

Co. Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
2016

Craobh Chluichí Iomána an Chontae 2016

Stáid Semple, Dúrlas Éile — 16ú Deireadh Fómhair 2016



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Clár an Lao

12.57 JK Brackens amach ar an bpáirc

1.00 St. Mary's amach ar an bpáirc

1.15 Tús an chluiche – **Tipperary Water Minor 'A' Hurling Championship Final:**

JK BRACKENS v ST. MARY'S

1.47 Leath-am

1.57 Tús an dara leath

2.30 Críoch an chluiche

2.40 Presentation of the **Sean Treacy Cup** to the winning captain by Sean Ó Dubháin, Leas Cathaoirleach an Chontae, followed by the presentation of the 'Man of the Match' award (sponsored by John Quirke Jewellers, Cahir)

2.50 Presentation of the **CASHEL KING CORMACS 1991 County Senior Hurling Champions**

3.07 Kiladangan amach ar an bpáirc

3.10 Thurles Sarsfields amach ar an bpáirc

3.25 Pre-Match Parade lead by the Moycarkey-Borris Pipe Band

3.29 Amhrán na bhFiann

3.30 Tús an chluiche – **Tipperary Water Senior Hurling Championship Final:**

KILADANGAN v THURLES SARSFIELDS

4.03 Leath-am

4.13 Tús an dara leath

4.45 Críoch an chluiche

4.55 Presentation of the **Dan Breen Cup** to the winning captain by Micheál de Búrca, Cathaoirleach an Chontae, followed by the presentation of the 'Man of the Match' award (sponsored by John Quirke Jewellers, Cahir)

Buiochas

We hope you enjoy reading today's programme. It has been compiled with the assistance of Tom Maher (Assistant County Secretary), Tim Floyd (County Secretary), Andy Ryan (GDA), Eileen Scully (JK Brackens), Seán O'Sullivan (St. Mary's), Michael Quinn (Kiladangan) and Thomas Callanan (Thurles Sarsfields). Many thanks to all those who contributed material – Seamus O'Doherty, Noel Dundon, Jackie Cahill, Michael Bevans, Seamus J. King, Seamus Ó Dubhagáin, Denis Maher, Josephine Cahill, Liam Hogan and Ronan Loughnane. A special thanks to our photographers who capture the moments so well – Eamon McGee, Bridget Delaney, John D. Kelly and Sportsfile.

GER CORBETT, Programme Editor

Programme Cover – Specially commissioned artwork by David McElgunn (Thurles).



Fáilte ón gCathaoirleach



FÁILTE roimhaibh go léir go dtí Cluichí Ceannais Iomána Tiobraid Árann anseo i Stáid Semple. Táim cinnte go mbeidh iomaníocht laidir ann idir na foirne ins an dá cluiche cheannais. Fáilte fé Leith roimh na h-imreoirí, na hoifigigh agus na reiteoirí agus tá súil agam go mbeidh sar cluichí spóirtiúla againn.

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of Tipperary County Board to welcome you all to Semple Stadium today for what is the traditional County final day with both the Senior and Minor 'A' hurling finals. Both matches on today's programme have all the promise of two wonderful games displaying all the positive attributes that makes hurling the greatest field game there is.

I would like to welcome our Championship sponsors Tipperary Water and thank them for their generous sponsorship. Tipperary Water has a long association with the GAA in Tipperary and we are delighted that they have renewed their partnership with us this year. We wish them continued success in the future.

In keeping with a well established practice it is the turn of Cashel King Cormacs, champions of 1991, to be honoured today, and what an afternoon it will be for those great warriors to once more walk on the sacred sod of Semple Stadium where they captured their county honours in 1991. We welcome the players, mentors and their partners and hope they have a most enjoyable day with us.

I welcome in particular all the players who will grace this famed sod of Semple Stadium today. It is a proud day for them. They have trained hard, they have played hard and have reached their respective finals on merit. The ultimate goal, The Dan Breen Cup, for the Senior final and the Sean Treacy Cup for the Minor 'A' final is but an hour away for the four teams involved. I wish the players and their management teams the very best of luck in today's games.

The Senior final is an intriguing one between last year's county champions Thurles Sarsfields and newcomers Kiladangan, who are North champions and here totally on merit. Thurles Sarsfields line out with a star

studded team involving several past and present players that have worn the blue and gold. They will go into today's game as favourites but this will not deter the hunger and appetite of Kiladangan from trying to prevent them from doing the treble.

In the Minor 'A' final, an intriguing contest is assured with St. Mary's, who were last year's county champions, and newcomers JK Brackens aiming for their first title. Both teams have served up some thrilling displays on their journey to the final and we should commend the people who look after our juveniles in our clubs to ensure the standard is kept at the highest level possible. A most attractive curtain raiser which should provide splendid entertainment for today's attendance.

Best wishes to both Referees for today's games and their officials. John McCormack who officiates at his second senior hurling final, having previously refereed the 2013 final, takes charge of the senior game and his club mate Philip Ryan is taking charge of his first Minor 'A' final. Both men have given excellent service as referees in all grades to the

county. My thanks to all referees in the county for their dedication to the task and also to the co-ordinator Jim O'Shea.

The County and four Divisional C.C.C.'s deserve special mention today for progressing the championship in what was again another difficult season with the success of Tipperary teams.

Semple Stadium is one of the best stadia in the country with facilities of the highest standard for spectators comfort and a much acclaimed playing surface. My thanks to the Chairman Con Hogan and the management committee for their outstanding work in the management and development of the stadium.

My thanks to Ger Corbett and all contributors for giving us an informative programme as always. Many thanks to my fellow officers for their diligence in making the entire match day arrangements and finally to all our supporters I hope you enjoy today's games.

MÍCHEÁL DE BÚRCA

Cathaoirleach Coiste Thiobraid Árann



The County Board, in conjunction with the 'Tipperary Star' and the Brian Boru, Cashel, will honour the Cashel King Cormac's Senior Hurling Team of 1991 at Semple Stadium between the County Finals today. The event was announced in the Brian Boru on Saturday last (l.-r.): John Costigan, representing the County Board; Mattie Finnerty, representing Cashel King Cormacs; Pat Horan, Manager, Brian Boru; Pat Carey, 'The Tipperary Star'; Seamus J. King, organising committee. [• See pages 52-57]

~ Meet the Match Officials ~

Senior Final Referee

JOHN McCORMACK

JOHN began refereeing in 2011 after retiring from hurling with his club Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams. He won several West Senior Hurling titles with his club and a county Intermediate title along with West Senior, Intermediate and Junior football titles.

As well as having played with distinction with his club Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams John has represented Tipperary at Senior level during the mid nineties.

Since taking up refereeing, John has officiated at all levels within the county from Juvenile to Senior. He has taken charge of the County Senior Hurling Final in 2013, Munster Minor Hurling Final 2014, Munster Intermediate Hurling Championship 2016, Dean Ryan Cup Final 2014, Harty Cup 2014, 2015.

John is a member of the Munster Referee Panel and the National Referee Support Panel. He is still involved in coaching with his club at Juvenile level and currently Chairman of their very successful Juvenile Camogie Club.

Today John will be joined by his fellow club men Sean Bradshaw and Fergal Horgan who act as linesmen, both have previously taken charge of County Senior Hurling Finals.

His umpires are Adrian Crosse, Pat McCormack, John Hadnett and Paul Ryan, all mem-

bers of the Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams Club. On a training note John states "I would train at least five days a week to maintain a high level of fitness which I believe the players deserve".

On refereeing I would encourage players to play the game as long as you can and then get involved in refereeing and officiating of our games.

I am very fortunate to have a good team of officials around me and also a very good backup panel who I can call upon.



MATCH DAY OFFICIALS:

Standby Referee: Fergal Horgan (Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams)

Linesman: Sean Bradshaw (Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams)

4th Official: Pdraig Skeffington (Cashel King Cormacs)

Umpires: Adrian Crosse Pat McCormack, Paul Ryan, John Hadnett all Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams

Minor Final Referee

PHIL RYAN

PHIL is a member of Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams Club and is in his 16th season refereeing. In that time he has taken charge of numerous finals in all grades in the West Division, most notably both Senior Hurling and Football finals and also has been in charge of several county finals and semi-finals in Junior, Intermediate and U-21 hurling and Minor and Junior football.

In his GAA career he has also been involved with many Bord na nÓg All-Ireland winning hurling teams at U14, U15 and U16 levels. Phil is currently the Chairman of the West Tipperary referees.

Linesmen: David Grogan, Aherlow (stand-by ref)

Tom Dawson, Éire Óg

4th official: Seanie Peters, Aherlow

Umpires: John Ryan, Knockavilla Christy Campion, Clonoulty Tom O'Donnell, Golden Seanie Riordan, Solohead



A message from Tipperary Club Championship sponsors



THIS IS our first year sponsoring both the Tipperary hurling and football championships, and no better way to demonstrate our pride in our heritage. The very essence of Tipperary Pure Irish Water is excellence and togetherness, two qualities which are testament to these championships and everyone involved. From the minor to the senior teams, all the friends, families, communities and supporters, we are delighted to share these experiences and the success of GAA here in Tipperary.

A special congratulations to all participants, both on and off the field which made every match possible throughout this brilliant championship, including today's event. In a year in which Tipperary senior and minor hurlers lit up the All-Ireland hurling championships like no other county, Tipperary Water joins you in eager anticipation of today's exciting double bill.

County Final Day in Tipperary is a special occasion for hurling fans from across the Premier County and much further afield but, for a variety of reasons, today has even more to offer than normal. There's the intrigue of Thurles Sarsfield's pursuit of three in a row county titles. Can they possibly stay on course for what would surely be unrepeatable for a long time to come in the current era. Then there's Kildangan's first appearance in a County Senior Hurling Final since 1938...what a historic occasion it will be if they are victorious.

But above all there's a feast of hurling to look forward to as some of the best players not alone in Tipperary but the entire country take to the field in search of coveted county honours. County final day is, indeed, a special one in Tipperary and "Tipperary Water" is proud and privileged to be associated with it.

A word of congratulations also must go to all involved in staging today's event. Tipperary Water's success is very much built on logistics and we understand the effort required to ensure everything goes off smoothly today and on time, so well done to all concerned.

Tipperary Water is proud to begin our journey with Tipperary GAA. Together we hope to continue the success of the hurling and football Championships in the Premier County.

TOM McCUSKER

Managing Director, C&C Ireland



Pictured at the announcement at C&C's Clonmel facility of Tipperary Water as sponsors of the Tipperary GAA Championships in a three year deal were Michael Bourke, Tipperary GAA County Board Chairman; Eoin Kelly, former Tipperary Hurling Star; Declan Browne, former Tipperary Football Star and Keith O'Haire, Head of Non Alcoholic Beverages, C&C Gleeson.

[Photo: John D. Kelly]

Let's hope novel final

By: NOEL DUNDON 'Tipperary Star'



AN RUD is anamh is iontach.

It's a fair bet that the old Irish seanfhocal has been spouted once or twice in and around Puckane this last week or so with Kiladangan set to make a rare appearance in the Tipperary Water County Senior Hurling Final in Semple Stadium this afternoon.

What's rare is indeed wonderful and the North champions have certainly brought a lot of freshness and vitality to the championship. They have played with a lot of energy and enthusiasm and on the crest of the wave they have surfed all the way through to the decider where they will encounter a giant blue wave in the form of three-in-a-row seeking Thurles Sarsfields.

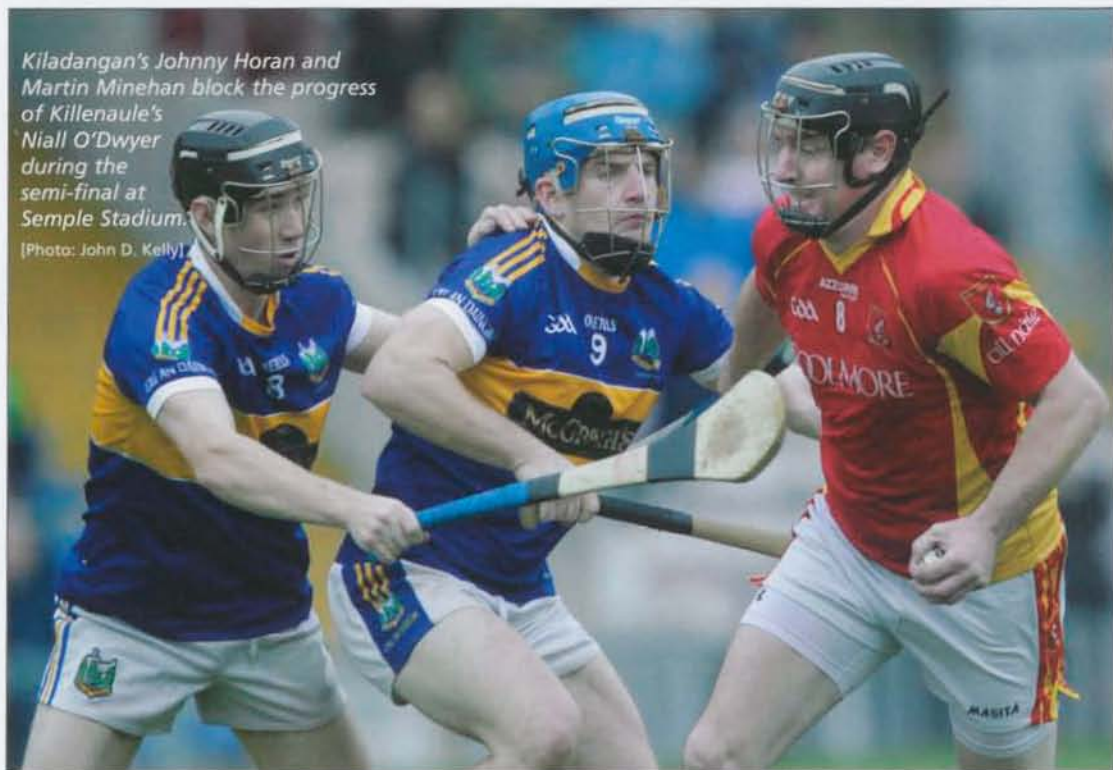
Of course, the last time Kiladangan were participants on the final day of the County Championship, Thurles Sarsfields were once again their opponents. That was 1938 and a

hell of a lot of hurling has been played since then. But, once again the Blues would appear to be the team to beat as they were back on those days too. Sarsfields enjoyed periods of great dominance, none greater than the mid fifties to the mid sixties when ten county senior hurling championships were captured in the space of eleven years – two five-in-a-rows. Today, they are seeking their seventh title in eleven years as another golden era emerges for the famed club.

Sarsfields are backboning the Tipperary senior hurling team at the present time with six representatives on the panel – the highest of any club currently. And, who knows, there may well be others to follow going on the evidence of their championship campaign to date. It was a similar story back in the fifties and sixties when the Doyles, Keanes, Mahers, McLoughlins, Murphys, Walls, Kennys, McElgunns and Byrnes were the men wearing the blue and gold and the blue and white. Their names have been immortalised since and the way things are working out for some of

Kiladangan's Johnny Horan and Martin Minehan block the progress of Killenaule's Niall O'Dwyer during the semi-final at Semple Stadium.

[Photo: John D. Kelly]



lives up to the billing

the current hurlers, they could be heading in the same direction – Paddy McCormack, Richie Ruth, Pa Burke, Barry O'Dwyer and Lar Corbett are both seeking their seventh county senior hurling championship medals this afternoon.

So, are Kiladangan waiting in the high grass, or are they the fish to be shot in a barrel? Actually, they could be either really. Produce their best and they could well be described as waiting in the long grass. However, if they allow the occasion to get to them it could well be like shooting fish in a barrel for Sarsfields, and no better men to fire the shots.

Kiladangan will face a challenge this afternoon unlike any they have faced so far this season. They will need absolute focus, with no lapses in concentration of any description whatsoever – let the mask slip for a millisecond and Sarsfields will expose their weaknesses.

The North champions retained their title this season and that says a lot about a team. They

have proven themselves to be resilient and have faced big tests during the course of their campaign so far. However, you feel that they need to hitting twenty scores or thereabouts if they are to have a chance in this game – can they achieve that against so cohesive a unit as the Sarsfields rearguard. Remember the Blues have three All-Star nominees in that backline.

Defensively, Kiladangan are very solid. Indeed, that has been the mainstay of their challenge so far this season. The defensive solidity allied to a very effective attacking unit has been their key. But, again, can their defence hold out against an array of sharpshooters in the Sars' offensive, any of whom can be a match winner on any given day?

All of these questions, and more, will be answered this afternoon in what will be a novel county final.

Let's hope it lives up to the billing. Enjoy the game.



*Thurles Sarsfields
Padraic Maher gets in
his shot as Clonoulty-
Rossmore's as
Clonoulty-Rossmore's
Jimmy Ryan challenges
during the semi-final
at Semple Stadium.*

[Photo: John D. Kelly]

COUNTY FINAL

moments

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

NUMBERS UP

TODAY'S county final will be the 119th decider played. Some finals were not played in the earlier years and the last time a decider didn't materialise was in 1925 when Thurles Sarsfields refused to play Boherlahan. There were final re fixtures in 1899 and 1910, while replays were required in 1930, 1945, 1965, 1975, 1977, 1982, 1988, 1992 and 2002.

Keeping a grip

The Dan Breen Cup was first presented in 1931 and to date eight clubs have succeeded in retaining it:

Thurles Sarsfields – 1935/36, 1938/39, 1944/45/46, 1955/56/57/58/59, 1961/62/63/64/65, 2009/10 & 2014/15

Toomevara – 1992/93/94, 1998/ 2001 & 2003/04

Roscrea – 1968/69/70 & 1972/73

Moycarkey-Borris – 1932/33/34

Kilruane MacDonaghs – 1977/78/79

Carrick Davins – 1966/67

Borris-Ileigh – 1949/50

Moneygall – 1975/76

Mighty men

THE following players from today's finalists have been selected as 'Man of the Match' in the Tipperary County Senior Hurling final. John Quirke (Cahir) has sponsored this award since 1989.

Thurles Sarsfields – 2009 & 2010 Padraic Maher, 2012 Aidan McCormack, 2014 & 2015 Stephen Cahill.

Kildangan – none to date.



Aidan McCormack

TREND SETTER

WILLIAM DWYER MCC from Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams, who was the first Chairman of the West Board, refereed the 1932 county final between Moycarkey-Borris and Killeenale at Thurles on September 11th.

Recent form

THE most recent clash in the concluding stages of the county championship was a quarter-final meeting at Semple Stadium in 2012. Thurles Sarsfields had no difficulty in winning by 3-22 to Kildangan's 1-12.



Lar Corbett (Thurles Sarsfields) is challenged by Kildangan's Padraic Kelly during the 2012 quarter-final clash.

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)

Over the last 11 seasons, Kildangan have reached the quarter-finals in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. They advanced to the semi-finals in 2010 (lost to Clonoulty-Rossmore) and 2013 (lost replay to Nenagh Éire Óg).

They have now achieved one significant goal in reaching the final and this team won't be travelling to enjoy the occasion. Theirs has been a progressive journey, but this talented Thurles Sarsfields team, seeking a three in a row, will be the ultimate test for the blue and gold clad 2016 North champions.

GOOD OMEN

WHILE the semi-finals last weekend may have been disappointing with the games won by nine and ten points respectively, there is a strong possibility of a memorable decider today.

Twenty years ago was the last time that both semi-finals were won as easily as the 2016 encounters. Toomevara beat Thurles Sarsfields by 1-17 to 1-6 and Boherlahan-Dualla overcame Cashel KC by 5-11 to 2-8. The final saw Liam Maher scoring a late point to pip the Greyhounds by 1-16 to 2-12 and give Boherlahan-Dualla their first county title since 1941. The winners' colour scheme wasn't too unlike one of today's finalists!

Man of the Match sponsor celebrating 40 years in business

THIS AFTERNOON, John Quirke of John Quirke Jewellers, Cahir will present the Man of the Match Award for the 27th time in the county senior hurling final – the first was presented to Johnny Doyle of Holy-cross-Ballycahill back in 1989 even though he was on the losing team – a rarity indeed.

JOHN QUIRKE JEWELLER & WATCHMAKER

Since then, John has presented the Man of the Match award in both the hurling and football finals as well as now supplying the medals for the senior, U-21, minor, intermediate and junior competitions, to name just a few.

John, a former hurler and footballer with Cahir, won his first medal in 1967 and ended up winning his last in 1995 as a 45 year old in the County Junior B final – a remarkable career which saw him play in most positions on the football field, but usually in attack on the hurling team.

