh CBS Under 15 team that lost the Pearse Cup Final to Castletroy College by the narrowest of margins at Lackin Park, Newport.

Back Row L to R: Bill Lonergan (Mentor), Willie Bolger, Rory Whelan, John Sheedy, Mark Flannery, Paddy Murphy (Captain), Keith Maher, Andrew Kelly, Kevin Walsh (Mentor)

Kneeling: Kieran Walsh, Pat Conway, Mark Gensery, Eoin Slattery, Andrew Kelly, Shane Maher, Judy Troy, David Nolan



Francis Kearney makes a presentation to Michael Hassett Scoil Ruain Killenaule in recognition of his years of service to Vocational Schools GAA in Tipperary.



Nenagh VS Panel, which were defeated by Borris VS (Carlow) in the All-Ireland Vocational Schools 'B' Hurling final, but won the Munster Title.

Back Row L to R: Cian Morris, Stephen Gleeson, Damien Boland, Alan Hughes, Simon Kelly, Shane Slattery (Captain), Eoin Ryan, Jamie Quigley, Damien Corcoran, Michael Heffernan, Josh Fletcher, Michael Creamer, Michael Clifford, Michael McCarty, Damien Ely

Front Row L to R: Michael Hogan, Eamonn O'Rourke, Liam Gibson, Joey McLongley, Jim Duignan, Niall McCormack, Keith Fahy, Kenneth Holland, Pearse Morris, Michael Sheedy, Matthew Collins, Martin Monahan



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Best wishes to the County Board and all the Tipp teams for 2006

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Thurles CBS County Schools Under 15 B Football Winners 2005

Back Row L to R: Diarmuid Fogarty, Gary Moore, Rory O'Shea, Brian Stakelum, Rory Ryan, James Barry, David Butler, Gearoid Leahy, Paul Quinlan, Emmet O'Shea, Pat Molloy, John Short

Middle Row L to R: Mossy Bracken, Sean Harty, David Fitzpatrick, Micheal O'Connell, John Shorthall, Daniel Quirke, Kieran Morris, Michael Doyle, Tommy Burke, Shane Hackett, Tom's Comford

Front Row L to R: Kieran Hammersley, Richard Roche, Peter Ryan, Matthew Greene, Colm Ryan, Liam Cullen, Kevin O'Gorman, Bill McCormack



Thurles CBS Fitzgerald Cup Winners 2005

Back Row L to R: Paul Kennedy, Liam Phelan, John Joe Bourke, John Coughlan, Michael Cahill, Eamon Fogarty, Pa Burke, Diarmuid Cullen, Kevin Moran, Colm Stapleton, Aidan Brett, Jaimie Fanning

Middle Row L to R: Shane Meagher, Shane Maher, Darren Ryan, James Kennedy, Noel Kinane, Padraig Maher, Michael Gleeson, Conor Morissey, Eoin Shanahan, Jack Fogarty, Joe Maguire, Michael McGrath

Front Row L to R: Stephen Dorney, Stephen Maher, Laurence Bourke, Aidan Ryan, Liam Owen, Scott Gray, Stephen Ryan, Lawrence Power, Ciaran Clohessy, Pierce Stakelum



Thurles CBS Harty Cup Finalists 2005

Back Row L to R: Pa Burke, Brian Moran, Padraig Stapleton, Andy Sweeney, James Greene, Thomas Lowry, Scott Grey, Diarmuid Cullen, Conor Murphy, Mark Ruddy, Ian Maher, Brian White, Thomas Quinn, Timmy Hammersley, Philip Ryan

Middle Row L to R: Michael Cahill, Gerry McGuire, Conor Bourke, David Patterson, David Shannon, Paudie Maher, Michael Gleeson, Peter O'Brien, Tadhg Ryan, John Coughlan, David Kinane, Willie Tobin, Phil Kelly

Front Row L to R: Aidan Ryan, Anthony Healy, Stephen Ryan, Thomas Hassett, John Maher, Eoin Ryan, Ciaran Clohessy, Daniel Kirby, Pierce Stakelum, Kevin Moran



Thurles CBS White Cup Panel 2005

Back Row L to R: John Bergin, Diarmuid Fogarty, Gary Moore, Rory O'Shea, Brian Stakelum, Rory Ryan, James Barry, Denis Maher, Gearoid Leahy, Paul Quinlan, Emmet O'Mahoney, John Shortt

Middle Row L to R: Peter Ryan, Mossy Bracken, Sean Harty, Michael O'Connell, Darren O'Neill, John Shortall, Bill McCormack, Kieran Morris, Michael Doyle, Tomas Bourke, Shane Hackett, Tomas Comerford, David Butler

Front Row L to R: Paul Ryan, Kieran Hammersley, David Fitzpatrick, Kevin O'Gorman (Captain), Colm Ryan, Matthew Greene, Liam Cullen, Pat Molloy, Michael Roche



Thurles CBS corner forward Timmy Hammersley aims for a score in the Harty Cup Final at Nenagh against eventual All-Ireland Champions St Flannans, Ennis.



Nenagh CBS 1st Year Hurling team members with 2004 Hurler of the Year and successful Cork Captain 2005 Sean Og O'Hailpin on the occasion of his visit to their school.

ALLIANZ CUMANN NA mBUNSCOL

2005 was a hectic year for us in Cumann na mBunscol with even more schools than ever partaking in a wide variety of competitions catering from the small two-teacher schools up to the larger town schools. The football championships began in mid September with the aim being to have all divisions complete by mid term break but this is always a difficult task to manage with the usual difficulties of school timetabling and sometimes difficult weather conditions as the year progresses. The football competitions are divided into under 11's (Roinn A- D) and senior football (boys and girls up to 6th class) (Roinn A-G). There is also a separate girl's competition for Under 11's (Roinn A and B) and Senior Girls (Roinn A -D). Unlike the hurling competition the football finals are not held on the one day but staggered throughout the term. In the coming year we have plans to give the football finals greater prominence by having a dedicated finals day.

This was the eventual shake up of the football competition after 115 schools teams had fought to the finish.

Schools Football

Roinn A :	Tipperary CBS 4-7	St. Peter and Paul's 1-6
Roinn B:	Loughmore NS 1-4	Fethard 1-2
Roinn C:	Gaelscoil Cluain Meala 1	Grange NS 2-2
Roinn D:	Powerstown NS 4-2	Mullinahone NS 2-6
Roinn E:	Clerihan NS 5-6	Clonoulty NS 1-4
Roinn F:	Rossmore NS 2-5	Gortnahue NS 2-3
Roinn G:	Castleiney NS 5-10	Kilcash NS 5-7

Under 11

Roinn A:	St. Mary's 3-5	Carrick CBS 2-4
Roinn B:	Grange 2-5	Fethard 2-3
Roinn C:	Powerstown NS bt.	Ballylooby NS (blitz)
Roinn D:	New Inn NS. bt.	Clonoulty NS (blitz.)

Peil na mBan

Roinn A:	Ballylooby NS. 3-6	Upperchurch NS 0-2
Roinn B:	Ballyporeen NS 9-9	Ardfinnan NS 1-1
Roinn C:	Sisters of Charity NS 2-1	Lisvernane NS 2-0
Roinn D:	Ballagh NS 1-3	Grangemoockler NS 1-1

U-11 Girls Blitz

Roinn A :	Ballylooby NS bt.	Ardfinnan NS
Roinn B :	Lisvernane NS bt.	Littleton NS

I.N.T.O.: Football

The football season was rounded off by the popular mini sevens competition. Gaelscoil Cluain Meala was victorious this year in the boy's competition and Upperchurch NS won the girls football final.

Children who played in Croke Park ;

Football: Owen Fitzgerald (Gaelscoil Cluain Meala)

Girls Football: Caitriona Shortt (Upperchurch)

Iomanaíocht

The hurling championship began early in the New Year and with a lot of schools contesting each division it was a long road to the final with no chance of a back door in this game! Once again we were blessed with the weather when it came to hurling finals day and sun cream was an essential item in Semple Stadium on June 9th and 10th. This was a great occasion for children, parents and teachers and the players gave of their very best in some close and thrilling encounters.

Schools Hurling

Roinn A:	Scoil Ailbhe 2-11	Dromakeenan NS 0-3
Roinn B:	Loughmore NS 2-15	Templederry NS 2-4
Roinn C:	Borrisokane NS 3-10	Ballylooby NS 0-5
Roinn D:	Clonoulty NS 3-5	Burgess NS 3-4
Roinn E:	Ballagh NS 0-7	Gurtagarry NS 1-1
Roinn F:	Ayle NS 2-5	Clerihan NS 1-6
Roinn G:	Killea NS 2-5	Kilkeary NS 2-4

Under 11 - Hurling

Roinn A :	Scoil Ailbhe NS 4-8	St. Mary's 0-0
Roinn B :	Loughmore NS 1-12	Cashel NS 0-2
Roinn C :	Fethard NS 6-4	Upperchurch NS 2-3
Roinn D :	Ballylooby NS 4-7	Clonoulty NS 5-2

Camogie

Roinn A :	St. Mary's Nenagh 2-4	Knockavilla NS 0-0
Roinn B :	Boherlahan NS 3-5	Upperchurch NS 3-1
Roinn C :	New Inn NS 0-4	Our Lady's Cahir NS 1-0
Roinn D :	Ballylooby NS 4-0	Gurtagarry NS 0-1

Under 11

Roinn A:	Presentation Carrick-on -Suir 5-2	Boherlahan 0-0
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I.N.T.O. Mini Sevens – Hurling and Camogie

The hurling mini sevens had a large entry from schools as usual with Kilruane NS carrying off the laurels in the boys section and Boherlahan NS the eventual and worthy winners of the camogie.

Children who played in Croke Park:

Hurling: Owen Williams and David Reddan (Kilruane N.S.)

Camogie: Shauna Butler and Dearbhla Kennedy (Boherlahan N.S.)

Primary Game

This competition allows individual recognition for the really skilful players in our schools, be it in hurling, football or camogie and gives them the chance of playing for their county. It is a great honour for the boys and girls who get to wear the blue and gold and these positions are always hotly contested. Great credit is due to the selectors who take on this task of choosing a panel of seventeen players from the trials held throughout the county and have then the job of creating a cohesive team from players who may only know one or two of their team mates. The training for these matches is taken very seriously as anyone who has attended a session can confirm.

The panels this year were as follows:

Hurling Primary Game**Tipperary V Limerick:**

Michael O' Brien (Ss Peter & Paul's, Clonmel), Éoin Hogan (Burgess N.S.), Aodhán McCormac (Gael Scoil Bhríde, Durlas), Liam Treacy (Castleiney N.S.), Jonathan Grogan (Cashel CBS), Bobby Bergin (Dromakeenan N.S.), Tomás Nolan (Scoil Ailbhe, Thurles), Éoin Wells (Carrick CBS), Stephen James Gleeson (Kildangan N.S.), Brian Stapleton (Templederry N.S.), Philip Ryan (Rossmore N.S.), Damien Dunne (Borrisoleigh N.S.), David Fogarty (Lorrha N.S.), Stephen Boland (New Inn N.S.), David Nevin (Borrisokane N.S.).

Selectors: Viv Dooley (Cloughjordan N.S.), Michael Heffernan (New Inn N.S.) and Tom Butler (Ballinure N.S.)

Tipperary V Clare

Dan McCormack (St. Patrick's N.S. Borrisoleigh), James McCormack (Kilkeary N.S.), Damien Maher (Burgess N.S.), Darragh Quinn (Gaelscoil, Nenagh), Ailbe O' Donoghue (Scoil Iosagain Upperchurch N.S.), David King (Dromakeenan N.S.), Éoin Carew (Knockavilla N.S.), Martin Sadlier (Ballagh N.S.), Brendan Wood (Ballina N.S.), Jason Hahessy (St. Oliver's N.S.), Jack Ryan (Corville N.S.), Pat Ralph (Gaile N.S.), Shane Dooley (St. Michael's N.S. Cloughjordan), Niall O' Meara (Ardcroney N.S.), Sean Ryan (Anacarthy N.S.).

Selector: Viv Dooley (Cloughjordan N.S.), Michael Heffernan (New Inn N.S.), and Tom Butler (Ballinure N.S.).

Football Primary Game**Tipperary V Kerry**

Aidran Troy (Ballinree N.S.), Odhran Floyd (Birdhill N.S.), Cathal Quigley (St. Michael's, Clerihan), Thomas Kinane (Anacarthy N.S.), Cormac Crowe (Cahir BNS), Mathew Fitzgerald (St. Patrick's N.S., Fethard), Owen Fitzgerald (Gaelscoil Chluain Meala), John O' Donnell (Ardfinnan N.S.), Anthony Collins (Nenagh N.S.), John O' Callaghan (Skeheenarinky N.S.), Jason Bergin (Templetuohy N.S.), Ronan Fanning (Moyné N.S.), Brendan McGrath (Bansha N.S.), Seamus Carew (Rossmore N.S.) and Daniel Hickey (Killusty N.S.).

Selectors: Liam O' Suilleabhain (Ardfinnan N.S.), Aodhán Wren (Littleton N.S.) and John Walsh (Clerihan N.S.)

Camogie Primary Game**Tipperary V Cork.**

Aoife Ryan (Kilkeary N.S.), Eimear Byrne (New Inn N.S.), Sinéad O' Mara (Inch N.S.), Nóirín Stapleton (St. Teresa's, Borrisoleigh N.S.), Eimear Myles (Ballylooby N.S.), Cáit Devane (Ballagh N.S.), Aine O' Carroll (St. Mary's, Nenagh), Eimear Crowe (Knockavilla N.S.), Cliona O' Dwyer (Killenaule N.S.), Roísín Horan (Drangan N.S.), Caitríona Shortt (Upperchurch N.S.), Niamh Larkin (Dunkerrin N.S.), Louise Hogan (Cloughjordan N.S.), Shauna Butler (Boherlahan N.S.) and Aisling Carroll (Kilbarron N.S.).

Selectors: Dónall MacCárthaigh (Ballylooby N.S.), Mary Corcoran (Upperchurch N.S.) and Paudie Butler (Inch N.S.)

Finally as we conclude another successful year, Cumann na mBunscol Tiobraid Arann would like to thank all those who helped in the smooth running of our competitions. We are indebted to our sponsors ALLIANZ for their continued support of our national games and CALVITA who kindly sponsor the Primary game. To the teachers who give of their time and efforts, the clubs and referees who are always anxious to help us out and the staff and management of Semple Stadium for their co-operation on final day we say a big thank you. A special word of thanks to our county newspapers, The Nationalist and The Tipperary Star as well as South Tipp Today for the high profile which they give to our games.

Cumann na mBunscol Tiobraid Arann

Hon. President:	Paul Brett
President:	Séan Horan
Chairman:	Christy Clancy, Littleton NS
Vice – Chairman:	Paudie Butler, Inch N.S.
	P.J. Harrington, Upperchurch N.S.
Secretary:	Donal McCarthy, Ballylooby NS
Treasurer:	Jerry McDonnell, St. Oliver's NS
P.R.O.:	Kathleen O Shea, Lisvernane NS
Delegates to Coiste na Mumhan:	Christy Clancy, Littleton N.S.
	Dónall MacCárthaigh, Ballylooby N.S.
Delegates to Coiste Naisiunta:	Christy Clancy, Littleton N.S.
	Dónall MacCárthaigh, Ballylooby N.S.
County Board Representative:	Jerry McDonnell, St. Oliver's N.S.



Loughmore N.S. - U-11 B Hurling winners



Loughmore N.S. - U-11 B Hurling winners



Powerstown N.S. - Winners of the Rionn Football



Presentation Carrick-on-Suir - U 11A Camogie Winners



Redwood/Lorrha National School Double Champion Holders.

Front: Barry Glynn, Eoin McIntyre, Megan O'Meara, Dylan Boucher, Conor Duggan, Declan O'Meara (Captain), Christopher Fogarty, Neil Houlihan, Cormac Houlihan, Aoife O'Meara, Christina Ryan.
Back: Niamh Bergin, Padraig Reddan, John O'Meara, Colm Corcoran, Sean Duggan, Niall O'Meara, Aaron Hogan, Micheal Lambe, Timmy Ryan, Leona Duane.



Cumann na mBunscol Runai Donal MacCarthaigh presents Ayle N.S. Captain Dara Barry with the Roinn F Shield



Scoil Ailbhe - Winners of U-11 A Hurling



St Marys N.S. Nenagh - Roinn A Camogie Winners



*Templederrey Schools North Tipperary Football Winners
Back Row, L to R: Sarah Murray, Siobhan Corcoran, Moira Ryan,
Dale Donnelly, Gerald Hogan, Brian Stapleton, Shane Kinane,
Joseph Shanahan, David Butler, Edle Ryan*

*Front Row, L to R: Michael Walsh, Eanna Ryan, Matthew Hogan,
Jamie Ryan, Edward Hynes, Padraig Gleeson, Patrick Griffin, Niamh
Slattery, Sarah Corcoran*



Upperchurch N.S. - I.N.T.O. Girls Mini Sevens Winners 2005

GAA PRIMARY SCHOOL QUIZ 2005



*Ballylooby National School winners of the Tipperary GAA Primary
Schools Quiz. Picture of Back Row L to R: Donal McCarthy (Teacher)
Aoife Maher (Youth Committee), Nicholas Moroney (Tipperary GAA
Youth Officer)*

*Front Row L to R; Danny Morgan, Michael Murphy, PJ Hanrahan,
Thomas Lonergan.*



*The Ballylooby National School B Team. Runners up in the Tipperary
GAA Primary Schools Quiz. Pictured Back Row, L to R: Donal
McCarthy (Teacher) Aoife Maher (Youth Committee) Nicholas
Moroney (Tipperary youth officer). Front Row, L to R: Ian Byrne,
Aisling Condon, Thomas Samson, Caolan O Gorman.*



*The Cloughjordan National School Team that were 3rd in the
Tipperary GAA Primary Schools Quiz. Pictured Back row, L to R:
Vivian Dooley (Teacher) Aoife Maher (Youth Committee), Thomas
Hassett (Teacher), Nicholas Moroney (Tipperary Youth Officer),
Front row L to R: Louise Hogan, Brian Dooley, Eanna Hogan, Shane
Dooley.*



*Rathcabbin National School Winners of the North Tipperary GAA
Primary Schools Quiz. Pictured L to R: Liam Hogan (Tipperary GAA
Youth Committee), Michael Brophy, Paraic Kennedy, Daniel Smith,
Philip Hogan, Catherine Gleeson (Treasurer North Tipp GAA BoardD*

MID TIPPERARY PRIMARY SCHOOL QUIZ 2005



Gael Scoil Bride Thurles Winners of the Mid Tipperary GAA Primary schools quiz.

Pictured L to R;

Aoife Maher (Youth Committee), Aod'n Mac Cormaic, Diarmuid O Maolchathaigh, James O Liath'n, Myles Mac Gearaitt, Jonathan Cullen (Mid board Youth officer)

The Loughmore National School A Team Runners up in the Mid Tipperary GAA Primary Schools Quiz Picture. Back Row L to R: Aoife Maher (Youth Committee), Niamh Ryan, Padraic Hennessy, Tomas McGrath, Liam McGrath, Jonathan Cullen (Mid Board Youth officer)



The Loughmore National School B Team who were 5th in the Mid Tipperary GAA Primary Schools Quiz. Pictured L to R, Aoife Maher, (Youth Committee), Patricia McGrath, Kevin Connell, Richard Maher, Thomas Maher, Jonathan Cullen (Mid Tipperary youth Officer).

Scoil Iosagain Upperchurch who were 3rd in the Mid Tipperary GAA Primary Schools Quiz. Pictured L to R: Aoife Maher (Youth Committee), Seamus Armstrong, James Murray, Aine Ryan, Ailbe O Donovan, Jonathan Cullen (Mid Tipperary Youth officer)



The Templetuohy National School who were 4th in the Mid Tipperary GAA Primary Schools Quiz. Pictured L to R: Aoife Maher (Youth committee), Jason Bergin, Martin Kelly, Brian Geehan, Shauna Bourke, Jonathan Cullen (Mid Tipperary youth Officer).

My Day in Croke Park

by Dearbhla Kennedy.

It is everybody's dream to play in Croke Park. I am only twelve years old and I got to play there last September during the All Ireland hurling finals.

