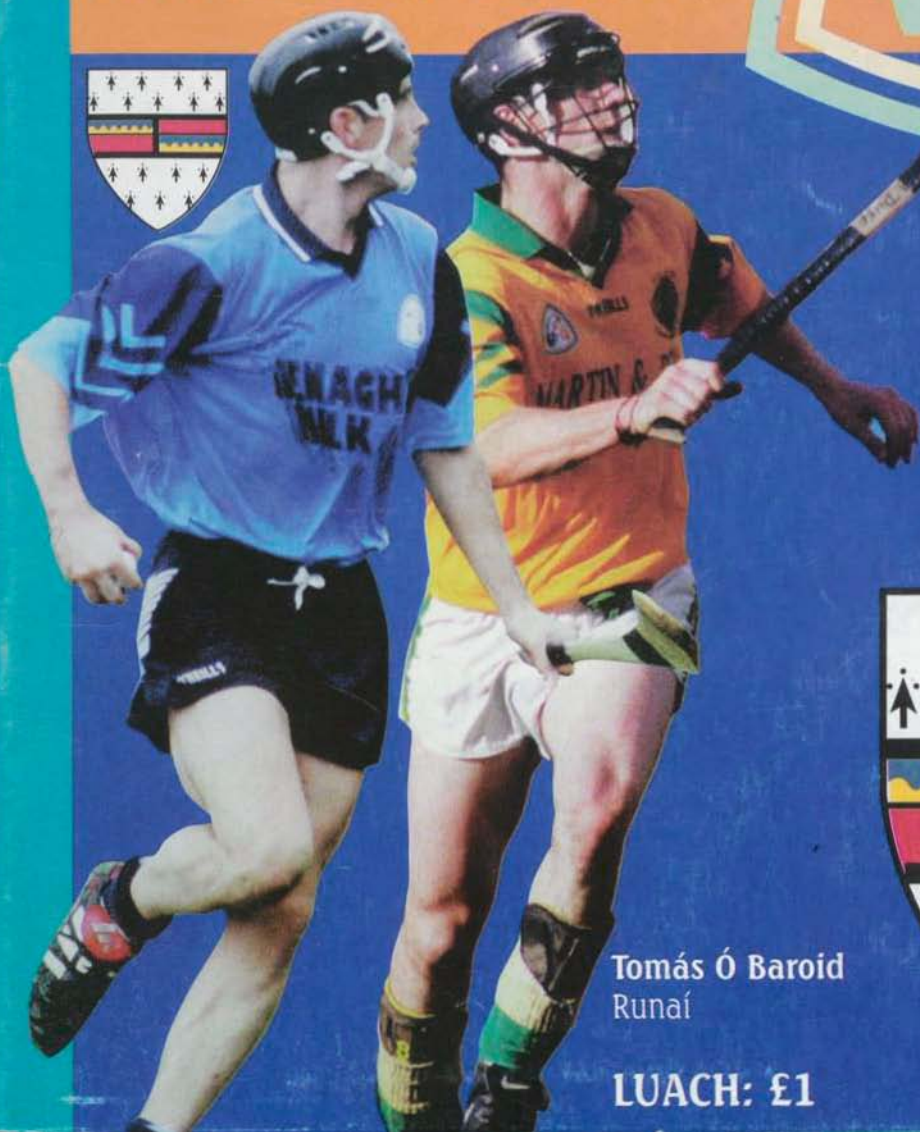


Co. Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
1999

Stáid Semple, Durlas
10 ú Deireadh Fomhair, 1999



Cluichí Ceannaís Iomána Thíobraid Árann



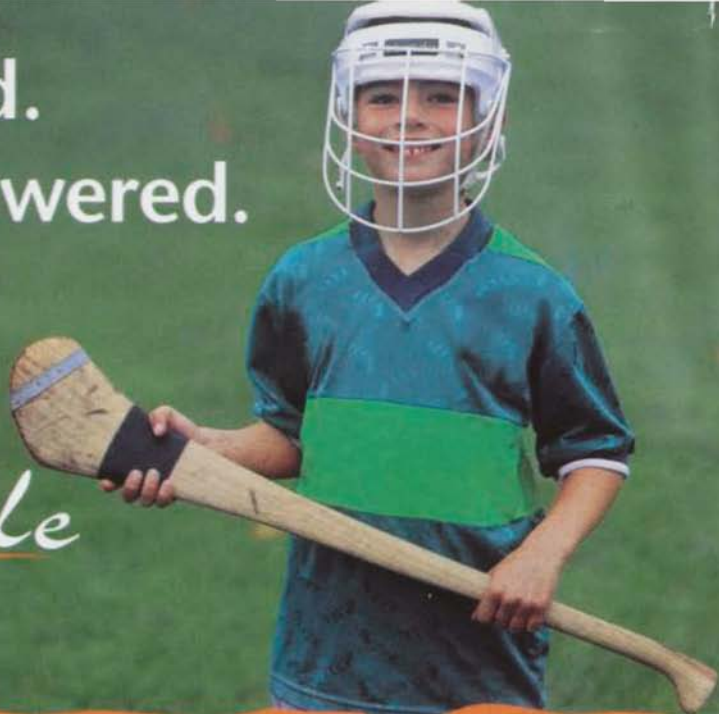
Tomás Ó Baroid
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Fáilte



Fáilte roimh go léir go Stáid Semple inniu, tá súil againn go mbaintidh sibh sult agus tairneamh as an lá agus go mbeid cluichí sportúil againn.

Today, sees the last senior hurling final of the century here in Semple Stadium as Nenagh Éire Óg and Toomevara strive to put their name on the Dan Breen Cup. Toomevara have been a force in hurling since they won their first title in 1890. The early part of the century saw Wedger Meaghers Greyhounds claim the title in 1910 to '14 inclusive, they won again in 1919, '20, '23, '30 and '31. After that, they had quiet years until the Dan Breen Cup went north in 1960 and '61, another bleak spell until the modern "Toome" appeared. They have been very much to the fore in recent years. It is hard to believe that Nenagh Éire Óg are only seeking their second title at senior level. They claimed their first title in 1995 – Nenagh de Wetts won the championship in 1902.

This year, the sides have already met in the North Tipperary Final, when "Toome" won. The Nenagh men will be all out to reverse that result. Nenagh are convinced that their form on North Final day was one of those inexplicable things which just happened. They are glad to have the opportunity to have another crack at their neighbours and rivals. Toomevara have shown an improvement as the championship progressed. It is hard to predict a winner!

The young hurlers of Knockavilla-Kickhams and Thurles Sarsfields have the honour of opening proceedings here today. Knockavilla are seeking their first title but have made a few appearances previously. They are one of the stronger dual clubs. An excellent juvenile club structure is paying dividends. Sarsfields are bidding for their seventh title. Once the kingpins of Tipperary hurling, they have been making headway in recent times.

Congratulations to the *Tipperary Star* Millennium team. Members or their

representatives step on to the famous sod of Semple Stadium before the senior game. I ask you to give them a worthy welcome. We are pleased to welcome them here as honoured guests with their family members. Indeed, I pay tribute to all those who wore the Blue and Gold of Tipperary over the century. Only fifteen could make the Millennium Team, that does not reduce the worth of the many others who represented the county. Our thanks to the *Tipperary Star* for this initiative.

Hibernian Insurance have sponsored the clock, which you see here in Semple Stadium today for the first time. This is a state of the art clock. It has the inbuilt mechanism to activate a "buzzer", to stop when the referee indicates that a stoppage is required etc. Hibernian Insurance are to be congratulated on their generous contribution.

I take this opportunity to thank all the clubs who participated in the championship. Thanks to all the referees and their officials, the groundsman and other officials who worked to ensure the smooth running of the championship. Bobby Mockler and Jimmy Purcell deserve a special mention for the condition and appearance of the field here. Is there a more pleasing sight at any other venue in the country?

John Quirke has sponsored the "Man of the Match" awards for a number of years now, our thanks for his generous sponsorship of these awards. Finally, a special word of appreciation to you the spectators who remain loyal to our national games at club and county level.

I hope that you enjoy the day and that we have sporting, skilful and exciting finals.

– Pól Ó Neill

(Cathaoirleach Coise Chontae Thiobraid Arann)

Clár an Lae

2 p.m.

Tipperary County Minor Hurling Final:

Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams v. Thurles Sarsfields

Reiteoir: Tommy Loneran (Kilsheelan).

3.20 p.m.

Presentation of 'The Tipperary Star' Hurling Team of the Millennium.

3.40 p.m.

Tipperary County Senior Hurling Final:

NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG v. TOOMEVARA

Reiteoir: Johnny McDonnell (Roscree).