John has been in business for 40 years, but 25 years ago he set up shop in his current location with victorious Tipperary All-Ireland winning captain Declan Carr bringing the Liam MacCarthy to Cahir when he performed the opening. That is a very happy memory for John and he recalled it fondly on many occasions this year with the Tipp team of '91



being feted as the Silver Jubilee team.

"I love the County Final in both codes. There are great days and it is fabulous for us to be associated with the Man of the Match Award. We always come up with something different each year for the recipient and try to make the trophy special so that the player can have something by which to remember a special day in their lives," John said.

Forty years in business, John appreciates the support received from clubs, boards and individuals and looks forward to more of the same for many years to come.



Kiladangan fan Donnacha Hassey at Stadionul Zibru Chisinau on Sunday night supporting Republic of Ireland against Moldova. The sports fanatic availed of Tipperary's County Board tracking system by following each score of the County semi-finals and was delighted with his team success. Donnacha will be in Semple Stadium wearing the same Kiladangan jersey that he wore at the World Cup qualifying match in Chisinau.

[Photo: Bridget Delaney]

County Final Day in Templemore, Clonmore and Killea

By: RONAN LOUGHNANE

SO WHAT does it mean to be a part of the County Senior/Minor Hurling Final day? Well it certainly is a new experience to the majority of people in the parish as today sees our first appearance in a County Minor A Hurling Final since 1962 when Na Fianna (an amalgamation of Templemore Éire Óg, Drom and Clonakenny) were defeated by Roscrea, making this appearance even more unique as it represents the first time that the parish have appeared in a final on their own.

The Combo went on to retain their divisional title in 1963 but amazingly fell to Ballingarry in the semi-final, having led by 21 points at half-time. In the intervening 52 years we have only managed one appearance in a divisional final, going down to Holycross in 1982, so one could understand the outburst of emotion in Drombane at the final whistle of this years' divisional decider.

Indeed if one delves further into the history of GAA within the parish you will find that success on County Final day is a very rare commodity. When Clonmore captain John Lee lifted the Tommy Treacy Cup after the County Inter-



Robert Bourke, JK Brackens captain, receiving the County Minor 'B' Hurling Cup in 2004 from Donie Shanahan, County Board Chairman. In the background is John Costigan, JK Brackens.

mediate hurling final in 1987, he became the first man in 103 years of the GAA to captain an adult hurling team from the parish to county success.

Since that day we have added 3 more titles – U-21 B in 1997 and 2002 and Minor B in 2004. Our success in football is slightly better, having recorded seven victories – Senior in 1925 and 1936, Junior A in 1957 and 1972, Minor A in 1973, Intermediate in 1993, Junior B in 2003.

So you will not need a calculator to work out that since 1884, the parish of Templemore, Clonmore and Killea have amassed the modest total of 11 county titles.

Having had reason to visit the great Jimmy Doyle in 2014 it dawned on me that in 130 years of the GAA this man alone had amassed more County titles than our entire Parish.

So should your journey home on Sunday evening take you through Templemore, Clonmore or Killea and you hear the horns blowing or see the bonfires blazing, raise a toast to the people of Cardens Wild Demesne as by then hopefully our Captain Tom Murphy will have joined John Lee, Eamonn Corcoran, Aidan Ivers and Robert Bourke and become only the fifth man from the parish to lift a county hurling cup.

We live in hope – as what's rare is wonderful.



Eamonn Corcoran, JK Brackens captain, received the Brophy Cup from Paul O'Flynn (County Board Chairman) after victory over Fethard in the 1997 Under-21 'B' final at Semple Stadium.

A unique and intriguing battle is imminent in minor decider

By: NOEL DUNDON (Tipperary Star)



A UNIQUE and intriguing battle is imminent in the Tipperary Water minor hurling final this afternoon with holders St Mary's of Clonmel taking on history makers JK Brackens Og.

It feels very special to have the minor final on before the senior game and this afternoon will be remembered by the players for many many years to come – win or lose. Of course winning makes the memories all the sweeter and if JK Brackens Og were to emerge and create history in the process it would be something for the history books. St Mary's putting back-to-back titles too would be very unique in this grade, so all-and-all we have a pretty special minor A final to look forward to. In fact, this could be the game of the day.

The scenes of joy which greeted the final whistle in Drombane when JK Brackens Og won their first ever mid titles had to be seen to be believed. At last, Brackens had gotten their hands on the silverware and that they achieved it against a team steeped in tradition like Holy-cross Ballycahill, made it even more special. You would travel a long long way to see a game as good as that mid final and then the same players turned around a few days later and added the minor football title to their list of their achievements.

A multiplicity of games in such a short space of time eventually caught up with them, but this afternoon, they are fresh, eager and ready to create history. They have a very classy outfit, full of skill and pace. And, perhaps crucially, they have power in key areas.

You know the same could be said about St Mary's actually. Their victory in last years County Final was a real breakthrough and they have followed up on the promise showed by winning their way through to the decider again. They have fourteen of last years panel in their ranks this time round and the experience they gained in last years campaign will certainly stand to them this afternoon. And, they would



Minor Captains Kyle Peters (St. Mary's) and Tom Murphy (JK Brackens) at the Tipperary County Board Press launch for this year's Minor Final.

really love to win the title in Semple Stadium – it's where every hurler wants to play, and certainly where every hurler wants to win the county title.

What to expect from this game? Well, expect it to be high scoring anyway. Both sets of forwards are very potent and the winning of the match will probably come down to which set of backs has the greater success against the sharpshooters.

It will be a high energy game, as you would expect from minors, and with both teams not shy about getting in tackles, there will be plenty of thrills and spills.

No matter which side wins the game, there will be high expectations in the respective clubs for these players. The hope is that they can stay together and be the backbone of their adult club teams for many years to come.

So keep an eye out for those names – they'll surely be here in Semple Stadium again in their club colours and perhaps in the blue and gold of Tipperary.

Enjoy what could well be a fabulous game.

Absent friends

By: Seamus O'Doherty



TWO great gael's who attended many of our hurling finals over the years will not be among us today.

BILLY RYAN (M) from Borris-Ileigh, who died on July 14th 2015, served as Chairman of his club and the North Board in his time. His career highlight was probably the club's All-Ireland victory over Wexford's Rathnure at Croke Park on St Patrick's day 1987. Tipperary's win in the Munster final replay at Killarney in 1987, when Richard Stakelum's team ended the famine and Bobby Ryan's leadership of the county to All-Ireland victory in 1989, were other great occasions for the affable Borris man. Billy was a regular attendee at club and inter-county games with his wife Sheila, and was a pleasant, mild mannered man, whose company was enjoyed by many. In his career, as a company representative, Billy was always helpful with sponsor-

ship and many hard pressed clubs were grateful for his generosity.

PETER ALLEY, originally from Durrow, Co. Laois, but more associated with the Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams club in West Tipperary, died on February 6th 2016. He did great work with the Bord na nÓg section and during my time with Roscrea, his sons, Sean and Frank, were notable young hurlers for club and school. He also acted as a selector with the club's Senior team in the competitive West Championship. Peter directed the Knockavilla Musical Society to great acclaim in the 1980s and performed a similar role for the Boherlahan open air Millenium Pageant in 2000. Whatever he did it was done "My way" - the title of his book launched in 2013.

We remember both of them today with fondness and appreciation.

On this date

THE LAST county senior hurling final played on today's date of October 16th was in 2011 when Drom & Inch beat Clonoulty-Rossmore by 1-19 to 2-14 to win their first and only title. The winning captain was Seamus Callanan, who contributed 0-6 to his team's tally.

Drom & Inch also featured in the 2005 decider played on this date, but on that occasion victory went to Thurles Sarsfields on a 1-17 to 0-15 scoreline. Seamus Butler contributed 0-11 for the

losers and while it earned him the man of the match award, the ultimate prize went elsewhere. The winners were captained by Ger 'Redser' O'Grady.

Prior to that we went back to 1960 when Toomevara beat Thurles Sarsfields by 3-15 to 2-8 at Templemore



to end the Blues' bid for six consecutive titles. Tom Ryan led the scoring returns for the winners with 0-9 and Billy Donovan was the team captain.

These were the only occasions in the last eight decades that October 16th was the county final date.



SÁIRSÉALAIS
(Open Area Final)

(1) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(4) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(7) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(10) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)
(2) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(5) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(8) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(11) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)
(3) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(6) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(9) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(12) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)

For more details see the full programme.

TUAM UÍ MEADORA
(Open Area Final)

(1) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(4) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(7) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(10) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)
(2) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(5) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(8) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(11) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)
(3) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(6) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(9) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)	(12) M. O. Sallan (A. Ryan)

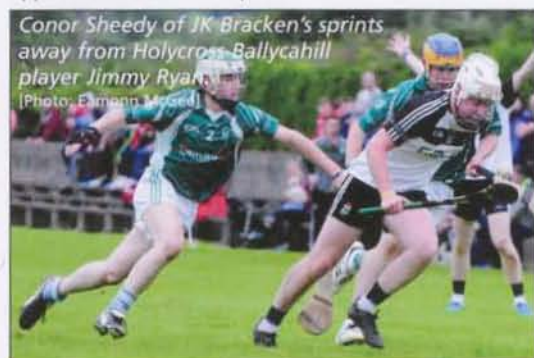
For more details see the full programme.

JK Brackens

By: JOE KEATING, PRO, JK Brackens

BASED in the Tipperary parish of Templemore, Clonmore and Killea, JK Brackens GAA Club was officially formed in 1992 following the amalgamation of the three existing clubs. Up to that time Templemore Eire Óg represented the parish in football, Clonmore in intermediate hurling and the Killea club in junior hurling.

In the decade prior to the formation of the club, combined parish teams had been entered in various competitions but it wasn't until 1984 that the first team appeared under the 'JK Brackens' banner. That year the Clonmore and Killea clubs agreed to compete at Junior and Intermediate hurling levels as separate entities, and to compete as a combined force in the senior hurling ranks. The following years saw the JK Brackens banner flown again as combined teams at Senior, U21 and Minor saw action. Indeed it was in the U21 and Minor grades that the first silverware for the Brackens was won with Mid titles in 1989 and 1990. Following these successes there was a growing belief that for GAA to progress in the parish the 'one parish, one club' approach should be adopted.



Conor Sheedy of JK Brackens sprints away from Holycross-Ballycahill player Jimmy Ryan.
(Photo: Eamonn Meehan)

The JK Brackens club was officially formed in 1992 and approved by Mid, and County Boards, and by Croke Park for an initial 5-year period, at the end of which the club structure would be reviewed. In 1997, at the end of the five year period, the Killea club decided to exit the amalgamation and revert to their former status while Templemore Eire Óg and Clonmore voted to continue on with the JK Brackens formation.

Today the club continues on in that tradition and is one of only a handful of clubs in Tipperary that consistently field teams at Senior level in both codes whilst also fielding teams at Junior, U21 and Minor grades. We have a vibrant juvenile section promoting our national games of football and hurling to the youngsters of the parish at U6, U8, U10, U12, U14 and U16 levels. Between adult and juveniles, from U6 right up to Senior level, we field some 17 teams and have at present approximately 250 playing members.

While the sweet taste of success hasn't always come our way at County level we have had a few notable campaigns especially at juvenile level with county titles hard won at U12, U14 and U21 level. This year our U12

hurlers won county honours, while our U14 hurlers admirably represented us in Féile reaching their final over Féile weekend in early June. Our Minors, as Brackens Óg, have made it a historic year as a Mid double in both Football and Hurling and the A grade was achieved for the first time in the club's history.

Our club, since its inception, has provided many players to feature in the famed Blue and Gold of Tipperary with names such as Seán Collum, Eamon Corcoran, Kevin Mulryan, Shane Bourke, Lorcan Egan to name but a few who have featured at senior level for the county. More recently, Colin O'Riordan has done the club and parish proud when he captained the Tipperary U21 Football team to a Munster title and a gripping All-Ireland campaign last year. His departure for the land Oz and a professional 'footie' career down under was a big blow for Tipperary football and certainly was Australia's and Sydney Swans gain. This year we scaled new heights when the club provided three members of the victorious All Ireland Minor hurling team. We are very proud of the achievements of Lyndon, Paddy and Tom and hopefully they will add to the Munster and All-Ireland medals they won earlier this year by adding a Minor county final medal today.

Off the field, JK Brackens has a very active Scór section and they have achieved many successes at Divisional, County, and Provincial and on the National Stage over the years. In 2015 they had very two notable successes at All-Ireland level when Ciaran Byrne and Noel Joyce returned to the parish in style with All-Ireland medals to their credit in the Scór na nÓg and Senior Scór recitation sections.

For the future our aim is to continue the promotion of our national games in the parish for the benefit of both young and old alike. We will continue with our emphasis on developing and encouraging our juveniles by providing the facilities, the coaches and a safe and suitable environment so that, in future years, these juveniles will become the backbone of our club at Adult level.

This County Final Sunday is indeed a very special one for us all in the parish of Templemore, Clonmore and Killea as JK Brackens and Brackens Óg contest their first County Minor A hurling final. The teams efforts through a tough and arduous Mid campaign, where two wins from four outings, qualified Brackens Óg for a Mid semi-final. Victory over Na Sairsealaigh Óg in that semi-final earned Brackens Óg a spot in the Mid final against Holycross/Ballycahill. Played on a bright September Saturday afternoon in Drombane a hard earned title was won in extra time after what was described to me by one man as "the best game of hurling he had the pleasure of witnessing in a long time". Two weeks later a Co. semi-Final win over a tough and dogged Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams has brought us here to Semple Stadium on County Final Sunday. Let's hope we can go one step further and bring County honours back to "Carden's Wild Domain".



JK Brackens Óg – 2016 Mid Minor 'A' Winners

Back row (l-r): Andrew Ormond, Eddie Bergin, David O'Shea, Conor Sheedy, Ryan McDonnell, Lyndon Fairbrother, Stephen Quinlan, Paddy Cadell, Eanna McBride, Troy Costelloe, Jack Prout, Michael Marnell, Luke Patterson, Dáire Kavanagh. Front row (l-r): Tadhg Nolan, Aidan Coffey, Michael Egan, Radek Natkencicz, Shane Doyle, Nick Keane, Neil Quinlan, Anthony Ryan, Denis Russell, Martin Delaney, Tom Murphy (Capt).

JK BRACKENS PLAYER PROFILES

Edward Bergin	17	Student	Cian McDonnell	15	Student
Martin Bergin	15	Student	Ryan McDonnell	18	Student
Paddy Cadell	17	Student	Tom Murphy	18	Student
Aidan Coffey	17	Student	Radek Natkencicz	18	Student
Ben Collins	16	Student	Tadhg Nolan	15	Student
Troy Costelloe	15	Student	David O'Shea	18	Student
Stephen Delahunty	15	Student	Andrew Ormond	16	Student
Shane Doyle	16	Student	Luke Patterson	15	Student
Michael Egan	16	Student	Jack Prout	15	Student
Lyndon Fairbrother	18	Student	Neil Quinlan	17	Student
Dáire Kavanagh	18	Student	Stephen Quinlan	18	Employee
Nick Keane	16	Student			Eltex
Conor Keating	16	Student	Denis Russell	16	Student
Michael Marnell	17	Student	Anthony Ryan	17	Student
Eanna McBride	16	Student	Conor Sheedy	18	Student

PATHS TO THE FINAL

Round	Date	Venue	Team	Score	Team	Score
Round 1	Bye					
Round 2	20/7/16	Thurles	JK Brackens Óg	3-22	Sairsealaigh Óg	2-14
Round 3	17/7/16	Páirc Shileáin	JK Brackens Óg	1-17	Holycross/Ballycahill	0-24
Round 4	01/8/16	Castleiney	JK Brackens Óg	7-22	Loughmore/Castleiney	0-14
Round 5	16/8/16	Páirc Shileáin	JK Brackens Óg	1-18	Moycarkey/Borris	1-22
Mid Semi-final	07/9/16	The Ragg	JK Brackens Óg	5-27	Sairsealaigh Óg	2-14
Mid Final	17/9/16	Drombane	JK Brackens Óg	0-30	Holycross/Ballycahill	2-21
County Semi-final	01/10/16	Holycross	JK Brackens Óg	3-15	Knockavilla-Donaskeigh-Kickhams	3-10



JK Brackens Management Team (l-r): Tim Quinlan (Selector), Adrian Bourke (Manager), Lar Leahy (Selector), Aidan Doyle (Coach).



Back row: Michael Murphy, Aaron Phelan, Adam Walsh, Paddy Murchan, Kyle Peters, Gavin Ryan, Kyle Farrell, Cian O'Dwyer, Conor Deeley, Niall Hctor, Oisín Napier, Ian Fahey, Conor O'Sullivan, Darragh O'Keeffe. Front row: Josh Ryan, Jamie McGuire, Sean Kennedy, Adam Peters, Jamie Ahearne, Enda Dunphy, Graham Foran, Joe Gunne, James Brophy, Sean Adamson, Simon Farrell.

ST. MARY'S PLAYER PROFILES

Sean Adamson	18	Student	Donal McCabe	16	Student
Jamie Ahearne	18	Student	Jamie McGuire	17	Student
James Brophy	17	Student	Paddy Murchan	17	Student
Conor Deeley	15	Student	Michael Murphy	17	Student
Enda Dunphy	15	Student	Oisín Napier	17	Student
Jack Durkan	16	Student	Cian O'Dwyer	17	Student
Ian Fahey	17	Student	Daragh O'Keeffe	17	Student
Kyle Farrell	18	Student	Conor O'Sullivan	18	Student
Simon Farrell	16	Student	Adam Peters	17	Student
Graham Foran	16	Student	Kyle Peters	18	Student
Joe Gunne	17	Student	Aaron Phelan	17	Student
Niall Hctor	17	Student	Gavin Ryan	18	Student
Sean Kennedy	17	Student	Josh Ryan	16	Student
Ryan Lambe	17	Student	Adam Walsh	16	Student



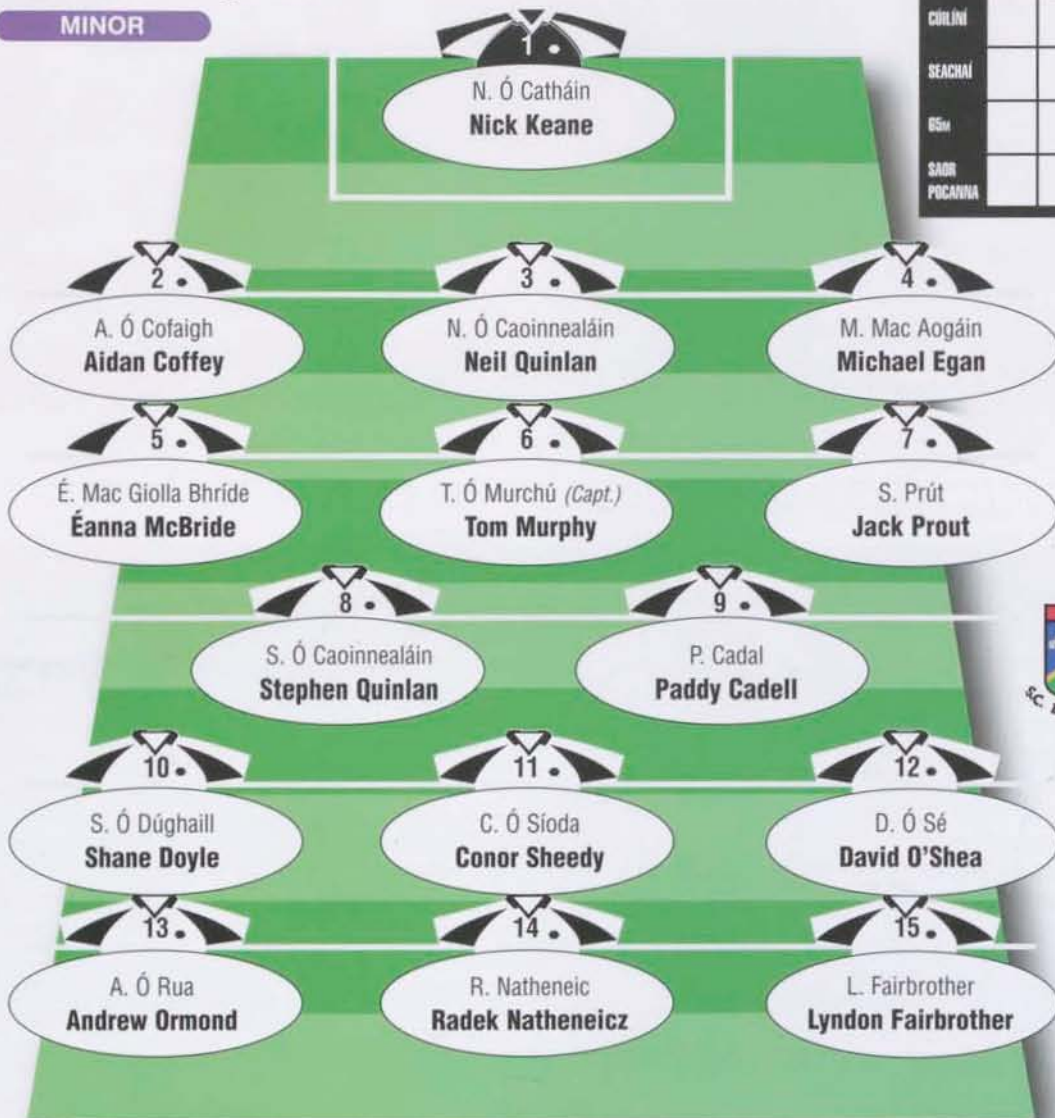
St. Mary's Management Team – Conal Murphy, Tony Shelley, Peter Egan, Billy Carroll, Tom Ryan, Timmy Ryan.