Earlier in the year I played for Boherlahan N.S. We won the County 7-a-side camogie competition and then represented Tipperary in a Munster blitz, which we also won. We were all delighted.

Our principal, Mr. Paul Byrne, told us that there was a selector watching and that two people would be chosen to play in Croke Park. A few weeks later he got a letter in the post. He called Shauna Butler and myself into the office and told us that we had been picked. We were jumping with joy. I could hardly believe it. When I told my Nanny she said, 'Your great, great grandfather, Johnny Connolly, played there with Tubberadora'.

All summer I was outside pucking the ball off the wall or pucking with some friends. As it got closer the happier and more excited I got. Finally the 11th September arrived. I had to get up early because we had to be in Dublin at 10am. During the journey I tried to sleep but I couldn't, I was so excited.

When we got there the traffic was unreal. We arrived at the Mater Dei College on Clonliffe Road and the stewards directed us to our parking space. We went inside and there were lots of boys and girls my age with hurleys and gear bags. All the girls were brought down to a room and we were told what team we were playing for. I assume the same happened to the boys. I was playing for Cork wearing number 2. We were all presented with our kit, jersey, togs and socks, which we were allowed keep. We were also given an All Ireland match programme, which had our names on it.

After that we were treated to a meal, which was fine. Then we were taken outside to have our team photograph take with the G.A.A. President, Sean Kelly. Shauna and I also got a photograph taken separately with the President. He was very nice to us. Soon after we were called together and it was time for us to go to Croke Park.

We walked together down to the Stadium and we were given seats in the Cusack Stand. When it was almost half time in the minor match we had to go out underneath the stand and line up behind the Artane Boys Band. We marched onto the field behind the band at half time in the minor game and then took our positions for our match. The ball was thrown in and the game started. I was so nervous that I didn't even look up at the thousands of people watching in the stands. It was very quick and before I knew it the match was over.

We then went back to our seats for the second half of the minor game. Before the senior game we had to go out under the Stand again and go around to form a guard of honour for the senior teams, Cork and Galway. When they came out onto the field the noise was deafening.

I don't remember much about the senior game. I was so excited I spent most of the time chatting to the girls we met from other parts of the country. Croke Park is a brilliant Stadium and this was the best day of my life. I really enjoyed it and hopefully I will get the opportunity to play there again some time in the future.



Borrisokane N.S. - Roinn C Winners



Cashel C.B.S. - U-11 B Runners Up



Cumann na mBunscol Chairman, Christy Clancy presents Ciaran McGrath Loughmore N.S. with the Roinn B Shield.



Clerihan N.S. - Roinn F Runners Up



Clonoulty N.S. - Roinn D Winners



Fethard N.C. - U-11 C Winners



Gaelscoil Chluain Meala - Winners of U -13 C Schools Football beating Grange in the final.



Kilruane NS Hurling team that defeated Clonoulty in the INTO Mini Sevens County Final. Back Row, L to R: Jamie Gaynor, Lewis Donaldson, Jack Peters, John Healy, Raymond Kelly, Gilbert Williams Seated, L to R: Robert Ward, David Reddan, Eoin Williams, Sean Kelly, Thomas Hogan

North Tipperary Primary Schools Hurling

Section A.

Two schools, Nenagh CBS and Dromakeenan N.S. from North Tipperary took part in the county schools section A championship. They were grouped with Scoil Ailbe Thurles and Tipperary Town. Dromakeenan defeated Nenagh CBS and Tipp Town in the preliminary rounds. Scoil Ailbe also had victories over Nenagh CBS and Tipp Town in the league campaign. In the final Scoil Ailbe were easy winners over Dromakeenan by 2-11 to 0-3.

Section B.

Templederry N.S. was the sole school from North Tipperary to take part in the county 'B' championship. They drew with Loughmore in the league part of the campaign while also defeating Templemore N.S. Holycross N.S. and Upperchurch N.S. They defeated St Peter and Pauls of Clonmel in the semi final. In the final Loughmore N.S. this time proved way too strong for their old rivals, Templederry.

Section C.

Seven schools took part in the North Tipperary Section 'C' hurling championship: Youghalarra, Ballina, Borrisoleigh, Borrisokane, Portroe, Roscrea and Puckane. It was run on a knock out basis with first round losers going into the plate competition. Borrisokane had a hard earned victory in the final over Portroe N.S.

In the county final in Semple Stadium they continued on their winning way as they defeated Ballylooby N.S. by 2-10 to 0-5.

In the plate final Kildangan N.S. defeated Ballina N.S.

Section D.

In all thirteen teams took part in the section D championship.

They were: Rathcabbin N.S. Burgess N.S. Cloughjordan N.S.

Gaelscoil Aonach, Moneygall N.S. Lorrha/Redwood N.S. Kilruane N.S. Ardcrone N.S. Toomevara N.S. Dunkerrin N.S. The championship was played on a knockout basis. First round losers went into the plate competition.

In the semi finals Burgess accounted for Cloughjordan N.S. and Kilruane N.S. defeated Ardcrone N.S. In the final Burgess had six or seven points to spare over Kilruane. Burgess travelled to Semple Stadium to take part in the county final for the second year in a row. In a terrific game Brugess went down to Clonmore N.S. by the slenderest of margins on a scoreline of 3-5 to 3-4. In the plate final Lorrha/Redwood defeated Carrig Birr on a scoreline of 2-4 to 2-2.

Section E.

In all seven schools took part in the section E championship.

Gortagarry N.S. Ballinahinch N.S. Silvermines N.S. Corville N.S. Rearcross N.S. Birdhill N.S. and Kilbarron N.S. The championship was played on a knockout basis with the losers going into the plate competition. Gortagarry defeated Corville N.S. in the final on June 2nd in McDonagh Park, Nenagh. In the county final played in Semple Stadium Ballagh N.S. proved too strong for Gortagarry winning on a scoreline of 0-7 to 1-1. In the plate competition Birdhill had an easy victory over Ballinahinch N.S.

Section F.

In all ten schools took part in the section F championship. These were; Ballinacloyh N.S. Aglish N.S. Terryglass N.S. Killinaive N.S. Kilkeary N.S. Kylepark N.S. Lachamore N.S. Boher N.S. Lissenhall N.S. Fantane N.S. In the semi finals Kilkeary defeated Lackamore while Ballinacloyh accounted for Lissenhall. The final was played on June 2nd in McDonagh Park, Nenagh where Kilkeary had a convincing win over old rivals, Ballinacloyh. In one of the best county finals in Semple Stadium this year Kilkeary went down by a single point to Killea N.S. on a scoreline of 2-5 to 2-4.

The losers of the first round proper went into a blitz competition. Terryglass defeated Aglish in the final by 1 point after extra time.



Ayle N.S. - Winners of Roinn F



Ballylooby N.S. - Rionn D Camogie Winners



Ballylooby NS - Under 11 B Camogie Winners



Boherlahan NS Roinn B Camogie Winners

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North Tipperary Football

Section B:

Ten schools took part in the section 'B' championship, Borrisoleigh N.S. Portroe N.S. Templederry N.S. Gaelscoil Aonach. Ballina N.S. Roscrea N.S. Borrisokane N.S. Youghalarra N.S. Carrig N.S. Kiladangan N.S. It was played on a knockout basis with the losers going into the plate competition. In the final Templederry had an easy victory over Youghalarra on a score of 7 - 6 to 2 - 1. Gaelscoil Aonach were the plate winners.

Section C: This was by far the biggest grouping in any of the

football championships. Thirteen teams took part, Cloughjordan N.S. Ballinahinch N.S. Kilruane N.S. Ballinree N.S. Lorrha/Redwood N.S. Corville N.S. Ardcroney N.S. Toomevara N.S. Gortagarry N.S. Silvermines N.S. Burgess N.S. Kilbarron N.S. Rathcabbin N.S.

Lorrha/ Redwood beat Cloughjordan in the final while Corville N.S. Roscrea were plate winners.

Section D:

Lissenhall N.S. Kilkeary N.S. Lackamore N.S. Rearcross N.S. Birdhill N.S. Ballinacloyh N.S. competed in this competition.

Kilkeary, Rearcross and Ballinacloyh had first round wins over Lissenhall, Lackamore and Birdhill respectively. Rearcross defeated Kilkeary in the only semi final and overcame Ballinacloyh in the final.

In the plate competition Lackamore defeated Birdhill.

In the blitz competition Terryglass defeated Fantane in the final.

Templederry N.S. G A A

Templederry N.S. had another very good year on the playing field, keeping up their good form of recent years. They took part in section 'B' of the North Tipperary Primary Schools football championship. Ten schools in all took part in this competition. They defeated Gaelscoil Aonach easily enough in the first round. They overcame Borrisoleigh in the second round. Carrig N.S. Nenagh provided much stiffer competition in the semi final with Templederry N.S. emerging winners by 1 - 9 to 1 - 3. They had a relatively easy victory over Youghalarra in the final. The panel was Gerald Hogan, Padraig Gleeson (Capt), Jamie Ryan, David Butler, Brian Stapleton, Eanna Ryan, Dale Donnelly, Joseph Shanahan, Patrick Griffin, Matthew Hogan, Shane Kinane, Edward Hynes, Sean Brosnan, Michael Walsh, Sarah Corcoran, Niamh Slattery, Sarah Murray, Siobhan Corcoran, Moira Ryan, Edel Ryan.

Hurling: Templederry N.S. took part in Section B of the county schools hurling championship. This was played on a league basis. They defeated Holycross 0 - 9 to

1 - 1 in the first round. They drew with Loughmore 2 - 7 to 1 - 10 in the second round. They defeated Templemore N.S. on a scoreline of 2 - 5 to 1 - 3. They had 3 points to spare over Upperchurch in the fourth round on a scoreline of 3 - 3 to 2 - 3.

In the county semi-final they defeated St. Peter and Paul's of Clonmel by 2 - 9 to

2 - 3. Loughmore were their opponents in the county final which was played in Semple Stadium. This time Templederry had no answer to their great rivals of recent years with the mid team

emerging victorious by 2 - 10 to 1 - 1.

The following was the panel: Gerald Hogan, Padraig Gleeson, Jamie Ryan, David Butler, Brian Stapleton, Eanna Ryan, Dale Donnelly, Joseph Shanahan, Patrick Griffin, Matthew Hogan, Shane Kinane, Edward Hynes, Michael Walsh, Ciaran Carey, Niamh Slattery, Sarah Corcoran, Sarah Murray, Louise McLoughlin, Sarah Butler.

Congratulations to Brian Stapleton who made the Tipperary Primary School hurling team.



*Temple Derry Schools North Tipperary Football Winners
Back Row, L to R: Sarah Murray, Siobhan Corcoran, Moira Ryan, Dale Donnelly, Gerald Hogan, Brian Stapleton, Shane Kinane, Joseph Shanahan, David Butler, Edle Ryan*

Front Row, L to R: Michael Walsh, Eanna Ryan, Matthew Hogan, Jamie Ryan, Edward Hynes, Padraig Gleeson, Patrick Griffin, Niamh Slattery, Sarah Corcoran

MUNSTER CONVENTION 2005



Pictured at the Munster Convention last as Joe McDonagh priomh-fheidhmeannach of Foras na Gaeilge made a presentation to former Munster Council Runai, Donie Nealon. On left is Council Chairman Sean Fogarty. Also in centre is Kitty Nealon, while on the right are Willie Ring and Derry O'Murchu,



Front L/R: Catherine Gleeson, Micheal Egan, John Costigan and Donal Shanahan.

Back: Liz Howard and John Ryan.

County Youth Seminar 2005



Toomevara Delegates at the Youth Seminar organised by the Tipperary GAA Youth Committee.
Picture L to R Paul Treacy, Aine Shanahan, Emma O Meara.



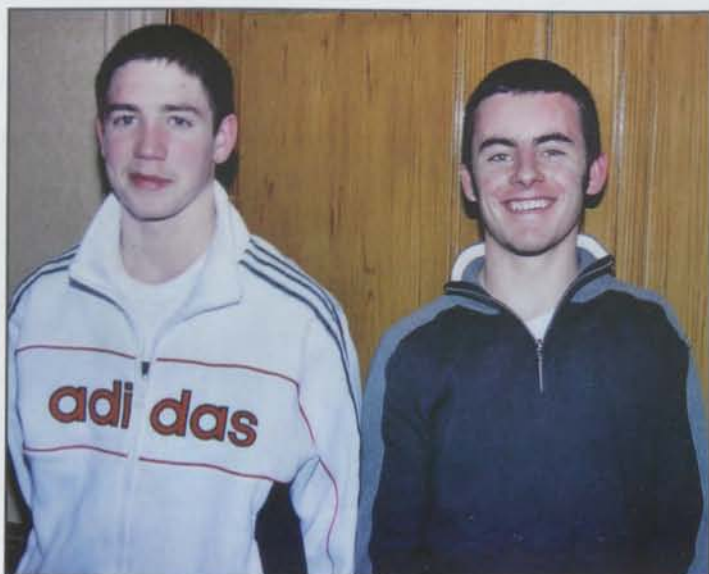
Gortnahoe Glengoolie Delegates at the youth seminar organized by the Tipperary GAA Youth Committee.
Pictured L to R Nigel O Gorman and Keith Dwyer.



At the Youth Seminar organised by the Tipperary GAA Youth Committee. Pictured Front Row L to R: Aoife Maher (Secretary Youth Committee), John Leahy (Guest Speaker), John Lonergan (Governor Mountjoy Prison Guest Speaker), Una O Dwyer Guest Speaker).
Back Row L to R: Donie Shanahan (County Board Chairman), Nicholas Moroney (Tipperary GAA Youth Officer), Gerard McGeogh (Guest Speaker).



JK Brackens Delegates that attended the Youth Seminar organised by the Tipperary GAA Youth Committee.
Picture L to R Aoife Maher, Ray Doyle, Aidan Fogarty, Declan Lynagh, David Farrelly, Adrian Bourke, Pierce Maher.



Kildangan Delegates at the youth seminar organised by the Tipperary GAA Youth Committee.
Pictured L to R: Joe Gallagher and Eanna Gleeson.

The Master

by Seamus Leahy

I had my first touch with sporting greatness in the spring of 1944 when the newly opened MacDonagh Park, Nenagh was the venue for a challenge game between the county champions of Limerick and Tipperary.

Great events were being decided in Europe, the Allies were making slow progress up through Italy and a generation of youngsters was growing up in Nenagh that did not remember the taste of an orange or a banana. Times were hard but, not to worry, the local GAA now had a permanent home in Gortlandroe and was no longer dependent on the rough and ready accommodation at the Showgrounds. And the new field was hosting a game between the two glamour-teams of the moment - Eire Og, Anacarty and Ahane. Mick Mackey's Ahane team was already the stuff of legend; Eire Og had sensationally won their first county title in the previous autumn.

I remember after the passage of 60 years the surge of excitement when Mick Mackey and his men came through the wooden gate into the sideline and how, just after the throw-in, the great centre-forward stepped out in front of his marker to meet a long clearance out of the Ahane goalmouth with an effortless drop-puck which landed in the Anacarty square. To a youngster it was paradise - watching the greatest hurler in Ireland performing before our very eyes.

It was after tea that evening that I experienced the greatest thrill of my young life. My older brother, who was acquainted with the Ahane captain, took me to a pub in Connolly Street and knocked quietly on the closed door. There was a chink of light, a whispered few words, a furtive look up and down the street and we were ushered into the presence of the king of hurlers.

And Mick Mackey the man lived up to my expectations just as Mick Mackey the hurler had done that afternoon. Standing at the bar with Jimmy Cooney, former Tipp star and now playing with Ahane, Mackey shook me by the hand, put me sitting on a high stool and set a bottle of lemonade before me while continuing his chat. Life does not get any better, at least to a nine-year-old.

We became the best of friends - his kids were the same age as mine - and for a goodly number of years we arranged to be on holidays at the same time, first at Traigh an Fhiona and later at Ballinskelligs. There were exciting games of hurling on the green above the beach, then cooling intervals in the water and back to the game again. And Ringey was the centre of all the turbulence, all the kids sharing his own enthusiasm and zest for whatever ballgame was being played. At night we talked as the youngsters one after another nodded off and one saw at close quarters those qualities of a wonderfully warm human being whose existence those who never saw beyond the public figure could not even suspect.

When I attended games with him in summer months I saw the full extent of the reverence he invoked in the sporting public. Having parked once out near Clongour on the day of a Munster championship game, we headed off through Liberty Square for the field only to be greeted all the way to Semple Stadium by the excited shouts of Corkmen in whom his presence seemed to trigger excitement. He took it all in his stride but he shared the excitement. It was a Munster championship day and he was among his own. The king was among his people.

Again in Croke Park I watched as, like the royalty of the game, he was approached with something like reverence by some of the sporting greats of the day. I watched once under the Hogan Stand as he and Dublin's Heffo pummelled each other with enthusiastic welcome and I remembered that the last time I had seen the famous duo together was in the early 50s when Glen Rovers and Dublin's St. Vincent's played an uncompromising game in Croke Park which Ringey turned round in the final ten minutes with some of the most spectacular goals of his career.

When he died I watched his last journey to Cloyne and I thought of the King coming home and of Brian Boru's final return to the land of his ancestors.

Not until Sean Purcell died a few months ago did I see again anything so like the final return of a king to his own place. I had known Sean for many years but even in the most private conversation I could never lose sight of the fact that he was one of those personalities who will live in folklore long after we mere mortals are forgotten.

Like Mackey and Ring he was an ever-so-modest man but modesty did not come at the price of not knowing his own worth. He was already a legend when first I saw him play in the early 50s and, though no doubt his most spectacular performances were in the Galway jersey, I remember him best in unforgettable Railway Cup games in 1950s when to be named for one's province was the highest accolade a hurler or footballer could enjoy. St. Patrick's Day was the day when, at Croke Park, the cream of the country's Gaelic players were on view in games which were contested as fiercely as any championship tie. It was the stage upon which Sean Purcell gave some of his most polished performances.

His partnership with Frank Stockwell brought a new dimension to forward play and captured the imagination of a public that was about

ready for a new journalistic treatment of Gaelic games. Here were two supremely skilful and highly intelligent players acting as though sharing some form of mental telepathy and bringing forward play to a new level. Years afterwards he lightly dismissed the genius of the partnership - "Frank was a very experienced player at that time and I was too. We just managed to click together. There was nothing too organised about it. We just took it naturally." The partnership on the field was matched by a deep friendship off it and up to the time of his last illness, Sean's daily schedule included a call on the not-so-well Stockwell.

His last journey home to Tuam some weeks ago, like Ringey's return to Cloyne, was the return of a conquering hero. The weight of gloom over the little town, the buzz of expectation with the news that the cortege was coming, the utterly silent crowds, a single handclap taken up along the route and suddenly The Master was home, to the sustained applause of his own people whom he had so often brought to their feet and to whose lives he had brought such excitement. In a moment grief was turned to pride in the local man who had grown to manhood in these streets and whose name had gone to the ends of the earth wherever lovers of Gaelic football had found a home.

I did not share his interest in horses and dogs but we had plenty to talk about when we met over the years and when Lár na Páirce was being set up I wrote a suggestion to him that he might send some memento of his playing days for exhibition there. Within a few days a packet arrived containing his number 11 jersey. What a relic for any museum to have - the 11 jersey of the man who had been chosen to fill it in the GAA's two major historical selections, the Centenary Year Team of the Century in 1984 (when he received more votes than any other player) and the Team of the Millennium in 2000. There was no accompanying note - as during his playing days, Sean let his hands and feet do the talking. Today, the centre-forward jersey worn by the man known to football followers everywhere as The Master is one of Lár na Páirce's most evocative exhibits.

I count myself fortunate in life to have met the three greatest sporting figures of my experience - Mackey, Ring and Purcell - and to have counted two of them as my friends. I mentioned to Sean Purcell on one occasion that I must get him to autograph a letter bearing the stamp which carried his image in the GAA Centenary postal issue. I promptly forgot the idea and when I did think of it I assumed that he had forgotten too. Many months later, a few days after my official retirement from work, a letter dropped through the door carrying the familiar stamp with the Tuam postmark. Inside was a brief note - Happy retirement, Seamus - Sean Purcell.

I immediately had note and envelope framed. They are hanging over my desk as I write.