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A Mhaireann
na Daoine**



Random Thoughts

Liz Howard

County Final day, with three Divisions represented, which should attract a good crowd. Interesting, but country teams usually attract a bigger following than town teams. I wonder why? Does it signify something amiss or a difference in culture between urban and rural? The sense of parish is definitely stronger in rural areas. The G.A.A. is firmly rooted in most rural parishes. Everyone knows everyone else. It is somewhat different in urban areas. With many new housing developments in towns, both partners working with very busy lives, many people haven't time to get involved in the G.A.A. or anything else for that matter. Time out is precious, there is more choice in urban areas and many people choose to take an easier option than getting involved in the G.A.A. Sometimes, those already involved in the G.A.A. forget to ask these people to become involved.

One of the items on the agenda from the "Committee for increased participation of women in the G.A.A." is to hold a Recruitment Drive in various counties. Tipperary, Carlow, Mayo and Donegal being the most likely pilot counties. These will be open to both women and men who are interested in getting into the G.A.A. in any area, administration, refereeing, cultural, youth, coaching etc. We will focus on encouraging new people into the G.A.A. Naturally, training programmes will have to follow. However, the biggest issue is the integration of those people into clubs in a meaningful role. Otherwise they will just fade out and lose interest. It is hoped to have a firm schedule by early November. We will work in conjunction with the Development Officer in each county. It is great to see the Tipperary women who won the inaugural ladies' football All-Ireland in 1974 being honoured in Croke Park last Sunday. They and the defeated finalists, Offaly, were introduced in Croke Park and later entertained at a dinner in Jury's hotel. The sponsorship of the ladies' football championship by the Bank of Ireland has been a real success. The game is marketed better, more live TV and better media coverage

generally. There is still a way to go for women's Gaelic games in terms of media coverage and sponsorship. Old attitudes die hard!! I couldn't help noticing how many Corporate boxes were empty on Sunday last, when the ladies' All-Ireland senior and junior Finals were held. CIE, National Lottery, First Active, RTE, Guinness, AIB being among them. Do women use CIE? Do women buy Lottery tickets? Do women take out insurance policies and mortgages? Do women pay TV licences? Do women drink Guinness? Do women do business with AIB? I'd say that the answer is an overwhelming yes in all cases. Come on gentlemen at the top of such companies, cop on, this is the end of the twentieth century. Women are contributing so much to all aspects of life, they are not ten steps behind you (most likely ten steps ahead!) They are your equals and should be accepted as such. I'll be keeping an eye out to monitor your progress!

There was a scarcity of politicians also. Now I can do without them, but they are highly visible on hurling and football days. Where are they on camogie and ladies' football All-Ireland days. It was good to see An Taoiseach there. Then, you're likely to meet him at a junior hurling club game in Parnell Park, he is a real follower. The same applies to our President, a life long G.A.A. enthusiast.

What about today? Knockavilla will bring big support and probably claim the neutral vote, they will be full of confidence after their victory over Roscrea. Sarsfields who were very impressive in their games against Drom and Killenale will probably start as favourites. I find it hard to call it in the senior game. Toomevara will need to tighten up the last line of defence. Knowing Toome they will have their homework done. They have a number of players capable of taking scores. A dry fast ball will suit the lighter players, like Michael Bevens, Paddy O'Brien, Brendan Dunne and Eoin Brislane, while All-Star Thomas Dunne is the ace in the pack. Nenagh rely greatly on former All-Star, Michael Cleary, who continues to show superb skill, also on the Tucker brothers Eddie and Kevin. They have an abundance of experience and a point to prove after the defeat in the North Final. It should be a fine game. I'm sitting on the fence!

I am honoured to introduce the *Tipperary Star Millenium hurling team*. Great hurlers all, legends of the ancient game, it is a wonderful honour for them, their families and clubs. Congratulations to all those chosen and to the *Tipperary Star* for setting up the election of this team. The team was chosen by the readers of the *Tipperary Star*.

I look forward to a great day here in Semple Stadium, wonderful sporting, hurling, enjoy the day.

Tipperary Star

By Noel Dundon (Tipperary Star)

When we in *The Tipperary Star* decided to honour the Tipperary hurlers of the millennium we took a step into unknown territory. How would people react? Would there be a good response? Would we get a true reflection of the finest Tipperary team? The result of our toils, after almost three months of calculating votes, has surpassed even our wildest dreams.

Hundreds upon hundreds of votes poured into our offices in Friar Street, Thurles over the last three months and we have been thrilled with the reaction of the general public to our request which was simply to name you *Tipperary Star* Hurling Team of the Millennium. Every member of staff was inundated with requests — Tell us the team — Give us a club — Who'll get centre back? The list of questions go on and on, and no doubt the debates on the team will continue long after today's events have passed.

There are as many opinions as there are people to express them and we in *The Tipperary Star* have seen hundreds of different opinions pouring through our letter box in the last while. What you see today opposite you is the collective opinions of our readers, those who sent in their teams, changed their minds, sent in other teams, and then reverted back again to their original sides. The inner turmoil of many was reflected in the changes and many players were drafted in while others were confined to the subs bench.

Naming the best ever Tipperary 15 is an impossible task but with the help of our readers we have compiled the *Tipperary Star* Millennium Hurling Team. Few would argue with the line-up but it is only fair to say that many other stars came very close to being on the first 15 as well. Pat Stakelum and Michael Maher both from the Holycross/Ballycahill club came very very close and had great battles with Tony Wall (Sarsfields) and Tony Brennan (Clonoulty/Rossmore) respectively for the centre back and full back positions. Donie Nealon (Burgess) got as many votes as anyone else but he got them in varying positions which didn't help. The same can be said of John Maher (Sarsfields) and Len Gaynor (Kilruane/McDonagh's). Michael Babs Keating (Ballybacon Grange) and Sean Kenny (Borrisoleigh) suffered too in this department as did Phil Cahill (Holycross/Ballycahill) and Pat Fox (Eire Óg Anacorthy). The list goes on and on.

Interestingly many of the voters came from older generations and that perhaps reflects such a high vote for the players of the 50's and 60's. This was a most successful period for The Premier County and that probably explains the high percentage of players on our team.

On this occasion we would like to pay tribute to all those players who have worn the Tipperary jersey with pride down through the years. You have made all hurling followers lives more special by the manner in which you displayed your talents and many have been touched by your exploits on the field of play. Young people have looked up to you, older people have spoken for many hours about you. Now at this time, the close of the millennium, we all remember you.

Hurling moves into the third millennium in it's strongest ever state. It is rivalled but unequalled as a field game and all you who have worn the blue and gold jersey can take a bow. You have been fine representatives of The Premier County and you are not forgotten.

Today as the best 15 players chosen by you walk onto Semple Stadium a pitch they graced in their prime, I know that you will lift the roof for them. They deserve your appreciation and Tipperary folk will not be found wanting.

A special word of thanks to The Tipperary County GAA Board, especially Liz Howard for all her help with this project and also to Bowe Travel who sponsored the prize which was won by Sinead Egan of Inch House, Thurles.

And to all you who sent in those entries, well done. I know you will count the number of players you had and see where you went wrong. Well done, on being a true follower of the game and on taking the time to select your very own *Tipperary Star* Millennium Hurling Team.

We plan to have special commemorative posters of this team available in the not too distant future. They would surely make fine centrepieces in pubs and clubs and homes throughout Tipp.



Millennium Hurling Team

(1)

TONY REDDAN

(Lorrha)

(2)

MICKEY BYRNE

(Sarsfields)

(3)

TONY BRENNAN

(Clonoulty/Rossmore)

(4)

JOHN DOYLE

(Holycross/Ballycahill)

(5)

JIMMY FINN

(Borrisoleigh)

(6)

TONY WALL

(Sarsfields)

(7)

TOMMY DOYLE

(Sarsfields)

(8)

MICHAEL ROCHE

(Carrick Davins)

(9)

THEO ENGLISH

(Marlfield)

(10)

JIMMY DOYLE

(Sarsfields)

(11)

MICK RYAN

(Roscrea)

(12)

LIAM DEVEANEY

(Borrisoleigh)

(13)

PADDY KENNY

(Sarsfields)

(14)

MARTIN KENNEDY

(Kiladangan)

(15)

NICKY ENGLISH

(Lattin/Cullen)

The Tipperary Star Millennium Hurling Team was voted by readers of the newspaper which has been bringing you top GAA coverage since it's establishment in 1909.

Tipperary Supporters Club



The lucky winner of the V.W. Polo Saloon Star Prize in our membership draw: Andy Brennan, The Ragg, Thurles, receives the keys from Nicky English. Included are: Paul O'Neill, Co. Chairman; Tommy Barrett, Co. Secretary, with supporters club chairman, Louis Fitzgerald, membership secretary, Gerry Ryan and treasurer Ger Ryan. The presentation was made at a function in the Royal Hotel, Tipperary, whose proprietor and supporters club committee member Andy Lacey is pictured far right.

Tipperary Supporters Club "PLAYER OF THE YEAR"



Members are invited to vote for their '99 Tipperary Player of the Year.

MEMBERS VOTING SLIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Supporters Club Membership Number: _____

I select _____ as Tipperary Player of '99.

Signed: _____

PLEASE RETURN TO: GERRY RYAN, HAZELGROVE, ROSLEVAN, ENNIS, CO. CLARE.