JK Brackens

Dathanna: Dubh agus Bán

MINOR

	1st LEATH	2nd LEATH	3rd LEATH
CUIL			
CUILÍ			
SEACHAÍ			
OS			
SAGH			
POCAUNNA			



16. S. Ó Dulchaointigh STEPHEN DELAHUNTY	20. M. Mairnéill MICHAEL MARNELL	24. E. Ó Beirgin EDDIE BERGIN	28. C. Mac Dónaill CIAN McDONNELL
17. D. Caomhánach DÁIRE KAVANAGH	21. T. Ó Nualláin TADHG NOLAN	25. M. Beirgin MARTIN BERGIN	29. C. Céitinn CONOR KEATING
18. A. Ó Riain ANTHONY RYAN	22. B. Ó Coileáin BEN COLLINS	26. T. Ní Colsteala TROY COSTELLOE	
19. L. Mac Pháidín LUKE PATTERSON	23. D. Ruiséil DENIS RUSSELL	27. R. Mac Dónaill RYAN McDONNELL	

Manager: Adrian Bourke

Coach: Aidan Doyle

Selectors: Lar Leahy, Tim Quinlan

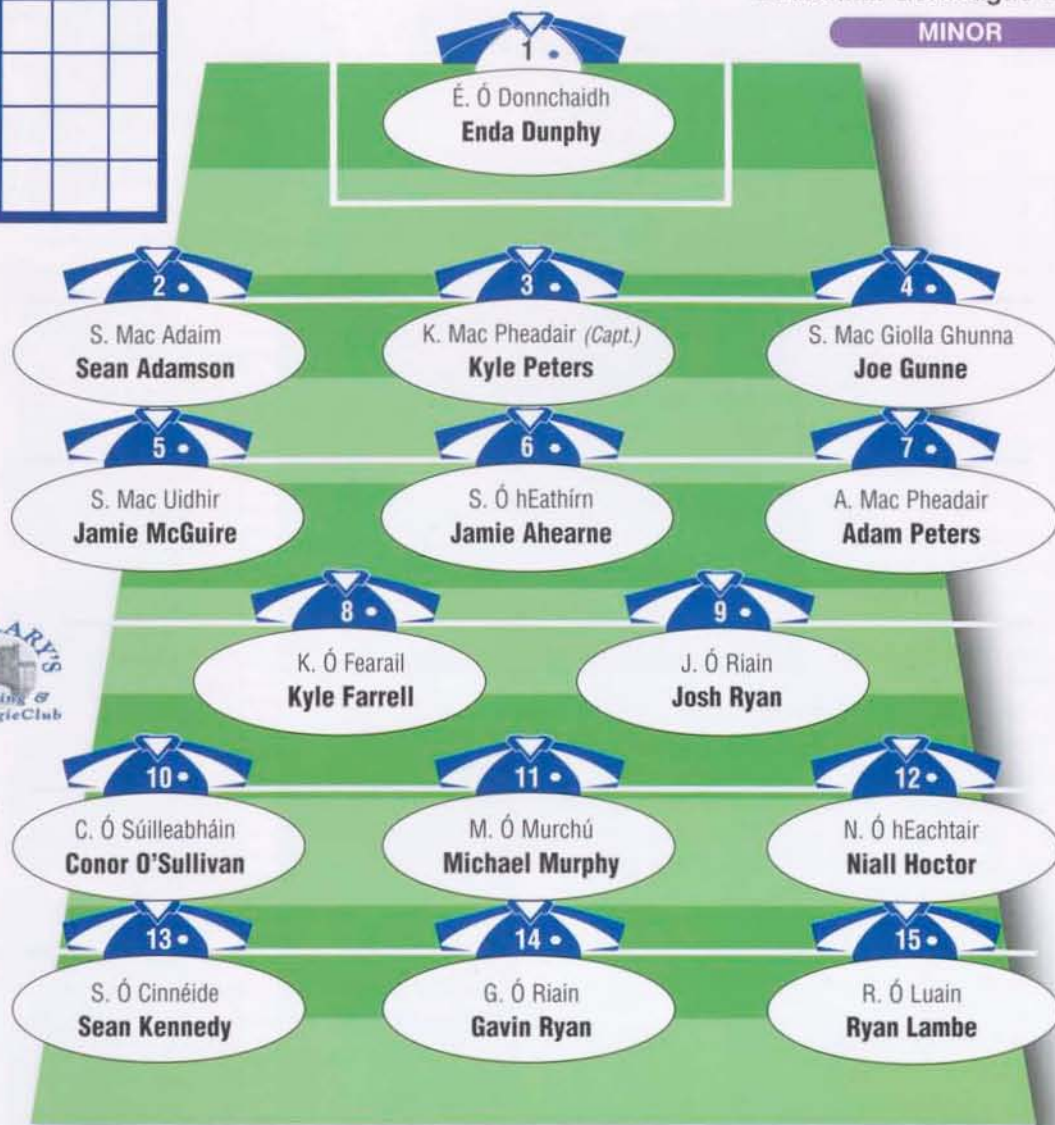
First Aid: Joe Keating

St. Mary's

Dathanna: Gorm agus Bán

MINOR

	10m	20m	30m
COIL			
COILÍNÍ			
SEACHAÍ			
SGM			
SABH			
POCAINN			



- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 16. E. Ó Fathaigh
IAN FAHY | 20. G. Ó Fuaráin
GRAHAM FORAN | 24. S. Ó Fearail
SIMON FARRELL | 28. D. Mac Cárda
DONAL McCABE |
| 17. O. Napier
OISÍN NAPIER | 21. P. Ó Murcháin
PADDY MURCHAN | 25. S. Ó Dhurcáin
JACK DURKAN | |
| 18. Á. Ó Faoláin
AARON PHELAN | 22. A. Breathnach
ADAM WALSH | 26. D. Ó Caoimh
DARRAGH O'KEEFFE | |
| 19. C. Ó Dubhuir
CIAN O'DWYER | 23. C. Ó Duighiolla
CONOR DEELEY | 27. S. Ó Bróithe
JAMES BROPHY | |

Team Management: Tony Shelly, Peter Egan, Conal Murphy,
Billy Carroll, Tom Ryan

St. Mary's Hurling & Camogie Club

CLONMEL



TODAY is a proud day for all associated with St. Mary's Hurling & Camogie Club. To be back on this great stage contesting

a County Minor 'A' Hurling Final for the second year in succession makes all the effort put in by players, coaches, parents, committee members and other volunteers worthwhile.

We continue to see the major benefits achieved by our Club in fostering a love of hurling amongst young players and in providing them with every opportunity to develop their skills in an enjoyable and truly sporting environment.

The tremendous work done over the last 15 years or so by a dedicated group of coaches, having gained a love of the game from the club's President Jimmy Collins, has put the trajectory of the club on an upward curve. This is in addition to the great work being done in the local schools and in particular St. Mary's CBS.

Upon the final whistle after last year's final, the scenes of unbridled joy were wonderful as St. Mary's members and supporters finally saw a County Minor 'A' Hurling title come to Clonmel. Garnering the honours in 2015 has added an extra impetus to life within the club and given hope that a return to Senior hurling

ranks is not just a distant dream. Indeed the confidence gained has seen our Minor team return to the biggest stage at this grade again

today, which in itself is a magnificent achievement by this group.

Off the pitch, St. Mary's is going from strength to strength by being a key part of the community in varying guises. Our mental health and fitness focus has seen parents become involved in exercise classes, Irish language classes are now in full swing and a return to the Scór competition has been a much needed addition to life in St. Mary's.

All of the aforementioned activities could not take place without the input of volunteers within the club and the drive our Executive

Committee over the years.

Into the future, the aim of the club is to continue on the path of augmenting the Juvenile section by raising coaching and playing standards with a view to retaining players at Minor and Under-21 level with an eye on grasping Senior status.

And who knows, we may even unearth another gem in the mould of Seamus Kennedy...

Enjoy the games.

Naomh Mhuire Abú.

St. Mary's Club Officers

Chairman:

Kevin Leahy

Vice-Chairman:

Ger Deeley

Treasurers:

John O'Connor

& Ger Quigley

Secretary:

Sean O'Sullivan

PRO:

Brendan Cagney

Registrar:

David O'Donnell

Childrens Office:

Ger Deeley

Officer For Irish

Language & Culture: Fiona Kenny



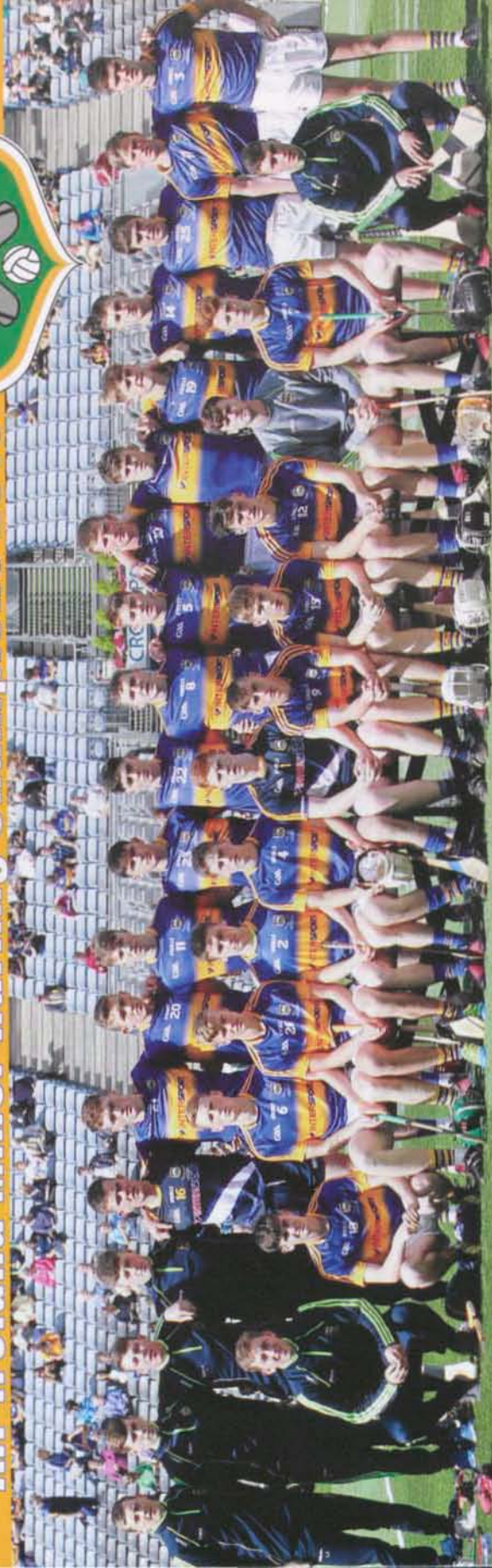
Team Captain Kyle Peters

St. Mary's Club sponsor:

Dalton Transport

TIPPERARY

All-Ireland Minor Hurling Champions 2016



Back row (l.-r.): Shane Fletcher, Eoin Barry, Adam Hogan, Nathan Ryan, Barry Hogan, Dillon Quirke, Jerry Kelly, Jake Morris, Kieran Breen, Dylan Walsh, Paddy Cadell, Cian Flanagan, Rian Doody, Conor Stakelum, Robbie Quirke, Mark Kehoe, Diarmuid Ryan, Shane Neville, Mikey Whelan.

Front row (l.-r.): Stephen Nolan, Gavin Dunne, Brian McGrath, Bryan O'Mara, Killian O'Dwyer, Tom Murphy, Ciarán Barrett, Ger Browne, Lyndon Fairbrother, Colin English, Cian Darcy, Jerome Cahill, Gavin Ryan.

[Photo: Bridget Delaney]

Tipp Minor Hurlers 2016

By: MICHAEL BEVANS – Tipperary Minor Coach 2016

RELECTING back on what was a memorable year for Tipperary hurling my first thoughts are with the players. The most impressive part of the success that was achieved was that every single member of the 32 man panel contributed. The healthy competition among the squad together with their brilliant honesty, hard work and determination ensured we would be a competitive force. It was notable that in all our games a different player or leader stood out and the players that came off the bench each day all made a huge impact.

Having all our games away was a challenge in itself and we knew going in to the season we would need players with great character, attitude and focus. After a rocky start down in Waterford where we simply didn't perform our definite turning point came in the semi-final victory over Cork. Six points down early in the second half and no Tipperary player really imposing themselves. What followed was grit, serious work ethic and determination not to go down without fighting. All things you look for in any player but things you cannot really coach. This victory gave the players huge confidence and belief in themselves.

After winning Munster again we were now back in Croke Park and facing more challenges. Better opposition, the mind-set of players



At the final whistle selectors T.J. Ryan, John Sheedy, Michael Bevans (Coach) and Liam Cahill (Manager) celebrate.

(Photo: Eamonn McGee)

playing in Croke Park for the first time, managing the hype. These were all concerns that had to be dealt with and understood. Once again the players continued to mature and played with freedom and a great sense of purpose. After impressing in our semi-final victory over Galway we were back in an All-Ireland Final and up against a Limerick side that were steadily improving since our Munster Final victory.

The preparation for the Final was the key. We tried to keep everything the same, we were all together, we only spoke about the opposition

when it was required and we kept our complete and utter Focus. Everyone was telling us and the players not to be complacent but the players didn't have to be told that. They have always been a humble group and always strived to give their very best. The game was going to be about patience, composure and of course serious hard work and perseverance. It was a great feeling when the final whistle blew just to see the elation on the faces of these young players.

For all involved in the management and backroom people it was also special as

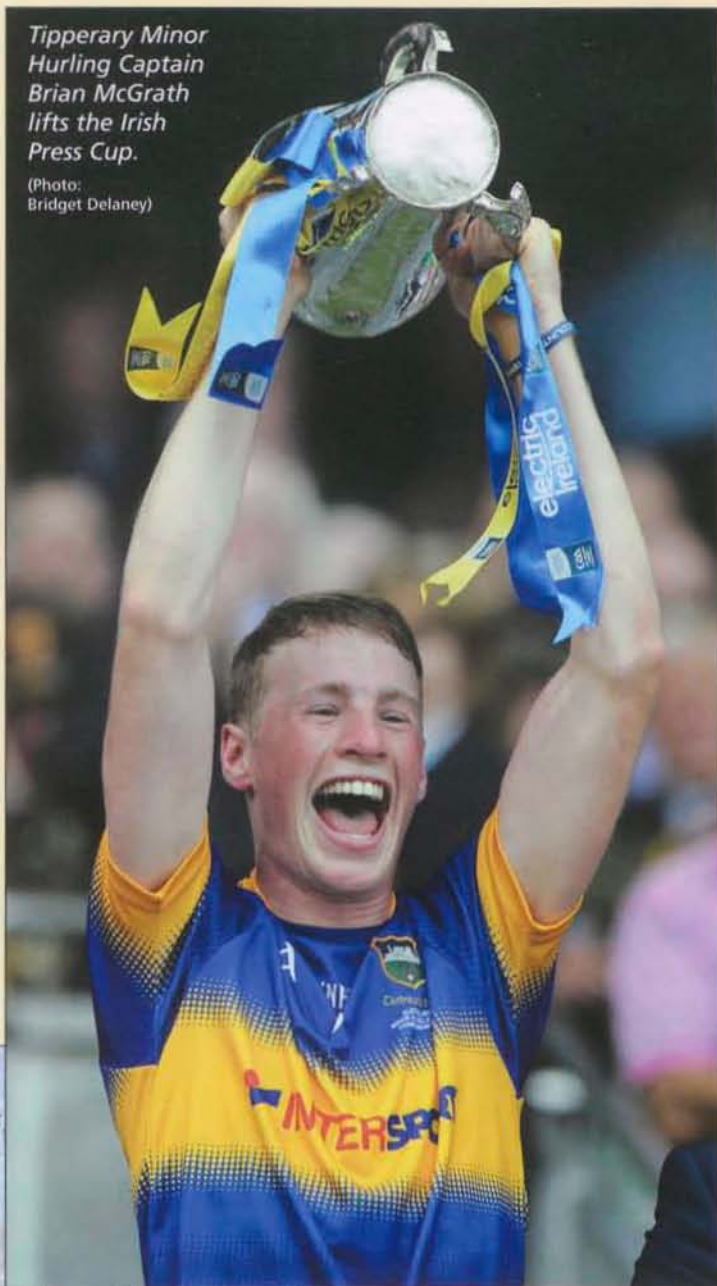
we had spent many a night together plotting and planning. We invested everything we had to try get this potential out of these players and thankfully it did come out. It's not a sacrifice, it's a privilege to be involved and winning was not the only reward. For us as mentors and coaches watching them develop and mature as a person was also an honour.

Finally I want to acknowledge the parents, schools and clubs who have all helped to shape and influence these young lads. Time and effort was invested in these lads well before they became a Tipp minor and to all who invested I hope you feel proud. They would not be the players they are today without the great influence of their clubs. I know they especially love and respect their clubs and hopefully that will continue long after their playing career ends.

We will bank the memories for now because winning is rare but we must also move on and focus on the next

Tipperary Minor Hurling Captain Brian McGrath lifts the Irish Press Cup.

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)



"Alone all alone in Croke Park"

Pictured prior to All-Ireland Minor Hurling semi-final are two well known men to County Minors – Noel Browne and Bertie Fitzpatrick who have been driving County Minor panellists since 1979.



challenge. I would like to think the players will also move on and keep their feet firmly on the ground. Dwelling on past glory should not be the norm. These minors must continue to develop, learn and most importantly they must want to be the very best they can be.

"My Photograph of the Year"

By:
JOHN D. KELLY
(Photographer)

Tipperary's John McGrath celebrating after scoring one of his three goals in the Munster Senior Hurling Final against Waterford despite the rain – the start of a great year for Tipperary hurling.

Looking Back...

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

50 YEARS AGO

THE CLUB hurling landscape in Tipperary was very different when compared to the 2016 campaign. The county quarter-finals provided four games for the first time as all Divisional winners and losers were admitted to the county championship. The previous five years had seen winners and runners-up in North and Mid playing off with the champions of South and West. This change was introduced after some embarrassing beatings for the lesser teams in the first year of quarter finals – 1960.

Five decades ago the quarter final results (Divisional Champions in bold) were –

Lorrha 9-5, Golden Kilfeacle 2-8

Toomevara 3-10, Arravale Rovers 2-7

Holycross-Ballycahill 3-17, Killenaule 1-8

Carrick Davins 2-14, Moyne-Templetuohy 4-1

Davins had been tipped for glory following their heroics in 1965 when they drew with five in a row chasing Thurles Sarsfields, before los-

ing the replay by 3-11 to 2-7. The scoring hero of the quarter-finals was Jim Ryan, who scored 4-2 for Lorrha.

The semi-finals at Thurles on October 2nd saw Carrick Davins and Toomevara finishing level 2-13 to 3-10. The second game ended with Holycross-Ballycahill 4-10 and Lorrha 5-6. However, the Northerners objected to the eligibility of a HB player – a long saga ensued and external adjudication resolved it in favour of the Blues. Meanwhile, Davins won the replay two weeks later by 5-6 to 1-7.

The top scorers in that year's semi-finals were Mick Roche (CD) and Tom Ryan (Toome), both of whom scored 1-4 in the replay. The final on November 6th at Thurles (my first) saw the South champions winning comfortably by 2-12 to 1-3, having led at half-time by 1-6 to 1-2. Mick Roche was a key man for a talented team and he contributed 1-5 to their tally. Richie Walsh was the winning captain. Davins went on to great things afterwards, winning the county title again in 1967 and also lifting the Munster club title.