**Mollaig Shona
Shibh**

HARD MAN OF MUNSTER

Enda McEvoy.

(This article first appeared in the 'Sunday Tribune' on January 30th 2005.)

"He typifies our concept of the archetypal Tipperary hurler... It is a quality of style that is intrinsically a part of the man; the rugged power, the sweeping stroke, the touch of dare-devilry, perhaps; and certainly the cold courage." Paddy Downey, The Irish Times, 1965

The lion in winter. He's on his second cup of tea in Hayes's Hotel - where else? - when a man who's been reading the paper over lunch at the next table passes by. The stranger is neatly dressed, a business type in his 40s, clearly no contemporary of the man speaking to the Tribune. But who of a certain age in and around Thurles doesn't know the teadrinker and his deeds? "Write down that this man was a big soft gentle giant," the stranger says, pokerfaced. "There you are!" responds John Doyle, laughing at the good of it. "He's said it all there now!" It's official. John Doyle, teddybear.

So all that Hell's Kitchen stuff was a myth, John? "Ah, a bit. We were never - well, I'll put it this way, we got as much punishment as we were supposed to have handed out. I can assure you of that.

"I'd have to say about myself: I never hit a fella with a hurley in my life. If I had, that would have been the day I'd have had to give up. Oh, I hit them with my body alright. But with a hurley, no. And I stand over that."

Different era, different game. "It was a lot more physical then. But nobody hurt anybody. And there was no big need for frees. Fellas didn't lie down for the sake of lying down. They didn't want to give you the saying that a fella knocked them down." Himself, he did plenty of knocking down. "I never cared about anybody, physically or otherwise, but I would beat them with my strength and my hurling ability."

By his achievements shall ye know him. Not just him, but the contours of his county's fortunes too. Tipperary had won three All Irelands in the 23 years before Doyle arrived on the scene, the unwilling baby of the team that demolished Laois in 1949. They won eight All Irelands in the 18 championship seasons he wore the colours. They've won four All Irelands in the 40 years since his final medal.

As well as the eight All Irelands, two of which came in a mid-career reincarnation at wing-back, he won 11 National League medals, a statistic frequently overlooked. ("That took a bit of doing, now, didn't it?" he says proudly.) He was never dropped. He was never taken off injured. In a county where they like 'em lean and hungry, hardy and frill-free, Doyle

was the incarnation of Tipperary hurling raised to its highest power. The only addendum that needs to be applied to the Paddy Downey quote above, which can be found in the treasure trove that is the Premierview.ie website, is that Tipperary have been searching for John Doyle ever since.

For a while in the late 1990s they appeared to think Paul Shelly might be the one, although only Tipp supporters could have tried to turn Paul Shelly into a folk hero. John Leahy, with his dash and bouldness and unwillingness to recoil from any fire, came much closer. But nobody reassured Tipperary people about their place in creation the way John Doyle did. It's difficult to imagine that anybody ever will.

On the gable end of Barrett's Coachyard Inn in Thurles, four of the county's finest stare down from a mural, a sort of Tipperary version of Mount Rushmore. Jimmy Doyle, Pat Stakelum, the Rattler Byrne, John Doyle. Maybe it's a trick of the light, but for some reason John Doyle's likeness seems to loom the biggest. To the end of his days, as long as he attends matches in Semple Stadium, fathers will clutch young sons, point and say, "That's John Doyle." Jimmy Smyth once observed of Doyle that he generated his own greatness. In a way, he still does.

His CV holds no secrets. The three All Irelands in his first three years, the decade and a half of combat against Cork, the sheer propulsive force of the team of the 1960s. "They played together as if they were a club side, those lads," Doyle acknowledges. "They knew each other so well, they were so long together. And they were big and powerful. The later bunch might have been that little bit better than the 1949-51 team. I'm not saying anything wrong there, am I?" (No.) "But the team of the '60s, they had a bit more power up front. They had, yeah."

Of all the meatgrinding encounters with Cork, Doyle nominates the 1960 Munster final in Thurles as the most fearsome, and one that was to cost Tipp dearly when they met Wexford at Croke Park five weeks later. "That was the hardest game ever. It drained Tipperary so much that we were there for the taking in the All Ireland final. That's the truth. A match I'll never forget. It had everything. Big crowd, scores - 4-13 to 4-11 - a thunder shower an hour or two beforehand. My God, it was something else."

It also had Christy Ring, and the Ring of the early 1960s was, Doyle agrees, even deadlier than the Ring of the early 1950s or the mid-40s. "The older he got, the more dangerous he got. He knew where to go. He was always



in the right place, a great reader of the game. He didn't have to run 20 feet, but he was active. Hurling isn't all about running. The ball goes faster than any guy running."

Not that Doyle was a slowcoach himself. "I was nearly always out in front. Once you get in front and collect a ball, that's it. I had strength. I was reasonably good to hurl and I could drive the ball 80 yards off the ground. All of that '60s team were good at ground hurling." Had he been an opposition manager keen to keep Doyle out of the game, he'd have chosen a speed merchant to mark him. "You'd need a fella with the pace to get away from me. Other than that, he'd have no chance. I'm being honest with you. That's the truth of it." Christy Ring, a notable scourge of false modesty, is doubtless nodding in approval from on high.

The trickiest opponents Doyle marked were Ring, Eddie Keher ("the best forward Kilkenny have had in the last 50 years") and the aforementioned Jimmy Smyth, all three of whom possessed the physique to complement and accentuate their skill. The late Noel Murphy of Thurles Sarsfields he nominates as a player who'd have made a name for himself anywhere else had he not had the misfortune to emerge in the right county at the wrong time.

He plays a straight bat to a question about his son Michael's ill-starred tenure as the county's manager in 2003 ("it was disappointing to be criticised the way he was after the amount of work he put in, but when players go out over the white line, nobody can do anything for a manager"). The inevitable has-Tipp-hurling-gone-soft? poser is matched by an equally unsurprising reply.

"I'm afraid it has. Much as I don't like to say it, we've changed our style from Tipperary hurling to Kilkenny hurling. And they've changed their style to our hurling. You can see the difference the last 10 years. The type of

game we're trying to play we're not able to play."

They can hardly subvert the laws of physics, pretend the rules haven't changed and go back, can they? He looks affronted. "Of course they can. There's no rule to say they can't hit the ball on the ground. No rule to say they can't double on the ball in the air. No rule to say they can't go hard into a tackle. No rule to say you can't make your presence felt on the field. No rule there to stop that." John Doyle's requiem for the land of lost content. Aladdin's Cave will not open wide to Tipperary hurling again in his lifetime. "You'd only be living in hope," he sighs.

He'll be 75 next month. A few years back he wasn't well. He points to the right side of his head. "A tumour. But it wasn't cancerous." In other words, the tumour lost. These days he's fine, and is only sorry that when he's

eventually beckoned forward by the great referee in the sky, he won't be around to attend the obsequies. There'll be a certain amount of people, he reckons, who'll come to the funeral to "make sure I'm gone down".

What his headstone will read is a question he's never considered before. He takes a moment or two, then nods. "As far as the GAA is concerned, I hope club and county will always remember me as giving 100 per cent."

No bad epitaph, even if it's not the one everybody would inscribe for John Doyle.

Factfile:

Born: 12 February 1930

Honours with Tipperary

8 All Ireland senior hurling medals (1949, '50, '51, '58, '61, '62, '64, '65)

1 All Ireland minor hurling medal (1947)

11 National League medals (1949, '50, '52, '54, '55, '57, '59, '60, '61, '64, '65)
6 Oireachtas medals (1949, '60, '61, '63, '64, '65)

Honours with Munster

6 Railway Cup medals (1951, '52, '53, '55, '60, '63)

Honours with Holycross-Ballycahill

3 county senior medals (1948, '51, '54)

Texaco Hurler of the Year 1964

Texaco Hall of Fame 1992

Left-corner back on the Team of the Century

Left-corner back on the Team of the Millennium

Left-corner back on the Tipperary Team of the Millennium

(Enda McEvoy is the hurling correspondent of the 'Sunday Tribune')

Words of Praise

by Seamus O'Doherty

To TG4 not only for live coverage on match days but also their Laochra Gael series, which is so simple, it's a wonder nobody did it earlier!

To Fr. Seamus Gardiner for his long contribution to the Munster Council as a P.R.O.. (See appreciation by Gerry Slevin.) He was always pleasant and tried to ensure that everything went well on big days.

To Tipperary P.R.O. Ed Donnelly, for revolutionising communication systems within the county, and ensuring that the news is available to the widest possible readership at the earliest possible time.

To all our media friends who work locally and nationally on air and in print to enhance our enjoyment of the games. Incidentally it's amazing how many Tipp people are in the G.A.A. media!

To all the volunteers who still ensure that clubs are organised, teams are coached and bills are paid. These people belong to the real Ireland, were there before the Celtic Tiger and will be there after it is gone.

To John Leahy for his work in the secondary schools of Tipperary on the Alcohol Awareness Programme. Full marks to the county board for taking the matter seriously and engaging in this initiative.

To the organisers of the seminar in St.

Patrick's College, Thurles last January on the topic 'Exploring the Link between Spirituality and Sport.' (See report elsewhere in this book.)

To Brian Lacey, who transferred back to Tipperary after several successful years with Kildare. He won Leinster championships in 1998 and 2000 as well as an All-Star award.

To Denis Byrne, whose farewell address as he left Mullinahone to return to Graigue-Ballycallan was so positive and appreciative. Too often departures are filled with rancour.

To Eamon Browne (Kickhams) on his election as chairman of the Munster Camogie Council.

To the Tipperary Youth Committee for their forum 'Youth and their Involvement in Sport' held at Thurles last February. How was this for a talented quartet of speakers - John Leahy, Una O'Dwyer, John Loneragan and Gerard McKeogh? They each had a message for youth and delivered it well.

To all the clubs who ensure that venues are available for schools/colleges games, in the bad months as well as the good.

To Ken Hogan on his selection as goalkeeper on the Greatest Garda Hurling Team. The late Garret Howard was also chosen on the team.

To George Hannigan (Shannon Rovers) who won a Harty Cup and Croke Cup medals with St. Flannan's College, and then followed up by representing Ireland in the International Rules series against Australia.

To ENFER for continuing to support Tipperary G.A.A. teams for the next five years.

To Philip Maher (see accompanying article) whose return to the game after the cruciate ligament sustained in the 2003 NHL final was documented by Dermot Crowe in the 'Sunday Independent' on 23/1/05.

To Borrisokane CC who had to play extra time before beating St. Brogan's, Bandon in the Munster V.S. SHC 'A' final at Cashel on 27/2/05.

To Kildangan on their amazing victory over Carrickshock in the intermediate club final at Semple Stadium on Easter Monday. The 'Kilkenny People' headline read: 'Shock Stunned by Late Comeback'.

To Eoin Kelly and John Devane who captained their respective Colleges in the Fitzgibbon Cup final at Limerick in March, while playing directly against each other. The honours were shared as Eoin was top scorer and received the cup while John won the Man of the Match award.

To Paul Ormond for a wonderfully candid and entertaining interview with Denis Walsh in the 'Sunday Times' on 20/3/05.

To all those players who, having played for their county during the day, got back to play important club games the same night. This is commitment indeed.

To Tony Coen (Lorrha) (photo elsewhere) who received the G.A.A. President's Award from Sean Kelly in Cork on June 5. After two decades of involvement with the club the honour was deserved.

A mention for Cyril Gleeson (Newport G.A.A. Club) who was Gaelic games coach for over thirty years at St. Joseph's College, Newport, having served also in the Vocational Schools at Nenagh and Newport. He was also a chairman and selector with his club, and is wished well in his retirement from teaching.

Scór Report

by Anne Marie Brennan

Tugann sé an-onóir domsa, an cuntas seo a thabhairt daoibh anocht. Mar is gnáth, bhí bliain lán taitneamhneach again,maidir leis na gComórtaisí. Buíochas mór le gach uile duine a ghlac páirt i Scór i mbliana. Bhí an chaighdeán thar bharr ar gach leibhéal.

Ba mhaith liom mo chomhghairdeachas a ghabháil leis na buaiteoirí uile,agus go mórmhor le Niamh Ní Shéadaigh,as Burgess a shroich Comórtas na hEireann.

This year's Scór Sinsear and Scór na nÓg competitions showed a slight alteration in their format. This was as a result of a successful motion from the Mid Division, which allowed two clubs go forward, in each competition, to county final ,instead of one.

This decision was made in an effort to combat the recent decline in competitor numbers at County level,in both Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsear,in particular.

The following pages give a brief report of each county final held over the past year.

Also included are competition results from divisional and county levels.

Scór na nÓg.

Our first Competition of the season took place in Halla na Féile Cashel,on Fri,Dec 3rd.

Mr.Tom Hassett presided as Fear a`Tí on the night. To my mind,the decision allowing two clubs forward in each competition on county final night proved a positive one, in two respects. Firstly,it resulted in a fuller programme of competitors on the night, making a better night's entertainment for all. Secondly, it allowed healthy competition, for those performing on stage.

Unfortunately, once again,there was no representation from the West Division.

On the night, it was a jubilant North Division which captured five out of eight county titles. Among these county title winners, featured the talented Niamh Chadwick, who went on to capture a Munster title in Cashel. Furthermore,she proudly

represented her club Burgess at the All Ireland final of Scór na nÓg, which was held in Athlone.

Heartiest Congratulations to Niamh,on this wonderful achievement.

Scór Sinsear

The county final of Scór Sinsear was held on Friday, Feb 28th,At Halla na Féile, Cashel with Mr Pa Delaney as Fear a`Tí. Despite a scant programme of competitors, the standard of competition was extremely high and a great night's entertainment was enjoyed by all.

It was both the North and Mid Divisions who displayed the strongest representation on the night, with at least one club participating in all eight competitions. The South division was represented in three out of the eight competitions, and there was no participation at all from the West.

Each county champion went on to proudly represent their club at the Munster final, which was held in Cork, on March 19th. Unfortunately, Tipperary did not take home any Munster trophies on this occasion, but our competitors did perform to their usual high standard, on the night. We congratulate each and every individual on their great achievement of reaching the Munster final.

Scór na bPáistí.

Scór na bPáistí, the strongest link between all Scór competitions, was held at Halla na Féile,Cashel, on Friday, April 1st,with Ms Maura Bergin as Bean a`Tí. This year, a full programme of competitors, coupled with a sizable audience, made for a great night's entertainment. The high standard of performance delivered from these young children, was a credit to everyone who contributed to their preparation. Such enthusiasm is infectious, and shines a beam of hope on the future of Scór.

Sincerest sympathy to all who suffered a bereavement during the past year.

Let's hope that the coming year brings more success to the county, at provincial and national levels of Scór.

The following are the results of Tipperary Scór County Finals 2004-2005

Scór Sinsear 2005.

Comórtas:	Mid Champions	South Champions	North Champions	West Champions	County Champions
Rince Foirne:	JK Brackens	Newcastle	Newport	---	North Newport
Amhrámsíocht:	Loughm/Ciney JK Brackens	---	Borrisoleigh Portroe	---	North Borrisoleigh Anne Marie Kavanagh
Ceol Uiríse:	---	---	Borrisoleigh Newport	---	North Borrisoleigh
Aithríneoiracht:	Loughm/Ciney JK Brackens	---	Newport Ballina	---	Mid Loughmore/Ciney Richard Brennan
Bailéad Ghruipa:	JK Brackens Loughmore/C	---	Newport Portroe	---	North Newport
Tráth na gCeist:	JK Brackens Loughmore/C	Newcastle	Ballina Shannon Rovers	---	Mid JK Brackens
Nuachléas:	JK Brackens	---	Newport Portroe	---	Mid JK Brackens
Rince Seit:	JK Brackens	Newcastle	Newport	---	Mid JK Brackens

Scór na nÓg '04.

Comórtas:	Mid Champions	South Champions	North Champions	West Champions	County Champions
Rince Foirne:	Drom/Inch JK Brackens	Newcastle	Newport Silvermines	---	North Newport
Amhrámsíocht:	JK Brackens Moyn/Trouky	Clonmel C Ballingarry	Burgess Borrisoleigh	---	North Burgess Niamh Chadwick
Ceol Uiríse:	Drom/Inch Loughm/Ciney	St Patrick's Ballingarry	Newport Templederry	---	North Newport
Aithríneoiracht:	JK Brackens Moyn/Trouky	---	Silvermines Borrisoleigh	---	Mid JK Brackens Martin Lee
Bailéad Ghruipa:	JK Brackens Upperchurch/D	Ballingarry	Portroe	---	North Portroe
Tráth na gCeist:	Lmore/Ciney JK Brackens	Ballingarry Newcastle	Burgess Silvermines	---	Mid Lmore/Cardeingy
Nuachléas:	JK Brackens Drom/Inch	Newcastle	Templederry Borrisoleigh	---	North Templederry
Rince Seit:	JK Brackens Drom/Inch	Newcastle	Templederry Borrisoleigh	---	Mid JK Brackens

The Following are the results of the Tipperary Scór County Finals 2004
- 2005
Scór na bPáistí 2005

Comártaí:	Mid Champions	South Champions	North Champions	West Champions	County Champions
Rince Foirne:	JK Brackens	Newcastle	Newport	Lattin/Cullen	North Newport
Amhránaíocht:	Drom/Inch	Ballingary	Borrisoleigh	Seán Treacy's	North Borrisoleigh Claire Kavanagh
Ceol Uirlise:	Upperchurch/ Drombane	Ballingary	Newport	Seán Treacy's	Mid Upperchurch
Aithriseoireacht:	Moycarkey/ Borris	Newcastle	Burgess	Lattin/Cullen	South Newcastle Treasa McGrath
Bailéad Ghruipa:	Upperchurch/ Drombane	Ballingary	Borrisoleigh	Seán Treacy's	North Borrisoleigh
Tráth na gCeist:	JK Brackens	Ballylooby	Kildangan	Lattin/Cullen	Mid JK Brackens
Nuachleas:	Upperchurch/ Drombane	Ballingary	Templederry	Seán Treacy's	North Templederry
Rince Seit:	JK Brackens	Ballingary	Templederry	Seán Treacy's	North Templederry

Coiste Scór Thiobraid Árann
Committee Members '05-'06

Position	Name
Chairman	Tom Gleeson
Vice-Chairman	Seamus McGrath
Secretary	Anne Marie Brennan
Treasurer	Dan Madden
PRO	Ed Donnelly
Munster Council Reps	Seamus McGrath Dan Madden

Divisional Positions 2005-2006

Division	Chairperson	Secretary
Mid	Noel Joyce	Martina Fogarty
North	Mai Fogarty	Tom Gleeson
South	Dick Goldsboro	—
West	Jerry Ring	—

Divisional Positions 2005-2006

Division	Chairperson	Secretary
Mid	Noel Joyce	Martina Fogarty
North	Mai Fogarty	Tom Gleeson
South	Dick Goldsboro	—
West	Jerry Ring	—

Scór Thiobraid Árann Meanach 2004/2005

Activities started on November 27, 2004 with Scór na nÓg final. Martin Lee (J. K. Brackens) in Recitation and the Loughmore-Castleiney Quiz team went to the Munster final. Also the J. K. Brackens Set Dancers were unlucky in the Munster final. The senior final was held in Clonmore on February 20, 2005. Richard Brennan (Loughmore-Castleiney) in Recitation, and the Novelty Act and the Set Dancers from J. K. Brackens qualified for the Munster final. The Tráth na gCeist team from J. K. Brackens got to the Munster semi-final.

There were three Scór na bPáistí competition nights, semi-finals in Clonmore and Drombane on March 12, and the final at Templeduhy on March 18, 2005. These were very enjoyable nights with intense competition.