No certainty when neighbours meet

By Séamus O'Doherty

The downside to a 'local' county final pairing is that it doesn't always attract a wide audience. Frequent meetings within the Divisional structure can be a turn-off for some patrons, especially if one club is dominant.

Those fears will hardly apply today, because the quality of play between these deadly rivals is more often than not highly entertaining. The geography adds spice to the contest and the Nenagh men have an opportunity of dethroning their North final conquerors.

Six years ago, 'the Blues' felt unlucky to be pipped by a point in the Co. Final and the opportunity to avenge that setback will be in the back of the minds of survivors, from that contest.

However, it is really the chance to win another county title which focuses Nenagh minds now. They have lived in the Toomevara shadow for most of the decade and this clash gives them an opportunity to finish the millennium in style.

The two finalists have been in impressive form since the North Final. Toome beat Éire Óg Annacarthy and Holycross/Ballycahill in contrasting style. Nenagh beat Kickhams and Mullinahone with different style performances. Both teams have shown their ability to score freely all season but that could be misleading, because form often changes for a final.

While Nenagh's awesome semi-final demolition of Mullinahone is still clear in the minds of those who witnessed it, perhaps Toomevara's comeback against Holycross-Ballycahill was more notable. It is somewhat easier to help your concentration when a game swings your way early on,

then it is to try and retrieve a seemingly hopeless position.

The quality of individual and collective talent within both teams is impressive but you can't help feeling that the respective defences will be severely tested by the marauding forwards.

For much of the season Toomevara were understrength and it is a tribute to their club structure that qualification for the play-off stages was achieved yet again. Last weekend's test will stand to them and there will be no illusions about the game today.

Nenagh have rarely looked as organised, focussed and disciplined as they did for the Mullinahone challenge. Yet they are still unproven until the championship is won. They are probably more experienced than Toome but perhaps not as fast in certain parts of the field.

The Toome forwards will probably try to draw Nenagh central defence away from base and exploit the space with their pacy attack. No doubt the Nenagh men have anticipated this ploy and have a contingency plan ready.

The tactics will be interesting and Toome will need to foil the free-scoring Nenagh forward line, which worked particularly well in the semi-final.

It is difficult to predict winners here as both teams have so many aces. Nenagh were very disappointed to lose at the semi-final stage last year and a final victory over their deadly latter-day rivals would probably end the torture of that failure.

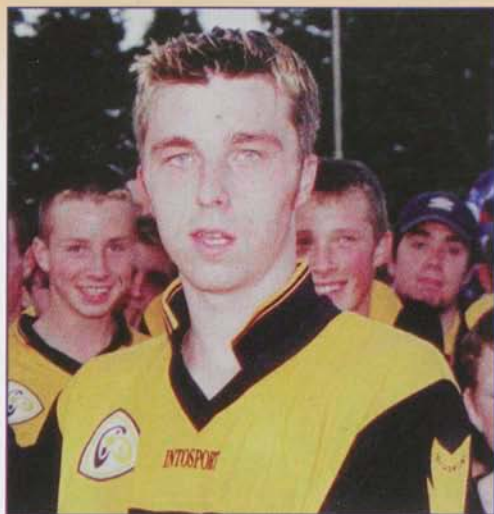
They will be well rested for this one and may start better than their opponents, who had to pull out the stops to survive a week ago.

Still the Toome men have not lost any of their close games this year and their spirit is always good enough to rise to the Nenagh challenge!

The game could be won by a piece of individual brilliance – don't take your eyes off the ball!

KNOCKAVILLA-DON

COUNTY MINOR HUR



Damien McGrath, Captain



Knockavilla – Donaskeigh Kickhams

This present Kickham minor team first came together as an U-12 outfit winning the west U-12 A hurling title, two years later winning both U-14 A hurling and football titles and also winning U-14 Páil-ná-nÓg and representing Tipperary in that same competition in Mayo. They kept up the sequence by winning both U-16 A titles in 1997 and this year winning both minor titles, alas no County Championship has come their way yet!

As with all successful club teams family traditions, sets of brothers and cousins are to the fore and so this Kickham team is no exception. The squad includes no less than six sets of brothers some of whom have cousins included, an interesting aspect in that eleven of the panel originate from Station Road in Dundrum. As often happens one club has a foot in the other camp. Derek and Paul Breen are grandsons of the late Michael Connors of Thurles. A staunch Sarsfields man; Kickham's supporters might also be interested to see the name of Liam Hickey on the Sarsfields squad. Liam is a son of former Kickham player and All Ireland cross-country champion Mick Hickey.

Team captain Damien McGrath, a county minor player this year is a nephew of Martin McGrath supersub the day the famine ended in Killarney in 1987. Richard and Alan Horgan are sons of team manager Richard and brothers of Brian, present county senior panelist, Seán and Conor Ryan are grandsons of the late and famous Jacksie of Upperchurch and so the tradition continues.

This will be Kickhams fifth appearance in a county minor final. As yet unsuccessful, maybe this time there will be a light at the end of the tunnel. I hope its not another train.

Best of luck lads.

PATH TO FINAL

10/7/99 Kickhams 3-9 Rossmore-Clonoulty 0-9

14/7/99 Kickhams 2-10 Cashel 0-9

21/7/99 Kickhams 2-15 Éire Óg 1-7

17/8/99 W.F. Kickhams 1-21 Rossmore-Clonoulty 3-6

2/10/99 Co. Semi Kickhams 2-7 Roscrea 1-6

ASKEIGH KICKHAMS

ING FINALISTS 1999



Back Row L-R: William Keane, Conor Ryan, Christopher Keane, Garret Ryan, Sean Ryan, Phillip Ryan, Derek Breen, John Keane, Fergal O'Brien, Pat O'Grady, Daniel Breen, Paul Breen, Alan Hayes, Peter Comerford.

Front Row L-R: David Horgan, John F. O'Brien, David Shanahan, Eoin O'Brien, Richard Horgan, Thomas Hayes, Harry Horgan, William Ryan, Damien McGrath, Alan Horgan, Noel O'Brien.

ROLL OF HONOUR

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS:-

Intermediate Hurling: 1992 Under-21 Hurling: 1967, 1994

Intermediate F: 1996 Junior F: 1981, 1992

M.F. 'B': 1992 Under-21 F 'B': 1991

WEST CHAMPIONSHIPS:-

S.H.: '35, '38, '46, '47, '49, '50, '52, '53, '54, '55, '56, '58, '59, '60, '97, '99.

I.H.: 1992

Under-21 H.: '66, '67, '86, '93, '94.

J.H.: '51, '52, '81, '87, '98.

M.H.: '43, '44, '45, '46, '47, '51, '55, '79, '84, '90, '91, '93, '94, '99.

S.F.: 1998 I.F.: 1985, 1993, 1996 J.F.: 1981, 1992

M.F.A.: 1979, 1999 Under-21 F 'B': 1991



Knockavilla-Donasheigh Kickhams

Colours: Amber & Black

(1)
E. Ó Briain
FERGAL O'BRIEN

Fir Ionaid:

(16) N. Ó Briain
Noel O'Brien

(17) H. Ó hArgáin
Harry Horgan

(18) C. Ó Riain
Conor Ryan

(19) A. Ó hAodha
Alan Hayes

(20) D. Ó hArgáin
David Horgan

(21) P. Mac Cumascaigh
Peter Comerford

(22) D. Ó Seancháin
David Shanahan

(23) E. Ó Briain
Eoin O'Brien

(24) S. Ó Briain
John O'Brien

(2)
G. Ó Riain
GARETH RYAN

(5)
L. Ó Riain
WILLIAM RYAN

(8)
S. Ó Céin
JOHN KEANE

(10)
P. Ó Braoin
PAUL BREEN

(13)
D. Ó Broain
DANIEL BREEN

(3)
D. Mac Craith
DAMIAN McGRATH

(6)
S. Ó Riain
SEAN RYAN

(11)
P. Ó Riain
PHILIP RYAN

(14)
P. Ó Gráda
PAT O'GRADY

(4)
L. Ó Céin
WILLIAM KEANE

(7)
D. Ó Braoin
DERIC BREEN

(9)
A. Ó hArgáin
ALAN HORGAN

(12)
R. Ó hArgáin
RICHARD HORGAN

(15)
C. Ó Céin
CHRISTOPHER KEANE

ROGHNÓIRÍ – Richie Horgan (Manager); Gerry Cahill,
Christy Ryan, Danny Morrissey

TOOMEVARA	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adn leath:					
2adn leath:					
IOMLAN					

Thurles Sarsfields

Colours: Blue & White

(1)

P. Mac Cormaic

PATRICK McCORMACK

(2)

B. Mac Lochlainn

BARRY McLOUGHLIN

(3)

C. Ó Ruairc

COLM O'ROURKE

(4)

T. Ó Callanáin

THOMAS CALLINAN

(5)

B. Ó Duibhir

BARRY O'DWYER

(6)

S. Laighléin

JOHN LILLIS

(7)