Carrick Davins – County Senior Hurling Champions 1966

Back row (l.-r.): J. Walsh, C. Broderick, N. Walsh, T. Arrigan, B. Mackey, B. Kenny, P. Arrigan, M. Roche.
Front row: P.J. Ryan, S. Kenny, R. Walsh (Capt.), T. Waters, T. Ryan, M. Hassett, J. Ryan.

Looking Back...

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

100 YEARS AGO

IT IS always interesting to reflect on how things used to be before comparing them with the modern era. 1916 was an All-Ireland winning year for Tipperary, whose Boherlahan beat Tullaroan, even if the final wasn't played until January 1917. In a time of little joy, hurling provided a wonderful outlet for those who played and watched.

The club championship was disjointed and it was an achievement to have it played in the context of the year's events. The Mid campaign saw Boherlahan beat Cashel 8-0 to 1-0 in the only semi-final at Horse & Jockey and they followed this up with victory over Thurles, 2-4 to 1-0, for whom Tom Semple kept goal.

Only one contest was recorded in the North Division, where a Toomevara/Nenagh combination played Moneygall/Clonakenny at Roscrea. Unfortunately the game was delayed because of an important public meeting in the town regarding Irish freedom, so referee Felix Cronin was obliged to finish before the hour was up

and allow a refixture to resolve the contest. The teams went to Borrisokane and the Toome/Nenagh selection, with 'Wedger' Meagher in the van, won by 3-1 to 1-2.

The South saw Killenaule nominated as champions and this lack of action saw them lose by 3-2 to 1-0 to the North standard bearers. As the West Division had not yet been established the county final pitted defending champions Boherlahan against Toome/Nenagh at Thurles Sportsfield where Tom Semple was the referee. A contemporary report was effusive... *"A real cracker it was, fought out with a keen and healthy rivalry, untarnished by want of sportsmanship either amongst the players or the spectators."*

Boherlahan led at half time by 1-1 to 0-0. In the second half ... *"battle continued with magnificent hurling and admirable combination on both sides"*.

In the great tradition of their Tubberadora predecessors, Boherlahan, who had a few changes from their previous year's winning team, emerged champions on a 2-2 to 0-0 scoreline.



BOHERLAHAN – 1916 County Senior Hurling Champions

Back row: Dinny Ryan, Tom Leahy, Dan O'Brien, Thady O'Donnell, Jack Doherty, Willie O'Dwyer (L), Willie O'Dwyer, Arthur O'Donnell, Matty Kelly, Thomas Hennessy. Seated: Jack Gleeson, Dick Walsh, Phil Dunne, Johnny Leahy (Capt), Denis Walsh, Jack Power, Tommy O'Dwyer. Front row: Jack O'Meara, Paddy Leahy, Dinny Coman, Roddy O'Dwyer.

The crowning

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



STARTING OVER

AS 2016 dawned and thoughts turned to the campaigns ahead, there were many references to Munster's poor recent record in the All-Ireland club championship. The most recent winners had been Cork's Newtownshandrum, who beat Dunloy in the 2004 decider. Apart from that you had to go back to 1999 and St Joseph's Doorra Barefield victory over Rathnure for the last time the Tommy Moore Cup had come across the Munster boundary.

This particular famine was quite a turnaround from the early years of the competition, when eight of the first nine titles were claimed by the Munster champions. Kilmallock's heavy loss to Ballyhale Shamrocks on St Patricks day 2015 was a setback, but the quality of last Winter's Provincial campaign provided hope.

Na Piarasigh from Limerick made a successful comeback away to Sixmilebridge, which provided inspiration for later challenges against Thurles Sarsfields and Ballygunner respectively. After that campaign, they were ready for anything – and they needed to be. Regular Leinster finalists Oulart-The Ballagh, inspired by their Manager Frank Flannery, cracked the bogey and faced Na Piarasigh in the semi-final at Semple Stadium in February. It was a magnificent contest and an extra time win confirmed Na Piarasigh's pedigree.

Croke Park itself presented only a modest challenge as Ulster's Ruairí Óg, Cushendall failed to reach the form which saw them overcome Galway's Sarsfields in the semi-final. Victory was achieved in convincing fashion and at last Limerick had an All-Ireland club winner. The Province shared in the joy which permeated Caherdavin and the Treaty city. Thurles Sarsfields wondered what might have been had circumstances for their semi-final meeting been different.

The National Hurling League saw Clare coming from the lower division to emulate Offaly's 1991 success and others before them, including Tipperary 1979 and Kilkenny 1982. The Banner beat Tipperary, Kilkenny and Waterford (replay) to win the title. It was the kind of form that suggested a

GLORY

long Summer of hurling. Yet again we were mislead by early season performances.

CHAMPIONSHIP

In last year's county final match programme I wrote *"Michael Ryan has now assumed the role of Bainisteoir and knows that his inheritance needs a critical assessment and significant enhancement. There will be no easy choices for him and there won't be comfort zones for anyone else. Settled teams induce complacency – evolving selections, chosen on the evidence of performances in games and training – have more synergy. Tipperary obviously need to introduce some new players to their senior squad and mediocrity can have no place in that framework. I believe Tipp will be contenders for top honours next year and that the essential belief can be installed using a more robust style of play in a team which must aim for a consistently high standard of performance and an improved level of game intelligence."* Now read on . . .

The Munster championship opened with Tipperary beating Cork convincingly in the rain – on a soul less and goal less day – in the long tradition of this rivalry, it was a game to forget. The talk now was of the difficulty in winning the All-Ireland from the opening round game in Munster. Since Cork did it in 1966, only Cork 1990 and Clare 1997 had achieved the feat and both had beaten Kerry in their provincial campaigns. The work rate displayed in adversity against Limerick in their semi-final ensured that Tipp were installed as favourites to win the title, despite Waterford's convincing win over Clare and their delight in having the final fixed for neutral Limerick where the county has a modest League and Championship record.

There was more rain and many supporters stayed at home. In a forgettable encounter Tip-

perary showed no mercy and won by 21 points. The highly regarded Waterford defensive system had been shattered. It sent the Decies home 'tae think again'.

Croke Park beckoned as Galway came into view with many recalling the disappointing performance of the Premier men in 2015. No one expected Seamus Callanan to replicate his blasts of 3-8 and 3-9 from the previous two years and it was to the credit of the team that they emerged one point winners, after a game where spirit was more important than style. Waterford should have beaten Kilkenny but were caught when their late defensive strategy failed. The replay at Thurles was arguably the game of the championship. Intensity, bravery, skill, atmosphere, cracking goals and an epic finish, but at the end Kilkenny had scraped through. More than the injury to Michael Fennelly, the loss of their usual period of recovery time was an unexpected routine change.

On the evidence of the two semi-finals, Tipp were slight favourites to win the MacCarthy Cup. Talk surfaced again of old bogeys... big wins in Munster finals not turning to All-Ireland glory was a common one and Provincial Champions not winning the All-Ireland since 2005 was another. Having already negotiated the five week wait from Munster Final to All-Ireland semi-finals, there was nothing intangible stopping the march of this team.

The story of the final is well known. Tipp were two points up at half-time, Kevin Kelly's goal put

Kilkenny ahead, but the blue and gold went into overdrive and victory was achieved with some scintillating play. Seamus Callanan, John O'Dwyer and Ronan Maher earned the spotlight, but this was team Tipperary at its best – in the words so often used by the late John Lanigan of Thurles Sarsfields 'playing vintage Tipperary hurling'.

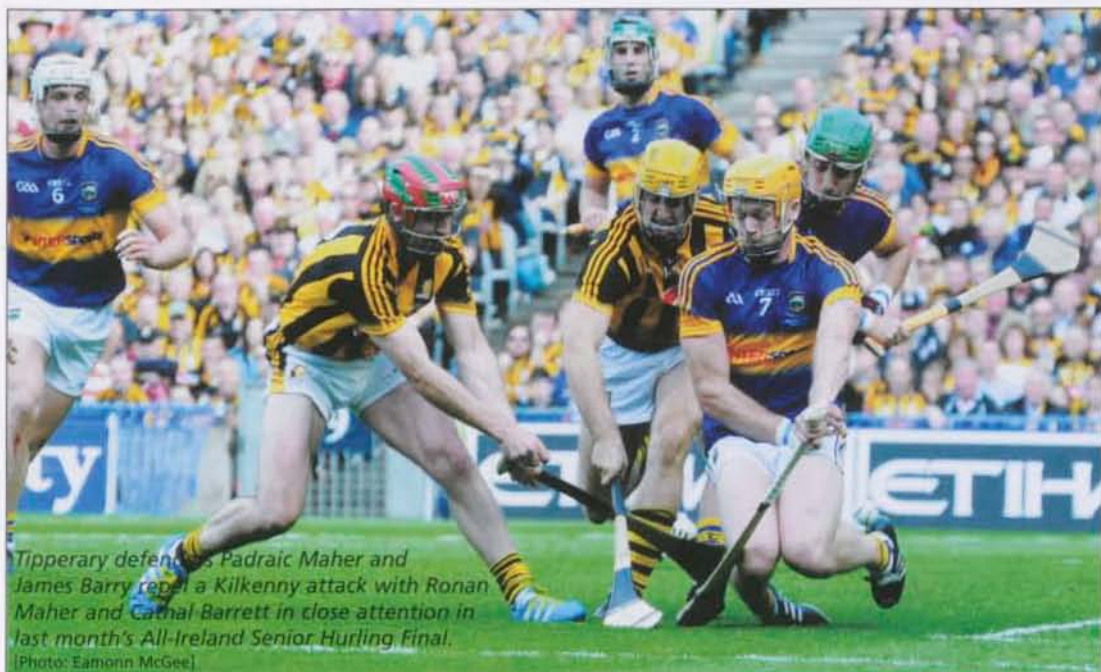
A nine point winning margin left no room for debate. Only for the excellence of Kilkenny goalkeeper Eoin Murphy it would have been more. The plaudits came from many sources, with the purity of Tipp's game and its attacking focus regularly highlighted. In summary – it was great to see hurling played that way.

In an unexpected twist, the Tipperary footballers took much of the spotlight off the hurlers, with their own magnificent run to the All-Ireland semi-final. That journey was the story of the 2016 championship and it was entirely appropriate that their game against Mayo earned the support their efforts deserved. An attendance of 53, 212 was quite a testament to the appeal of the fixture and only a thousand less than witnessed the hurlers winning their semi-final.

COMING THROUGH

The joy was everywhere, the historical bogeys were smashed and Kilkenny were beaten. Tipp's intensity and performance eclipsed their opponents significantly and they had to reach that level, or Kilkenny would have won.

A memorable day was enhanced by the Minor



Tipperary defenders Padraic Maher and James Barry repel a Kilkenny attack with Ronan Maher and Cathal Barrett in close attention in last month's All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final.
(Photo: Eamonn McGee)



Tipperary Senior Hurling Backroom team 2016

Back row (l.-r.): Denis Leamy (Sports Psychologist), Declan Fanning (Coach), Conor Stakelum (Selector), Paddy O'Brien (Physio), Derek Healy (Match Day Advisor), John Madden (Selector), Ed Donnelly (Stats), Brian Horgan (Goalkeeping Coach), Michael Ryan (Manager), Jerry Hussey (Sports Psychologist), Tony Óg O'Regan (Sports Psychologist), Damien Young (Video Analyst/Stats). Front row (l.-r.): John 'Hotpoint' Hayes (Kit man), John Smith (Liaison Officer), Dr. Brendan Murphy (Doctor), Gary Ryan (Trainer), Lukasz Kirszenstein (S & C), Jean Murphy (Nutritionist), Aoife Hearne (Nutritionist), Mick Clohessy (Masseur), Caitlin Donnelly (Stats), Liam O'Shea (Match Day Advisor), Paudie Carey (Stats). Missing from the photo: Brian Stakelum (Kit man).

success – that particular double not claimed since 1949. The feeling was incredible. We must acknowledge Waterford's victory in the opening round at Walsh Park as well as Tipperary's recovery, which saw the team beat Clare, Cork and Limerick on their own pitches. Winning the All-Ireland title, while such strong favourites, showed the value of their holistic preparation. Brian McGrath and his colleagues represent Tipperary's future. We look forward to their incremental development with much anticipation.

The Tipperary Under-21 team pulled off a notable semi-final win over defending champions Limerick and gave an excellent account of themselves against Waterford in a memorable decider. There was talent in this team too and the secret now is to keep the senior squad fresh and energised by the gradual introduction of new faces. Many teams have erred by keeping players too long and having to rebuild almost totally from the ground. There is no permanency with inter-county hurling.

The frustrating fact is that the county has now been beaten by the eventual All-Ireland Under-21 champions in each of the last five years. If any team is due a bit of luck in 2017, it is this age group.

Waterford's All-Ireland win in this grade added another jewel to Munster's Crown and my thoughts went back to the Leinster Under-21 Final of 2001 at Wexford Park, when a Kilkenny supporter was highlighted in the crowd by TG4 wear-

ing a T shirt, bearing the Legend "Munster Hurling my ****". It was intended to be a joke, but the record shows that Munster won the Minor, Under-21 and Senior All-Ireland titles that year also.

FINAL TARGET

So the hurling year drifts towards a conclusion and Tipperary has led Munster to a wonderful season of success. It is once again the dominant hurling province. Only the Intermediate title was unclaimed and Clare made a decent bid for it.

Following another difficult domestic championship, with the high number of Senior clubs resulting in early season finishes for some, interruptions at several stages, crammed calendars including weekly games, the knock-out aspect of the competition is too demanding, even with assistance from Munster Council, who granted the winners a subsequent short break. Nevertheless, this could be the year that a Tipperary club will end another bogey and win the All-Ireland title. It hasn't been achieved since Borris-Ileigh beat Rathnure at Croke Park on St. Patrick's day 1987.

The Waterford champions will have their own ambitions when they meet our best in two weeks time. Another Tipp v Waterford confrontation to savour and why not – especially as this one will be hosted by The Field of Legends?

An All-Ireland club title would be the crowning glory for Tipperary . . . and maybe the 2016 Liam MacCarthy Cup win will provide the inspiration for today's winners.

McGrath's Bar

PUCKANE



As the main sponsors of
Kildangan GAA Club

*Niall, Lynda and family would like to wish
Kildangan all the best in*

Sunday's County Final

"Bigi Linn don Craic agus Ceol"

A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME . . .

Willie CONNORS

KILADANGAN

When and where did you first play hurling?

Think I was 3 when Martin Hogan brought me to my first blitz in Templederry.

Who was the biggest influence on your career? Parents (Ger and Barbara) and brothers (Mikey, Tommy, Gearóid)

What do you consider your greatest achievements? Winning U21A North final in 2014 and three North senior finals in 2013, 2015 and 2016.

What players do you most admire and why? Dan Hackett – pure character on and off the field, also love his hair. Ken Dunne and Richie Hogan, two class acts on the field calm, cool and accurate.

Favourite sporting event of all time: Between the Ryder Cup and Olympic Women's Volleyball Championship.

Which living person do you most admire and why? Henry Shefflin, just look at all he has achieved

Describe your typical training week: Train on a Tuesday and Friday, match most Sundays and try get in 2 or 3 gym sessions with recovery

What has been your biggest disappointment? Losing the 2013 Munster football final against Kerry in Kerry

Your best hurling memory outside of playing: 2008 North senior final – coming back to beat Burgess was just unbelievable, a team full of legends, I'll never forget it

How do you relax away from sport? Lie of on the couch and watch films and FIFA at Chuckys (Darren Moran)

If there was a transfer market, what player would you add to your panel? Richie Hogan – just a class act

You may not know it, but I am good



at . . . Doing the seal (dance move)

If you could go back in time, where would you go? When Chelsea won the Champions League in Munich 2012

Who would play you in the film of your life? Jonah Hill, similar features

When I was a child I wanted to be . . . A rugby player

Whom would you invite to your dream dinner party? Ariana Grande, Mark Wahlberg and Sean Treacy

What would your super power be? Read peoples minds

In ten years time I hope to be . . . Skinny and successful.

KILADANGAN

FOUNDED in 1915, the Kiladangan club is situated along the shores of Lough Derg and covers the parish of Monsea and Killodiernan which includes the villages of Puckane, Ballycommon and Dromineer.

The club has grown in strength over the past number of years with the club fielding Senior, Junior 'A' and Junior 'B' hurling teams, competing in the 'A' grades in hurling from U21 down to U12.

The seniors are the current North senior hurling champions having won the title for the 3rd time in four years. The Junior 'A' team have been very competitive over the past number of years and will take on Holy-cross-Ballycahill in the county semi-final next weekend, while they are to take on Nenagh Éire Óg in the North final within the coming weeks also.

In 2014, the Under-21 hurlers claimed the club's first North 'A' title, with the Minor hurlers following up with the club's first North 'A' title in 2015, with both teams coming narrowly close to winning county titles.

To add to this, both schools in the parish, Carrig NS and Kiladangan NS have been very successful, winning North and County titles in recent years. With such a strong showing at underage during the last number of years, further success for the club is very much achievable going forward.

Over the past decade or so, the club has enhanced its playing facilities with the construction of a stand, dugouts, floodlights and hurling wall along with the purchase of a second full length playing field. This year a walking track was completed around the second playing field, which provides a great amenity for club members to exercise in a safe environment.

Plans are in place to develop a 100ft x 60ft (30m x 18m) multi-purpose sports hall along with dressing rooms, gym and meeting room. The new proposed premises will be necessary in order to facilitate the growing numbers within the club with the sports hall offering a 12 month training facility for all our playing members.

— Michael Quinn, Club Secretary

1938-2016 connections

1938 was the last time Kiladangan contested a County Senior Hurling final and there are a number of connections between the 1938 and 2016 panels.

Current senior manager Dan Hackett had a grandfather (Johnnie Hogan) and grand uncle (Paddy Hogan) on the starting team while Eoin Kelly and Ciaran Kelly's great grand uncle Jack Kelly played corner back on the 1938 team.

There is a big Johnstown connection between both teams with the Coen and Gleeson families.

Current Junior and Senior sub goalkeeper Paddy Coen had his grandfather (Matt Coen) and granduncle (Christy, who was also a goalkeeper) on the 1938 team.

The current panel includes the 3 Gleeson brothers (Eoin, Eanna and Ruairi) whose grandfather (Rody Gleeson) and grand-uncle (Danny Gleeson) played on the 1938 team.

To add to this, both Rody and Danny Gleeson were first cousins to the above mentioned Jack Kelly.

Both Hughie Flannery and Martin and Jim Minehans grand-fathers (Seamus Flannery and Jim Minehan) played on subsequent teams in the early 1940s.

Roll of Honour

NORTH TITLES

HURLING

Senior (6) – 1938, 1943, 2008, 2013, 2015, 2016

Intermediate (7) – 1966, 1971, 1977, 1980, 2001, 2002, 2004

Junior A (1) – 1944

Junior B (2) – 2001, 2006

U21 A (1) – 2014

U21 B (5) – 1999, 2004, 2008, 2010, 2012

Minor A (1) – 2015

Minor B (4) – 1982, 1998, 2003, 2014

Intermediate League (3) – 1989, 1993, 2003

Junior A League (1) – 2014

Junior B League (4) – 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005

FOOTBALL

Intermediate (6) – 1999, 2000, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2012

Junior A (3) – 1990, 1998, 2011

Junior B (1) – 1997

U21 A (4) – 1999, 2001, 2001, 2011

U21 B (3) – 1987, 1988, 1996

Minor A (2) – 1996, 2008

Minor B (4) – 1987, 1992, 2011, 2013

COUNTY TITLES

HURLING

Intermediate (2) – 1971, 2004

Junior B (1) – 2006

Under-21 B (2) – 2004, 2010

Minor B (2) – 1998, 2014

FOOTBALL

Junior A (2) – 1990, 2011

Junior B (1) – 1997

PROVINCIAL TITLES

HURLING

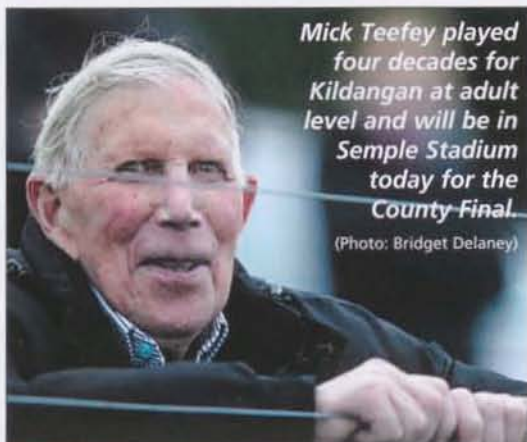
Intermediate (1) – 2004

ALL-IRELAND TITLES

HURLING

Intermediate (1) – 2004

All-Ireland Sevens (1) – 2011



Mick Teefey played four decades for Kildangan at adult level and will be in Semple Stadium today for the County Final.