The Scór committee appreciate the hospitality of the host clubs, who also supply the Fir a Tí, and the ladies in the tea room. They would also like to thank their many sponsors, the Mid board, Donal Younge, The Ragg, Thurles Credit Union, Tivoli Cleaners and Lycon Auto Spares. They are also grateful for the courtesy and help of Michael Dundon and the staff of the 'Tipperary Star'

The winners and runners-up for the year were as follows:

Category	Scór na nÓg	Scór Sinsear	Scór na bPáistí
Rince Foirne	1. J. K. Brackens 2. Drom-Inch	1. J. K. Brackens 1. Upperchurch/D	1. J. K. Brackens
Amhránaíocht	1. J. K. Brackens 2. Moyne-Temple.	1. Loughmore/C 2. J. K. Brackens	1. Drom-Inch 2. Upperchurch/D
Ceol Uirlise	1. Drom-Inch 2. Loughmore/C	None 2. Drom-Inch	1. Upperchurch/D
Aithriseoireacht	1. J. K. Brackens 2. Moyne-Temple	1. Loughmore/C 2. J. K. Brackens	1. Moycarkey/B 2. Upperchurch/D
Bailéad Ghruipa	1. J. K. Brackens 2. Upperchurch/D	1. J. K. Brackens 2. Loughmore/C	1. Upperchurch/D 2. Drom-Inch
Tráth na gCeist	1. Loughmore/C 2. J. K. Brackens	1. J. K. Brackens 2. Loughmore/C	1. J. K. Brackens 2. Loughmore/C
Nuachleas	1. Moyne-Temple 2. J. K. Brackens	1. J. K. Brackens 2. Moycarkey/Borris	1. Upperchurch/D
Rince Seit	1. Drom-Inch 2. J. K. Brackens	1. J. K. Brackens 2. Gortnahoe/Glen.	1. J. K. Brackens



*Drom - Inch winners of the instrumental music in the mid final of Scór na nÓg.
L to R: Ciara Maloney, Cathy Ann Corey, Mary Butler, William Corey, Antoniette Kennedy.*

Drom Inch winners of the figure dancing in the mid final of Scór na nÓg.

Back L to R: Martin Kennedy, Emma Ryan, Jean Ryan, Michelle Collins, Tom Walsh (coach).

*Front L to R: Cathy Ann Carey, Lousie Collins, Caitriona Kennedy, Christina Keneally.
Missing from photo Rachel Moran.*



J.K. Brackens, winners of the Mid Final Ballad Group in Scór na nÓg.

Front L to R: Clara Ryan, Padraic Stapleton, Maria Maher - Coonan, Ailise Burke.

Back L to R: Caroline Glennan (coach), Nicole Joyce, Noel Joyce (mid chairman of Scór)

J.K Brackens winners of the Co. Final Scór na nÓg set dancing competition.

Back L to R: Martin Lee, Patrick Delaney, Johnny Delaney (coach), Eóin Bourke, Padraig Stapleton.

Front L to R: Nicole Joyce, Katherese Meehan, Jenny Moore, Ciara Ryan.



Loughmore - Castleiney, winners of the Question Time in the Co. final of Scór na nÓg.
L to R: Ann Marie Brennan (co. Secretary of Scór), Shane Nolan, Shane Hennessy, Willie Eviston.



Moyne Templetuohy winners of the novelty act in the mid final of Scór na nÓg
Back L to R: David Bourke, Megan Ryan, Catriona Ryan, Sarah Phelan.
Front L to R: Lousie Butler, Niamh Everard, Kate Butler, Emma Russell.



Niamh Chadwick All-Ireland Champion, Solo Song in Scór na nÓg with Tom Gleeson (County Chairman of Scór)



Martin Lee, J.K Brockers, winner of the recitation in the County Final of Scór na nÓg with Ann Marie Brennan (County Secretary of Scór)



Templederry, winners of the novelty act, county final in Scór na nÓg.
Back L/R: Eamon Murry, Éoin Kinnane, Dan Madden, Paul Murray & Thomas McCutcheon.
Front L/R: Elisha Flattery, Danielle Slattery, Eimear Shanahan & Christine Slattery.



Patrick Corcoran, Lattin/C Winner of the Recitation at Scor na bPaisti West Final.



Scor na bPaisti Ballad Group Winners, Sean Treacys. L/R Katie O'Brien, Amy Ryan, Laura Ryan, Jaqueline Ryan, Niamh Feehan.



Sean Treacys Scor na bPaisti West Tipperary Novelty Act Winners; L/RLouise Ryan, Lisa McMahon, Tommy Kennedy, Sara Hogan, Brendan Shanahan, Niall O'Toole, Marie Ryan and Greg Kennedy.



Stacey Mc Mahon, Sean Treacys winner of Solo Singing at Scor na bPaisti West Final.



Lattin/Cullen, Winners of Question Time in Scor na bPaisti West Final. L/REmma Buckley, Cormac O'Donoghue and Caitriona Kenny.

'05 HOT SHOTS

Seámus O' Doherty

A SELECTION OF HIGH SCORES FROM THE PITCHES DURING THE SEASON.

Peter O' Brien (Kildorrery, Cork) 1 – 10 for Cist. Coll. Roscrea V. Kilkenny C.B.S.
 Leinster Colleges 'A' Quarter Final at Portlaoise 4th February.
 1 – 7 for Cist. Coll. Roscrea V. Birr C.S.
 Leinster Colleges 'A' Semi final at Puckane 1st March.
Thomas Devereaux (Moneygall) 1 – 7 for Colaiste Phobail, Roscrea V. Borrisakane.
 C.C. Munster V.S. Senior 'A' hurling Semi final at Puckane 16th February.
Ray McLoughrey, (Kilruane Mac D.) 1 – 9 for Borrisokane C.C. V. St. Brogans.
 Munster V.S. Senior 'A' Hurling Final at Cashel 27th February.
 2 – 7 V. Nenagh Éire Óg N. Tipp S.H.C. 11th June at Cloughjordan.
 1 – 8 V. Portroe North S.H.C. 17th July at Nenagh.
 1 – 12 V. Holycross Ballycahill, Cashel. 6th August at the Ragg.
 1-11 V. Carrick Swan Co. MHC Final 16th October at Semple Stadium
Eoin Kelly, (Mullinahone) 1 – 9 for Limerick I.T. V. Cork I.T. Fitzgibbon Cup Quarter Final at Shannon. 19th February.
 1– 7 for Limerick I.T. V. N.U.I.G.
 Fitzgibbon Cup Semi Final at Limerick 4th March.
 1 – 9 for Limerick I.T. V. Univ. of Limerick.
 Fitzwilliam Cup Final at Páirc Na Gael 5th March.
 2 – 8 (Tipperary) V. Antrim N.H.L. Casement Park. 20th March.
 0 – 10 (Tipperary) V. Galway N.H.L. Pearse Stadium 17th April.
 1 – 9 (Tipperary) V. Galway All Ireland Quarter Final. 31st July at Croke Park.
Paddy O' Brien, (Toomevara) 2 – 4 for Tipp V. Antrim N.H.L. Casement Park. 20th March.
Mark Bourke (Borrisoleigh) 0 – 11 for Borris V. Thurles Sars. Co. S.H.L. Borrisoleigh. 2nd April.
Shane Scully, (JK Brackens) 0 – 10 for JKB V. Galtee Rovers. Co. S.H.L. Templemore. 3rd April.
 3rd April.
Timmy Dalton, (Arravale Rovers) 2 – 7 for Tipp Minor Footballers V. Waterford. Fermoy. 6th April.
Willie Keogh, (Silvermines) 0 – 11 V. Burgess N. Tipp I.H.L. final Toomevara 7th May.
Pat Lawlor, (Thurles Sarsfield) 0 – 10 for Tipp Munster I.H.C. final V. Limerick Semple Stadium 15th May.
Darragh Egan, (Kildangan) 3 – 4 V Moneygall North Tipp. S.H.C 30th April. Cloughjordan.
 2 – 7 V. Boherlahan Dualla Co. S.H.C. 16th July at Templemore.
 0 – 11 V. Boherlahan Dualla Co. S.H.C. 13th August at the Ragg.
John Doughan, (Moneygall) 3 – 3 V. Kildangan N. Tipp. S.H.C. 30th April at Cloughjordan.
 3 – 7 V. Portroe North Tipp. S.H.C. 28th May at Nenagh.
Terry Dunne, (Toomevara) 3 – 1 V. Templederry N. Tipp S.H.C. 28th May at Dolla.
Cathal O' Shea, (Aherlow) 0 – 12 V. S. Treacy's W. Tipp I.H.C. 28th May at Dundrum.
 0 – 12 V. Éire Óg West I.H.C. final 10th September in Golden.
 1 – 9 V. Ballina Co. I.H.C. Q/F 1st October at Templemore.
Declan Browne, (Moyle Rvs.) 0 – 9 For Tipp. V. Kerry Munster S.F.C. 29th May at Semple Stadium.
Paul Cagney, (Clonmel Óg) 1 – 6 V. Ballina Co. F.L. Div. 1 1st June at Holycross.

Pat Shortt, (Upperchurch Drombane) 0 – 10 V. Loughmore Castleiney Mid S.H.C. 12th June at Templemore.
Kevin Tucker, Nenagh Éire Óg) 0 – 11 V. Moneygall North S.H.C. S/F 10th July at Cloughjordan.
Cathal Holohan, (Ballyneale) 1 – 7 V. Cahir South I.M.C. 10th July at Clonmel.
Pádraig Madden, (Lorrha) 1 – 9 V. Borrisakane. North I.H.C. 16th July at Cloughjordan.
Roy Darcy, (Shannon Rovers) 1 – 7 V. Burgess North I.H.C. 16th July Cloughjordan.
Ger Griffin, (Ballinahinch) 0 – 13 V. Silvermines North I.H.C. 16th July at Nenagh.
Richard Ryan, (Éire Óg Annacarthy) 2 – 5 V. S. Treacy's Co. MFC 'C' final 17th July at Dundrum.
John O' Grady, (Cappawhite) 2 – 9 V. Rosegreen West I.H.C. 'A' 16th July at Dundrum.
Alan O' Neill, (Cappawhite) 1 – 7 V. Éire Óg/Golden West S.H.C. final 24th July at Dundrum.
 0-12 V. Cashel K.C West S.H.C. Final. 7th August at Golden.
Liam Cahill, (Ballingarry) 1 – 13 V. Killenaule South S.H.C. final 7th August at Fethard.
Eoin Shortt, (Upperchurch Drombane) 3 – 2 V. JK Brackens Co. S.H.C. 6th August at the Ragg.
Ronan O' Meara, (Lorrha) 4 – 0 V. Newport North I.H.C. Q/F. 14th August at Cloughjordan.
Ken Dunne, (Toomevara) 1 – 7 V. Mullinahone Co. S.H.C. 28th August at Semple Stadium.
 0 – 10 V. Ballingarry Co. S.H.C. 10th September at Semple Stadium.
Brian Carroll, (St. Mary's) 1 – 9 V. Skeneenarinka South I.H.C. 26th August at Goatenbridge.
Kieran Treacy, (Fethard) 2 – 4 V. Kilsheelan/Kilcash South I.H.C. 26th August at Kilsheelan.
Conor Arrigan, (Carrick Davins) 1 – 7 V. Fr. Sheehy's South I.H.C. 27th August at Monroe.
Tony Scroope, (Burgess) 1 – 7 V. Silvermines North I.H.C. S/F. 28th August at Nenagh.
 1 – 10 V. Ballina North I.H.C. Final 17th September at Nenagh.
Joey Ryan, (S. Treacy's) 1 – 11 V. Rockwell/Rosegreen West M.H.C. 'B' Final. 30th August at Dundrum.
Peter Comerford, (Kickhams) 0 – 10 V. Clonoutly Rossmore West J 'A' HC S/F 26th August at Golden.
 0 – 0-10 V. Cappawhite West JHC 'A' final 10th September at Golden.
Liam Dwan, (Holycross/Ballycahill) 2 – 9 V. Loughmore Castleiney MID MH 'B' Final 10th September at Golden.
Raymie Ryan, (Cashel K.C.) 0 – 10 V. Loughmore Castleiney Co. S.H.C. 3rd September at Semple Stadium.
Evan Sweeney, (Loughmore C) 1 – 7 V. Cashel K.C. Co. S.H.C. 3rd September at Semple Stadium.
T.J. Gleeson, (Thurles Sars) 1 – 7 V. Drom – Inch Mid J. 'A' HC Final 4th September at Templemore.
James Moran, (Ballylooby Castlegrace) 2 – 4 V. Killenaule S. J H 'A' C/ship 31st August at Fethard.
David Gleeson, (Portroe) 3 – 10 V. S. Treacy's Co. M.H.C. 'B' S/F 17th September at Newport.
John Enright, (Thurles Sars) 0 – 11 V. Toomevara Co. S.H.C. Q/F 17th September at Semple Stadium.
 0 – 10 Loughmore Castleiney Co. S.H.C. S/F 2nd October at Semple Stadium.
Ciaran Ryan, (P). (Cappawhite) 3 – 10 V. Sean Treacy's West U/21 'B' HC S/F 24th September at Dundrum.
Seámus Butler, (Drom Inch) 1 – 10 V. Nenagh Éire Óg Co. S.H.C. S/F 2nd October at Semple Stadium.
 0-11 v Thurles Sarsfields in county SHC final October 16th at Semple Stadium.
Jonathan Cody, (Clonakenny) 2 – 5 Ballinahinch Co. M.H.C. 'C' final 1st October at Moneygall.
Johnny 'Springer' Ryan (Drom-Inch) 1-12 V. St. Patrick's Co. J.H.C 15th October at Cashel.
David Franey (Newcastle) 2-5 V. Fr. Sheehy's South M.H.C. 'C' Final 15th October at Goatenbridge.

Moneygall Celebrate



Eithne Gleeson, Betty Costello, Sadie McLeish



Mick Doherty (Capt. '76), Archbishop Clifford, Pat Sheehy (Capt. '75)



Seamus O'Riain & Michael Dundon



Phil and Agnes Sheehy, Margaret and John Ivors



Seamus O'Riain (centre) with his four sons, Jack, Seamus, Philip and Eugene.

MONEYGALL TEAM OF 1975/1976 HONOURED



Tipperary Star & Young's - The Rugs
in conjunction with
County Tipperary G.A.A. Board
salute the
Moneygall Senior Hurling Teams 1975 - 1976

Donal & Rose Young, 'Tipperary Star' and County Tipperary Board joined forces to honour the Moneygall winning side of 30 years ago on county final day. The men of '75/'76 attended a pre-match reception in Thurles Greyhound Stadium hosted by the County Board before making their way to Semple Stadium for the big game. During the interval between the minor and senior games, they were introduced to the attendance where they received a very warm and generous reception indeed. The squad was led by Captains Pat Sheedy (1975) and Mick Doherty (1976) and the selectors, club officials and partners were all present for what was a very special day for the players. Later the entourage travelled to Young's for a post-match meal where presentations were made to each member by 'Tipperary Star'. The evening ended with reminiscences of a wonderful era for the club and the role of these players in making history by winning the first County Title and then retaining it the following year.

Exploring the link between Spirituality and Sport

by Ciarán de Paor
(First published in High Ball magazine.)

Thurles, the home of hurling, was the perfect setting in January 2005 for a Gaelic Games seminar of a different variety, which was organised in St. Patrick's College by Fr Tom Fogarty the ex Tipperary and Offaly hurling manager, Paddy McCormack, Jimmy Duggan, Marion Graham, Fr. Joe Collina and Fr. Pat Burns. This interesting seminar focused on the spiritual aspect of preparing teams nowadays in an era where huge emphasis is put on physiotherapists, nutritionists, psychologists and physical trainers to provide a winning edge. Fr. Fogarty was of the opinion that with all that medical back-up was there not also a need for the spirituality side of a player to be in harmony for him/her to succeed on the playing field? He used the example of English soccer player Paul Gascoigne as a case in point:

'If you look at Paul Gascoigne in England, here was a guy with all the talent in the world but he didn't fulfill his potential' he remarks 'I believe the reason for this was that he didn't have the spiritual side of himself right and thus he didn't have the inner peace and harmony in his life to succeed' he says.

The chairperson at the seminar was Tomás Mulcahy, one of Cork hurling's most famous sons, who firstly introduced Séan Fogarty, the Munster Council Chairman to open the seminar before Fr. Harry Bohan, the Clare hurling selector addressed the issues in earnest. Fr Bohan explored :

1. The Importance of sport in the lives of people-especially young people.
2. Issues around sport ex. alcohol, drugs, relationships and work.
3. The role of selectors and the problems they face.

Fr Bohan's main points outlined the paramount importance of sport in Ireland's society today where 'Participation was the key' for young people. He also warned of the dangers involving young people too where only 5% of them interact with their parents and only 2% interact with other adults. This left a huge proportion of kids that grow up alone where the spiritual aspect isn't what it should be. Fr Bohan addressed other problems around sport too where 'respect and trust' is crucial between people. The issue of being a selector was dealt with in an honest manner whereby Fr Bohan believed that 'Players in sport demanded honesty' today.

Thérèse O'Callaghan the ex-camogie star was the next speaker, addressing the major issues involving women in the G.A.A with specific reference to how:

1. Ladies play a major role in sport
2. Ladies football/camogie are now on a par with hurling/football



Left to Right: Ger Loughnane, Fr Tom Fogarty, Tomás Mulcahy, Most Rev. Dr Clifford, Marion Graham, Paddy McCormack, Mickey Harte

3. Equality in sport-issues facing women
4. Their struggle to be accepted by the G.A.A

O'Callaghan was of the opinion that although progression has been made women were still 'second class citizens' in the G.A.A and what they needed to do was put in a greater amount of work to progress even more. She gave a superb speech highlighting the plight of women in the Association today.

Ger Loughnane, the legendary Clare supremo, who brought the Liam McCarthy to the Banner in 1995 and 1997 explored:

1. How to instill values. Sport builds self confidence/character.
2. Getting the best from players.
3. Appreciating the sacrifices players are making for club/county.
4. Preparing teams for the big day.

Loughnane firstly addressed the importance of having a spiritual value in life:

'I think if you go through life without a spiritual value, you're life would be very, very empty indeed' he said He reasoned that what people want from life is 'fulfillment' in every thing they do:

'In life if you get a sense of fulfillment, is that not a huge spiritual sense of your life too'?

'It's something that reaches deep down inside you and it's a thing that you treasure forever' he acknowledged 'For me sport was the thing that gave me my sense of fulfillment' he admitted.

Loughnane addressed the link between life and sport where teamwork, spirit and attitude were the keys to success 'The personal relationships of a team are so important' he argued 'We recognise it in teams like the Munster rugby team'

'You can see and feel it with them' he thought 'It's almost like someone could come down off the stand for the Munster rugby team and fit in from the off' he remarked 'They all play for one another'

Loughnane attributes Len Gaynor with instilling the first real sense of spirit among players that is so important before Loughnane took the reins to lead Clare to the most glorious period in their hurling history.

'Spirit is the most important thing of all' he reasoned 'You can have psychologists, dieticians and doctors and they'll do no use unless you can reach down inside yourself and drag out what's in everybody's soul' he

declared 'Every one could be three times as great in their lives if they could reach down and grab the potential that's inside'

'On the odd occasion when you become involved with a group like I did in Clare and this realisation happens, it is absolutely magic' he admitted. He also addressed the Tipperary contingent present and told them that their hurling team will never succeed until they gain this important sense of 'spirit'.

Loughnane remembered specifically sitting in the changing room in Páirc Uí Chaoimh in 1998 before the Munster Final against Tipperary and sensing that something special was about to happen that day.

'It was a day when everyone was in tune with one another' he remembers 'The complete desire was there to give everything for each other' he says 'They were all on the same wavelength and were ready to kill'

'By kill I mean they were all willing to work for success'

'Is that not the essence of spirituality when you achieve something like that?' he said. Loughnane reasons that if someone could bottle that special sense of spirit, attitude and

focus and transfer it to all aspects of their life, they would have a 'great life indeed'.

Mickey Harte, the Errigal Chiaráin man who guided Tyrone to All-Ireland success in 2003 was the final speaker on the day and discussed the following:

1. A When a player retires, has sport fulfilled it's purpose?

B. Has it made him/her a better person?

2. Dealing with tragedy

3. The link between spirituality and sport

Harte's main beliefs were about the importance of family in shaping the individual person for their life ahead. This could be then transferred onto the playing pitch. He also agreed that life and sport had the same ideals attached to them.

'Our sport, our life and our religious outlook are all in a way intertwined' he said Like Loughnane teamwork was hugely crucial too.

'The sense of team is so important too where players must be selfless and not selfish for the ultimate good of the team' he reasoned.

The difficult issue of dealing with tragedy was poignantly addressed by Harte, who remembered when Paul McGirr and Cormac McAnallen died in 1997 and 2004 respectively

and of how it deeply affected the county.