S. Ó Duibhir

SEANIE DWYER

(8)

S. Masún

STEPHEN MASON

(9)

S. Ó Murchú

JAMIE MURPHY

(10)

A. Dondúin

AIDAN DUNDON

(11)

S. Ó hEosa

JOHN HUSSEY (CAPT)

(12)

L. Ó Coirbín

LARRY CORBETT

(13)

A. Rút

TONY RUTH

(14)

L. Ó hÍcí

LIAM HICKEY

(15)

B. Ó Lochlainn

BRIAN O'LOUGHLIN

ROGHNÓIRÍ – Denis Maher, Lenny Phillips, Sean Maher,
Johnny Enright



Fir Ionaid:

- (16) A. Ó Conghaile
Tony Connolly
- (17) E. MacCoisteala
Owen Costello
- (18) D. Ó Duibhir
David O'Dwyer
- (19) E. Ó Tuathaigh
Eamon Tuohy
- (20) S. Ó Riordáin
James O'Riordan
- (21) P. Ó Gréacháin
Peter Grayden
- (22) P. Ó hAodha
Philip Hayes
- (23) M. Ó Riain
Mattie Ryan
- (24) C. Ó Laighin
Conor Lyons
- (25) E. Ó Glasáin
Eamon Gleeson

EIRE ÓG NENAGH	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachái	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh leath					
2adh leath					
IOMLAN					

THURLES S

COUNTY MINOR HUR



John Hussey, Captain



Back Row L-R: Peter Grayden, Eamon Tuohy, C. Dundon, Thomas Callinan, Philip Hayes, Tony. Front Row L-R: John Hussey, David O'Dwyer, E. Stephen Mason, Mattie Ryan, James O'Riordan

PATH TO FINAL

Sarsfields 3-9 Drom & Inch 2-9
 Sarsfields 9-16 Moyne-Templetuohy 0-7
 Sarsfields 3-14 Moycarkey-Borris 1-10
 Sarsfields 3-15 J.K. Brackens 1-10

MID FINAL

Sarsfields 1-9 Drom & Inch 1-7

CO. SEMI FINAL

Sarsfields 3-17 Killenaule 1-8

ROLL OF H

COUNTY S.H. TITLES (28)
 1907, 1908, 1909, 1911,
 1938, 1939, 1942, 1944,
 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958,
 1963, 1964, 1965, 1974.

COUNTY M.H. TITLES (6)
 1957, 1975, 1985.

COUNTY U-21 H. TITLES
 COUNTY J.H. TITLES (5)
 1987, 1995.

COUNTY J.F. TITLES (1): 1
 ALL-IRELAND CHAMPION
 (6): 1887, 1906, 1908, 1993

ARSFIELDS

LING FINALISTS 1999



Donor Lyons, Eoin Costelloe, Seanie Dwyer, Larry Corbett, Liam Hickey, Jamie Murphy, Brian O'Loughlin, Aidan Connolly, Simon Gleeson, John Lillis, Barry O'Dwyer, Barry McLoughlin, Tony Ruth, Patrick McCormack, Colm O'Rourke,

HONOUR

1887, 1904, 1906,
1929, 1935, 1936,
1945, 1946, 1952,
1959, 1961, 1962,

1954, 1955, 1956,

(1): 1988

1955, 1956, 1958,

1989

S CLUB SELECTION

0, 1937, 1945.



Selectors (left to right): Lenny Phillips, Denis Maher, Sean Ryan and Johnny Enright.

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Thurles Sarsfields Minor Hurlers 1999

THE SARSFIELDS minor hurling team of 1999 have been together for some time with Durlas Óg. This year, under the watchful eye of Lenny Phillips, Sean Ryan, Johnny Enright and Coach Dinny Maher, they have fulfilled their ambitions of reaching the County Final. Victory today would be the clubs first victory since 1985 in the minor final. They lost finals in 1987, 1992 and 1995.

Sarsfields keeper, Paddy McCormack is a chip off the old block with his Dad, Paddy senior, playing between the sticks for Sarsfields in the 1992 senior final. Paddy junior has certainly picked up his fathers tricks of the trade.

In the full back line, Sarsfields have three men of great fame. Barry McLoughlin is grandson of the great Tommy Doyle, Colm O'Rourke is a name well known in footballing circles and Thomas Callanan follows on a long line of Callanan tradition in Sarsfields defences. All three have starred with Durlas Óg during their time with O'Rourke captaining their u-12 footballers to county success some years ago.

The half back line, too, is laden with talent. At centre back John Lillis is an authoritative figure. Son of John senior - coach to the Munster Junior Inter provincial rugby team, John junior is also an accomplished rugby player. Two Dwyers flank Lillis in the centre. Barry Dwyer has developed hugely as a player over the last year and he is one to watch out for. Seanie Dwyer on the left wing is a fine athlete and he uses his pace to good affect in his hurling as well.

At midfield, two great Sarsfields names have once more come to the forefront. County minor Stephen Mason partners Jamie Murphy to supply the ammunition for the attack. Mason is grandson of the great Tom Mason, a legendary figure in Sarsfields and Tipperary hurling, while Jamie Murphy is son of the late Noel Murphy, a well known former Tipp and Sarsfields player and efficient Official of the Mid Board. Jamie is also nephew of Michael Murphy who captained Tipp to All-Ireland success in 1964.

Sarsfields forwards have been receiving a lot of praise recently for their exploits. Here again are some familiar names. Captain John Hussey is the workman of the team. He provides the drive and determination to will the

rest of the lads on and is a very influential figure. Aidan Dundon again follows a long family tradition with both brothers Padraic and Noel, having played in County minor finals for the club. Larry Corbett is a sharp shooter of note. With pace and speed in abundance, this man has the skill to unlock many a defence. He was also a member of the clubs senior team.

The full forward line possesses two teachers sons - no prizes for guessing what the topic of conversation in this staff room is. Tony Ruth is the pocket rocket - small and fast with dazzling skills, he is one to watch out for. Brian O'Loughlin is a sturdy performer who is well capable of taking scores and is the leading scorer in the side. At full forward, Liam Hickey has plenty of dash and is also a leading dressing room figure. His courage is his big attribute and he has the ability to create the scores for others as well as taking a few of his own.

Sarsfields have strength in depth as well. Tony Connolly, a man with Galway and Tipperary blood, is a fine defender who will probably make an appearance in the decider, while James O'Riordan is another following in family footsteps. Philly Hayes, Conor Lyons and Peter Graydon are vital members of the Sarsfields defensive system and any of them are capable of coming into the breach if called upon.

Eoin Costelloe is another sharpshooter who is likely to make a final appearance. He has been troubled by injury but is coming right at just the appropriate time. David Dwyer has youth on his side and will be performing in this grade for some time to come, while Eamon Tuohy, Mattie Ryan and Eamon Gleeson are others who have further minor years ahead of them.

A lot of work has been put into this Sarsfields team. Coach Dinny Maher is one of the great Maher's of Killinan, while Lenny Phillips is son of Tipperary camogie supremo Bidy Phillips. Johnny Enright has worn the Tipperary senior jersey and is currently looking forward to a County Final appearance in Cork with UCC, while Sean Ryan is highly regarded for his views on the game and is a most dedicated member of the club's committee.



NENAGH É

County Senior Hurl



**Con Howard
(Captain)**

CLUB OFFICERS

Presidents:

Sean Slattery, Jack Kennedy,
Michael Hyre.

Chairman: Rory Flannery.

Vice Chairman: Ger Gavin

Secretary: Jimmy Minogue

Treasurer: Enda Costello

P.R.O.: Sean Minogue

ROLL OF HONOUR

COUNTY CHAMIONSHIPS

Senior Hurling	1	1995.
U-21 Hurling	5	1979, '80, '81, '82, '93.
Minor Hurling	5	1969, '77, '78, '91, '92.
Junior Hurling	1	1983.
Intermediate Football	2	1988, '98.
Junior Football	1	1986.
U-21 Football	2	1991, '93.
Minor Football	1	1990.

NORTH CHAMIONSHIPS

Senior Hurling	5	1957, '64, '92, '93, '98.
Senior League	4	1984, '88, '91, '95.
Junior Hurling	3	1953, '62, '83.
U-21 Hurling	6	1979, '80, '81, '82, '93, 94.
Minor Hurling	10	1938, '53, '55, '69, '77, '78, '79, '89, '91, '92.
Senior Football	7	1989, '91, '92, '94, '95, '96, 97.
Intermediate Football	4	1962, '74, '88, '98.
Junior Football	2	1985, '86
U-21 Football	11	1981, '83, '84, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91, '92, '93, '94.
Minor Football	8	1977, '83, '86, '88, '89, '90, '91, '92.



Back n
Morar
L-R: A
John h

EIRE ÓG

ing Finalists 1999



Back row L-R: Con Howard, John Heffernan, Richie Flannery, Declan O'Meara, Frank Noel Coffey, Christy, McLoughlin, John Slattery, Eddie Tucker. Front row L-R: Anthony Quinn, Michael Cleary, Robbie Tomlinson, Kevin Tucker, John Tucker, John Kennedy.