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)



Back row (l.-r.): Johnny Horan, Joe Gallagher, Tadhg Gallagher, Hughie Flannery, Darragh Egan, Darren Moran, Ruairi Gleeson, Fergal Hayes. Front row (l.-r.): Paul Flynn, James Quigley, Alan Flynn, Barry Hogan, David Sweeney, Martin Minehan, Willie Connors.

KILADANGAN PLAYER PROFILES

Barry Hogan	18	Student
James Quigley	18	Student
Hughie Flannery	35	Marketing Manager
Fergal Hayes	25	Soldier
David Sweeney	21	Student
Alan Flynn (Joint Capt.)	22	Student
Darren Moran	20	Student
Johnny Horan	22	Carey's Glass Employee
Martin Minehan	27	Electrician
Joe Gallagher	26	Teacher
Darragh Egan (Joint Capt.)	30	Primary School Principal
Ruairi Gleeson	25	Carey's Glass Employee
Willie Connors	20	Student
Paul Flynn	22	Farmer
Tadhg Gallagher	22	Student
Paddy Coen	29	Carpenter

Eoin Kelly	31	Software Test Consultant
Ciaran Kelly	18	Student
Dan O'Meara	18	Student
Andy Loughnane	19	Student
Jack Loughnane	22	Student
Tommy Connors	36	Plumber
Gerry Slattery	36	Financial Broker/Advisor
Gary Byrne	37	School Caretaker
Shane Seymour	24	Farmer
Eanna Gleeson	26	Agritech Employee
Eoin Gleeson	28	Electrician
Jim Minehan	21	Student
Eoin Meagher	19	Student
Kian Hayes	26	Grant Eng Employee
Paddy Gallagher	24	Teacher
Darren Ryan	18	Student
Decky McGrath	18	Student
Darragh Molloy	18	Student
Colm Cawley	18	Student

PATH TO THE FINAL

NORTH CHAMPIONSHIP

Round 1 in Dolla, Sun 29th May:
Kiladangan 2-18, Toomevara 1-17
Quarter-Final in Dolla, Fri 29th July:
Kiladangan 3-16, Ballina 2-12
Semi-Final in Nenagh, Sun 11th Sep:
Kiladangan 2-25, Roscrea 1-10
Final in Cloughjordan, Sun 18th Sep:
Kiladangan 2-18, Kilruane MacDonaghs 1-17

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Round 1 in Newport, Sat 9th April:
Kiladangan 1-15, Nenagh Éire Óg 0-14
Round 2 in Templemore, Sat 23rd April:
Kiladangan 4-21, Mullinahone 1-13
Round 3 in Dolla, Sun 8th May:
Kiladangan 2-22, Templederry Kenyons 2-18
Quarter-Final in Semple Stadium, Sun 2nd Oct:
Kiladangan 2-18, Drom & Inch 1-17
Semi-Final in Semple Stadium, Sun 9th Oct:
Kiladangan 2-16, Killenaule 0-13

Kiladangan Management Team (l.-r.): Dan Hackett, Sean Treacy, Martin McLoughney, Jim Ryan (Logistics).

[Photos Eamonn McGann]



Kiladangan

Dathanna: Gorm agus Ór

SENIOR

	1st LEATH	2nd LEATH	3rd LEATH
CUIL			
CUILINÉ			
SEACHAI			
ESAI			
SADH			
PÓCAMHA			



16. P. Ó Cadhain PADDY COEN	20. A. Ó Lachtnáin ANDY LOUGHNANE	24. G. Ó Broin GARY BYRNE	28. S. Muinneacháin JIM MINEHAN
17. E. Ó Ceallaigh EOIN KELLY	21. S. Ó Lachtnáin JACK LOUGHNANE	25. S. Ó Saomar SHANE SEYMOUR	29. E. Ó Meachair EOIN MEAGHER
18. C. Ó Ceallaigh CIARAN KELLY	22. T. Ó Conchubhair TOMMY CONNORS	26. E. Ó Glasáin EANNA GLEESON	30. C. Ó hAodha KIAN HAYES
19. D. Ó Meadhra DAN O'MEARA	23. G. Ó Slatara GERRY SLATTERY	27. E. Ó Glasáin EOIN GLEESON	

Manager: Dan Hackett Coach/Selector: Sean Treacy Selector: Martin McLoughney
Logistics: Jim Ryan Masseur/Physio: Marcus O'Connell

Thurles Sarsfields

Dathanna: Gorm agus Bán

SENIOR

	Tam Leath	Zam Leath	Uachtarán
CUIL			
CUILÍNÍ			
SEACHAÍ			
RÚN			
SABR			
POCANNA			



16. C. Mac Gabhann KEVIN SMITH	20. D. Ó Cinnéide DAVID KENNEDY	24. C. Ó Treasaigh CIAN TREACY	28. P. Ó Doinn PA DUNNE
17. R. Ó Duáin RORY DWAN	21. M. Ó Briain MIKEY O'BRIEN	25. S. Ó Derby JACK DERBY	29. M. Ó Ruiséil MICHAEL RUSSELL
18. C. Ó Gormáin KEVIN O'GORMAN	22. B. Ó Dubhuir BARRY O'DWYER	26. C. Ó Maolomhnaigh CATHAL MOLONEY	30. S. Ó Leathlobhair JOHN LAWLOR
19. T. Ó Dúghaill TOMMY DOYLE	23. C. Ó Doinn KEVIN DUNNE	27. D. Ó Coirbín DAVID CORBETT	

Manager: Tommy Maher Coach: Paddy McCormack Selector: Connie Maher

Logistics: Eamon & John Stakelum Masseurs: Mick Clohessy, Aoife Lonergan Team Doctor: Dr. Paul Ryan

Thurles Sarsfields GAA Club

New Field Development

COUNTY final day is always a special day for a club. Thurles Sarsfields are extremely fortunate to be chasing a third consecutive senior title today. We would like to take the opportunity of updating all our supporters on the ongoing developments that are currently taking place in Thurles Sarsfields.

As you may be aware that since the club purchased 14.8 acres of land at Toor, Killinan in November 2014 we have spent the last year formulating a plan to develop the playing facilities. A development committee was set up tasked with this objective.

The proposed development comprises of two full size playing fields with one playing field having full floodlighting facilities. Four dressing-rooms with ancillary services, all weather training area with hurling wall and floodlights, walkway and car park.

Planning permission has now been granted and the committee have



Artists impression of the proposed development.

recommended that the development should take place on a phased basis. Phase one of the development is the construction of two full sized playing pitches. It is hoped to begin work on the two pitches in April 2017.

The proposed development is a mammoth task in terms of fundraising. We as a committee are confident we will meet the target. This of course will only happen if all members and supporters of Thurles Sarsfields give their full backing to this project, your project.

We will be officially launching the development project early next year. As part of this launch the

committee are currently finalising a fundraising proposal that we hope will offset the huge financial commitment of this development. We look forward to meeting you over the next few months and would really welcome your support on this exciting development.

The club is proud of its many achievements and successes and look forward confidently to the provision of these new facilities that will help our current and future players and members to achieve sporting excellence while catering for a wide range of leisure and social needs.

Thomas Callanan, Club Secretary



Thurles Sarsfields background management team (l.-r.): Andy Ryan, Brian Stakelum, John Stakelum, Eamonn Stakelum, Mick Clohessy, Aoife Lonergan, Gary Loughnane, Dr. Paul Ryan.



The Thurles Sarsfields team prior to their semi-final game against Clonoulty-Rossmore – Back row (l.-r.): Lar Corbett, Denis Maher, Ronan Maher, Stephen Maher, Billy McCarthy, Padraic Maher, Declan Ryan, Conor Lanigan. Front row (l.-r.): Tommy Doyle, Richie Ruth, Patrick McCormack, Stephen Cahill, Stephen Lillis, Aidan McCormack. Missing from photo: Pa Bourke, Michael Cahill.

PLAYER PROFILES

Patrick McCormack	32	Teacher	Kevin Smith	24	Employee Setanta College
Stephen Maher	24	Teacher	Rory Dwan	22	Student
Ronan Maher	21	Student	Kevin O'Gorman	26	Teacher
Michael Cahill	27	Physiotherapy Student	Tommy Doyle	25	Garda Recruit
Stephen Lillis	30	Teva Pharmaceutical Employee	David Kennedy	32	Accountant
Padraic Maher (Capt)	27	Garda Recruit	Mikey O'Brien	24	Student
Denis Maher	25	Defence Forces	Barry O'Dwyer	34	Medical Rep
Stephen Cahill	21	Student	Kevin Dunne	21	Student
John Maher	29	Student	Cian Treacy	25	Teacher
Billy McCarthy	19	Student	Jack Derby	19	Student
Aidan McCormack	24	Defence Forces	Cathal Moloney	19	Student
Pa Bourke	28	Employee of Semple Stadium	David Corbett	23	Employee Stryker, Cork
Conor Lanigan	21	Apprentice	Pa Dunne	24	Teacher
Lar Corbett	35	Publican	Michael Russell	25	Teacher
Richie Ruth	30	Teacher	John Lawlor	35	Barman

PATH TO THE FINAL

County Group:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	2-17	Borris-Ileigh.....	1-11
	Thurles Sarsfields.....	2-26	Roscrea.....	1-08
	Thurles Sarsfields.....	0-20	Éire Óg Annacarthy.....	0-15
Mid Quarter-Final:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	0-21	Drom & Inch.....	1-21
County Q'Final:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	2-22	Borris-Ileigh.....	0-13
County S'Final:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-22	Clonoulty-Rossmore.....	0-15



Thurles Sarsfields Management Team (l.-r.): Connie Maher, Tommy Maher, Paddy McCormack with Declan Ryan.



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A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME . . .

Kevin O'GORMAN

THURLES SARSFIELDS

When and where did you first play hurling (who was coach, friends)?

Down in Durlas Óg when I was around 7 or 8.

Who was the biggest influence on your career?

My parents.

What do you consider your greatest achievements?

County Finals with the club and All-Irelands in U21, Minor and Intermediate grades.

What players do you most admire and why?

Our inter-country hurlers. The commitment and dedication that is asked of them is massive.

Favourite sporting event of all time:

The 2008 Heineken Cup final between Munster and Toulouse.

Which living person do you most admire?

Ron Burgundy.

Describe your typical training week:

Train twice at the weekend with the club and another three times during the week up in Dublin.

What has been your biggest disappointment?

2012/13 All-Ireland club semi-final against Kilcormac-Killoughey.

Your best hurling memory outside of playing:

2010 All-Ireland Hurling Final.

How do you relax away from sport?

Away from hurling I'd go golfing or socialising with the lads.

If there was a transfer market, what player would you add to your panel?

Tony Kelly.



You may not know it, but I am good at . . .

Cooking.

If you could go back in time, where would you go?

I'd go back to last week with the numbers for the Euro millions.

Who would play you in the film of your life?

Morgan Freeman.

When I was a child I wanted to be . . .

A soccer player for Leeds United.

Whom would you invite to your dream dinner party?

Ronan O'Gara, Margot Robbie, Mario Rosenstock and Mary Berry.

What would your super power be?

To fly.

In ten years time I hope to be . . .

Retired.

Homecoming 2016



The difference between Winning and Losing is shown in these two photographs by Bridget Delaney

Homecoming 2011



[Photos: Bridget Delaney]

1938 Last time Kiladangan reached County Senior Hurling Championship Final

By: LIAM HOGAN

KILADANGAN last reached the county senior hurling final in 1938. Extracts from the Kiladangan GAA Centenary History, written by Danny Grace and Seamus Hogan, are provided to recall the year.

After last Sunday's county semi final win over Killaule followers of Kiladangan had to look back seventy eight years since last appearing in a county senior Hurling Final. Its ironic that Thurles Sarsfields were their opponents in the decider that season.

Back in 1938, Kiladangan won their first North final when they overcome the Roscrea bogey in the final thanks to a 7-2 to 3-4 victory. Kiladangan took home the new Murphy Cup which was presented for the first time. The Cup was donated to the North Board by Murphy's Brewery.

COUNTY SEMI-FINAL

Kiladangan beat Fethard in the semi final 4-3 to 3-3. Phil Purcell of Moycarkey was the referee. The clash would be the first meeting between the teams but some of the players had met four years previous when Kiladangan/Kilbarron (winners North Final in 1934 Jubilee year) had met Moyglass in the county semi final and several of the Fethard players were on the Moyglass team.

COUNTY FINAL 1938

Kiladangan were the underdogs against Thurles Sarsfields at Borrisoleigh on Sunday 25th September 1938. Thurles Sarsfields were a star studded team laden with inter county players some of whom had won All-Ireland medals with Tipperary the previous year.

At the time many people regarded the Thurles Sarsfield team the best in the clubs long history. The Tipperary Star – motivated by a mixture of local patriotism and stern reality - gave the north challengers little or no chance of winning. It believed it would be a first rate surprise if they managed to turn the tables.

The Nenagh Guardian on the other hand was eager to fly the flag for its local team. It admitted that Kiladangan faced a daunting task but insisted they would not be put off by their opponents tradition, experience and field craft. Young, yet resourceful, quick and stubborn they will fight every inch of the ground contested by their more seasoned opponents, it



Back row: Jack Grady, Bill Hayes, Paddy Morrissey, Paddy Slattery, Joe Cleary, Johnnie Hogan, Jim Killeen, Tom Collins. Middle row: Danny Moloney, Jack Kelly, Joe Barry, Paddy Hogan, Matt Coen, Mick Hanrahan, Ned Gleeson, Mike Murphy. Front row: Mick Quirke, Danny Gleeson, Jack Hctor, Martin Kennedy, Rody Gleeson, Christy Coen.

confidently predicted.

But sadly, the Star's prediction proved to be all too true. The North boys were totally outclassed and the Mid champions won pulling up to use a racing parlance.

Jim Killeen came in for special mention by the Tipperary Star's report of the game. The star believed it was one of the poor finals while the Nenagh Guardian agreed that the match was well below par.

The paper praised the work rate of Rody Gleeson and Jim Killeen at midfield and that Jack Hctor at full back and Danny Moloney at centre back were both outstanding. The report also praised the efforts of Mick Hanrahan, Jack Kelly, Jack Grady and Johnnie Hogan.

Former Tipperary full forward Martin Kennedy lined out at fourteen with Kiladangan. He was well shackled by the powerful Thurles Sarsfields defence. Kennedy came up against the famed Ger Cornally and –somewhat unusual – Kennedy failed to score. The North champions managed only one score – a point by Paddy Hogan – in the first half while the Mid champions ran up a total of 3-3. Kiladangan did manage to score 2-1 in the second half this added a degree of respectability but hardly affected the outcome. Mick Murphy and Matt Coen got the goals and Jim Killeen the point. The match ended Thurles Sarsfields 7-7 Kiladangan 2-2.

'2016 is behind

By: NOEL DUNDON (Tipperary Star)



"2016 is behind us now. We have drawn a line under it and we are looking to see how we can move on again and improve for 2017. That's our focus right now."

The words of Tipperary senior hurling Manager Michael Ryan will come as manna from Heaven for hurling enthusiasts in The Premier County who have a real desire to see us put back-to-back All-Ireland titles in place for the first time since 1964/65.

The Upperchurch-Drombane man was in buoyant mood when we caught up with him this week – only a few days after the class of 2016 had sat down to have the official All-Ireland champions photograph taken in Cashel. But, according to the Bainisteoir, that was 2016 wound up – it's looking forward from here on and with the county championships in their concluding stages, Michael, Conor Stakelum, Declan Fanning and John Madden have their eyes peeled for potential talent.

"I've been impressed with what I've seen so far and I can say without any fear of contradiction that there will be changes to our panel for 2017. We'll come together in November, outline our squad and give the players their training schedule and let them at it. We'll have a team holiday then at the end of the year and it will be back to basics from the minute we return home. That's the way it has to be and no player is under any illusion about what faces them in 2017. Tipperary are now in the crosshairs of everyone and we need to be better than we were in 2016. That requires effort and competition in training – we had great competition this year and it stood to us," Michael said.

Indeed, when pressed for a difference between the 2016 season and others which did not yield the ultimate silverware, Michael points to the competition within the squad as being the key. Each evening a player turned up to train he was being challenged by his colleagues, the backroom team and the management. By the time the key games in the championship came about, the players had been primed in training to cope with the pressure of challenge – almost all scenarios they

would face on the field had been played out in training.

"Players knew that they had to fight hard in training to get into the 26 for match day first of all and then to get into the fifteen starters. But they also knew that they had to be ready when called upon to do a job if they were not starting and they couldn't let their disappointment cloud their attitude for the team. We were very strong in that regard – the players would fight each other tooth and nail to claim their place, but they knew that they were all in it together at the same time. I think that element of fierce competition and competitiveness in the squad was the difference this year and that was driven by the players themselves, especially a few of the experienced lads," Michael said.

The intention therefore is to shake-up the squad again and Michael and Co have identified a few things they would like to look at. They have not rested on their laurels and have been out and about watching all kinds of games and taking a look at different players, and different types of players. If 2016 told us anything, it was the value of having diversity in the squad.

"Our panel will evolve and will continue to evolve throughout the season.

We had that this year as well and I suppose I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those players who came in to us at the drop of a hat to help out the squad. We had guys who came in to make up numbers for games we wanted to play, knowing that they would not be part of the squad, but they downed tools and answered the call. Our panelists get the credit they deserve and rightly so, but to the others who did Tipperary such a great service, I want to say a very public thank you.

"We have always been of the opinion that players who are playing well deserve a chance in the squad and we have changed things around all the time when naming the 26 but also when it comes to having players in the extended panel. We watch club games and if we feel a fella is doing his stuff and deserves a chance, we'll bring him in. We did that this year and it worked well because it keeps the panel players on their toes. We'll be doing that again for sure," Michael said.

There will also be a strong focus on the Fitzgibbon Cup at third level and those who are lining out in that competition are playing in a really competitive environment. How you manage there



us now' – Michael Ryan



Tipperary Management Team celebrate after All-Ireland victory (l.-r): Michael Ryan, Declan Fanning, Conor Stakelum and John Madden.

tells a lot about a player and the Tipp boys have been very prominent in recent times in the Fitzgibbon – it has been a fertile plain for various managements and together with the U-21 team it is where acknowledged potential can be identified. Already those players have leaped a few hurdles – the question is, can they leap into the senior set-up?

While the Liam MacCarthy Cup has been on a tour of the county and the players and backroom team have been attending a lot of events and getting great credit for their decorum and demeanour, Michael delights in the levels of maturity displayed by all. Nobody is losing the head and more than ever there is a acknowledgement that this success must be the start of a process, not the end of one. The ship sails on with the same captain, the same philosophy and more-or-less the same first mates, but they will face choppy waters and must be ready to see out the tempests when they materialise. And materialise they will.

"The lads have enjoyed the celebrations but nobody went overboard and that's very important. We need to celebrate in a right way too and we are doing that. I have been amazed at how much winning this means to people – particularly the older generations who were probably used to seeing Tipperary winning All-Ireland with a lot of regularity back in the '60's. And of course, the kids love it and I think it is great to be giving them a

taste of what it's all a bout because they are the ones who will carry the flame in years to come," he says.

The players will be helping the County Board to raise funds through a number of initiatives for the holiday at the end of the year and Michael is very happy to buy into all that. "The players and everyone involved have given an awful lot to Tipperary and the holiday is a lovely reward for that. It gives us a chance to meet up and enjoy ourselves socially and we are all looking forward to it. But, in the world we live in there are a lot of considerations especially when it comes to safety and security – the Zika virus has been a consideration for instance. We are just determined to that the players will be looked after appropriately and rewarded for their achievement. Because, when they come home, we'll be ramping up the tempo on last year. We have looked at the past learned from it, and will be doing things differently in '17," Michael says.

So, as County Final day unfolds here in Semple Stadium this afternoon, take a close look at the players on show – next year one of those could be wearing the blue and gold jersey as a newcomer in another All-Ireland Final.

We salute the men of 2016 – those in the lime-light and in the shadows – and look forward with great optimism to next season. Because, that's what they are doing right now.

Tiobraid Árann Abú.

Club Stalwart . . .

Jim RYAN KILADANGAN

By: JACKIE CAHILL



ON Tuesday evening, Jim Ryan watched the Kiladangan hurlers go through a light session ahead at the local field, fine-tuning preparations for this afternoon's Tipperary Water County Senior Final against Thurles Sarsfields.