'Unfortunately we have a lot of experience of dealing with tragedy in Tyrone, and I suppose it's a fact of life itself' he reasoned 'It's been very difficult to deal with these tragic deaths because a lot of the boys who were there in 1997 with Paul's death were the same guys dealing with Cormac's passing last year' he regrets. 'Cormac himself was one of those boys too in 97' he remembers 'Paul's and Cormac's death had a huge impact in our lives' he said. 'Spirituality and sport are there all the time, it's real people with real spirit and here were real spirits taken from us' he reasoned.

Harte also felt that sport taught us to take the rough with the smooth as life does also. He was of the opinion that sport could be a superb aspect in our lives where people could achieve 'A healthy body and a healthy mind'.

Spirituality, Teamwork, Spirit, Harmony, inner peace, attitude, communication, respect and trust were the major issues discussed at this lively and at times humorous debate. The audience were captivated by the speakers and the whole idea of 'Spirituality' in sport might just be the next theory that people use to adjust their lives positively both on and off the playing fields of Ireland.

MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS FIXTURES 2006

Guinness Munster Hurling Championship 2006

Quarter Final

Date

14-May

20-May Replay date

Venue

Tipperary v Limerick Thurles

Semi-finals

28-May

3-Jun Replay date

4-Jun

4-Jun

10-Jun Replay date

Clare v Cork TBC

Waterford v Tipperary TBC

Waterford v Limerick Thurles

Final

25-Jun

2-Jul Replay date

Bank Of Ireland Munster Football Championship 2006

Quarterfinals

Date

21-May

21-May

27-May Replay date

Venue

Kerry v Waterford Killarney

Clare v Limerick Páirc Na nGael

Semi-finals

11-Jun

11-Jun

11-Jun

11-Jun

17-Jun Replay date

Tipperary v Kerry Killarney

Tipperary v Waterford TBC

Cork v Clare Cork

Cork v Limerick Limerick

Final

9-Jul

16-Jul Replay date

Munster Intermediate Hurling Championship 2006

Quarterfinals

Date

14-May

20-May Replay date

Venue

Tipperary v Limerick Thurles

Semi-finals

28-May

3-Jun Replay date

4-Jun

4-Jun

10-Jun Replay date

Clare v Cork TBC

Waterford v Tipperary TBC

Waterford v Limerick Thurles

Final

19-Jul

26-Jul Replay date

MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS FIXTURES 2006 (continued)

Munster Junior Football Championship 2006

	Date	Venue
Quarterfinals	21-May 21-May 27-May Replay date	Kerry v Waterford Killarney Clare v Limerick Páirc Na nGael
Semi-finals	11-Jun 11-Jun 11-Jun 11-Jun 17-Jun Replay date	Tipperary v Kerry Killarney Tipperary v Waterford TBC Cork v Clare Cork Cork v Limerick Limerick
Final	28-Jun 5-Jul Replay date	

Erin Munster Under 21 Hurling Championship 2006

	Date	Venue
Quarterfinals	7-Jun 7-Jun 14-Jun Replay date	Limerick v Waterford Dungarvan Clare v Kerry Ennis
Semi-finals	12-Jul 12-Jul 12-Jul 12-Jul 19-Jul Replay date	Tipperary v Clare Thurles Tipperary v Kerry Tralee Cork v Waterford Cork Cork v Limerick Limerick
Final	9-Aug 16-Aug Replay date	

Cadbury Munster Under 21 Football Championship 2006

	Date	Venue
Quarterfinals	11-Mar 11-Mar 18-Mar Replay date	Clare v Limerick Limerick Kerry v Cork Tralee
Semi-finals	25-Mar 25-Mar 25-Mar 25-Mar 1-Apr Replay date	Waterford v Clare Waterford Waterford v Limerick Waterford Tipperary v Kerry TBC Tipperary v Cork TBC
Final	12-Apr 15-Apr Replay date	

ESB Munster Minor Hurling Championship 2006

	Date	Venue
Round 1	TBC TBC TBC	Waterford v Kerry A Kerry Tipperary v Clare B TBC Limerick v Cork C Limerick
Play Offs (Losers Round)	TBC TBC TBC Replay date	Losers A v Losers B Game 1 Winners Game 1 Losers C Game 2
Semi-finals	Semi-finals draw when 4 teams are known to ensure that teams that already played do not meet a second time in the semi-finals	
Final	TBC TBC Replay date	TBC

ESB Munster Minor Football Championship 2006

	Date	Venue
Round 1	TBC TBC TBC	Waterford v Limerick A Waterford Tipperary v Kerry B TBC Clare v Cork C TBC
Play Offs (Losers Round)	TBC TBC TBC Replay date	Losers A v Losers C Game 1 Winners Game 1 Losers B Game 2
Semi-finals	Semi-finals draw when 4 teams are known to ensure that teams that already played do not meet a second time in the semi-finals	
	TBC Replay date	



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CILL BEAG GAELS SMALL CLUB - BIG HEART

By James Holohan

In last year's Yearbook we told you how Larry O'Brien, long time secretary of Cill Beag Gaels was shafted when a young upstart namely Lisa Mc Carthy was the surprise choice on the night. Following the meeting a very disgruntled Larry vowed that he would be back next year. The A.G.M took place in early January before a very large attendance, including many of Larry's old team mates. The meeting quickly turned out to be an anticlimax as Lisa announced that she was not seeking re-election as she was taking a year out to travel before taking up a permanent teaching post. As there were no other nominations Larry was duly elected to his old post. When Larry took his seat Lisa handed him a number of floppy discs pointing out that the year's activities were stored on them. He declined graciously and said that he had his own way of doing things.

With chairman Jim Mc Grath in charge the business of the meeting was quickly dealt with. In his address he thanked everyone for their efforts but then went on to say that the club had not won the county senior football title since 1947. Despite being a small club, he would be very disappointed in his final year in the chair if last year's county minor success did not have a spin off this year.

Many were in agreement with him and it was felt that the players of today lacked the dedication of their predecessors. Jim said that to achieve this target a coach would have to be appointed. Before Christmas he had discussed this subject with former county player Michael Nolan. He said he would be willing to give it his best shot. Secretly, Michael dreamt of this job for some years but as he was of a very quiet disposition, did not drink and was never seen "as one of the lads" his name did not come to the fore. It was unanimous that he would be given the task of Manager/Coach. Michael said he felt very honoured and that he would draw up a training schedule over the next couple of weeks.

Cill Beag Gaels, as usual, entered a team in the county league. Michael saw this as ideal preparation to try out a large number of players in the hope of getting the formula right for the championship. A number of training sessions took place and there was great enthusiasm among the squad. It did not take him long to find out the harsh realities which go with the job. Star player Tom O'Dwyer announced at the annual social that he was taking up employment in London for the next twelve months. The opening round of the league was down for Sunday 13th March. At once, this created a problem as goalkeeper Joe Butler was getting married the day before. Michael Nolan sought a postponement but to no avail. Prior to the game he had promises from 27 players including a number of minors that they would be available. At match time only 14 players were present leaving Michael fuming. Following a number of phone calls two others said they would be there by half time

failing which they would have to concede the points. After the pep talk there was no sign of the expected arrivals so Michael's loyalty to the club left him with no choice but to slip into borrowed gear and at the age of 42 years don the No15 jersey. The "Gaels" were well beaten but the feeling was that things could only get better. That evening he sent a text to each player requesting that they be in the field at 7.30pm sharp. The response was good as Michael said little but left them in no doubt exactly what was expected of them. The League continued each Sunday with mixed fortunes.

They had no chance of winning the League but their last match was against near neighbours Ballydoran who are the "Gaels" fiercest rivals and there was no love lost between them. Coming from the hills they were seen to be big strong fellows, who were always very fit attributed to the fact that they were well used to herding sheep on the mountain. They were not very skilful but were well able to throw their weight around. As one wit was heard to say "getting cards the same colour as their jerseys was nothing new to them". In the dressing-room Michael laid it on the line that defeat was not even a consideration. In reality, together with the selectors they saw this encounter more as a means of toughening their side for the sterner tests that lie ahead. When Ballydoran took the field there was surprise that their star player Frank Ryan had returned from London for the game. The match lived up to its billing as the "Gaels" in true tradition, stood up to their opponents. Just before the final whistle a point by the Gaels substitute, Tony O'Brien, made it a draw.

After the game Michael praised his players for their attitude but warned them that the serious business starts from now. As a tee-totaller he said that ideally he would like to outlaw all drinking but said that he would be reasonable with them and hoped that they would keep their social activities to the minimum. In the first round of the championship Cill Beag Gaels were drawn against St Peter's. This was a combination of junior teams but their senior opponents were much the superior side. In the next round they met Geraldines. Discipline was not what it should have been resulting in the "Gaels" being down to 14 men for forty minutes but still achieving a narrow win.

The quarter final now beckoned and Michael said that they were stepping up training to three nights a week. This match was three weeks away which suited Michael as he would be abroad for a week on a business trip. He left the selectors in charge and his whereabouts were not to be revealed. This proved to be a futile exercise as one of the players who worked in the airport saw him at the check-in on Tuesday morning.

The lotto, which was the club's main fundraiser, took place later that evening. The jackpot, which had rolled over for three months, was won by a club member. The

winner announced that there would be a free bar at the clubhouse on Friday night and with their coach now absent this was a test of character for the players. For chairman Jim Mc Grath it was his policy not to get involved with matters relating to the team. In his position he felt that he should call to the club to congratulate the winner. On entering he was not prepared for what he saw as four members of the team were very much the worst for wear. He told them that Michael would have to be made aware of this and despite their pleas it fell on deaf ears.

When training resumed the following week Michael told the offenders that they would not be selected for Sunday's match and went on to say that there were a number of the U21 team who would be only too glad to stake a claim for a place on the team. The game against Bellingstown Rangers was tough and uncompromising and in the end the "Gaels" got home by two points to qualify for a place in the semi-final.

This was new territory for all the players and the coach called for a further step up in training and no stone would be left unturned to win the title. Michael hit on an idea. He would do his utmost to get Tom O'Dwyer back from London. After a quick phone call across the water, the response was positive as Tom felt he could not let the club down in their hour of need. He also said that he was keeping fit having trained with a number of ex pats. On his first night back with his own in training it added a buzz to the occasion. Two weeks later they took on Ballykenny Rovers with the winners to meet Ballydoran, who had already qualified for the final. The "mountain men" as they are often called were in attendance to suss out their final opponents.

The match was no length on when the returned Tom drove home a goal. Ballydoran's Frank Ryan raised his fist and could swear that he saw him playing for Dr Croke's in London and questioned his eligibility. As the "Gaels" were bitter rivals, he made sure all round him heard his comments. He continued in this vein as the teams left the field at half time obviously in the hope that it would effect the player's concentration. As the game progressed the "Gaels" superior fitness was put to telling effect and they had five points to spare in the end.

A final appearance was also new territory for their growing band of supporters and it began to capture the imagination of the whole parish and the area was awash with banners. With a full panel out on training nights there was a wonderful spirit in the team. Privately Michael and the selectors were concerned about the rumours about Tom O'Dwyer's eligibility. They called him aside after training one night and he insisted that the rumours were unfounded. Vibes were also emerging from the Ballydoran camp that they would be objecting if Cill Beag Gaels win as they had several witnesses to the fact that Tom played in London.

Confident that he was ok, Michael asked the county board if they would investigate this matter. Ballydoran were more than happy to comply with an inquiry as they felt that the outcome was cut and dried. As the final was not on for a further three weeks it gave the board the necessary time to act. Two officers were dispatched to London. They met officials from Dr Croke's Club and the secretary was adamant that no one by the name of Tom O'Dwyer played for them. After further questioning he stated that they had a chap from Cill Beag namely Tony O'Keeffe but he was no longer with them. The officials returned home with the matter to be discussed at executive level and both clubs would be informed of the findings at the next county board meeting. By then, the possible outcome attracted a lot of media attention. It was the third item on the agenda and the chairman made the following statement "Officers from our board had a very cordial discussion with the Dr Crokes Club in London and having considered all the information in minute detail, it is the Board's view that there is insufficient evidence to state that Tom O'Dwyer is an illegal player thus ensuring that he is eligible to play in the county final. The matter is now closed and I wish both clubs the best of luck in the final".

Club chairman, Jim Mc Grath could not conceal his delight and left the meeting to send a text to Michael Nolan who was in the throes of concluding a training session. The news was greeted with glee as the players headed to the showers. He later pointed out that this is no longer a distraction and everyone must be fully focused on the match in ten days time.

Meanwhile over in Ballydoran the news caused great dismay. Their reaction was that Cill Beag would be in for a torrid time on match day. In the week preceding the game there was great banter amongst the rival supporters. The local media, in their preview of the match, felt that Cill Beag Gaels were in with a great chance but gave the verdict to Ballydoran due to their experience and physique.

On Sunday morning it was a hive of activity

down at the club. Garage owner and club sponsor, Denis Healy, had a car sprayed in the club colours and prior to departure a number of local artists gave it the final touches. As the car approached the ground with the horn blaring it was cheered all the way bringing even a grudging smile to the faces of the Ballydoran supporters.

The moment of truth had arrived. Prior to the throw in a proud Larry handed the referee the team sheet in his familiar hand writing. The "Gaels" won the toss and elected to play with the slight breeze. They started very well. With youth on their side their speed never allowed the "mountain men" to use their physical advantage. Each time Tom O'Dwyer got the ball the Ballydoran fans were chanting "what's yer name, what's yer name". Coming up to half time the "Gaels" were leading by 0-7 to 0-2 when they were hit by two sucker punches. Goalkeeper Joe Butler was tackled heavily as he came out, the ball went loose and it was booted to the net. The "Gaels" protested vehemently but to no avail. Having lost their concentration the defence were again caught out when Ballydoran's big full forward fisted to the net.

During the break, an obviously disappointed Michael Nolan told the players - "this is far from over - your objective is to stay focused, play the ball to the wing and deliver quickly to the forwards but above all keep your discipline". Chairman Jim (as he is usually called) said a few words of encouragement and told them to take note of what Michael had said.

When play resumed disaster struck again. Joe Butler gathered a speculative lob, the umpire adjudged that he had stepped back over the line. With a despondent Michael urging on his charges they soon settled down and began to play their best football. After 55 minutes Ballydoran led by 3-6 to 0-12, then Tom O'Dwyer fielded a high ball just outside the 45 metre line, with only one thing in mind he eluded a number of would be tackles, and sent a piledriver to the net to level the scores. Indeed, one could feel that the deafening cheer from the animated "Gaels" supporters could be heard back in Cill Beag. As Tom resumed his position on the wing he could not

resist the look on the Ballydoran supporters and retorted "do ye know me name now?"

Their tails were up now as they went on in search of victory. A promising attack broke down. The burly Ballydoran full forward had now moved outfield. As stated earlier, they were not renowned for their skills. He drew on the ball first time with a toe kick, wind assisted, it hit the inside of the upright and over the bar. The little villagers were not going to surrender without a fight. Sustained pressure resulted in a '45 and despite the elements Tom O'Dwyer's shot just made it safely over the bar. The game was now in injury time. The Ballydoran followers were urging the referee to blow it up saying "we will get ye the next day". The "Gaels" were having none of it. They earned a sideline kick some 30 metres out and Tom again took the responsibility of taking it. With his followers now encroaching on the field he picked up the ball. Indeed one could hear a pin drop as he composed himself and sent the ball unerringly between the posts. The 'Doran goalkeeper took a quick kick out but it was futile as the referee blew the final whistle confirming Cill Beag Gaels the County champions for the first time since 1947.

The supporters immediately raced on to the pitch as they hugged and congratulated their heroes.

It almost brought tears of joy to the eyes of a number of survivors of the '47 team who thought they would savour this moment. When they went up for the presentation the county chairman said that the team were a credit to their little parish and gave special praise to Michael Nolan for his Trojan work and remembered that he always gave 100% when he himself played for the county. He presented the cup to Mick Maher, who captained the side. (It should be noted that he was given this honour as this was his last year playing football). In his acceptance speech he made special mention of Tom O'Dwyer who returned from London when the need was greatest. This brought groans from the dwindling number of Ballydoran players who waited on. Later at a celebration meal Michael Nolan said that taking over the team was always an aspiration of his and with this victory his life's ambition was fulfilled.

MIS – MATCHES OF THE YEAR

Seamus O' Doherty

Who benefited from these fixtures?

Munster M.H.C.

Allianz NFL

Allianz NHL

O' Byrne Cup S.F.

Allianz NHL

Allianz NFL

Allianz NHL

Allianz NHL

Munster M.F.C.

Allianz NHL

Tournament S.H.

Leinster SHC

Cidona Co. MHC B Semi final

Cidona Co. SHC

1st April at Tralee

3rd April at Ballinascreen

20th March at Casement Park

9th January at Freshford

26th March at Wexford Park

20th March at Dungravan

26th March at Athleague

27th March at Parnell Park

6th April at Fermoy

17th April at Nowlan Park

29th May at Castlecomer

12th June at Croke Park

17th September at Newport

6th August at Clonmel

Cork 4 – 28 Kerry 0 – 1

Derry 1 – 26 Tipperary 0 – 2

Tipperary 6 – 21 Antrim 0 – 10

Laois 5 – 22 Kilkenny 0 – 1

Wexford 9 – 24 Down 2 – 4

Cavan 7 – 15 Waterford 0 – 8

Offaly 5 – 28 Roscommon 3 – 2

Kilkenny 2 – 27 Dublin 0 – 11

Tipperary 7 – 12 Waterford 1 – 1

Kilkenny 3 – 26 Wexford 0 – 5

Kilkenny 5 – 37 Antrim 0 – 4

Kilkenny 6 – 28 Offaly 0 – 15

Portroe 4 – 22 Sean Treacy's 0 – 1

Mullinahone 6 – 17 Galtee Rovers 0 – 13

SCOREBOARD 2005

COUNTY FINALS-HURLING

Senior

16/10 Semple Stadium
Thurles Sarsfields 1-17
Drom & Inch 0-15

Intermediate

30/10 Semple Stadium
Burgess 1-11 Moycarkey-Borris 2-7

Junior 'A'

30/10 Semple Stadium
Drom & Inch 2-9 Knockshewgowna 2-8

Junior 'B'

Under 21 'A'

Under 21 'B'

Upperchurch-Drombane vs. Templederry

Under 21 'C'

31/10 Boherlahan
Clonakenny 1-9 Newcastle 0-8

Minor 'A'

16/10 Semple Stadium
Kilruane Mac Donaghs 1-14
Carrick Swan 2-10

Minor 'B'

24/9 Semple Stadium
Carrick Davins 0-14 Portroe 1-9

Minor 'C'

1/10 Moneygall
Clonakenny 4-13 Ballinahinch 0-4

Under 16 'A'

22/10 Cashel
Durlas Og 1-17 Moyle Rovers 1-6

Under 16 'B'

15/10 Boherlahan
Upperchurch-Drombane 1-10 St. Patricks 1-7

Under 14 'A'

25/9 Semple Stadium
Durlas Óg 4-12 Clonmel Óg 0-4

Under 14 'B'

1/10 The Ragg
Killenaule 2-7 Borris-Ileigh 1-10 (Draw)
8/10 Templetuohy
Killenaule 3-8 Borris-Ileigh 2-3 (Replay)

Under 14 'C'

25/9 Semple Stadium
Skeheenarinka 8-18 Sean Treacys 1-1

COUNTY FINALS-HURLING:

Under 12 'A'

4/9 Semple Stadium
Clonoulty-Rossmore 3-5
Holycross-Ballycahill 1-7

Under 12 'B'

4/9 Semple Stadium
Moneygall 0-4 Fethard 0-4 (Draw)
18/9 Borrisoleigh
Moneygall 0-8 Fethard 0-4 (Replay)

Under 12 'C'

4/9 Semple Stadium
Skeheenarinka 6-7 Nenagh Eire Óg "B" 0-1

COUNTY FINALS-FOOTBALL

Senior

30/10 Cashel

Ardfinnan 1-5 Loughmore-Castleiney 1-4
Intermediate

Junior 'A'

Junior 'B'

Under 21 'A'

24/4 Cashel
Loughmore-Castleiney 1-10
Arravale Rovers 0-7

Under 21 'B'