PATH TO FINAL

	Eire Óg	1-10	Roscrea	0-10
	Eire Óg	1-13	Portroe	1-12
	Eire Óg	3-14	Newport	2-7
North Semi-Final	Eire Óg	2-16	Moneygall	3-4
North Final	Eire Óg	2-15	Toomevara	2-19
County Quarter-Final	Eire Óg	1-14	Knockvilla Kickhams	2-7
Semi-Final	Eire Óg	4-18	Mullinahone	1-10



TOOMEVARA

Colours: Green & Gold

Fir Ionaid:

(16) T. Ó Meara
Tomás O'Meara
(sub-keeper)

(17) A. Ó Dúislainne
Tony Delaney

(18) S. Ó Briain
John O'Brien

(19) D. Ó Meara
Damien O'Meara

(20) T. Ó Cearúil
Tommy Carroll

(21) B. MacGráith
Brian McGrath

(22) A. Ó Riain
Andrew Ryan

(23) C. Ó Coimin
Kevin Cummins

(24) B. Ó Doinn
Barry Dunne

(25) D. Brisleáin
Dermot Brislane

(26) M. Ó Murchú
Michael Murphy

(1)

J. de Cotreil

JUSTIN COTTRELL

(2)

G. Frend

GEORGE FREND

(3)

R. Ó Brisleáin

RORY BRISLANE

(4)

A. Ó Meiscill

AIDAN MAXWELL

(5)

O. Ó Brisleáin

OWEN BRISLANE

(6)

P. Ó Haicéid

PADRAIG HACKETT

(7)

B. Ó Doinn

BRENDAN DUNNE

(8)

T. Ó Doinn

TERRY DUNNE

(9)

B. Ó Duibh

BRIAN DUFF

(10)

T. Ó Doinn

TOMÁS DUNNE (Capt.)

(11)

P. Ó Gionga

PAT KING

(12)

P. Ó Briain

PADDY O'BRIEN

(13)

P. MacGráith

PAUL McGRATH

(14)

M. Ó Meara

MICHAEL O'MEARA

(15)

M. Bevin

MICHAEL BEVINS

SELECTORS — Tony Dunne, Roger Ryan, Denis Haverty

Coach: Tom Ryan; Trainer: Bertie Sherlock.

TOOMEVARA	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachái	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh leath					
2adh leath					
IOMLAN					

NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

Colours: Light Blue and Navy



(1)
C. MacLochlainn
CHRISTY McLOUGHLIN

(2)
A. Ó Coinn
ANTHONY QUINN

(3)
N. Ó Cofaigh
NOEL COFFEY

(4)
S. Ó hIfearnáin
JOHN HEFFERNAN

(5)
S. Ó Cinneide
JOHN KENNEDY

(6)
P. Ó Moráin
FRANK MORAN

(7)
R. Ó Flannabhra
RICHIE FLANNERY

(8)
C. Ó hIomhair
CON HOWARD (Capt.)

(9)
S. Ó Slattara
JOHN SLATTERY

(10)
C. MacTuachair
KEVIN TUCKER

(11)
E. MacTuachair
EDDIE TUCKER

(12)
S. MacTuachair
JOHN TUCKER

(13)
D. Ó Meára
DECLAN O'MEARA

(14)
R. MacTomilín
ROBBIE TOMLINSON

(15)
M. Ó Cléirigh
MICHAEL CLEARY

SELECTORS — Liam Heffernan (*Manager*); Martin O'Grady (*Trainer*);
John Tucker, Neille Corbett, John Darcy.

Fir Ionaid:

- (16) M. MacNamara
Michael McNamara
- (17) H. Ó Flannabhra
Hugh Flannery
- (18) R. Ó Flannabhra
Rory Flannery
- (19) L. Ó Gadhra
Liam O'Gara
- (20) M. Haicéid
Michael Hackett
- (21) T. Ó Conraoi
Tom Conroy
- (22) C. Ó Gealbháin
Cormac Galvin
- (23) S. Ó Donnchú
Joe O'Donoghue
- (24) B. MacGiobain
Brian Fitzgibbon
- (25) C. Donnabháin
Conor O'Donovan
- (26) B. Ó Flannabhra
Billy Flannery
- (27) E. Ó Muireartaigh
Eamon Murtagh
- (28) T. Ó Conghaile
Trevor Connolly

EIRE ÓG NENAGH	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh leath					
2adh leath					
IOMLAN					



TOOM

County Senior Hur



Thomas Dunne
(Captain)

PATH TO THE FINAL

Toomevara 2-14 Borrisokane 2-7
Toomevara 1-14 Borrisoleigh 0-12
Toomevara 3-18 Kilruane 4-10
Toomevara 1-19 Moneygall 0-14

NORTH SEMI-FINAL

Toomevara 3-10 Portroe 2-13 (Draw)
Toomevara 2-13 Portroe 2-12 (replay)

NORTH FINAL

Toomevara 2-19 Nenagh 2-15

CO. QUARTER-FINAL

Toomevara 6-23 Annacarty 1-4

CO. SEMI-FINAL

Toomevara 2-17 Holycross 4-9

ROLL OF HONOUR

COUNTY CHAMIONSHIPS

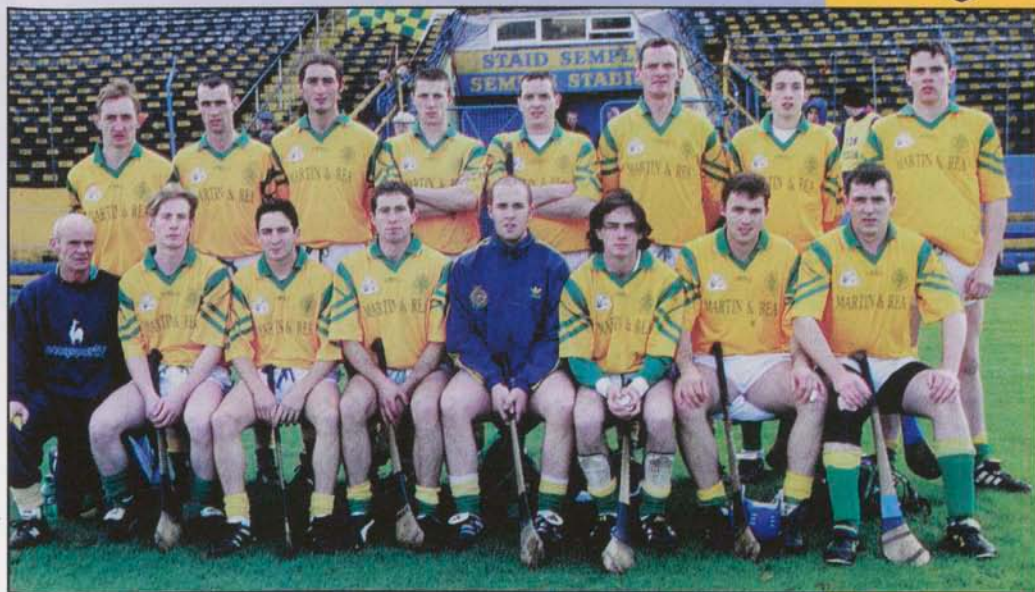
Senior Hurling	1890, 1910, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1919, 1923, 1930, 1931, 1960, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1998 (14)
Junior Hurling	1912, 1993
Junior Football (B)	1995
U-21 Hurling	1985, 1986, 1990, 1995
Minor Hurling	1986, 1987, 1997

NORTH CHAMIONSHIPS

Senior Hurling	1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1922, 1923, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1946, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1991, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1999 (27)
Inter Hurling	1944, 1955, 1984
Junior Hurling	1913, 1914, 1958, 1991, 1997
Junior Football	1972, 1982, 1983
Junior Football (B)	1986, 1993, 1995
U-21 Hurling	1967, 1985, 1986, 1990, 1995, 1996, 1998
Minor Hurling	1932, 1937, 1954, 1956, 1981, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 (15)
Minor Hurling (B)	1979, 1998

EVARA

ling Finalists 1999



Back row (l.-r.): George Frend, Thomas Dunne, Padraig Hackett, Brian Duff, Michael O'Meara, Pat King, Brendan Dunne, Owen Brislane. Front row (l.-r.): Bertie Sherlock, Paddy O'Brien, Michael Bevins, Aidan Maxwell, Justin Cottrell, Paul McGrath, Terry Dunne, Rory Brislane.

CLUB OFFICERS

Life Presidents: Rody Nolan, Matt Hassett

Vice-President: Tom Shanahan

Chairman: Rev. Fr. Iggy McCormack

Vice-Chairmen: Tom Troy, Billy Delaney

Secretary: Eddie Frend

Treasurer: Bernard O'Neill

Registrar: Neil Williams

P.R.O.: Matt O'Meara



L-R: Roger Ryan, Denis Haverly and Tony Dunne.