His mind drifted back to January, as he watched those same players slog it out in often dreadful weather conditions, all for days like this.

Today marks a first county SH final appearance for Kiladangan since way back in 1938 and a win would mean so much to Ryan and his club-mates.

"It would be just fantastic," he smiles. "You couldn't put words on it. It would be unreal."

For Ryan, big matches for Kiladangan take on added significance.

His late father, Timmy, passed away in the summer of 2004, as Kiladangan were embarking on a glorious run that would yield county and Munster intermediate titles later in the year, and an All-Ireland crown the following Spring.

“ It would be just fantastic.
You couldn't put words
on it. It would be unreal ”

Timmy was a staunch Kiladangan clubman and former committee member but Jim prefers to steer clear of administrative roles.

The 55-year-old is happiest helping out wherever he can as a logistics man assisting the team. If it's water, bibs, spare hurleys or towels that the players need, Jim's your man. He'll have wine gums too, a particular favourite with the current players.

A plasterer by trade, Jim smiles when he recalls how Darren 'Chucky' Moran tried a new pair of boots in the recent county quarter-final against Drom & Inch.

"The match wasn't on ten minutes when he wanted to change them," Jim says.

"I had his old boots and as we were changing them, his man scored a point.

"Darragh Egan says I assisted in Drom & Inch getting that score!

"I got an awful slagging over that!"

Kiladangan produced a power-packed display to see off Drom & Inch, a team that had put five goals past them in 2015, before seeing off Killenaule last Sunday.



And Jim admits that the current run of success has captured the imagination of the local area.

He says: "It's hard to believe at the moment but we're coming to terms with it alright.

"It's new territory for us but back in 2004/2005, that was all new to us as well.

"There's a good bunch of lads there, they work very hard.

"As far as I'm concerned, I do nothing bar collect a few water bottles. There are better and bigger men that me around."

Jim's modest in his appraisal of his own role but men like him are crucial in clubs up and down the country.

During his own playing days, he hurled at junior level for the club and now, he's helped by Michael Quigley, Alice Kelly and the Gallaghers (who look after the jerseys) as he goes about his club duties.

All the while, memories of Dad burn bright and Jim remembers: "Timmy was so lucky that he got his first heart attack 20 years before. 20 years later, he passed away from a heart attack. That particular day, I'll never forget it. You don't forget when your Dad passes away.

"Kilkenny and Clare were playing on the TV and the phone call came through that Dad was in intensive care in hospital. We were let in one by one and he asked me what the score in the match was, who had won? The match wasn't over so I had to go back out and find out the result of the match. That was the last time I spoke to him."

Today, of all days, it's men like Timmy Ryan who shouldn't be forgotten, or other club stalwarts no longer with us, like Paddy Morrissey, Seamus Hayes and Michael 'Spike' Nolan.

And Ryan recalls: "He'll be very much in my thoughts but with all the families in the parish, it is very much a family thing. I couldn't believe, at the time, the support of family and friends, the support we got. It was absolutely brilliant."

Club Stalwart . . .

Joe BARRETT

THURLES SARSFIELDS

By: JACKIE CAHILL



WHEN Joe Barrett was a young boy, he used to puck around with some of hurling's greatest-ever players at the back of his house.

Jimmy Doyle, Tony Wall, Tadhg O'Connor and Francis Loughnane were just some of the frequent visitors to the family home in Clongour, Thurles.

The common denominator was Joe's late father, Tommy, a much-loved figure who served for 37 years as secretary of the Tipperary county board, and in a similar role with Thurles Sarsfields for well over a decade.

Joe also remembers the night before the 1967 All-Ireland final when the late, great John Doyle called to the house looking for a hurley from Tommy.

The very next day, Doyle unfortunately failed in his quest for a 9th All-Ireland medal on the field of play, as Kilkenny won the final.

Great memories, nonetheless, and plenty more come bubbling to the surface as we chat to Joe.

“Like father, like son, in so many ways. And like Tommy before him, Joe Barrett is the kind of man who epitomises all that the GAA stands for”

It was perhaps inevitable that he would follow in his father's footsteps and become an administrator, having watched Tommy do what he did best for so many years.

Joe's currently a Sars committee member and trustee, and he also represents the club on the Mid Board's CCC.

"I was on the committee first when I was about 19," he says.

"I went to England for a few years, came back and got involved again."

A carpenter by trade, Joe was also a useful hurler in his time.

While in England, he hurled with the Naomh Mhuire club in London from 1986-1991, and also served for a year as secretary during his stint there.

Now 56, Joe won two mid senior championships with the Sars as a player, and he was also a two-time divisional winner at U21 level.

Naturally, he takes great pride in watching the club's current inter-county stars in action, with Michael



Cahill, Ronan Maher and Pádraic Maher recently nominated for All-Star awards.

Off the pitch, developments continue apace for Thurles Sarsfields, with planning permission recently granted for land on the Nenagh Road.

It's envisaged that two fields, dressing rooms and, hopefully, an all-weather pitch will be constructed there and work is due to begin early next year.

Joe is also happy to report club membership numbers increasing year on year, explaining: "Between the ladies football and the camogie clubs as well, we're bringing in more juveniles and people that weren't involved in the hurling club before. Different families are coming in that wouldn't have been involved in hurling and every new person gives a hand."

Joe's mother's family was also involved in the club many years ago and Joe admits that growing up, he couldn't help but be immersed in the Sars tradition literally from birth.

He smiles: "When you grew up in a house like mine, you couldn't but be involved. From the time I was born, my mother told me, the first thing my father bought was membership of the club for me!"

Joe remembers his Dad working long hours, coming home from the day job with Erin Foods before tucking into administrative GAA work.

"Coming up to the county board AGM, we used to have the minutes and nomination papers and we'd be at home for a week licking stamps, copying the minutes from the previous AGM, and addressing envelopes to send them out to the clubs," Joe says.

"It wasn't even a photocopier we had, it was a manual machine that you twisted with your hand."

"If Dad wasn't in his office, he was at a meeting or training, six nights a week and every Sunday. But he wouldn't have been able to do it without the support of my mother (Rose)."

Like father, like son, in so many ways. And like Tommy before him, Joe Barrett is the kind of man who epitomises all that the GAA stands for.

TIPPERARY



All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions 2016



Back row (l.-r.): Patrick Maher, Gearóid Ryan, Tomás Hamill, Aidan McCormack, Darragh Mooney, Ronan Maher, Barry Heffernan, Darren Gleeson, Dan McCormack, Seamus Callanan, Seán Curran, Jason Forde, Seamus Kennedy, Pádraic Maher, Michael Breen, John O'Dwyer.

Front row (l.-r.): Kieran Bergin, Niall O'Meara, Michael Cahill, James Barry, Donagh Maher, Brendan Maher, John McGrath, Cathal Barrett, Noel McGrath, John O'Keeffe.

(Photo: Eamonn McGee)

BRENDAN MAHER 2016

Borris-Ileigh's **Brendan Maher** became the latest Captain of the Premier Ship to lead his men to the Holy Grail on All-Ireland senior hurling final day. In doing so, he became the first man since the late great Jimmy Doyle to captain Tipperary to both Minor and Senior All-Ireland titles.

When the book *Captains of the Premier Ship* was published in 2014 by *Tipperary Star* journalist Noel Dundon, the chapter on Brendan Maher was ready to go. The All-Ireland Final was a draw, thereby delaying the publication and when The Cats turned over The Premier County in the replay, the chapter on Brendan was put into cold storage. Thankfully, Brendan's day finally dawned and here is, the final chapter. For now.

*From Borris-Ileigh renowned, our twenty
second captain was crowned,
They came from near and far admiring the
deeds of Brendan Maher.
For dash and skill so rare, few hurlers could
match this player,
Who led Tipp to 27, and sent the Premier to
seventh heaven.*

*A salute to our captain bold, who joined Finn
and Kenny of old,
And Bobby of '89, of the famous clan of Ryan.
Big Mikie of three times fame, and John
continued the name,
Now Brendan's the latest star, from the famed
stable of Maher.*

When Brendan Maher climbed the steps of the Hogan Stand to accept the Liam McCarthy Cup for the 27th time on the 4th day of September 2016, for The Premier County, he bridged a remarkable gap spanning 120 years.

You see, the Borris-Ileigh clubman – the fourth from his club to accept the Liam McCarthy Cup having followed in the footsteps of Sean Kenny (1950), Jimmy Finn (1951) and Bobby Ryan (1989) – became the first Tipperary man since Tim Condon in 1896 to captain Tipp to All-Ireland glory who also helped Ireland to victory over Scotland in shinty.

The twenty seven year old Maher had a vast store of experience by the time he came to lift the silverware for Tipperary and though he had arrived on the inter county scene at the tender age of sixteen, his leadership qualities were immediately evident.



'Captains of the Premier Ship' author Noel Dundon and his son Peter photographed at the press launch of this year's Tipperary Water Senior and Minor Hurling Championship Finals. [Photo: Eamonn McGee]

Saturday September 4th though was a career highlight for Brendan – a highlight only achieved by twenty one Tipperary men before him. It was a day he had dreamed of on many occasions and having been brought up in the hurling mad environment of Borris-Ileigh, it was inevitable that he would be bitten by the

bug of the ancient game.

Maher was born nine months before the Tipperary All-Ireland famine ended in 1989 with his clubmate Bobby Ryan having had the distinction of bridging the void spanning back to 1971. Nobody could have predicted at the time that the blond haired youngster would be the next Borris' man to lead Tipperary to the Holy Grail. But, it wasn't long before observers noted the emergence of a real talent – a talent fostered and developed within the ranks of the juvenile club and with St Joseph's College in Borrisoleigh.

“Saturday September 4th though was a career highlight for Brendan – a highlight only achieved by twenty one Tipperary men before him”

Already second only to Thurles Sarsfields in the pecking order in terms of providing All-Ireland winning captains – Thurles have eight, while Borris-Ileigh now have four – Brendan Maher also bridged a significant gap in becoming the first Tipperary man since the great Jimmy Doyle to captain an All-Ireland minor and senior hurling winning side.

The victory over Kilkenny – Tipperary's second in six years over the Cats – was an incredible story of achievement. With Brendan at the helm and playing a real leadership role, the players got themselves back into the groove and a hard fought victory over Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final gave Tipp the right to attempt to dethrone the All-Ireland champions. They had won the Munster Final at the hands of Waterford and had defeated Cork and Limerick in the first round and semi-final respectively. So, Tipp had gotten to the All-Ireland Final the hard way.

Brendan had first came to prominence on the inter-county scene as a member of the Tipperary minor hurling team in 2005. His underage reputation had ensured that he would be on the minds of the minor selection team and though relatively young, he had great dash and presence on the pitch and was fearless in the tackle. He also had the great ability to pick off scores from distance and this was to prove crucial for Tipperary across a range of levels.

Brendan though, enjoyed little success in his first year but Tipperary were to reach the All-Ireland decider via the "back-door" in 2006. Three-in-a-row hopefuls Galway provided the opposition, but a slick and skilful Tipp team powered to 2-18 to 2-7 victory. It was Maher's first All-Ireland medal in that grade and twelve months later Tipperary were back in the decider again. Brendan had been appointed captain of the Tipperary team and he won a second Munster medal in the 0-18 to 1-11 defeat of Cork.

Both sides met again in the All-Ireland decider and the big question was whether Cork could reverse the Munster result. But, Tipp were primed for success and with senior All-Ireland medal winner in three different decades, Declan Ryan as Manager of the side, Tipp prevailed by 3-14 to 2-11, giving Brendan the honour of captaining the side to victory and also giving him a precious second All-Ireland minor medal. Brendan scored 0-12 from play in the 2007 All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship campaign following up from his contribution

of 1-4 in the 2006 campaign.

He became the second player from the Borris-Ileigh club to captain a Tipperary minor team to All-Ireland success, following in the foot steps of Paddy Kenny in 1947 – some sixty years previously. He was also destined to follow in the footsteps of some famed Borris' men

“Brendan's talents have also been recognised on the inter-provincial scene and he has proudly worn the blue of Munster in the same manner as his Borris-Ileigh predecessors Bobby Ryan, Sean Kenny and Jimmy Finn”

later in his career when a bigger prize was presented.

Brendan joined the Tipperary under-21 team in 2008 and won a Munster medal in this grade in his debut season following a controversial one-point defeat of Clare – a pointed 65 metre free from Pa Bourke, after the Clare keeper had stepped over the edge of the square when pucking out the ball, resulted in huge upset Bannerville following the game in Cusack Park, Ennis. Tipp later reached the All-Ireland Final but were defeated by Kilkenny – a fate which was to become all too familiar for Brendan and Tipp during the era.

After surrendering the provincial crown in 2009, Tipperary bounced back the following year to bring the curtain down on a magnificent week. A 1-22 to 1-17 defeat of Clare gave Brendan a second Munster medal and when Tipp played Galway in the All-Ireland final in Semple Stadium, Thurles six days after they had won the senior All-Ireland at the hands of Kilkenny, there was only ever going to be one winner. The atmosphere was electric, the crowd partisan and Tipperary went on to trounce the Westerners by 5-22 to 0-12 with Sarsfields Padraic Maher captaining the side. It was Brendan's first All-Ireland medal in that grade and his second in six days.

Of course at club level, Brendan continues to do his stuff with Borris-Ileigh. He had quickly established himself as one of the most energetic and versatile players in the county and was equally at home in attack, in defence or in midfield. He was a real go-to player for Borris', one of the big quandries being, where exactly

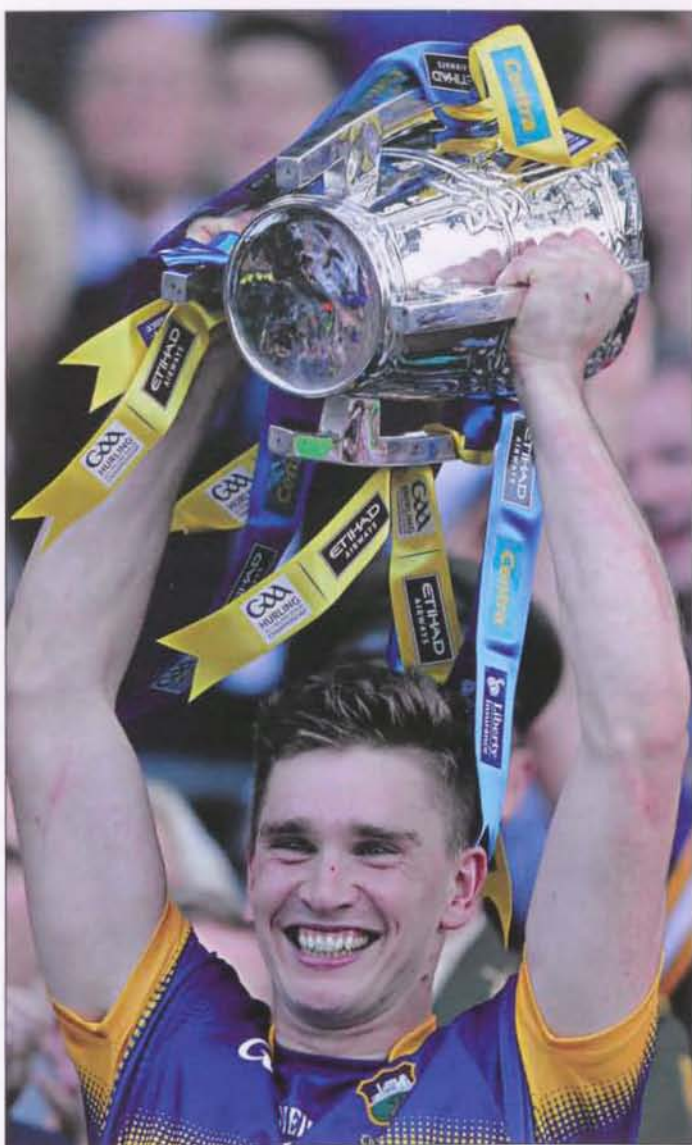
to play him. So committed to the cause was he, that he would gladly hurl all over the field with the freedom of Aidan Ryan, the commitment of Bobby Ryan and the power of Sean Kenny. Brendan has North championships to his name from 2005 and 2007 and while the quest for county honours continues, Borris-Ileigh are considered one of the sleeping giants of the game in Tipperary – the awakening might not be too far away at all given the progress being made and the impact of fellow county players Paddy Stapleton, Dan McCormack and Conor Kenny.

Having played so prominent a role for Tipp at minor and U-21 grade, it was only a matter of time before Brendan made his senior competitive debut – it came in a National League game against Cork in 2009 and was to kick-start an association with the team which would continue to many years. He had lined out against Waterford in the Waterford Crystal League earlier in the season at corner back of all places, but the NHL carried far greater weight and inclusion of Maher by management signalled their intentions in relation to him.

Later that year, having hurled up a storm in the league under the Liam Sheedy led regime, he made his championship debut when he came on as a substitute in Tipperary's defeat of Cork. He subsequently won his first Munster medal as Tipp defeated Waterford by 4-14 to 2-16.

After a six-week lay-off and a facile semi-final win over Limerick, a game which saw Maher start his first championship game, Tipp qualified for an All-Ireland final meeting with Kilkenny. For much of the match it looked as if Tipp would pull off a shock and deny 'the Cats' a record-equaling four-in-a-row. However, two quick goals in the space of a minute, one from a penalty by Henry Shefflin and a second from sub Martin Comerford sealed a 2-22 to 0-23 victory and defeat for Tipperary.

It was a bitter bitter defeat for a player well used to high achievement. But, Tipperary



Tipperary Captain Brendan Maher lifts the Liam McCarthy Cup.

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)

resolved to return to the All-Ireland Final and though a surprise hammering by Cork in the first round, resulted in a recalibration of the roadmap to the first Sunday in September, the resolve to do the hard work and make the sacrifices was there in abundance.

Brendan had made the switch from half back to midfield where he partnered Shane McGrath in the engine room. This allowed him to defend and attack in equal measure and this freedom was to be crucial to Tipperary as the season progressed.

Tipperary regrouped in the qualifiers and reached a second successive All-Ireland decider

having accounted for Wexford, Offaly, Galway and Waterford. Kilkenny, a team chasing an unprecedented fifth successive championship, provided the opposition and a great game was expected. Tipperary got off to a great start which was bolstered by an early Lar Corbett goal. He subsequently completed a hat-trick of goals and Tipperary had a fourth by Noel McGrath to deny Kilkenny's drive-for-five and secure a remarkable and convincing 4-17 to 1-18 victory. It was Brendan's first All-Ireland winners' medal at senior level and to add the icing

to the cake, at the completion of the championship, he picked up his first All-Star award and was also named Young Hurler of the Year. That was quite a year for the young Brendan who grabbed two fabulous points in the final.

Tipperary returned as provincial kingpins once again in 2011 with a massive 7-19 to 0-19 trouncing of Waterford in the decider to give Brendan a second Munster medal. For the third successive year, Tipperary faced off against Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final. But, an ankle injury sustained while pucking around at home had robbed Brendan of valuable training time and though he fought like a tiger to get back to fitness and reclaim his place in the starting fifteen, he was left off for the All-Ireland Final – a huge talking point in the county at the time.

The team had been performing very well though and while the victory over Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final was less than convincing, Tipperary were back in the final against the Cats once more – the third final in succession against the noisy neighbours. On this occasion Kilkenny were slight underdogs going up against the new champions but they started quickly and never surrendered the lead in the 2-17 to 1-16 victory – a bitter disappointment for a Tipperary side which never reached the expected levels of performance.

There was a real sense of what-might-have-been had Brendan been on for the full seventy minutes. Instead, he entered the cauldron shortly before half time but Kilkenny had gotten a vice-like grip on proceedings and were never going to relinquish the initiative. Despite the game being a relatively dour affair with

little free-flowing hurling, Kilkenny were champions again and had reclaimed the silverware lost to their rivals twelve months earlier.

In spite of an indifferent National League campaign in 2012, Tipperary were regarded as potential All-Ireland champions once again. A 2-17 to 0-16 defeat of Waterford in the provincial decider resulted in a third Munster medal in four seasons. Kilkenny were on the horizon in the semi-final this time, but Tipperary got their tactics horribly wrong and faced a humiliating 4-24 to 1-15 defeat by the eventual cham-

pions. The fallout was severe and resulted in a change of management again in Tipperary, with the Declan Ryan, Michael Gleeson and Tommy Dunne regime making way for an Eamon O'Shea, Michael Ryan and Páidí O'Neill partnership.