16/4 The Ragg
Holycross-Ballycahill 2-8 Silvermines 0-10

Under 21 'C'

16/4 New Inn
Newcastle 2-7 Eire Og Annacarty 1-7

Minor 'A'

26/8 Cashel
Thurles Sarsfields 0-6
Clonmel Commercial 0-4

Minor 'B'

31/8 The Ragg
Moyne-Templetuohy 3-6 Silvermines 1-10

Minor 'C'

17/7 Dundrum
Eire Og Annacarty 3-9 Sean Treacys 1-7

Under 16 'A'

4/7 Holycross
Clonmel Commercial 3-7
Nenagh Eire Og 4-4 (Draw)

Under 16 'B'

15/8 Borrisoleigh
Ballingarry 2-16 Lorrha 2-8

Under 16 'C'

4/7 Holycross
Solohead 3-7 Ballylooby-Castlegrace 0-8

Under 14 'A'

1/10 The Ragg
JK Brackens 0-3
Clonoulty-Rossmore 0-3 (Draw)
9/10 Drombane
JK Brackens 3-2
Clonoulty-Rossmore 0-6 (Replay)

Under 14 'B'

25/7 Cashel
Ballyporeen 4-7 Moyne-Templetuohy 3-7

Under 14 'C'

1/8 Semple Stadium
Ballylooby-Castlegrace 4-13 Silvermines 3-0

COUNTY FINALS-FOOTBALL:

Under 12 'A'

20/6 Semple Stadium
Clonmel Commercial 1-7
Loughmore-Castleiney 1-1

Under 12 'B'

20/6 Semple Stadium
Moycarkey-Borris 2-2 Carrick Swan 1-4

Under 12 'C'

Portroe 2-2 Moyle Rovers "B" 1-4

INTER-COUNTY CHAMPOINSHIPS HURLING

Senior

15/5 Semple Stadium - Munster 1st Round
Tipperary 2-14 Limerick 2-14 (Draw)
21/5 Gaelic Grounds - Munster 1st Round
Tipperary 2-13 Limerick 0-18 (Replay - AET)
5/6 Gaelic Grounds - Munster Semi-Final
Tipperary 2-14 Clare 0-14
26/6 Páirc Uí Chaoimh - Munster Final
Cork 1-21 Tipperary 1-16
31/7 Páirc an Chrócaigh - All-Ireland Q-Final
Galway 2-20 Tipperary 2-18

Intermediate

15/5 Semple Stadium - Munster 1st Round
Tipperary 0-19 Limerick 1-12
5/6 Gaelic Grounds - Munster Semi-Final
Tipperary 0-17 Clare 1-12
20/7 Semple Stadium - Munster Final
Cork 2-17 Tipperary 2-11

Under 21

13/7 Gaelic Grounds - Munster Semi-Final
Tipperary 1-16 Limerick 2-11
3/8 Páirc Uí Chaoimh - Munster Final
Cork 4-8 Tipperary 0-13

Minor

2/4 Gaelic Grounds - Munster 1st Round
Tipperary 2-20 Clare 1-11
4/5 Kilmallock - Munster Semi-Final
Limerick 2-14 Tipperary 1-6

Masters

24/9 Gaelic Grounds - All-Ireland Final
Galway 1-19 Tipperary 0-9



ALL IRELAND CLUB S.H. CHAMPIONSHIP:

12/2 Cusack Park Ennis
All-Ireland Semi-Final
Athenry (Galway) 3-12
Toomevara (Tipperary) 1-11

ALL IRELAND CLUB INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

13/2 Birr - All-Ireland Semi-Final
Kildangan 1-10
St. Thomas (Galway) 0-7
28/3 Semple Stadium
All-Ireland Final
Kildangan 2-13 Carrickshock 1-13

INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL

SENIOR

29/5 Semple Stadium
Munster 1st Round
Kerry 2-22 Tipperary 0-13

18/6 Semple Stadium
All-Ireland Qualifier
Westmeath 0-12 Tipperary 1-8

JUNIOR

29/5 Semple Stadium
Munster 1st Round
Kerry 2-12 Tipperary 1-14

UNDER 21

12/3 Fermoy
Munster 1st Round
Waterford 3-6 Tipperary 1-5

MINOR

6/4 Fermoy - Munster 1st Round
Tipperary 7-12 Waterford 1-1

29/6 GAELIC GROUNDS

Munster Semi-Final
Cork 3-14 Tipperary 0-7

UNDER 16

9/7 Limerick - Munster Semi-Final
South Kerry 3-18 Tipperary 0-8

MASTERS

21/5 Sean Treacy Park
Tipperary 4-10 Kerry 2-9

11/6 Knockcroghery
Roscommon 2-12 Tipperary 1-8

18/6 Templemore
Roscommon 2-12 Tipperary 1-7

25/6 Ballymahon
Longford 0-21 Tipperary 0-12

2/7 Clonmore
Longford 2-12 Tipperary 0-8

9/7
Tipperary w/o Kerry scr

16/7 Tullamore - Playoff
Cavan 1-9 Tipperary 0-7

COUNTY LEAGUE FINALS - HURLING

SENIOR

Premier -24/4 Dolla
Borris-Ileagh 2-10 Nenagh Eire 1-10

Division 1 - 17/4 Templemore
Boherlahan-Dualla 2-9 JK Brackens 0-14

Division 2 - 17/4 Nenagh
Templederry 2-14
Kilruane Mac Donaghs 1-9

INTERMEDIATE

22/6 Drombane
Ballinahinch 2-9 Aherlow 0-14

COUNTY LEAGUE FINALS - FOOTBALL

ADULT

Premier
23/4 Drombane
JK Brackens 0-7 Aherlow 0-7 (Draw)
4/6 Drombane
JK Brackens 1-7 Aherlow 0-9 (Replay)

Division 1 - 1/6 Holycross
Clonmel Og 1-10 Ballina 1-8

Division 2 - 29/4 Golden
Ardfinnan 2-9 Boherlahan-Dualla 0-7

MINOR

Division 1
Carrick Swan w/o Arravale Rovers scr.

Division 2 - 17/3 Fethard
Kilsheelan-Kilcash 2-9
Moycarkey-Borris 2-8

Division 3 - 17/3 Cahir
St. Patrick's Gaels 3-13
Rockwell Rovers 2-4

RYAN CUP HURLING

4/3 Na Piarsaigh Limerick - Semi-Final
Sligo IT 3-9 Tipperary 0-8

5/3 Limerick IT - Final
Sligo IT 2-13 Carlow IT 0-5

MUNSTER CLUB SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

HURLING

6/11 Semple Stadium
Munster 1st Round
Thurles Sarsfields 2-15
Lixnaw (Kerry) 3-8

ALLIANZ NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE:

DIVISION 1B PHASE 1

20/2 Semple Stadium
Tipperary 3-17 Down 2-12

27/2 Gaelic Grounds
Tipperary 4-14 Limerick 3-122

13/3 Semple Stadium
Wexford 2-19 Tipperary 2-15

20/3 Casement Park
Tipperary 6-21 Antrim 0-10

27/3 Semple Stadium
Cork 0-16 Tipperary 1-12

DIVISION 1B PHASE 2

10/4 Semple Stadium
Clare 1-16 Tipperary 0-15

17/4 Pearse Stadium
Tipperary 3-16 Galway 0-17

24/4 Nowlan Park
Kilkenny 3-18 Tipperary 2-16

ALLIANZ NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE:

DIVISION 2B

6/2 Ardfinnan
Cavan 1-10 Tipperary 0-5

13/2 Dungarvan
Waterford 0-6 Tipperary 0-4

6/3 Clonmel
Meath 0-14 Tipperary 1-7

13/3 Drogheda
Louth 1-15 Tipperary 1-9

20/3 Aughrim
Wicklow 0-11 Tipperary 1-6

26/3 Clonmel
Antrim 1-18 Tipperary 1-7

3/4 Ballinascreen
Derry 1-26 Tipperary 0-2

20/11 Páirc Uí Chaoimh
Munster Semi-Final
Newtownshandrum (Cork) 1-16
Thurles Sarsfields 0-13

FOOTBALL

13/11 Ardfinnan - Munster 1st Round
Nemo Rangers (Cork) 1-13
Ardfinnan 0-6

MUNSTER INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Quarter-Final 13/11/2005 in Lismore - Ballyduff
Upper (Waterford) 3-13 Burgess(Tipperary) 0-13

MUNSTER JUNIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Quarter-Final 12/11/2005 in Templemore -
Knockshegowna (Tipperary) 1-10
Kenmare (Kerry) 1-6

Semi-Final 27/11/2005 in Nenagh
Knockshegowna (Tipperary) 0-12 Brickey
Rangers(Waterford) 0-7

Final 04/12/2005 in Limerick
Fr. O'Neills (Cork) 1-12
Knockshegowna(Tipperary) 0-7

MUNSTER JUNIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi-Final 04/12/2005 in Ardfer
Ardfer (Kerry) 4-10
Rockwell Rovers (Tipperary) 0-5

MARTIN DONNELLY INTER PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

HURLING

23/10 Casement Park - Semi-Final
Munster 0-25 Ulster 1-13

6/11 Aidan McAnespies Gaelic Football club in
Canton, Boston - Final
Munster 1-21 Leinster 2-14

FOOTBALL

30/10 Crossmaglen - Semi-Final
Ulster 2-13 Munster 0-9

FITZGIBBON CUP HURLING

3/2 Shannon - 1st Round
G.M.I.T. 3-11 Garda College 1-13

4/3 Limerick IT - Semi-Final
Limerick IT 2-16 NUI Galway 0-8

TOMMY MURPHY CUP

16/7 Semple Stadium
Tipperary 2-9 Leitrim 1-11

23/8 Semple Stadium - Semi-Final
Tipperary 0-15 Roscommon 0-11

4/9 Páirc an Chrócaigh - Final
Tipperary 3-10 Wexford 0-15

23/10 Gaelic Park New York
Irish Diaspora Perpetual Trophy
Tipperary 1-9 New York 0-9

MCGRATH CUP FOOTBALL

16/1 Clonmel - Quarter-final
Tipperary 1-10 Kerry 0-8

23/1 Clonmel - Semi-final
Cork IT 1-10 Tipperary 0-5

FRIENDS OF TIPPERARY FOOTBALL UNDER 16

23/4 New Inn - Semi-final
South 1-8 West 1-5

23/4 Ballycahill - Semi-final
North 2-16 Mid 1-9

1/5 - Pairc na nOg - Final
North 0-7 South 0-6



4/3 Limerick IT - Semi-Final
University of Limerick 4-9
Waterford IT 2-13

5/3 Gaelic Grounds - Final
Limerick IT 2-13
University of Limerick 3-4

SIGERSON CUP FOOTBALL
28/1 Drogheda - Preliminary Round
Garda College 3-11
University of Ulster Coleraine 0-9

8/2 Templemore - 1st Round
Garda College 1-14 NUI Maynooth 1-10

18/2 Mardyke Cork - Quarter-final
UCC 0-14 Garda College 0-7

25/2 Dundalk IT - Semi-Final
Sligo IT 2-12 UCC 0-11

25/2 Dundalk IT - Semi-Final
Queens University Belfast 1-9
University of Ulster Jordanstown 1-8

26/2 Dundalk IT - Final
Sligo IT 0-10
Queens University Belfast 0-7

KILMACUD CROKES ALL-IRELAND 7 A SIDE HURLING (SENIOR)

10/9 at Kilmacud Crokes
Mullinahone (Tipperary) beat O'Donovan Rossa of
Antrim, Kiltormer of Galway, and Lucan Sarsfields
of Dublin.

Quarter-final
Mullinahone 8-5 St. Catherine's Cork 2-7

Semi-final
Mullinahone 5-6 O'Tooles Dublin 3-8

Final
Mullinahone 6-7 Portumna Galway 0-15

RELEGATION FINALS

HURLING

17/9 The Ragg
Holycross-Ballycahill 1-21
Templederry 1-10

FOOTBALL

Galtee Rovers vs. Golden-Kilfeacle

ARRABAWN UNDER 16**HURLING TOURNAMENT:**

27th August at Páirc na Óg

Tipp	2-11
Dublin	1-6
Tipperary	2-8
Wexford	0-7
Kilkenny	1-17
Tipperary	1-7 (Semi Final)

(Kilkenny won the tournament.)

MUNSTER UNDER 16**HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP:**

19th March at Kilsheelan

South Tipperary	0-13
East Waterford	1-4 (1st Rd)

19th March at Cloughaun

Mid Tipperary	4-13
Mid Clare	3-10(1st Rd)

19th March at Charleville

Cork City	3-20
West Tipperary	0-6(1st Rd)

28th March at Borrisoleigh

North Tipperary	2-11
Mid Tipperary	1-10(Q/F)

28th March at Templemore

East Clare	2-18
South Tipperary	0-7(Q/F)

2nd April at Limerick

East Clare	2-10
North Tipperary	1-11(S/F)

GARDA CUP 16 HURLING**TOURNAMENT:**

26th February at Drombane

North	3-11
Mid	1-3(S/F)

26th February at New Inn

South	1-8
West	0-6(S/F)

5th March at The Ragg

North	5-15
South	1-6(Final)

5th March at Clonoulty

West	1-10
Mid	0-11(Shield)

UNDER 14 INTER**DIVISIONAL FOOTBALL:**

6th August at Thurles

South beat West	(S/F)
North beat Mid	(AET) (S/F)
South beat North	(final)

TONY FORRISTAL UNDER 14**HURLING TOURNAMENT:**

27th August at Waterford (Mt Sion)

Cork	1-11
Tipperary	2-7
Galway	1-8
Tipperary	3-6

(Kilkenny won the tournament)

PEADAR CUMMINS UNDER 14**HURLING TOURNAMENT:**

9th July at Borrisoleigh

Mid	1-9
North	1-6(S/F)

9th July at The Ragg

South	5-11
West	1-4(S/F)

9th July at Borrisoleigh

Mid	2-15
South	2-9(Final)

9th July at Borrisoleigh

North beat West (Shield Final)

FÉILE NA nGAEL HURLING (Div 1)**Co. FINAL:**

12th May at Boherlahan

Dúrlas Óg	3-5
Clonoulty Rossmore	0-4

JIM POWER CUP U/14 FOOTBALL:

3rd September at Waterford

Tipp lost to Cork city (RI)

Tipp lost to Laoi s.

FÉILE PEIL ÓG Co FINAL:

12th May at Boherlahan

Arravale Rovers	2-8
J.K. Brackens	2-3

2nd July at Limerick

Arravale Rvs beat Glin (Limk)
Arravale beat Athea (Limk)
Arravale beat Erne Gaels (Fermanagh).
Padraig Pearses (Roscommon)
beat Arravale Rovers (S/F)

UNDER 15 MUNSTER BLITZ:

9th July at Cork

Cork beat Tipp by 1 point

Clare beat Tipp (Plate Final)

UNDER 15 CARRIGDHOUN**TOURNAMENT:**

27th August

Tipperary	0-10
Limerick	1-3
Tipperary	2-6
Cork	1-9
Tipperary	0-11
Clare	1-6
Tipperary	0-11
Waterford	2-3
Cork	2-13
Tipp	1-11 (Final)

CUMANN NA mBUNSCOIL -**COUNTY HURLING FINALS:**

9th June Semple Stadium

'A' Scoil Ailbe	2-11
Dromakeenan	0-3
'B' Loughmore	2-15
Templederry	2-4
'C' Borrisokane	3-10
Ballylooby	0-5
'D' Clonoulty	3-5
Burgess	3-4
'E' Ballagh	0-7
Gurtagarry	1-1
'F' Ayle	2-5
Clerihan	1-6
'G' Killea	2-5
Kilkeary	2-4

SCHOOLS/COLLEGES**HURLING:****DR. HARTY CUP**

26th January at New Inn

St. Colman's Fermoy	4-14
St. Joseph's Borrisoleigh	1-4(Q/F)

30th January at Boherlahan

Thurles CBS	1-10
Cashel C. S	1-4(Q/F)

13th February at Clonmel

Thurles CBS	4-10
St. Coleman's Fermoy	1-6S/F

12th March at Nenagh

St. Flannan's Ennis	1-11
Thurles CBS	1-6Final

9th April at Nenagh

St. Kieran's Kilkenny	5-14
Thurles CBS	2-9 (All Ire S/F)

Nonagenarian Jim Daly of Emly, in centre, who played Football for Tipperary in 1937 in Dungarvan against Waterford, received a visit from his neighbour and relative Frankie Carroll with the Limerick SHC Cup won by Garryspillane recently. Also in the picture from left is Meanie Condon Emly, William Heffernan, Garryspillane and James Condon Emly.



LEINSTER COLLEGES 'A' SENIOR HURLING:

4th February at Portlaoise	
Cistercian College Roscrea	4-15
Kilkenny CBS	2-8(Q/F)
1st March at Puckane	
Birr Comm. School	2-10
Cistercian College Roscrea	2-9(S/F)

CANON FITZGERALD CUP:

11th May at The Ragg	
Thurles CBS	4-17
Our Lady's Templemore	1-12

CANON FITZGERALD CUP 'B':

22nd March at Dr. Morris Park	
Borrisokane C.C	4-18
Scoil Runain Killenaule	2-11(Final)

WHITE CUP U/15 'A':

15th April at Clonmel	
Thurles CBS	1-9
D.L.S. Waterford	0-9

MUNSTER U/15 'B':

Castletroy Coll	1-15
Nenagh CBS	2-11

UNDER 14 RICE CUP:

1st June at Semple Stadium	
Our Lady's Templemore	4-13
Kilkenny CBS	3-8(Final)

UNDER 14 WESTCOURT CUP(H):

31st May at Goatenbridge	
Abbey CBS	4-8
Youghal CBS	3-10(Final)

SCHOOL/COLLEGES FOOTBALL:**MUNSTER SENIOR 'B' CORN AN UACHTARAN**

11th February at Caherconlish	
Abbey CBS	4-10
Ard Scoil Rís	2-5(S/F)
3rd March at Ballylanders	
Abbey CBS	4 -5
St. Colmans Fermoy	2-5(Final)
23rd March at Portlaoise	
Abbey CBS	4-11
Colaiste Eoin Dublin	1-8(All Ire Q/f)
9th April at Templemore	
Abbey CBS	2-7
Holycross Mount Bellew	0-7(All Ire. S/F)
30th April at Parnell Park	
Our Lady's Castleblaney	1-11
Abbey CBS	1-9(All Ire. Final)
McGabhann Cup Senior Football:	
9th December at Dr. Morris Park	
Abbey CBS	2-8
Cashel CS	1-2(Final)

KINANE CUP U161/2 'B' HURLING:

7th December at Fermoy	
Carrigaline CBS	2-8
Abbey CBS	2-4(Final)

V.S. SENIOR FOOTBALL 'B':

19th December at Portlaoise	
Kildare	2-16
Tipperary	3-12 (A.E.T.) (Final).