Mary Willies



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Buíchios

Many thanks to Eddie Frend (Toomevara), Jimmy Minogue (Nenagh Éire Óg), Tom Hayes (Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams) and Gerard Corbett (Thurles Sarsfields) who pulled out all the stops to help get this production ready for the biggest day in the local club calendar. Thanks also to Brendan O'Connor and Jerry Ring for their photographs

John McCormack,
Programme Editor

YOUR MATCH REFEREES

SENIOR REFEREE:

Johnny McDonnell
(Roscrea)

LINESMEN

Willie Clohesy,
Paddy Russell

UMPIRES

Jim Sheedy
Kevin Moloney
Dermot Moloney
Eamon Jones



Johnny McDonnell
(Roscrea)

MINOR REFEREE

Tommy Lonergan
(Kilsheelan)

LINESMEN

Martin Aherne
John Collins

Umpires

Willie Robinson
Denis Lonergan
Jim Cahill, Peter Moore



Tommy Lonergan
(Kilsheelan)

*Best Wishes to Nenagh Éire Óg
and Toomevara in the big game from:*

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Last Call for a Song

A collection of Tipperary G.A.A. songs, poems and ballads is presently being compiled. This collection will be published next year and is one of the projects undertake by the Tipperary G.A.A. Millennium committee.

Ballads etc. should be sent as soon as possible, but before the end of this month to:

Liam Ó Donnchú	Seamus J.
King	or
Ballymoreen	Boherclough

Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook 2000

This annual publication is being compiled and will be on sale early in December. Articles, photographs etc. should be given to any committee member as early as possible.

Chairman:	Seamus J. King
Secretary:	Liam Ó Donnchú
County P.R.O.:	Liz Howard
	L i a m
Hogan	Seamus Ó
Doherty	C o n
Hogan	Mícheál Ó

TIPPERARY SENIOR COUNTY HURLING FINAL ON TG4

TG4's comprehensive Gaelic games coverage continues on Monday night next, 11/10/99 when **Ard San Aer** features highlights of the Tipperary County Senior Hurling Final between Toomevara and Éire Óg, Nenagh. The programme starts at 11.45 p.m. and also features highlights of the Wexford Senior Hurling Final between Rathnure and St. Martin's.

T.V. - "THE PROVINCIAL GAME"

Watch highlights of to-day's final on "The Provincial Game" on Wednesday and Thursday next, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Multichannel T.V.

"The Provincial Game" is a weekly action-packed programme of G.A.A. games from the provinces and is fully supported by Comhairle na Mumhan.

What chance of two county medals?

by Leonard Fitzgerald

TODAY, the curtain comes down on, yet another, intriguing county senior hurling championship, in a year in which all four divisional finals produced new winners. As anticipated, Éire Óg Nenagh and Toomevara have returned to the final for a battle supreme. Having met twice in competitive ties already this year, a draw in the county leagues and a second half demolition by Toome' in the north final, but this third and final meeting will be the most crucial. A memento of Dan Breen is the prize on offer, plus the accolade of the last team of the century to achieve county honours.

Coincidentally, 1993 was the last all-north decider and ironically, both of today's opponents were locked into combat in that pulsating encounter. Only a single point separated the sides at the finish in arguably the most entertaining hurling final of the present decade. To me, Éire Óg Nenagh as a complete unit are the most superior in the county, however, the site of the Toomevara jersey injects poison in their veins. 20-year-old Richie Flannery is just one of that Nenagh outfit in pursuit of settling the score against their arch-rivals.

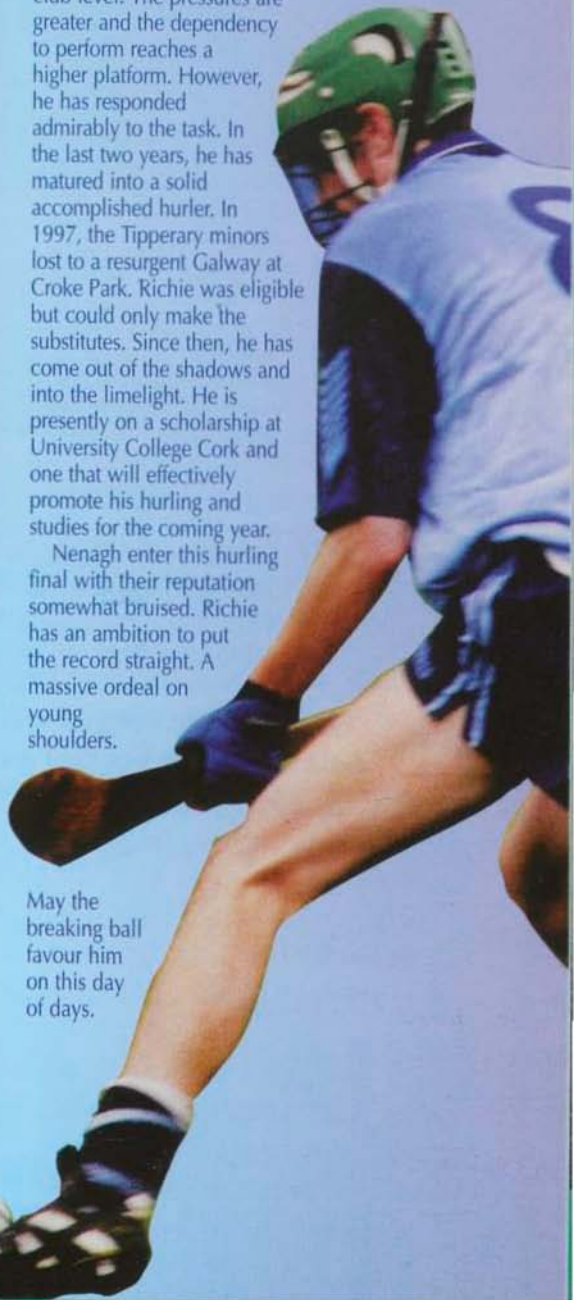
To win a county championship is an achievement in itself, however, to secure championship medals in two different counties in the one year is truly remarkable. Richie Flannery operated at left half back for UCC last weekend, with the college clinching a county final place for the first time in 29 years, thanks to a late goal by Joe Deane. Last Sunday evening, he was greatly relieved as had the second semi-final produced a winner, both the Tipperary and Cork hurling finals would have clashed on the same Sunday, preventing the 3rd year commerce student from participating in both finals. Now in any event, Richie can fulfil his dream.

1999 has been a busy year for the Nenagh defender. Last Spring, he operated at mid-field for UCC all through the Fitzgibbon Cup, eventually losing the final to a more equipped Waterford IT. He also gained invaluable inter-county experience with the under-21's, picking up a provincial medal for his efforts. Despite the intimidating atmosphere, his performance against Clare was enormous. He

was one of the reasons that Tipp triumphed on that Tuesday evening in Ennis. Wearing the county jersey often gives a player a greater incentive at club level. The pressures are greater and the dependency to perform reaches a higher platform. However, he has responded admirably to the task. In the last two years, he has matured into a solid accomplished hurler. In 1997, the Tipperary minors lost to a resurgent Galway at Croke Park. Richie was eligible but could only make the substitutes. Since then, he has come out of the shadows and into the limelight. He is presently on a scholarship at University College Cork and one that will effectively promote his hurling and studies for the coming year.

Nenagh enter this hurling final with their reputation somewhat bruised. Richie has an ambition to put the record straight. A massive ordeal on young shoulders.

May the breaking ball favour him on this day of days.



The re-action of the players to the initial All-County hurling league has been good. They have enjoyed playing against teams from the other divisions. The games during the month of March and April have been of benefit and the social aspects of the competition have been appreciated. The revenue from the home games has been of benefit to the clubs.

However, the league needs to be developed further.

It needs to be a stand alone competition with promotion and relegation.

The original proposal from Thurles Sarsfields that each division consists of nine teams to give four home plus four away games annually needs to be studied.

All-County Hurling League - a Resounding Success

The idea of the top three teams being promoted and the bottom three teams to be relegated is also worth consideration.

The suggestion that intermediate teams be included as part of the senior league deserves careful positive analysis.

After two years when the league is well established it could be used as a grading system for the

senior and intermediate championships, e.g. top 20-24 teams be graded senior, balance to be graded intermediate.

After a period of 2-3 years junior teams could be incorporated and graded accordingly.

The players reaction to the league has been good, let's develop it and make it happen.



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Umpires Coats in white cotton or waterproof.

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100 YEARS AGO - 1899 REMEMBERED

Horse and Jockey, representing Tipperary, won the 1899 All-Ireland Hurling Final. This event was commemorated recently when a memorial was unveiled in the village. A Centenary booklet was also published, copies of which, costing £5 each, can be obtained from Liam Ó Donnchú, Moycarkey N.S., Thurles, Co. Tipperary.



The Horse and Jockey 1899 Memorial was unveiled by Tommy Gleeson and Jerry O'Keefe.



At the unveiling of the Horse and Jockey memorial were: Jack Bergin, Sam Melbourne, Liam Hennessy and Co. Board chairman Paul O'Neill.