“Brendan Maher's leadership qualities – illustrated on a daily basis in the classroom of his primary school in Loughmore – have been identified as being key to Tipperary's success”

Tipp though were not to make an immediate return to the big time and an ambush by Limerick in the Munster semi-final in Pairc na nGael saw the qualifiers beckon again. And wouldn't you know it, for the third time that year Tipperary faced Kilkenny in Nowlan Park, having lost the Allianz National Hurling League Final to them earlier in the summer. A pulsating game of hurling with a heaving atmosphere in the jam packed venue saw Tipp start well. But, the loss of Lar Corbett before half time – he had been in flying form – and missed scoring opportunities cost Tipp dearly and they were to bow out of the championship at this early stage.

Brendan's talents have also been recognised on the inter provincial scene and he has proudly worn the blue of Munster in the same manner as his Borris-Ileigh predecessors Bobby Ryan, Sean Kenny and Jimmy Finn. He lined out with the Munster hurlers in the Inter-Provincial Championship in 2012 and 2013, winning a medal as captain from midfield in 2013. He was also included, on the Ireland team for the composite rules shinty-hurling series of games. Two defeats of Scotland gave victory to Ireland and gave Maher a winners' medal in this competition. The second game saw Ireland win by 2-9 to 1-11 with Brendan being the hero as his 75th minute goal ensured the silverware came Ireland's way. Brendan was immensely proud to represent his country and loved the whole

experience of mixing and mingling with players from other counties in the colours of Ireland.

Having been vice captain of the Tipp team in 2013, Brendan's big chance as captain came in 2014. And, he didn't take long to assume the mantle of leader with one of the first assignments revolving around the establishment of a fun run and walk in aid of a colleague who had fallen ill during the season. Brendan and the Tipperary players led the charge, participated in the event and on one of the worst days imaginable, four days before Christmas, the Tipperary players raised almost €40,000 for cancer related charities.

The leadership displayed by the captain in those days and the fantastic atmosphere and spirit generated, suggested that Tipperary would go places. They certainly managed to rally the support of fans and won many admirers for their initiative and their goodness. Take a bow Captain Maher.

"Brendan is one of those guys who was a leader of the team before ever he was named as captain. He was a leader on and off the field in the way he went about his business and conducted himself. He is someone that players look up to and we had no hesitation in appointing him captain. He had also captained the minor team to win the All-Ireland so he knew the role very well," selector Páidí O'Neill said prior to the All-Ireland in 2014 - generally regarded as one of the best finals in decades.

Tipperary faced Kilkenny again in an energy sapping, truly absorbing contest, the two sides fell over the finals whistle locked together on a scoreline of 3-22 to 1-28, Tipp grabbing the latter. And, success could have been Tipp's lot had the Hawkeye technology not waved a late late John O'Dwyer free from way out the field wide.

So, back they came three weeks later but the game never reached the same free-flowing heights and Kilkenny managed to grind out another 2-17 to 2-14 victory - another All-Ireland Final lost to the neighbours.

Brendan was captain again in 2015 when Galway caught Tipp, the Munster champions, with a late volley to dive over the winning line in front in the All-Ireland semi-final. It was the end of the O'Shea era and into the managers position stepped Michael Ryan, accompanied by



Brendan Maher celebrates after the ESB All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship Final victory over Cork in Croke Park on 2nd September 2007.

(Photo: Pat Murphy/Sportsfile)

Brendan's clubmate Conor Stakelum, John Madden and Declan Fanning.

This time it was to be near perfection for The Premier County as millions watched on TV, and over 82,000 were present in Croke Park to witness Brendan Maher climb the steps of the Hogan Stand, compose himself and accepted the Liam McCarthy Cup on behalf of Tipperary following a 2-29 to 2-20 victory. It was a special moment for a great Tipperary man and just reward for having embraced the role of captain with such aplomb.

Brendan Maher's leadership qualities - illustrated on a daily basis in the classroom of his primary school in Loughmore - have been identified as being key to Tipperary's success. When the chips were down, cometh the man, and Maher certainly stepped up to the plate to help get Tipperary back on track and chart the course for the All-Ireland victory. There were difficult days when defeat was their lot and criticism reigned, but ever the optimist, Brendan could see the chink of light at the end of the tunnel. He knew that the training had been good, the work was being done, and it was only a matter of time before the tide turned. When it did, the Tipp supporters surfed the wave and helped power the team to All-Ireland glory.

The story of Brendan Maher's career remains unfinished - there is much to be written yet. More matches to win; more dragons to slay; more trophies to be hoisted.

We look forward to witnessing it unfold.

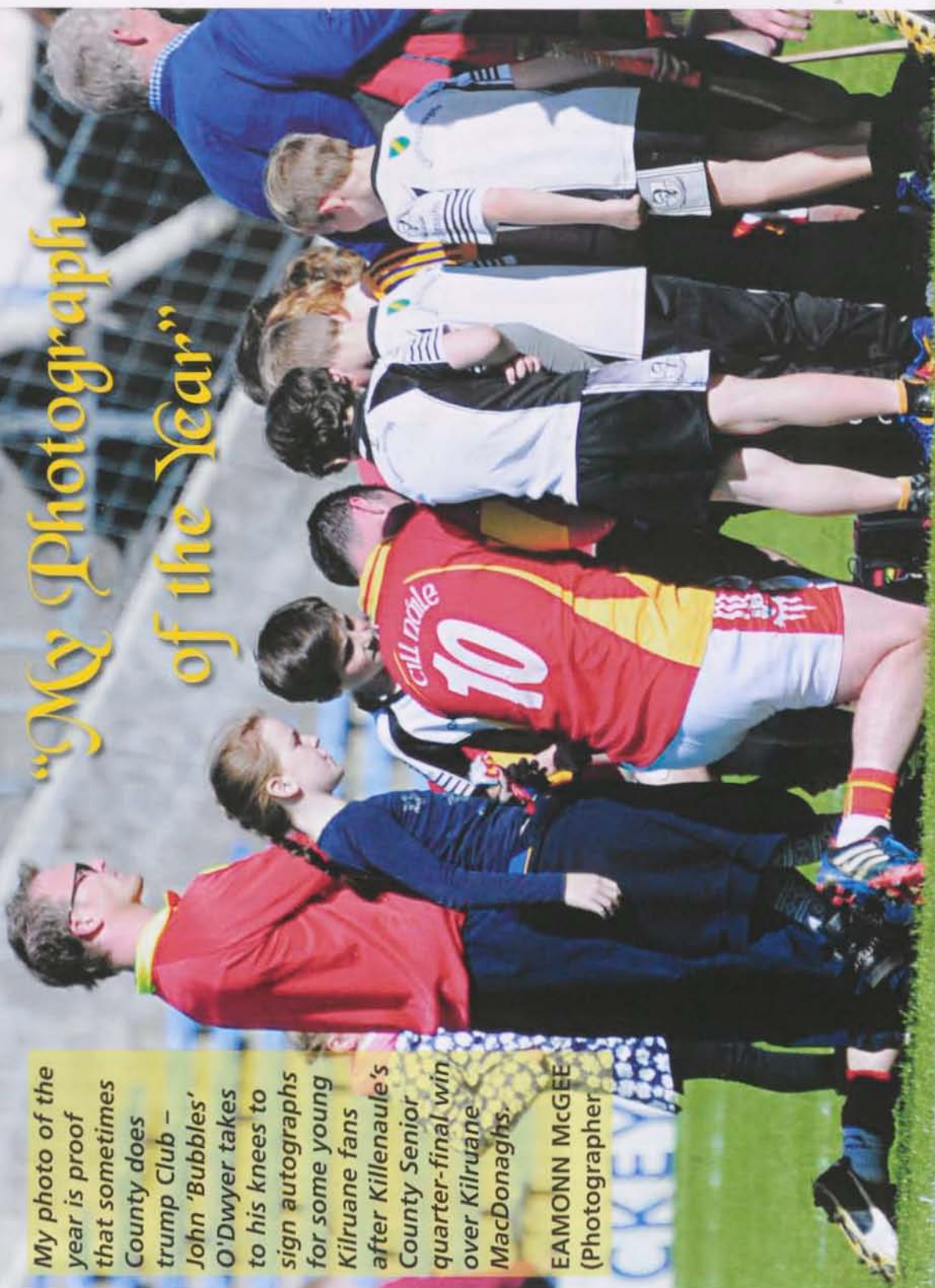
Also on the KILADANGAN Panel: Paddy Gallagher, Darren Ryan, Decky McGrath, Darragh Molloy, Colm Cawley.

Also on the THURLES SANSFIELDS Panel: Dylan Burke, Seanie Butler, Mickey Collins, Tom King, Caley Maher, David Maher, Paul Maher, Mossy McCormack, Ger O'Grady, Pa Phelan, Rory Purcell, Aidan Ryan, James Ryan, Conor Stakelum, Willie Tierney.

"My Photograph of the Year"

My photo of the year is proof that sometimes County does trump Club – John 'Bubbles' O'Dwyer takes to his knees to sign autographs for some young Kilruane fans after Killenaule's County Senior quarter-final win over Kilruane MacDonaghs.

EAMONN MCGEE
(Photographer)



Robert RYAN

CHIEF STEWARD AT SEMPLE STADIUM

By: JACKIE CAHILL



AS KILADANGAN and Thurles Sarsfields battle it out for glory in this afternoon's Tipperary Water county senior hurling final, Robert Ryan will be working diligently behind the scenes to ensure that the big day passes off as smoothly as possible.

Robert, 44, and a native of Knock in Roscrea, is a familiar face for thousands of spectators who visit Semple Stadium on an annual basis for club and inter-county games.

But he's also no stranger to other venues up and down the country, providing security to companies such as Television Mobiles (TVM), who supply outside broadcast facilities for a wide range of production companies, TV channels and private clients.

For the past three years, TVM have been working alongside Sky Sports, and ensuring that their equipment is well looked after before, during and after a big-match broadcast is paramount. This is where Ryan Security Services come into play.

Robert runs another business, agricultural contracting and plant hire, but for today, Semple Stadium is the sole focus of his attention.

For big inter-county championship days, Semple Stadium's chief steward estimates that he works with a team of 80-90 people.

Today is on a smaller scale but roughly 20 people still need to be briefed on what's expected of them throughout the afternoon.

"Usually what we have before any match is a pre-event meeting, run by Con Hogan, the event controller



"It's mostly guided by Clár an Lae, and we receive that from the game's governing body, be it a Croke Park fixture, Munster Council or, in this case, Tipperary county board."

Robert will liaise closely with Con Hogan and Tom Maher, Stadium secretary, to ensure that everything goes without a hitch.

Dave Morgan, who looks after facilities in the Stadium, is another close ally on match-day, as well as groundsman Dave Hanley, Michael Power and John O'Donoghue in the cash office, and Liam O'Donoghue

in the Public Address box.

It might sound like a complex operation but Robert and his team are dab hands at this now. It all boils down to experience and there's not much that Robert hasn't seen.

He'll have arrived today around 11.30, ensuring that both stands are open for the safe entry of spectators.

"We'll get in there, brief the stewards and go through the health and safety features, like the entrances for ambulances, fire escapes and evacuation procedures," Robert explains.

"We meet with the Gardai on the bigger games, and brief them on what's happening. Then it's a case of getting all of the guys into position, and making sure they have communication radios. Then it all falls into place. The people who work with us have been there for a number of years.

"I started in the Stadium in the early 90s," Robert recalls. "John Moloughney was chief steward then, I took over from John in later years.

"I love it – I never see it as a day's work, even though it is a pressurised environment some days."

Due to the busy nature of Robert's job, it can be difficult to watch the games as they unfold on the field of play.

He smiles: "You're talking on the radio, managing the sidelines, and your main role is to ensure that everybody gets in to enjoy the game and is treated with respect. They're a customer so it's important to ensure they enjoy the game and exit safely, and that they've had a good experience."

“ I love it – I never see it as a day's work, even though it is a pressurised environment some days ”

of Semple Stadium," Robert explains.

"We meet with the statutory bodies – Gardai, ambulance, fire brigade, stewards, catering, everybody involved – and plan the day.

"We take into account the estimated attendance, number of stiles, ticket sales, amount of stewards needed, bottle checks, direction of people entering the stadium, car parking, right down to the band and what time the teams come out.

When

Cashel King Cormac's

By: SEAMUS J. KING



WERE KINGS!

THE YEAR 1991 was the greatest year in the history of the Cashel King Cormac's, when the club won the county senior hurling championship and the Dan Breen Cup for the first time in its history. Previous failures to achieve the highest honours in 1937, 1939, 1940 and 1990 were all forgotten in the euphoria of victory.

A team from the parish, Racecourse, did win the county senior title as far back as 1910, when they beat Toomevara, but lost it in the board room. In fact they won it twice! On the first occasion by 3-0 to 2-2 and on the second by 5-2 to 0-3. On both occasions Toomevara objected to the 'constitution of the Racecourse team'. After the first objection a replay was

agreed but after the second the chairman awarded the match to Toomevara after commenting on the contradictory evidence 'but stated that on the rules and the evidence he felt that Racecourse had fielded an illegal team.' Understandably the verdict didn't go down well in Cashel where Toomevara were referred to a 'paper champions.'

Cashel's victory in the 1991 final was prefaced by defeat at the hands of Holycross-Ballycahill in the 1990 decider. There were signs in 1988 that the hurling prospects of the club were improving. Although beaten ultimately by Borisleigh in the county semi-final, Cashel's performance in the final quarter of that game, which produced goals from Peter Fitzell and Sean Slattery, gave the supporters hope that

Cashel King Cormacs captain Colm Bonnar raises the Dan Breen Cup following victory in the 1991 County Final.





Back row (l.-r.): Justin Irwin, Tony Slattery, Michael Perdue, Ger Slattery, Don Higgins, Peter Fitzell, Declan McGrath, John Grogan, Pat O'Donoghue, Tommy Grogan, Sean Rodgers. Middle row (l.-r.): Timmy Moloney, Jamesie O'Donoghue, Willie Fitzell, Cormac Bonnar, John Ryan, Pat Fitzell, T.J. Connolly, Conal Bonnar, Seanie O'Donoghue, Seanie Barron, Liam Devitt. Front row (l.-r.): Brendan Bonnar, Justin McCarthy, Ailbe Bonnar, Seanie Morrissey, Sean Slattery, Seamus King, Colm Bonnar, Joe Minogue, Raymie Ryan, Jojn Darmody, Aengus Ryan. Missing: Joe O'Leary.

there was a future for the team and made the hurling public look up at a new hurling force.

Another development that year was the success of the minors in winning the county championship. This was followed up in 1989 with a further success in that grade and, while the seniors stumbled and fell badly against Cappawhite in the West championship, there were a number of recruits from the minor sides, like Ailbe Bonnar, T. J. Connolly, Raymie Ryan, Timmy Moloney and Seanie O'Donoghue, who were bursting to get into the senior ranks.

OUTSIDE HELP

The following year, 1990, was a crucial one. There was the promise shown in 1988 and the influx of young talent from the minor champions. Something extra was required to drive the team to a higher level. This came with the appointment of Justin McCarthy as coach.

Justin brought to the team a number of very important things. Probably the first was an immense experience from years of managing not only club but county teams as well and the respect that this generated in the players. Then

there was his total dedication to the cause of Cashel King Cormac's. The club became the only one that mattered to him and he thought about it and planned for it not only when he was in Leahy Park but when travelling to or away after a training session. There was also his totally professional approach, one aspect of which was his emphasis on how every hurley had to be an individual piece of equipment for each player and he spent many hours shaping and repairing hurleys to meet individual requirements. There were also his management skills which facilitated good individual rapport with each player. In fact the team became a family and Justin's family became part of that family.

The result was that he developed the players not only into a better bunch of hurlers but into a better team as well. He raised the bar of their performances and the result was qualification for the 1990 county final.

The rising graph of success was temporarily halted with defeat in the 1990 county final.

This was a finely balanced game throughout.

Holycross led by 0-6 to 0-4 at the interval on a day when the weather made good hurling difficult. In fact Tommy Grogan had the ball in the net eight minutes before half-time, only for the referee to call back the play for a foul on Jamesie O'Donoghue. With eight minutes to play the sides were level but it was Holycross's, Tony Lanigan, who got the winning scores, three unanswered points in the final minutes.

Holycross had lost to Clonoulty-Rossmore in 1989 and the mantra was that a team had to lose one to win one. Would Cashel's time come in 1991?

THE WEST CHAMPIONSHIP

Nine teams affiliated in the 1991 senior hurling championship and Cashel had a first round encounter with Kickhams. They won by 3-12 to 1-8 in spite of fielding without Colm and Conal Bonnar, and Joe Minogue, who were injured.

The semi-final against Clonoulty-Rossmore on September 8 was a hugely anticipated clash.. Cashel led by 0-8 to 0-4 at the end of the first half but Clonoulty got the ideal start in the second half when Pat O'Donoghue put an 'own goal' into the Cashel net, and Peter Hayes followed with a point to level the game. However, Cashel responded well with a John Grogan goal and finally clinched victory when T. J. Connolly hit their second goal near the end to leave the final score 2-14 to 1-10 in Cashel's favour.

The final against Cappawhite was played at Clonoulty on a windy, showery day. It was a dour kind of game with little free-flowing hurling. Although Cashel had the wind in their favour they led by only a point, 0-5 to 0-4, at the interval. Clonoulty soon drew level but man-of-the-match, Jamesie O'Donoghue, had Cashel back in front and they were never subsequently caught. In the end they won by 0-12 to 0-8, helped by much wastage of chances by Cappawhite and Tommy Grogan's accuracy from placed balls. A jubilant Cashel saw Colm Bonnar receive the O'Dwyer Cup from board chairman, Jim Ryan.



A happy moment for John Grogan, Jerome White, Tommy Grogan and Seanie O'Brien (Midleton) (who shouldn't be so happy after Cashel beat Midleton in the Munster Club final!).

The victorious side was as follows: John Ryan, Tony Slattery, Pat O'Donoghue, Joe Minogue, Raymie Ryan, Pa Fitzell, Conal Bonnar, Colm Bonnar (capt.), Willie Fitzell, Jamesie O'Donoghue (0-2), T. J. Connolly, Ailbe Bonnar, John Grogan, Cormac Bonnar, Tommy Grogan (0-10). *Sub:* Michael Perdue for Willie Fitzell.

A TEAM OF BROTHERS

One of the contributory factors to the strength of the Cashel team in 1991 was its brotherly composition. Over half the panel, fifteen out of twenty-seven, was made up of bands of brothers. The Bonnars contributed Cormac, Colm, who was also captain, Conal and Ailbe. In mentioning them one has to include Pearse, the father of them all, who was the first aid man to the team and who was a familiar figure rushing in from the sideline – belying his years – with his case of aids for the injured. And, there was also Brendan, one of the three selectors, making it an overwhelming family affair, which was manifested in the sign erected on the Cahir entrance to the town: 'Welcome to Bonnar City'!. The other bands of brothers were the Fitzells, Pa, Peter and Willie, the Grogans, John and Tommy, the O'Donoghues, Pat, Jamesie (RIP) and Seanie, and the Slatterys, Tony, Ger and Sean. Needless to add the remaining twelve members of the panel, who included cousins T. J. Connolly and Raymie Ryan, also contributed significantly to the team's success.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Cashel played Carrick Swans in the county quarter-final at Golden and had the game

wrapped up at half-time, when they led by 2-15 to 0-2. Declan McGrath, a replacement for the injured Cormac Bonnar, got both goals. Tommy Grogan's free-taking was another contributory factor in Cashel's comprehensive victory by 4-18 to 1-7.

Cashel's opponents in the county semi-final were Toomevara. The latter started well and were 0-3 to 0-1 in front when Cormac Bonnar grabbed a crucial goal midway through the first half. Cashel led by 1-5 to 0-5 at the interval. Their lead was reduced to a single point early in the second half, when Bonnar struck again for his second goal. With T. J. Connolly outstanding, Cashel held their opponents at bay and won



A word of advice from the very experienced Patsy O'Connor to Ailbe Bonnar.

through in the end by 2-10 to 0-13.