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS**INTER CO. SENIOR HURLING:**

23rd March at Loughrea	
Tipperary	1-17
Galway	3-9(All Ire S/F)
10th April at Semple Stadium	
Cork	4-13
Tipperary	3-10(Final)

MUNSTER SENIOR 'A' HURLING

16th February at Puckane	
Borrisokane C.C	4-13
Roscrea C.C	2-10(S/F)
27th February at Cashel	
Borrisokane C.C	3-15
St. Brogan's Bandon	2-16(AET)(Final)
17th April at Pearse Stadium	
Borris C.C	1-9
Athenry V.S	0-7(A.G. S/F)
24th April at Nowlan Park	
Borrisokane CC	2-9
Johnstown VS	0-8(Final)

MUNSTER U/16 HURLING:

1st February at New Inn	
St. Brogans Bandon	1-10
Roscrea Com. Coll	2-6(Final)
MUNSTER V.S. SENIOR 'B':	
26th January at Morris Park	
Nenagh V.S Beat	
Comeragh C.C	
3rd February at Rathcormack	
Nenagh V.S	2-10
Maria Immaculata	
Dunmanway	1-8(Final)

ALL IRELAND SENIOR 'B':

9th February at Portumna	
Nenagh VS	0-11
St. Killian's, New Inn	0-6(S/F)
19th February at Portlaoise	
Borris VS (Carlow)	2-14
Nenagh VS	2-7(Final)
VS	

MUNSTER VS JUNIOR 'B' FOOTBALL

20th April at Mitchelstown	
Scoil Ruain Killenaule	0-11
Abbeyfeale V.S	0-9(Final)

OUTSTANDING RESULTS 2004**COUNTY FINALS FOOTBALL:****JUNIOR 'A'**

Rosegreen	1-9
Clonmel Commercial	0-8(Replay)

JUNIOR 'B'

Thurles Fennellys	1-6
Shannon Rovers	0-8
Inter Provincial-Martin Donnelly	

HURLING:

Connacht	1-15
Munster	0-9(Final)

MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS**HURLING:**

Junior	
27th November at Ennistymon	
Ennistymon (Clare)	2-6
Ballyneale	0-10(RI)

INTERMEDIATE:

26th November at Nenagh	
Kildangan	2-17
St. Catherine's(Cork)	1-13(RI)
4th December at Nenagh	
Kildangan	1-17
Smith O' Brien's (Clare)	0-11(S/F)
12th December at Limerick	
Kildangan	1-10
Dromin Athlaccia (Limk)	1-4(Final)

FOOTBALL:**JUNIOR**

11th December at Listowel	
Finuge (Kerry)	3-15
Rosegreen	1-2(S/F)

INTERMEDIATE:

5th December at Walsh Park	
Gaultier (Waterford)	1-5
Killenaule	0-4(S/F)

SCHOOLS /COLLEGES**UNDER 15 CROKE CUP**

2nd December at Puckane	
Borrisokane C.C.	5-13
Nenagh CBS	0-12 (Final)



Friends we lost in 2005

Joe Brennan

(St. Patrick's)



Joe Brennan's death came as a great shock to the areas of Drangan, Cloneen and Killenaule. Joe was involved with St. Patrick's over many years, especially when they won the South junior hurling final in 1963. When there was a revival of hurling in the area in the later eighties, Joe was again involved, and reaped his reward when the club defeated Skeheenarinky in the 1991 final. He continued to be an active committee member until his untimely death. In his earlier years he was a prominent athlete and was a runner-up in the All-Ireland youths cross-country. May he rest in peace.

Danny Casey

Toomevara



Danny Casey was a very accomplished hurler in his younger days having played for the Tipperary minors in the late thirties and during a long career playing for his local club Toomevara he won an Intermediate Medal in 1944 and a North Senior medal in 1946. Danny also was a member of the winning three in a row Millar Shield Teams of 1942, '43 and '44 that was honoured by the North Board. Danny over the years always took a keen interest in the fortunes of the Toomevara Club and was very proud of the clubs success in recent years.

Jimmy Condon

(1947-2005) Emly



It came as a great shock to the people of Emly when news spread that Jimmy Condon had died rather suddenly in the United States. He had spent most of his life there though he and his family frequently returned to Ireland to spend their holidays in Ballycurrane. He was an accomplished hurler and footballer. While small in stature he made up for his lack of inches through speed, determination and skill. He received his secondary education in St. Flannan's College and played Harty Cup hurling while there. He played hurling and football for Emly at all ages and was a valued member of the team that won the county junior football title in 1968. He had a great interest in greyhounds, and became a competent golfer while in the United States. To his wife, Susan, his sons, Brian and Jimmy, and the other members of his family we extend our sympathy. Ar dhéis lámh Dé go raibh a anam.

Jack Conway

Fr. Sheehy's-Birncourt



Jack Conway from Toorbeg, Birncourt passed to his eternal reward on November 21, 2004. One of his greatest loves was the G.A.A. he played for his native Birncourt, and also for the Cahir Slashers in the 1938 final. A great

conversationalist, he loved to talk of matches, past and present, and always kept a keen interest when the local teams were playing.

Tommy Crosse

(1922-2005) Eire Og



Tommy Crosse passed to his eternal reward on September 3rd. 2005. A lifelong supporter of G.A.A. affairs, he was president of the Éire Óg club. During the fifties he played with Donohill and a few times with Éire Óg, but it was for his administrative expertise that he will be best remembered. He served as chairman from 1976 to 1978, during which time the club decided to purchase Dee's farm in Anacarty village, as its club grounds. Tommy worked tirelessly to fundraise and develop the new field, leaving no stone unturned in this pursuit. He was a life-long pioneer. He was predeceased by his wife Annie in 1996, and by his brother, Dinny in August 2005. The Éire Óg club formed a guard of honour as a mark of respect to a true Gael. Sympathy to his sons, daughters and extended family.

Mrs. Nora Daly

(St. Mary's, Clonmel)

Nora O'Connell, a native of Derricknue, Killenaule, who died in April, was one of the founder members and star players of the St. Mary's camogie Club of the 1930s. She played with Munster in the Tailteann Games in 1932 and, after she had married Finn Daly and settled in Clonmel, she acquired a reputation as a pitch-and-putt player. In 1974 she became the first non-Cork person to win the Munster Ladies Stroke Play championship and in the same year she was the recipient of a Cidona award. She was born on the same day as her colleague on the

Tailteann Games team and her lifelong friend, Johanna Healy, and by peculiar coincidence the two died with a couple of months of each other - she at the end of April and Johanna Healy at the end of June.

Arthur (Arty) Dunne

(1957-2005) Lattin-Cullen.



The untimely death of Arthur Dunn, aged 48 after an illness he accepted with great courage, was a great sadness and loss for his family and friends. The sorrow and support occasioned throughout the whole community for a very popular "character", was evidenced in one of the largest funerals witnessed in Lattin. The local tennis and G.A.A. clubs formed guards of honour and his coffin was draped in the club colours. He played mid-field for the Lattin/Emly Combo winning West and county minor football titles in 1975. He was elected club secretary in 1981 and chairman in 1991.

Sympathy to his wife Kay, daughters, son and relatives. Go ndeana Dia trocaire ar a anam.

William (Billy) Finnan

(1936-2005) Lattin Cullen.



The death occurred earlier this year

of Billy Finnan late of Kilross after a long illness. Physically strong and athletic, he gave many sterling performances for Lattin-Cullen teams in both hurling and football in the years 1958 to 1963. His regular position was mid-field. Among his achievements on the playing fields he won West senior football championships in 1958 and 1961 and a West junior hurling with Lattin-Cullen, and a West senior hurling with Lattin/Solohead combo 1963. Losing the county senior football final 1961 replay to St.Flannan's North Tipp Selection in March 1962 was his big disappointment.

Sympathy to his wife Breda, sons and relatives.

Joe Giles

(1948-2005) J. K. Brackens

Joe Giles passed away on October 3, 2005 after a relatively short illness. A native of Clonmore, he resided in Killea. After his family his main interest in life was the G.A.A. to which he gave lifelong service and loyalty, firstly as an accomplished player and later as a passionate follower.

His playing career commenced playing minor football for Na Fianna in 1964, and continued the following year when he played minor, under-21 and junior football with Templemore. When Clonmore returned to championship action in 1968, Joe returned to play with them. He continued to play until the early seventies when, having hung up his boots, he became a regular supporter of club teams. When the amalgamation of the three clubs came about in the early 90s, he supported the new club with vigour and enthusiasm. He was delighted to see his son, Brian, win an under-14 A championship with the club in 1999.

In 2004 he presented a magnificent cup to the juvenile G.A.A. club and was always generous in his contribution to any fund-raising activity. He was also a passionate supporter of Tipperary.

The club would like to extend sympathy to his wife and family.

I bhflaitheas Dé i measc na h-aingéal naofa go raibh anam uasal Seosamh Mac Glaishne.

Pat Gleeson

Kildangan (1952-2004)



The unexpected and untimely death of Pat Gleeson Johnstown, Puckane occurred on the 12th November 2004 after a brief illness. Pat won a North and County U-15 medals with Kildangan in 1966. In 1971 he won a North and County Intermediate medal with Kildangan when they defeated Shannon Rovers in the North final and Boherlahan in the county decider. Pat loved the game of hurling. He was a loyal supporter of Kildangan all his life. In September 2004, he attended the County U-14 A Hurling Final between Kildangan and Moyle Rovers. Only two weeks prior to his death he was in Semple Stadium cheering Kildangan to County Intermediate Final victory. He would have been so proud to see his beloved Kildangan bring all-Ireland glory to the proud hurling parish. We are sure he was with us in spirit.

To his wife Bridget, son Roger, daughters Lillian, Catherine, Antoinette and Stephanie, his mother Kathleen, mother in law Lil, his five brothers, his three sisters, relatives and many friends we extend our deepest sympathy.

Ar Dheis De go raibh a anam Dhlis.

Ned Hahessy

Carrick Swan



The sudden death of one of our most faithful followers and former officer of our club Ned Hahessy this summer brought further sadness to all of us. Ned was a most dedicated juvenile selector, secretary and officer over many years and he helped in no small way to shape the hurling and football careers of many of our past and present players. Ned was forever in attendance at our under age games and it was fitting that the day before he died he saw his beloved Carrick Swan in action. It is also fitting that this year his grand-son Stephen captained our minor hurling team and continues the strong Hahessy family connection with our club. May he rest in peace.

Mrs. Johanna Healy

(St. Mary's, Clonmel)

When St.Mary's Camogie club was formed in 1932 the joint secretary and one of the most active players was Johanna Meaney, a popular member of the nursing staff of

St.Luke's Hospital. Born and reared on Clonmel's old Kerry Road she was one of the group of young ladies who paid what was then the huge membership fee of half a crown to form the club. In the Tailteann Games she was one of two St.Mary's players, the other being Nora Daly (nee O'Connell), who were picked to play for Tipp when the county represented Munster in the inter-provincial game against Connaught. She married Jim Healy of Knockaun, Upperchurch and in Clonmel they reared a family of five children, one of whom is Seamus Healy, South Tipp's Independent T.D. Her death in June severed what was probably the last link with the Tailteann Games team.

Aoife Hewitt

(Clonmel Og)



The sudden and untimely death of 16 year old Aoife Hewitt on January 23rd was greeted with profound shock and sadness throughout the club and beyond. Aoife was a current player with the Clonmel Og club having started playing with Commercials. Aoife's Clonmel Og jersey and the Clonmel Commercials flag were both brought to the altar at her funeral Mass as both clubs grieved the loss of a true friend.

Aoife was a girl who brought nothing but admiration from those lucky enough to cross paths with her. She always seemed to be smiling and she was always only too willing to help people out especially where children were involved. Only the previous August she returned to help out with our club summer camp again endearing herself to the children at the camp with her smile and caring nature. Those of us who met and knew Aoife during her short life while grieving her loss can be thankful that she passed our way. May the soil rest lightly on her soul.

Teddy Keane

(St. Patrick's)



Teddy Keane came from a family steeped in football. He first came to notice when St. Patrick's defeated Commercials in the 1949 Tipperarymen's Cup. He was on the successful junior football team that won the South championship in 1951. The highlight of his career was in 1953 when he was a prominent member of the St. Patrick's team that won the county senior football championship. He also played junior and senior football with the county. After his playing days he became a selector, and was one on the successful county teams that won the All-Ireland ladies football championship in 1974 and 1975. His daughters Josephine and Catherine were members of the team. Overall Teddy's contribution to the G.A.A. was immense, as was that of his family. May he rest in peace.

Nora Kelly

(Kildangan)



The parish of Puckane and Monsea was shocked by the sudden death of Nora Kelly Ashley Park, Ardcroney who died on the 23rd of April 2005.

Nora, nee Kenneally, came from Knockanure, County Kerry. She came to live in Ashley Park with her husband, Liam in the early nineties. Nora worked in The Revenue, Nenagh. She was very popular and touched everybody with her winning smile. Nora became involved in the affairs of Kildangan GAA club of which her husband became chairman.

She was a cousin of former Kerry captain, Tim Kenneally and was a loyal supporter of Kerry football.

Nora's involvement with the Chernobyl Children was well known. She had children from Belarus stay at her home.

We extend our deepest sympathies



to her husband Liam, brothers and sisters, father in law, relatives and friends.

Leaba I measc na Naomh Di.

Eamonn Lawlor

(Thurles Fennellys)



It was with deep sadness that the town of Thurles learned of the death of Eamonn Lawlor on February 19, 2005. He was one of the youngest players in the club and had a great interest in club matters. He was delighted when the club won their first hurling county final in 2003, and their first football county final in 2004. He was a very popular and friendly young man. He will be sadly missed by his parents, Mary and Pat, his brothers, Patrick, Willie and John, his sisters Geraldine and Ann Marie, daughter Chelsea, and his large number of friends. May he rest in peace.

Johnny Larkin

(1933 – 2005) Lorrha



The sudden and unexpected death took place on July 16th 2005 of Johnny Larkin, Curragha, Lorrha.

Johnny, who was 72 years old, had just attended the Lorrha intermediate match with Borrisokane, when he collapsed and died on his way out of McDonagh Park in Cloughjordan. One of nature's gentlemen, no one could have wished for a more kind hearted, gentle and friendly, good humoured or better neighbour to have. Always willing and ready to give a hand whenever the occasion arose and regardless of the time, Johnny could be totally depended upon.

The game of hurling was his passion, which he lived for, and ironically where he spent his final hours. Johnny was an exceptionally fine hurler in his younger days winning a North medal in 1956 and

another in '66. He also served as a selector for a number of years with Lorrha juniors and took a keen interest in the juveniles, attending matches and encouraging every one of the players with a word for them all.

The large turn out at the removal of his remains from Nenagh General Hospital to St. Ruadhan's Church, Lorrha and again the following day for his burial was testament to the respect in which the deceased was held.

Ar dheis Dé go Raibh a Anam.

Mick Leahy

(1927-2004) Boherlahan-Dualla



The death took place of Mick Leahy, Tubberadora in October 2004. He had been in failing health during his later years. Mick lived his early years in his aunt's house – Dwyer's of Tubberadora – and naturally developed a great love for the game of hurling. His period of active participation in the game lasted from 1952-1960, and he was a member of the team, which won the Mid Tipperary senior hurling title in 1953, having played all the games of that campaign as a forward. He was also a member of the county senior team during the 1954-55 period, and was a substitute on the team that defeated Wexford in the 1955 league final.

Because of failing health Mick, whose wife 'Peenie' (Hennessy) predeceased him, spent his final years in the care of the staff of Padre Pio nursing home, Holycross. Ar dheis láimh Dé go raibh a anam.

John Lonergan

(Newcastle)

If ever the phrase "a staunch GAA man" could be used, it would certainly apply to John Lonergan, late of Garran Casey, Newcastle. John was a player, a selector and a lifelong supporter of the club and all its activities. His sons and grandchildren have represented the club both on the field and in Scór competitions. His proudest GAA moment, however, was on the 16th April 2005, when his grandson John was captain of the Newcastle under 21 Football team that won the clubs first county football title. He was ever present at Newcastle games

and his ability to read a game has been greatly missed this year at both adult and juveniles level. The sympathy of the club is extended to his wife Maureen, sons Tom, Pat and Seán, sister Eileen, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and many friends. Ar dheis Dé go raibh go raibh a anam.

John Lyons

(Grangemockler-Ballyneale)



On Friday 9th September, word filtered through that one of Grangemockler's much loved and respected sons - John Lyons had passed away.

The death of John removed from the G.A.A. scene one of its greatest supporters and personalities.

John was a loyal Grangemockler / Ballyneale supporter travelling throughout the South and beyond to various games. Indeed, John attended the 1st round of the senior county football championship against Arravale Rovers in Cahir during his short illness.

For a man small of stature, he was a giant in personality.

Over the years John took great pride in the achievements of his six sons and four daughters all playing in the clubs colours and some playing in the county colours.

John's lifelong love of the Grangemockler / Ballyneale club was unsurpassed.

Above all however, he was a devoted family man and nowhere will he be missed more than in the lives of his wife Peggy and family.

Go ndeanna Dia trocaire ar a anam dilis.

Pierrie Lyons

(Grangemockler-Ballyneale)



It was with a sincere sadness that the people of Grangemockler / Ballyneale received the sad news of the death of one of their former

players Pierrie Lyons.

Pierrie wore the Blue / Gold colours with distinction when he played with the Tipperary minors in 1952 and the Grangemockler colours where he played centre field with the Grangemockler footballers until he emigrated to Australia in 1956.

Even though he was at the other side of the world Pierrie was a true G.A.A. man who followed the progress of the Grangemockler / Ballyneale club and the county teams with a special devotion.

Pierrie died at the age of 70 years. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

May he rest in peace.

Micheal McElgun

(1933 – 2005)

Thurles Sarsfields



Micheál "Rocky" McElgun, Thurles who passed in August at the age of 72, was a long-life GAA enthusiast whose commitment to Cumann Luthchleas Geal came second only to his devotion to his family and his deeply held religious convictions.

Born across the road from Semple Stadium, it was inevitable that hurling would figure largely in his life. And so it did. The exceptional promise shown as a youngster was nurtured in the great Sarsfield hurling academy of the 50s and 60s as Micheál developed into an outstanding defender in the all-conquering "Blues" sides which won the county jersey on many occasions.

Best known as a teak-tough backman, he was a versatile performer who could play anywhere and he was also a very useful footballer. In 1960, he was on the Thurles Crokes football side, which brought county senior honours to the Cathedral Town for the first and only time.

His playing career at an end Micheál continued his service to the GAA as referee and selector at county minor and club level. At the same time was an active in the administration of Sarsfield Club. At his death he was an Honorary Vice President, an honour bestowed on him in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the club. He was also known far and wide as a "gateman" at venues throughout the county and indeed, Munster.

As a player Micheál never gave less than 100% and thus it was in his many roles in the GAA. With his

passing, the association has lost a great friend and ambassador but is much the richer for having had a man of integrity to lead and inspire those around him.

Fittingly he was accorded a warm and generous GAA "Send off" with hundreds turning out to say farewell. His coffin, draped in Sarsfields blue, was escorted by club and county colleagues on its journey to its final resting place in St. Patrick's Cemetery where team-mate and former county secretary, Tomas O' Baroid, delivered a moving and eloquent oration, bidding "slán" to a very special GAA man.

Our sympathy to Kitty, his sons, daughters, grandchildren and sister Mary on their great loss.

Ar dheis Dé a Anam. M.D.

Pat Murray

(Burgess)



The surviving member of the Burgess 1941 team that brought the first North intermediate hurling title to the club went to his eternal reward on Saturday, June 11th last after an illness borne with steadfast bravery. Pat was a country man at heart, industrious, skilful, athletic and very devoted to his family, faith and native place.

He gave a lifetime of service to parish teams spanning five decades from the 1930s to 1970. He shares the record with Donie Nealon of each having won eight North intermediate championship medals, in Pat's case covering four decades. They were in 1941, '51, '53, '56, '63, '64, '69 and '70. Pat won a county junior medal in 1964 this exceptional goalie won Millar Shield medals in 1942, '43 and '44. He played at junior and senior level with the county team. Indeed, he was sub-goalie in the 1942 Munster senior final, when Tipperary went down to cork. Pat was treasurer of Burgess club in the early forties. He spent a brief spell with Silvermines while residing in the parish before returning to his native parish. A man of exceptional skill, Pat could hop the sliotar on the seven different edges of the hurley in quick rotation. He practiced his reflexes on a rough stonewall as the ball could only come back from any angle. The culture of our community is enhanced through the contribution of the Murray family. The club provided a guard of

honour on both days of the funeral for on nature's greatest gentlemen and the graveside oration of the Burgess GAA President was rendered by the club PRO. Sympathy is tendered to his wife Eileen, son John, daughter Margaret, daughter-in-law Marie, grandchildren Stephen and Shaun, nephews, nieces relatives and a large circle of friends.

Rody Nolan

Toomevara.



With the passing of Rody Nolan, the Club lost one of its most loyal supporters. In his younger days, Rody was an outstanding hurler winning divisional hurling titles at minor, junior, intermediate and senior levels and he also played for Tipperary minor hurlers in 1939. With his playing days over, Rody became a committee member for many years and was a selector with many hurling teams including 1984 when Toomevara won the intermediate title. At the time of his death, he was president of the Toomevara Club.