1899 REMEMBERED



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Player Profile

George Frend

HEIGHT:

5' 10"

WEIGHT:

11st 10 lb

CLUB:

Toomevara

FAVOURITE PLAYERS:

Declan Ryan and
Brian Whelehan

**FAVOURITE GAME
PLAYED IN:**

1996 Munster C'ship

FAVOURITE GAME SEEN:

Cork v Offaly 1999 and
Cork v Tipp replay 1991

BEST DISPLAY:

D. J. Carey v Galway, 1997
Brian Corcoran v Clare, 1999

ADVICE TO YOUNG HURLERS:

Listen to coaches and get
plenty of practice.

**BIGGEST INFLUENCE
ON CAREER:**

Neill Williams, N.T.



Ladies Shine in '99

(The last All-Ireland Camogie Final of the Millennium played on the 5th September 1999)

*Let history record what the country has seen
The O'Duffy won by a gallant fifteen,
They played for their county with honour and pride
And carried the cup to the sunny Suir side.*

*The fifth of September in the year ninety nine
Is a day to remember for ever in time,
When the girls appeared in the Blue and Gold,
And outshone the heroines of Erin of old.*

*There was Gaynor the bold and Neylon the brave,
With strokes their captain pulled many a save,
Delaney a stalwart guided the goal
She played the full game with stout heart and great soul.*

*Siobhan Kelly was mighty and O'Dwyer was too,
And Madden was crafty and knew what to do.
Heyden, McDermott and Brophy were sound,
And Kiely no doubt helped hold the ground.*

*Where would we be without Deirdre Hughes,
She dummied and skipped and tried every ruse,
And when at the finish they tallied her score,
She had four points to her credit and with luck would have more.*

*Kennedy pointed with style and panache,
One look at the goal and she'd give it a lash,
She put five to the total her name will go down,
In the annals of sport in Tipperary town.*

*Kiely was off and Fogarty on,
And Hennessey subbed when Harkin was gone,
Stokes rallied the team "We'll never give up
Til we master Kilkenny and bring home the Cup".*

*Hennesseys two and McDonnells one,
Made up the twelve and Tipperary had won,
Their names will be etched in song and in story,
For they won for their county more honour and glory.*

EPILOGUE

*As the sunbeams shine on the lovely Suir stream,
There's a name that inspired the victorious team,
With her wisdom and knowledge of playing the ball,
The bold Biddy Phillips, mother of them all.*

PADDY ARRIGAN

KEVIN TUCKER

NENAGH EIRE ÓG

PLAYER PROFILE

Height: 5' 10"

Weight: 11½ Stone

Favourite

Players: Pat Fox, John Troy

Favourite Game

Played In: County Final 1995
Nenagh v Boherlahan

Favourite Game

Ever Seen: Tipperary v Cork
Munster Final 1991
Replay

Best

Display Seen: Joe Cooney – All Ireland
Final 1990

John Leahy – Munster
Final 1991

Young Hurlers

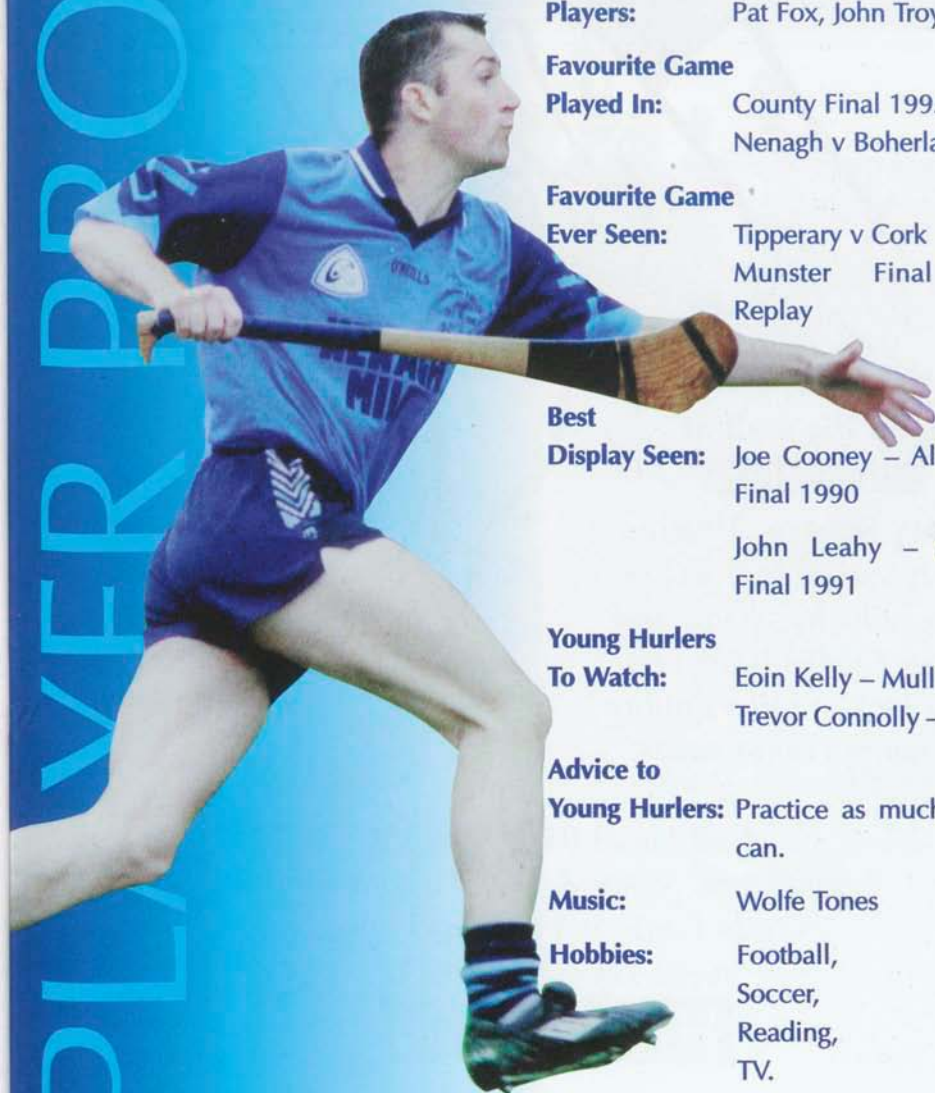
To Watch: Eoin Kelly – Mullinahone
Trevor Connolly – Nenagh

Advice to

Young Hurlers: Practice as much as you
can.

Music: Wolfe Tones

Hobbies: Football,
Soccer,
Reading,
TV.



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& all the staff at**

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Knockavilla Kickhams and
Thurles Sarsfields the very
bets of luck in todays minor
and senior county finals.*

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Clock Sponsorship



Back row (l. to r.) Michael Maher (chairman) Semple Stadium Management Committee; Michael Sparrow, Branch Manager Hibernian, Thurles; David Crimmins, Hibernian Marketing. Front row: Paddy Troy, Semple Stadium Management Committee; Tommy Barrett, Co. Secretary; Paul O'Neill, Co. Chairman.

Since the foundation of the G.A.A. here in Thurles in 1884, it has seen many social, cultural and historic changes from civil wars, world wars, formation of state, immigration, rural electrification, common market, competition from other sports i.e. Jack Charlton era in soccer, Rugby World Cup and within the association, the marketing of games through sponsorship, T.V., newer teams coming on stream, it's fair to say the Association and games were never as strong.

Similarly, Hibernian has traded for the past 91 years having been founded in 1908. Hibernian is an Irish owner Public Company and is listed on Dublin and London Stock Exchanges. Hibernian is one of Ireland's largest and most successful organisations with activities spanning General Insurance, Life Assurance, Pensions and Investment Management. It employs over 800 people through its 28 office branches countrywide. It distributes

products through its broker network and its retail offices throughout the country.

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- Has an automatic re-setting device which will reset within two seconds if power failure exceeds 72 hours.
- Capacity to convert to countdown clock.

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An Sean-Nós – Amhránaíocht Ársa



Is feiniméan é an corradh atá tagaithe ar cheol agus amhránaíocht Gaelach i láthair na huaire sa tír seo. Is iomaí stíl nua atá le cloisint, le ceoltóirí agus amhránaithe ag lorg bealaí nua chun iad féin a mhíniú don lucht éisteachta. Tá stáitse domhanda acu anois, mar tá suim thar barr ag muintir na cruinne ins na hamhráin Ghaelacha. Ní thar óiche a tharla é seo. Is rud ársa í an amhránaíocht a shíneann siar i réalta na staire. Rud áitiúil ab ea í. Bhí morán daoine ann ag a raibh neart amhrán acu ag deileáil le stair agus imeachtaí a dúiche féin, ach gan aitheantas leata orthu.