Jackie O' Brien

(Burgess) 1921 - 2005



Jackie O' Brien died on January 10th last, aged eighty-four. Jackie hails from a family steeped in GAA tradition, as his father Martin (Tade) was on the Youghal team that brought the only North S.H.C. to the parish in 1909 as well as winning numerous handball honours. He was notable hurler, having won a minor hurling championship medal with Youghalarra in 1936. He played at wingback on Youghalarra team that defeated Eire Óg (Nenagh) in 1942 north intermediate final. Jackie played with Duharra senior team in 1943 but then went to work in the bogs of Kildare. He captained a Moorfield selection from Newbridge. Jackie came back to

hurl with Duharra. He married Ciss Boland from the neighbouring Portroe parish and the couple lived in Ballycommon before moving to 2 McDonagh Street, Nenagh, in 1962. Jackie and Ciss always kept in touch with the happenings of the Duharra district.

Capt. Jack O'Carroll

(1920-2005) Emly



J.J. O' Carroll was born in Emly but worked most of his life in Dublin. He joined the Army during the Emergency and became captain in the Defence forces and when he retired he took up the proud position of secretary of Fianna Fáil - a duty he carried out with great love. He was a man of many talents, most notable of which was his friendship and loyalty to his friends. He was always willing to help the young Tipperary people coming to the city for the first time.

He gave sterling to Clann Tiobraid Árann and it is due to his hard work that it is known as the best organization of its kind in Dublin. The 1940s, 50s and 60s were a busy time for anyone involved with the Tipperary team - winning eight All-Irelands and eleven National Leagues, but J.J. O' Carroll was always to the fore in organising dinners and social outings for the Tipperary team on their trips to Dublin.

John J. O' Carroll would like to be remembered as a countryman. He loved Tipperary, mention Slievenamon, Anner Banks of Knocknagow and a tears come to his eye and loved it so much that it was his wish that the green sod of Tipperary would be his last resting place. Above all, he was a devoted father and husband. We extend our sympathy to his wife Monsie, Mary and Bunny - his daughters, his son-in-law Jack and grandchildren. Solas na bhflaitheas dá anam uasal Graelach. Tá fíor chara cailte ag Tiobraid Árann.

Thady O'Carroll

(1922-2005) Eire Óg



On January 23rd. 2005, the Éire Óg club lost its president and stalwart supporter, when Thady passed to his eternal reward. He had a keen interest in both G.A.A. and community affairs in Anacarty for nigh on seventy years. On the playing field his prowess was in football, winning a West junior medal in 1962. He was a football selector with Éire Óg for many years. He is fondly remembered for his involvement with juveniles, managing, training and ferrying them to matches after returning from his job in Limerick with the E.S.B. He was a committee member all through the years, working tirelessly. He also served as umpire with local referee, Liam O' Dwyer. To mark his involvement he received the Sean-Ghael award in November 2004. He was a life-long pioneer. He was predeceased in 1990 by his wife Peggie. Sympathy to his daughter Eileen (who incidently is the present club secretary), her family and other family members. In respect to Thady there was a guard of honour by the Éire Óg club and an oration was delivered at the graveside by club chairman, Liam O' Brien. Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.

Paddy O'Dwyer

(Holycross-Ballycahill)

Paddy O' Dwyer, Glenbane, Holycross, who passed away in January 2004 made significant contributions to his native Holycross - Ballycahill.

In his youth he participated in athletic meetings, hurled and played football for the club, winning a mid junior football medal in 1954. He also rode at point - to - point meetings on many occasions.

He was a founder member and chief administrator of the Holycross Athletic club that dominated cross -



country running in the 50s and 60s and for some years was chairman of the Tipperary Board N.A.C.A. In the early 70s he became chairman of the local GAA club at a time when it was at a low ebb. Before his team of office ended, the club had regained senior status and had won an under 16 county titles. He was a man of courage as was shown by the way he bore his final illness. He never gave in but fought to the last. We offer our sympathy to his wife Betty, to his sons, daughters and extended family. May he rest in peace with the Lord.

Dinny O'Gorman

(Holycross - Ballycahill)



Dinny O' Gorman, who passed away last May, played junior hurling at club level for most of his career but still won Munster and All - Ireland medals in minor, junior and senior hurling, county titles in minor and junior hurling and four Railway Cup medals.

He was the first selected at right full back on the county senior team in 1934 and held his place until 1942. During this period, his club Holycross - Ballycahill was usually defeated in the first round of the championship and Dinny therefore played one club game each year. He was uncompromising corner back. Those of us who remember the 1937 championship winning campaign will recall his goal - saving tackle on Micka Brennan in the first round game against Cork, when a goal would surely have meant defeat. He held his own against the great Limerick forwards of the 30s - Mick and John Mackey, Paddy McMahon, Jimmy Close, Jackie Power and Dick Stokes. When he retired from club hurling in 1945 he took an active part in club affairs and nominated as the club representative on the county senior selection committees for 1952 and 1955.

We offer our sincere sympathy to his sons, his brother and his extended family. May he rest in peace with his beloved wife Mary in the heavens above.

Dan O'Meara

(Kilruane & Carrick)



Dan O' Meara's sudden death this summer cast a cloud over all in our club and over all who knew him. Since Dan arrived in Carrick over 30 years ago from his native Kilruane he was deeply involved in club activities. He figured prominently on many of our hurling teams, fiercely determined and committed, and after his playing days had ended he was active as selector and coach, most notably during our reign as South Senior Hurling champions from 1983 to 1986. Dan was a member of the well known and esteemed O'Meara family from Kilruane and it was his family and the renowned Kilruane McDonaghs club that instilled in him his great passion for Gaelic Games. Dan is sadly missed but not forgotten.

Br. Joe Perkins

(1930 - 2005)
Drombane & Thurles



Even though we knew the end was near, just the same on the eve of Christmas '04 when the news filtered through that Br. Joe had passed on it brought a sense of gloom on the festive season. Born in the heart of the hills in his beloved Drombane all of seventy five years ago, he joined the Irish Christian Brothers at fifteen and spent his life teaching in many parts of Ireland up to his retirement about ten years ago. I remember during his final illness visiting him in Baldoyle and during our conversation he said to me how '05 would see him celebrate his Golden Jubilee in the order but with a twinkle in his eye he said, "I will not be around".

As the end approached there was a sense of resignation and preparedness as he was to answer to the final call.

His love of all things Irish was always evident but the game of hurling was his priority. He was an excellent coach and motivator and I had the pleasure of working with him in preparing Templemore CBS to achieve Harty Cup and All

Ireland Colleges title in 1978. He subsequently coached Tipperary to All Ireland minor honours in 1980 and 1982 and was very proud when some of his pupils went to capture ultimate honours in 1989, 1991 at senior level.

It was his final wish that he return "home" in the end and the huge turn out at Thurles Cathedral on Dec. 26th, 27th and in Drombane, his final resting place, bore testimony of his standing in the local community and Tipperary in general.

"I measc Na Naomh go Raibh a Anam"

"When the final whistle for me is blown,
And I stand at last at God's judgment throne,
May the Great referee when he calls my name,
Say, "If you hurled like a man you played the game"

Jimmy Ryan

(Carrick)



This year our club was saddened on the passing of one of the few surviving members of our teams from the 1940's and 1950's, Jimmy Ryan. Jimmy was a member of Carrick Swan teams successful in south championships during that era and he was a very accomplished player. Jimmy's sons carried on the great hurling tradition of the Ryan family and we remember Jimmy and his family at this time.

John Ryan

(1926-2005)

Kickhams & Boherlahan-Dualla

The death took place on June 16, 2005 after a long illness of John Ryan, Ballydine, Cashel. In his younger days John was a hurler of considerable ability and had a number of years of success with Kickhams, winning West senior hurling titles in 1947 and 1949, after showing great promise in the club's five-in-a-row minor success from 1943-47 inclusive. He also won Croscu Cup and a divisional junior title with the club. He transferred to Boherlahan in 1950 and played hurling and football with the club, winning a county junior football title in 1951, and a Mid senior hurling medal in 1953.

A quiet and genial member of the farming community, John was highly respected particularly among his neighbours in Ballydine. Sincerest sympathy is expressed to

his wife, Mary, and family.
Ar dheis láimh Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

Mick Ryan

(Burgess)



The esteemed Joint President of Burgess GAA Mick Ryan, Ballyliskey, Carrigatoher passed away to his eternal reward at Nenagh Hospital in the early hours of March 16th last. Mick was a countryman at heart and loved the outdoor life.

This is why farming and hurling were a perfect mix. Mick was a sub on the Burgess team that won their first ever North intermediate title when they defeated Toomevara in the 1941 final at Nenagh, while his brothers Timmy, Dan and John were on the team. He hurled with clubs in Ballinahinch and Newport parishes, while living at Barna, Newport before transferring to Duharra in 1945. Mick played senior hurling for Duharra up to 1948 and this club regraded to intermediate grade in 1949. The Ballywilliam side of the parish (Mick's catchments area) afflicted a junior team called Bungers for the 1950 championship with Mick and company reaching the North final where they went down to Kilruane- MacDonaghs. The following year Mick captained Bungers to win the intermediate final against a fancied Lorrha side. Mick won his third North IHC medal in 1953 when it took three days to defeat Shannon Rovers. The Burgess captain wore the No 6 Jersey on all three days. He won two more intermediate medals in 1956 and 1959 and sampled defeat in the 1955 final. Mick donned the Burgess jersey for the last time on March 20th 1960 when Burgess played Solohead in the county junior semi-final.

Mick turned his attentions to management and was a team mentor for the North double IHC wins of 1963-64 and 1969-70, with the 1964 team going on to win the county junior title. Mick was very proud when his sons Hughie and John Joe donned the green and gold of Burgess. He was a deserving winner of a Cumann Na Sean Gael Award in the inaugural year 2003 at Bru Boru in Cashel. Sympathy is extended to his wife Madge, daughters Mairead, Eileen, sons Hughie and John Joe, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and large circle of friends. R.I.P.

Dermot Shanahan

(Moycarkey-Borris)



The unexpected death of Dermot Shanahan, Littleton in August leaves a void in Moycarkey gaeldom. Der, as he was popularly known, was one of the great workers and characters of the club. From an early age he was involved as a player with club teams and in later life was a selector and committee member. He was a founder member of the successful ladies football club and contributed immensely to both the club and the county in that code. But Der was also a great 'behind the scenes' worker as field caretaker for many years. In his unpretentious manner he lined the field, put out the flags and organized the scoreboard in all kinds of weather, in the early mornings and late evenings. His attention to detail meant that the field was always in great shape for every juvenile or senior game. When it came to making or hooping hurleys, Der was most proficient. At committee level he was always sure to make his point, even at times when others thought it inappropriate 'to have a go at officialdom'. He was always tenacious in any discussion and was most earnest in all his contributions. A man of courteous and helpful personality, Dermot Shanahan leaves behind a great contribution to Moycarkey-Borris G.A.A. To his bereaved our heartfelt sympathy.

Jim Sheedy

Portroe and Roscrea



On Sunday March 13th a huge sense of loss was felt in his native parish of Portroe and his adopted town of Roscrea when the news of the sudden and untimely death of Jim Sheedy spread through both communities and beyond. Jim was first and foremost a Portroe man who gave unflinching service to his club both as a player and selector. He was also as committed to the Roscrea Club where he acted as juvenile secretary from 1987 to 2005, resigning his position just a week before his death. On the playing field with Portroe Jim was Feile na Gael winner in

1979, North intermediate winner in 1981 '83 and '90 and a county intermediate winner in 1990. He trained Portroe to North junior football wins, was a selector on the team that won the Kilmacud Sevens in 1999 as well as winning county senior hurling Div.1 titles in 1999 and 2000, and a selector on the team that won North and county junior B titles in 1998.

From his arrival in 1977 to the time of his passing Jim was involved in juvenile hurling in Roscrea, with both the club and the school. He taught in (Scoil Eoin) with whom he won the Roinn A hurling title in 1990. He served on both Bord na nÓg and the North Tipperary Primary Schools Board as well as representing Roscrea successfully in Scór question time. In recent years he was a familiar figure in a white coat as one of referee Johnny McDonnell's umpires.

With such allegiance to both clubs it was only fitting that the Red and White of Roscrea should be draped with the Green and Gold of Portroe as we bade farewell to a true Gael. To Liz, Deirdre, Conor and the Sheedy family we extend the deepest sympathies of our club. Ar dheis Dé go Raibh a Anam.

Brendan Teehan

(Gortnahoe-Glengoole)



Tipperary & especially Gortnahoe/Glengoole lost one of its greatest Gaels with the untimely death of Brendan Teehan of Grange, Gortnahoe in February 2005 following an illness. Brendan, who worked with the Department of Agriculture & Food, was a keen sportsman being involved in many organisations in his parish such as Badminton, Gun & GAA Clubs, with hurling undoubtedly his favourite sport.

He served his beloved Gortnahoe/Glengoole GAA Club with distinction both as player and administrator. Firstly as a player, he adorned the No.6 jersey with style for many years winning Mid-Tipp No.1 junior (now intermediate) hurling titles in 1968, 1972 & 1973. Mid-Tipp junior hurling titles in 1983 & 1986, and was still a valuable member of the panel that won the Mid & county intermediate hurling championship in 1988. Brendan had the added distinction of being a selector on that team, the first adult team to bring a county title to the club. Brendan had a great affiliation with juveniles and had been a mentor on numerous juvenile club teams over a long number of years.

Brendan was wing-back on the 1971 All-Ireland winning Tipperary intermediate hurling team along with clubmates, Billy Barnaville,

goalie and Tom O' Hara, selector. He won two All Ireland hurling inter-firms titles with Clover Meats in 1969 & 1972 along with four Leinster inter-firms titles. Niall, his son, was a member of the Tipperary minor hurling team that won the Munster championship in 2003 and was centre-back on this year's under-21 hurling team. Brendan also served as club chairman in 1973 & 1974, and had been ever present on club committees throughout his adult life.

While Brendan's loss to his club and to his many friends is immense, it pales into insignificance when compared with the loss suffered by his family, wife Marian and sons Eoin, Conor, Niall and Ronan, brothers and sister to whom we offer our sincere condolences. May the green sod of Aglish cemetery rest lightly on his gentle soul, agus go ndeana Dha Trocaire ar anam Brendan O Teachain.

Tom Wall

(Carrick)



In April of this year we bid farewell to one of Carrick Swan's greatest ever hurlers, Tom Wall. Tom's death coming almost a year to the day after the loss of his brother Willie, saddened all in our club. Tom's hurling and football achievements with our club and with Tipperary are well known throughout the length and breadth of our county. A winner of ten South Tipperary senior hurling titles with our club in 1935, 1936, 1939, five in a row from 1944 to 1948, 1950 and 1952. Tom played centre field in 1947 in Carrick Swans finest hour, winning the county senior hurling championship. He was also a member of the victorious Tipperary Senior Hurling team in the 1945 All-Ireland. Tom was also honoured to receive the Nationalist Hall of Fame award in 1982. We salute Tom Wall, the likes of whom we may never see again.

Michael Walsh

(Cappawhite, Marfield & St. Mary's)



Michael Walsh, who died in March, had been President of St.Mary's club since the death of Ned O'Shea in 1988. Born in Annacarthy in 1918, Michael hurled with Cappawhite until he sustained an injury to his ankle, the effects of which remained with him throughout his life. He came to Clonmel in 1947 and was associated with the Marfield club until, in order to promote the newly-formed juvenile section of St.Mary's, he joined St.Mary's. From then until his death he was one of St.Mary's best-known personalities, always actively involved in committee work and in fund-raising. One of his sons, Tommy, played under-21 with Tipp in 1977 and in the All-Ireland of 1978, and is currently actively involved in the training of under-age teams. Another son, Seanie, whose death was noted in these columns last year, was captain of the St.Mary's team that won the South championship in 1981. Michael never recovered from Seanie's death and his own death came a mere few months later.

Siobhan O'Brien

(Gurtacullen)



The unexpected death of Siobhan O'Brien (Nee Tobin), Gurtacullen, Clogheen has brought a great void into our lives. We got to know Siobhan through Irish dancing. We were on the road both day and night travelling to classes and to Feiseanna as her son Robert and young daughter Kayleigh participated.

Siobhan was our navigator (a good one too), that's if you could keep up with her! Thank God for the invention of the mobile phone and texting, as it was many the time we had to contact each other when we got lost, which happened on many an occasion.

We enjoyed our nights out and were known as the 'dancing gang'. As the dancers themselves would say, they had to do the work, while we enjoyed ourselves and Siobhan





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Quiz



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1 Name the second county with Tipperary with 4 football All-Irelands

.....

2 Name the famous man with G.A.A. connections, who was born in Mallabrago.

.....

3 What province wasn't represented in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day?

.....

4 Who sponsored the All-Ireland minor hurling and football championships?

.....

5 In what year was the Tom Markham Cup first presented?

.....

6 Mayo won the first of their six minor football titles in 1935. What county did they beat in the final?

.....

7 When Cork won this year's All-Ireland senior camogie final, it brought their number of titles to what?

.....

8 With what team did Tadhg Kennelly win the Australian Rules national final in September?

.....

Seamus Butler receives the "Man of the Match" award from sponsor John Quirke

9 Name the two new cups played for this year in the three-tier All-Ireland senior hurling championship.

.....

10 Name the Tipperary journalist who wrote the player profiles in this year's All-Ireland hurling and football finals programs.

.....

11 Name the two Tipperary G.A.A. personalities who were honoured in this year's Irish Examiner/G.A.A. President's Awards

.....

12 Name the team relegated in this year's county senior hurling championship

.....

13 What teams contested the minor B county hurling final this year?

.....

14 What was Seamus Roche's biggest moment in 2005?

.....

15 For what competition does the winning team receive the Brendan Martin Cup?

.....

16 In what town would you find MacDermott Park?

.....

17 Eimear McDonnell plays with what camogie club?

.....

18 What singer provided the half-time entertainment in Croke Park on All-Ireland hurling final day?

.....

19 Galway have now lost four hurling All-Irelands since 1988. Name the years.

.....

20 True or false? Tipperary scored the equivalent of 102 points and conceded the same number in this year's senior hurling championship.

.....

Quiz Rules

1. Official entry form from Tipperary GAA yearbook must be used (not a photocopy)
2. Closing Date for entries is Monday, January 16th, 2006
3. Winners will be announced at Tipperary County Convention in January
4. The judges decision will be final
5. Send your entry in an envelope marked 'Quiz' to:
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Ballymoreen, Littleton, Thurles, Co. Tipperary**

Name:

Address:

.....

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**Paul Kelly
(Mullinahone)**

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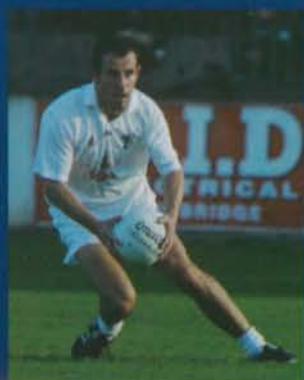
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Best Wishes to the Tipperary Senior Hurlers for the year ahead

Tipperary Senior Camogie Panel Munster Champions and All-Ireland finalists.



Back Row, L to R: Lorraine Davis, Maria Tynan, Deirdre McDonnell, Sheena Howard, Noelle Kennedy, Suzanne Kelly, Niamh Harkin, Joanne Ryan, Theresa Brophy, Claire Grogan, Philly Fogarty, Angie McDermott, Paula Bultin, Louise Young, Eimear Ryan, Meadh Cocoran
Front: Lorraine Bourke, Mary Ryan, Trish O'Halloran, Ciara Gaynor, Julie Kirwan, Sinead Nealon, Jovita Delaney, Jill Horan, Eimear McDonnell, Una O'Dwyer, Deirdre Hughes (Captain), Emily Hayden, Michelle Shortt, Geraldine Kinane, Joanne Nolan.

Tiobraid Árann *Tommy Murphy Cup - Senior Football Champions 2005*



Front L/R: Paul Cahill, Brian Enright, Brian Lacey, Damien Byrne, Benny Hahessy, Declan Browne, Damien O'Brien, Brian Mulvihill, Pa Morrissey, Niall Curran, Sean Collum.

Back L/R: Liam England, Michael Lynagh, Peter King, Niall Kelly, Benny Hickey, Aidan Fitzgerald, Paul Fitzgerald, Kevin Mulryan, Niall Fitzgerald, Robbie Costigan, Fergal O'Callaghan, Eamon Hanrahan, Stephen Murphy, Aidan Foley.