Ansin tharla rud ag deireadh an chéid seo a d'aistrigh todhchaí amhránaíochta na tíre go hionlán. Bunaíodh Conradh na Gaeilge sa chliain 1893 agus i measc na ndaoine a bhí páirteach ann, d'fhás grúpa ar tugadh gluaiseacht na Gaeilge orthu. Chim siad ar fhorbairt agus leathnú cúrsaí na n-amhrán. De thoradh a n-iarrachtaí bunaíodh an t-Oireachtas sa bhliain 1897. Bhí stáitse faighte ag an amhránaíocht, go mór mór an sean-nós. Mar adúradh bhí an sean-nós ann leis na cianta in áiteanna eagsúla sa tír, ach go speisialta san Oirthear. Anois bhí an deis ag na hamhránaithe seo a nealláin a nochtaidh don saol mór.

Sa chéad bhliain de Chomórtas an Oireachtais chuir deichniúr isteach ar chomórtas na bhfear agus triúr dhuine dhéag ar cheann na mban. Bá é Padraig Ó Sé, Lios Mór, Co. Phort Láirge a fuair an chéad áit i measc na bhfear agus Norma Borthwick, as Londain an chéad áit i measc na mban. Bhí an sean-nós faoi sheol agus i lár an aonaigh. Is breá an rud é an t-Oireachtas chun borradh a chur sa sean-nós. Cuidíom sé an traidisiún a spreagadh agus gríosann sé amhránaithe le Taighde agus Tochailt a dhéanamh agus sean-amhráin neamhghnácha a chur os comhair an phobail. Cothaíonn sé lucht éisteachta don sean-nós i bhfad níos leithne ná mar a bhéadfaí aige mura mbéadh a leithéid ann. Cuireann an comórtas amhránaithe úra ar an stáitse agus tugann sé gradam agus urram dóibh.

Le sin ráite caithfear a cheistiú cad is sean-nós ann. Is stíl amhránaíochta ar leith é atá file fuaithe sa tanga Ghaelach. Is istigh i seanchultúr na nGael atá a bpréamhacha. Leanúnachas atá ann ó sean amhráin na ngnáthdhaoine. Feicimid ceiliúradh agus comóradaí imeachtaí áitiúla ins na hamhráin. Tá stíl speisialta ag dul le fonn na n-amhrán atá sothuigte don lucht eisteachta a mbíonn aitheantas acu orthu. do sna daoine nach dtuigeanann croí na stíle go minic fuaimíonn an stíl leadránach go leor, ach he léisteach leanúnach

tagann tuiscint agus meas.

Go dtí le déanaí ní raibh cliú ar amhránaithe den sean-nós taobh amuigh dá bpobal féin. Le forbairt na mean chumar saíde, go háirithe an teilifís tá aithne againn anois an líon mór daoine a bhíonn ag canadh sa sean-nós. Ina measc tá daoine atá imithe ar slí na fírinne ach a bhfuil a n-ealáin ar dhúlthcheirníní agus físteipeanna. Ina measc tá Seosamh Ó hEanaí, Nioclás Tóibín agus Séan MacDonncha, amhránaithe den Scoth. Chuidigh na mná, Máire Áine Ní Dhonnchadha. Cifí agus Áine Ní Ghallochóir go mór leis an stíl a fhorbairt freisin. Tá tionchar an tsean-nóis ag leathnú agus ag spreagadh amhránaithe agus ceoltóirí Ghaelacha nua-aimseartha. Nuair a smaointear ar Mháire Ní Scolaí, ar an Tiadach, an Sheán Davey agus ar Chlannad, i measc daoine eile, is cinnte gur é an sean-nós is bunús dá gcuid ceoil. Mar sin feicimid go soiléir an tionchar mór atá ag stíl ársa amhránaíochta ar cheol ár linne. Dá bhrí sin, níl sé ceart go gcinntódh ceoltóirí nua-aimseartha na léiritheoirí traidisiúnta toisc nach dtuigeanann siad iad.

I láthair na huaire ta cultúr iasachta, ón mBreatain, Meiriceá agus áiteanna eile ag tonnadh anuas orainn ón teilifís ó físteipeanna agus i ndáiríre ó ghach gné de sna meánchumarsáide. Tá sé deacair go leor do chultúr na hÉireann dul in iomaíocht le sin. Chuaigh an sean-nós i laige ar feadh tamaill ach anois tá forbairt nua ag teacht air. Tá an aosóg ag aimsiú an mhíniú ceart atá ins na hamhráin seo. Mar a shamhlófaí is sa Ghaeltacht atá an athbheochan seo ag tarlú, ach leis an bhforbairt ata ag tarlúint, tá sé ag leathnú ar fud na hÉireann. Is dócha gur larla Ó Lionáird an ceannródaí is cáiliúla sa bhfeachtas seo. Is breá an stíl atá aige, bunaithe ar stíl na sean amhránaithe ach le fuinneamh agus beocht dochreidte. Tá lucht leanúna mór aige le neart daoine ag déanamh aithrise air. Bíonn seonna agus ceolchoirmeacha aige ar fud an domhain leis an bhéim ar an sean-nós. Ropann na sluaite isteach chuige chun an ceol agus amhráin na hÉireann a bhlasadh.

Rinne mé tagairt don Oireachtas ag tús an ailt seo agus mar sin is cóir dom críochnú le trácht eile air. Tá an sean-nós go mór chun, tosaigh sa Chomórtas. Is é Corn Uí Riada an duais a bhronnar an ar mbuaiteoir. Cé nach bhfuil fuirmhór mhuintir na tíre seo "istigh" sa sean-nós creidigí go bhfuil sé beo, críomhar agus ag borradh go tréan. Rath Dé oraibh.

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ALL CALLS ARE TREATED WITH THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE

- The last All-North Co. S.H.C. final took place in 1993. Coincidentally the game was played on October 10th and involved Toomevara (winners) and Nenagh Éire Óg by 1-14 to 1-13.

- During the present decade Toomevara have been county champions four times, 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1998. Nenagh Éire Óg were winners in 1995.

- Toomevara is the only club to retain the county S.H.C. title in the present decade. The last team to retain the title prior to that was Kilruane McDonagh's, who registered a three-in-a-row between 1977 and 1979.

- Nenagh won their 1995 county title when Toome were divisional champions. The Greyhounds were county champions in 1992, 1993 and 1998 when 'the Blues' were North winners. Is that a good omen for 'the Townsman' today?

- The last club to win the county S.H.C. title, while also being divisional champions was Toomevara in 1994.

- When today's rivals met in the divisional decider back in August victory went to the green and gold on a 2-19 to 2-15 scoreline.

- The last drawn county S.H.C. final was in 1992 when Toomevara and Thurles Sarsfields went to a replay before the North men lifted their first county title in 32 years. Michael O'Meara was the winning captain.



Nenagh's last line of defence
Christy McLoughlin

Odds and Ends

By Seamus O'Doherty

- During the 'nineties Toomevara played Thurles Sarsfields five times in the championship winning four times and losing once. Their trouble spot was Boherlahan - Dualla who beat them three years in-a-row (1995 / 1996 / 1997).

- Toomevara won the Munster club championship in the 1993/94 season before losing to Galway's Sarsfields in the All-Ireland decider. They also reached the Provincial final last season where they were pipped by Clare's St. Joseph's Doorra-Barefield - eventual All-Ireland winners. Nenagh Éire Óg also failed to Clare opposition (Sixmile-bridge) when they reached the provincial final in the 1995/96 season. Their conquerors also won All-Ireland honours the following Spring.

- Toomevara's last county final winning captain was Philip Shanahan in 1998. Nenagh's only successful captain to date was Conor O'Donovan in 1995.

- Brothers continue to abound in this year's championship and the long standing tradition will be maintained no matter which team wins the 1990 county title.

- Fr. Peter Brennan joined a small band of players who won county S.H.C. medals with two clubs when Clonoulty-Rossmore lifted the Dan Breen Cup in 1997. He was an earlier winner with Loughmore-Castleiney in 1988.

- Under the present system, today's winners will provide Tipperary's senior hurling captain for the year 2000. Let's hope the

winners provide the necessary leadership to restore the county's pride in the national order of merit.

- Nenagh's Éire Óg management this year is absolutely local after some flirtation with external coaches during the decade. Their semi-final performance suggests that it is a mutually beneficial arrangement.

- Toomevara have the input of Limerickman Tom Ryan to complement the home management. His success in the last two seasons during which Toome have won some very close games confirms the value of his input.

- Today Toomevara are seeking their fifteenth title while Nenagh Éire Óg are in search of their second.

- The last All-North county S.H.C. final which failed to produce a goal was the Borrisoleigh v Kilruane McDonagh clash in 1986. The maroon and white emerged winners by 0-14 to 0-7. The last 'no goal' decider was Holycross/Ballycahill's victory over Cashel K.C. in 1990 when the scoreline was 0-13 to 0-10.

- Today's rivals have been regular opponents in the North division over the past five seasons but this is their first county championship clash since the 1993 final.

- The winners of today's game will meet Ahane (Limerick) in the Munster Club Championships. The Clare champions will be the semi-final opposition.



Toomevara's first line of attack -
Michael O'Meara



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