The final against Holycross-Ballycahill was a repeat of the previous year's. There was extra tension in the air and the referee, Johnny McDonnell, had to sort out a flare-up during the opening period. Holycross led by 1-4 to 0-4 at the interval, thanks to the breeze and a fortuitous goal that Pat Cahill put past Cashel goalkeeper, John Ryan. It remained tight in the third quarter before Jamesie O'Donoghue set up Tommy Grogan for a Cashel goal midway

Path to 1991 County Final

WEST CHAMPIONSHIP

June 23, Clonoulty: Cashel King Cormacs 3-12 Kickhams 1-8
Sept. 8, Tipperary: Cashel King Cormacs 2-14 Clonoulty-Rossmore 1-10
Sept. 22, Clonoulty: Cashel King Cormacs 0-12 Cappawhite 0-8.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Sept. 29, Golden: Cashel King Cormacs 4-18 Carrick Swan 1-7
Oct. 27, Semple Stadium: Cashel King Cormacs 2-10 Toomevara 0-13
Nov. 10, Semple Stadium: Cashel King Cormacs 2-8 Holycross-Ballycahill 1-5

Munster and All-Ireland Club Championship

Nov. 17, Ennis: Cashel King Cormacs 3-11 Clarecastle 2-4
Dec. 8, Mitchelstown: Cashel King Cormacs 0-9 Midleton 0-6
Feb. 9, Ruislip: Cashel King Cormacs 0-23 Sean Treacys 0-6
Feb. 23, Cashel: Cashel King Cormacs 2-7 Kiltormer 1-10
Mar. 9, Ballinasloe: Cashel King Cormacs 2-5 Kiltormer 0-11
Mar. 17, Croke Park: Cashel King Cormacs 1-8 Kiltormer 2-8

through the second half. Cashel were now two up but a Michael Doyle point reduced the margin to the minimum. The issue hung finely balanced until Cormac Bonnar fired home a clinching goal near the end to give Cashel victory by 2-8 to 1-5.

It was a wonderful moment for the club when the final whistle sounded and Cashel were county senior champions for the first time. All the years of frustrated endeavour were forgotten in the euphoria of victory. It was great to be a Cashel supporter when Colm Bonnar received the Dan Breen Cup from fellow West man, county chairman, Michael Maguire. Raymie Ryan received the man-of-the-match award, his third time to be so honoured on county final day, having twice accepted similar honours following county minor deciders.

Cashel King Cormacs: John Ryan, Michael Perdue, Pat O'Donoghue, Tony Slattery, Raymie Ryan, Pa Fitzell, Conal Bonnar (0-1), Colm Bonnar (capt.), Willie Fitzell, Jamesie O'Donoghue (0-1), T. J., Connolly (0-2), John Grogan, Tommy Grogan (1-4), Cormac Bonnar (1-0), Ailbe Bonnar. **Sub:** Timmy Moloney for Ailbe Bonnar. **Also:** Joe Minogue, Declan McGrath, Seanie Barron, Sean Slattery, Seanie O'Donoghue, Joe O'Leary, Peter Fitzell, Ger Slattery, Sean Morrissey, Liam Devitt, Don Higgins..

Referee: Johnny McDonnell (Roscrea)

Selectors: Justin McCarthy (Coach), Brendan Bonnar, John Darmody, Aengus Ryan.

Cashel King Cormacs

PLAYER PROFILES

Colm Bonnar (Capt.) – Colm captained Cashel King Cormacs to their first ever county senior hurling championship success. He is the holder of six West hurling and 1 football title. He has the distinction of winning Munster hurling finals with Tipperary in senior, junior, under-21 and minor grades and All-Irelands in senior, under-21 and minor. In fact he won two All-Ireland senior titles and an All-Star as well. Another distinction is to have won a Fitzgibbon medal with WIT and managed other teams to further victories.

Seanie Barron won two county minor titles with Cashel, captaining the second one in 1989. He won a county under-21 football title in 1990 and had the unique distinction of being involved in three county finals in 1991, senior, junior and under-21, winning all three.

T. J. Connolly won minor hurling titles in 1988 and 1989. He won 6 West senior hurling and 1 senior football titles as well as under-21 hurling and football county titles. He also played minor hurling and football as well as under-21 hurling and football with the county. He managed and selected at county under-21 level and is currently chairman of Cashel King Cormacs.

Ailbe Bonnar won county minor hurling titles in 1988 and 1989. He won 6 West hurling and 1 football titles, as well as county under-21 hurling and football titles. Played senior football with the county in 1993 and 1994, winning a McGrath Cup. He won Carlow Siurca Elevens on three occasions.

Liam Devitt made his breakthrough in 1988 when Cashel won the first of their six divisional hurling titles and played a big part on the Cashel junior team that won county honours in 1991.

Pa Fitzell's achievements include 2 National League medals in 1979 and 1988. He also captained Tipperary to a Munster under-21 title in 1978. He played with Tipperary in the famous Munster final of 1984 and was on the great breakthrough team in Killarney in 1987. He is the holder of 5 West senior hurling medals as well as numerous other titles.

Conal Bonnar is the holder of two senior and one under-21 hurling All-Ireland titles, as well as 2 All-Stars. He also has a second Munster under-21 medal. Played in 3 Fitzgibbon Cup finals and managed UCD to a final only to lose to the WIT team that featured his brother, Colm. The holder of 6 West senior hurling and 1 football titles, as well as a county under-21 football medal, he also played minor and under-21 football with Tipperary. John Grogan won county minor hurling and football medals in the mid-seventies. He also won a Munster minor hurling medal. He played on the county senior team for a number of years without success. He won three senior hurling divisional titles with Cashel and won a Waterford county final with Dunhill.

Peter Fitzell captained Cashel to a rare junior football title in 1984. He was also a member of the club 1991 junior team that took county honours. He won a West senior football title in 1990. The holder of 5 West senior

hurling titles, he played with Tipperary in an All-Ireland Masters final.

Sean Slattery's achievements include a Munster and All-Ireland minor medals in 1982 and under-21 medals in 1985. The holder of 5 West senior hurling title, he also had the distinction of winning 2 All-Ireland B Colleges titles with Cashel CBS. He was also a selector on the Cashel minor teams of 1988 and 1989.

Tommy Grogan won All-Ireland minor and under-21 titles with Tipperary. He was the minor hurler of the year in 1976. He represented the county at underage in both codes. He won 2 county minor hurling and 1 football with Cashel in the mid-seventies. His other achievements include winning 5 West senior titles. A skilled freetaker he was the leading scorer in the 1991-92 All-Ireland club series.

Willie Fitzell won a county minor hurling medal in 1980. He won six West senior medals and 1 football medal. He captained Cashel in 1989 and 1993. At intercounty level he played senior with Tipperary in the Babs era, winning a National League medal in 1989.

Don Higgins holds 1 county minor football and 2 county hurling medals from the mid-seventies. He won a county junior football title in 1984 and was narrowly beaten in a hurling final the same year. He won a county junior hurling title in 1991.

James O'Donoghue won 5 West senior medals and was on the under-21 football team that won the county final in 1990. Earlier he won a county minor title in 1988. He represented Tipperary in minor and under-21 hurling. He played with Blackrock for a year and his career was cut short in a tragic road accident in 1995.

Declan McGrath won county minor in 1988 and went on to

win six West senior titles. He won a county football title in 1990, winning the man of the match award on the same day. He also won a county under-21 hurling medal.

Joe Minogue holds the Cashel record for the greatest number of West senior hurling titles, winning 8 between 1976 and 1995. He won an under-21 Munster medal in 1978. He was equally adept at football and was on the 1990 team that brought a West title to Cashel for the first time. He also played on numerous county teams.

Pat O'Donoghue won an All-Ireland under-21 title in 1985. He has six West senior hurling medals and 1 football. He won an All-Ireland colleges medal with Cashel in 1982 and played Harty Cup with the school the following year. He managed various teams from underage to senior and was also chairman of the club for a number of years.

Timmy Moloney won county minor hurling medals in 1988 and 1989. He won a Munster minor meal in 1991. His won 3 West senior hurling medals and county under-21 football and hurling medals. He played for a number of years in London, winning a county final with Sean Treacys and when he returned to Ireland played with Tipperary for one league season.

Seanie Morrissey has a county under-21 football and a West senior football title. He won 6 West senior hurling medals. He played in the junior county hurling final in 1991. In the latter stages of his career he played with Lucan Sarsfields, Dublin

Seanie O'Donoghue has won 4 West senior hurling medals. He won two county minor titles in 1988 and 1989 plus a Munster minor medal in 1991. He holds the three county medals for 1991, senior, junior and under-21. He captained the Tipperary minor hurling team in 1990. He



Watching the All-Ireland Club semi-final, second replay, from the dugout in Croke Park: Jamesie O'Donoghue, Dinny Keating and Seamus King.

also played under-21 with Tipp. He is the present club Bord na nÓg chairman.

Joe O'Leary has two county minor titles in 1988 and 1989. He has 5 West senior hurling medals, 1 senior football and county under-21 hurling and football medals. He is one of three players who won three county finals in 1991. He served as club chairman at juvenile and senior levels.

Ger Slattery won a county minor hurling medal in 1980 and a county junior hurling medal in 1991. He won 4 West senior hurling medals and served as juvenile and senior club chairman. He has been a member of the County Hearings Committee for 7 years.

Michael Perdue won 6 West senior hurling medals and 1 senior football. He captained the club to its only county under-21 football title in 1990. At county level he won a Munster minor hurling medal in 1987 and was on the county senior hurling panel for a number of years winning a Munster medal in 1993. He has been a selector on many club teams.

John Ryan won 6 West senior hurling titles and 1 senior football. A native of Limerick he represented his county in minor hurling and football. A long-standing referee, he has taken charge of games at numerous

levels at both divisional and county levels. He has also served as an officer in the club.

Cormac Bonnar's claim to fame is to have won two Fitzgibbon and 1 Sigerson medals during his college years. He won two All-Ireland under-21 medals and two senior with Tipperary. He is also the holder of 2 All-Star awards. At club level he holds 2 minor hurling and 1 minor football medals for the mid-seventies. He won 7 West senior hurling titles and 1 football.

Raymie Ryan holds 6 West senior hurling titles and 1 senior football. He has 2 minor hurling titles from 1988 and 1989. He has an under-21 football title from 1990 and an under-21 hurling title from 1991. He won successive Man-of-the-Match awards in the 1988 and 1989 minor finals and the 1991 senior final. He played with the Tipperary seniors for a number of years, winning a Munster medal in 1993. He managed the Tipperary senior camogie team to 2 All-Irelands.

Tony Slattery won minor and under-21 All-Ireland titles with Tipperary. At club level he won 5 West senior hurling titles, captaining the side in 1988. Earlier in his career he won 2 county minor hurling titles and 1 county football title in the mid-seventies. He trained Nenagh CBS Harty Cup teams for many years.

TIPPERARY *Coaching and Games Development*

A VERY busy year continues for coaching and games development personnel. The recent successes of our hurling and football county Senior and Minor teams gave everyone a great lift. The All-Ireland trophies are currently doing the rounds in schools and clubs. We ask all to be patient as we will get to everyone over the coming weeks.

Many people are responsible for such success, from County Board to management teams etc. One constant behind the scenes is the work of the Games Development Administrators. They continue to be fully committed and involved in all aspects of coaching and games development from Schools to Clubs, from Coach Education to Underage Academy Squads, from Camps to Go Games Blitzes. They complete their work in a non intrusive fashion and are on hand 24/7 to assist where requested.

On today County Senior Hurling Final day, on behalf of the County Coaching and Games Development Committee I would like to record our sincere thanks to the four lads for the tremendous work they do throughout the county and assure them of our continued support.

The GDA regions are as follows:

North Tipperary:

Paudie Malone 087-9698153

paudie.malone.gda.tipperary@gaa.ie

Mid Tipperary plus Newport, Ballinahinch and Sean Treacys:

Andy Ryan 087-9090985

andy.ryan.gda.tipperary@gaa.ie

West Tipperary plus Cahir, Clerihan and Fethard:

Kevin Halley 086-1925188

kevin.halley.gda.tipperary@gaa.ie

South Tipperary:

John O'Keeffe 087-2106497

john.okeeffe.gda.tipperary@gaa.ie



KELLOGGS GAA CÚL CAMPS 2016

The most successful year to date was recorded this year for "The GAA Kelloggs Cúl Camps" programme. Over 130,000 children took part nationwide. This is the second year in a row for increases in participation. Value for money seems to be the main reason for the success, followed closely by a well organised project. There were some minor hiccups with kit delivery but overall things ran very smoothly.

In Tipperary a record number, 5326 children participated over eight weeks in July and August. This reflected the national trend and is the highest number of participants to date. Each child received a very attractive and popular set of kit and a special Kellogg's Cúl Camp Backpack. Fifty Four clubs participated, this again was the highest number recorded to date.

A special thanks to the clubs and in particular the club co-ordinator for huge effort and co-operation with us in running a very smooth operation. One hundred and twenty people were trained to act as coaches in the camps. This provided very valuable employment to students and others. Each coach had a number of weeks work during the camps. Overall a very successful summer For Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps – thanks again to all concerned.

COACH EDUCATION

2016 was a busy season for Tipperary coach education programme. Across the county, six-

teen foundation courses, six Award 1 Child and five Award 1 Youth courses have been run. We also introduced and ran the Award One Adult course which is a first for adult coach education in the county.

During the year we also qualified coaches from our development squads in both hurling and football to Award 2 level – a first for the county. These coaches will be coaching and developing our academy players from under-14 through to minor level. This course has been running since June and has completed this month. Thank you to all our tutors from both inside and outside our county for making this course a success.

2017 COACH EDUCATION SEASON

Our upcoming Coach Education season is fast approaching, so if clubs or coaches wish to get enrolled on courses, please contact your local games development administrator for further details plus the full course choice. Foundation courses are available on demand where as the Award One Child and Youth Courses will be running from mid January 2017.

The upcoming Award One Adult course will run on the following dates:

Monday 14th, 21st, 28th of November,
5th and 12th of December in Dr Morris Park,

please e-mail

Kevin.halley.gda.tipperary@gaa.ie

for further detail or if you wish to enrol by the 7th of November.

THURLES FRESH MILK UNDERAGE ACADEMY

The 2015/2016 Academy year commenced in November 2015 with a sixteen week programme carried out in the 'state of the art' Sports Lab at LIT Thurles. This was our first involvement with the Sports Lab and it proved very successful.

For sixteen Friday nights all squads attended at specific times and were taken through a programme of mobility, flexibility and technique exercises. Sports Lab staff and Games Development Administrators supervised the programme. An information evening was held for parents prior to commencement. This and upcoming similar programmes should stand the boys in good stead as they progress through their careers.

The on-field activity commenced in February and continued to August for U14/15/16 Squads, while the U17 Football squad is currently in training. A sincere thanks to all mentors coaches for their commitment to the Academy programme.



Pupils at Thurles CBS Secondary School celebrate the arrival of the Liam MacCarthy Cup.

Ceiliúradh luath agus mall

By: SÉAMUS Ó DUBHAGÁIN

AG BREATHNÚ siar ar an mbliain iomráiteach seo 2016, caithfear a rá gur ceann de na blianta ar dóigh í, ar aon chéim le 1937, 1945, 1949, 1989 agus 2010. In ainneoin go raibh na cait cloíte i 2010, ó shin i leith, fuairamar iontach deacair an lámh in uachtar a fháil orthu i réimse leathan comórtas agus cé go raibh cuma na maitheasa ar Thiobraid Árann ó thús na bliana, ní fhéadfá a rá go deimhin dearfa go mbeadh an lá linn an uair seo ach oiread.

“Caithfear a rá gur ceann de na blianta ar dóigh í 2016”

Ba léir don lucht leanúna go raibh athrú tar éis teacht ar meon, cur chuige agus stíl imeartha na fóirne. Sea, bhí caol na láimhe chomh snasta is a bhí riamh, toradh iontach ar na tráthnóntaí a chaitheadh i Staid Semple i dteannta a chéile agus obair na gcoistí forbartha i rith na bliana. Bhí plean agus módh imeartha leagtha síos ag an mbainistíocht agus cloíodh go huile is go hiomlán leis. Ach, seachas aon rud eile, bhí an cruach agus an imirt ar nós cuma liom ar ais faoi lán seol, a mbui le Michael Ryan agus a chomhghleachtaithe. Scáileanna de John Doyle agus Jimmy Doyle, go ndéana Dia trócaire ar an mbeirt laoch, ag filleadh athuair.

Léimeann na hiomhánna os mo chomhair-ní hé go bhfuair Bubbles an cúl gleoite ag uileann do-chreidte ach gur éirigh leis an liathróid a phreabadh ar a bealach chun an eangaigh. Ní hé gur éirigh le Pádraig Maher gabháil na bliana a fháil ar Joe Canning ach gur éirigh leis éacht J J Delaney cúpla bliain ó shin a shárú sa chluiche céanna. Ní féidir, aon uair a luaifear 2016 amach anseo, ach tagairt a dhéanamh do chomhimirt agus loinnir na dtosaithe agus Seamus Ó Ceallanáin ach go háirithe. Ba réalt é i spéir a bhí ag lonnú de shíor. Agus faoi dheireadh thiar thall, Breandán Ó Meachair ag árdú Liaim go hard na bhflaithis.

Rud eile a chuir snas ar an mbliain seo ná ceiliúradh 1916. An raibh ócáid riamh roimhe seo a raibh bród chomh mór ar mhuintir na hÉireann agus féach an tslí a roghnaigh siad chun é sin a chur in iúl-ceol, damhsa, imeachtaí staire, ardú bratach agus suite i lár an aonaigh, cluichí na nGael.

Is sinn ag triall ar Stáid Semple inniu, is dóigh liomsa gur seo a bhí ar intinn an dreama bhig sin a raibh aisling ina gcroíthe acu cothrom an ama seo céad bliain ó shin. Ní ghá duit ach breathnú ar na geansaithe gorma is óir ag na céadta páistí le camáin ina nglac acu chun teacht ar an dtuiscint gur iontach na rudai iad saoirse agus síocháin.

Bain taitneamh as lá seo na cinniúna i Stáid Semple i mbliain ceiliúrtha 1916 agus Corn mhic Cárthaigh ar ais inar gcuideachta.



Young Tipperary supporters enjoying the homecoming in Semple Stadium, Thurles.

A year of celebration

By: SEAMUS Ó DUBHAGÁIN

LOOKING BACK on this never to be forgotten year of 2016, one would have to place it among the pivotal hurling years of 1937, 1945, 1949, 1989 and 2010. Although Kilkenny were defeated in 2010, we have found it extremely difficult to follow on and while Tipperary were looking good from the beginning of the year we could never be quite sure that the day would be ours in early September.

“ One would have to place 2016 among one of the pivotal hurling years ”

It was obvious to supporters that changes had occurred with regard to the team's attitude, approach and playing style. Certainly the wrist work was as good as ever, what a wonderful result to the long evenings spent together in Semple Stadium and the coming to fruition of all the development work throughout the year. A plan and tactics were laid down by the management team and strictly adhered to. But above all else, there was a steel and a devil may care aspect to the play, thanks to Michael Ryan and his selectors, that reminded us of the early swashbuckling years of John Doyle or the silken skills of Jimmy Doyle, both now gone to their eternal reward.

Marvellous hurling images dance before me. It wasn't only that Bubbles scored an amazing goal from the tightest of angles but that he flamboyantly bounced the ball with his shot to the net. It wasn't that Paudie Maher made the tackle of the year on Joe Canning but that he also emulated J.J. Delaney's famous hook in the same game. But, ultimately, when we look back on 2016, we will recall the teamwork and sparkle of a forward line led by Seamus Callanan. He was a star in a galaxy and the year ended with the sparkle of Liam McCarthy raised aloft by Brendan Maher surrounded by thousands of the hurling faithful.

Another celebration adorned the year, the centenary of 1916. I don't think that any other occasion surpassed the pride of a nation as shown this year and the choice of the method of commemoration, be it music, dance, historical events, flag raising and of course central to it all, our Gaelic games was powerful yet eminently suitable.

Walking the familiar paths to Semple Stadium today, we feel that days like this was what those visionaries of a century ago had in mind. We need only look at the myriads of children wearing the blue and gold and swinging hurleys as evidence of the wonderful achievement that is peace and freedom. Enjoy your day in this special year at Semple Stadium with the McCarthy Cup at home once more.



Scór



It's Tipperary's Year
Now it's time to go for Gold with Scór.
Contact your club now.
Déan do rogha.



Portroe Ballad Group.



Rinceoirí ó Newcastle.



Shannon Rovers ceoltóirí.



Tráth na gCeist.



Aisteirí óga ó Borrisoleigh.



Na rinceoirí is fearr.



Aisteoirí óga ó Borrisoleigh.

Leathanach na nÓg. Freagair na leideanna seo agus Cuardaigh an lúbra thíos do na freagraí

1. Bronnfar Corn Dan _____ inniu.
2. An slíotar thar an trasnán.
3. Tráth na _____.
4. Focal eile ar moltóir.
5. Comórtas ardáin CLG.
6. An liathróid san iomáint.
7. Séideann an réiteoir é.
8. An fear i gceannas ar an bhfoireann.
9. Gléas ceoil (Christy Moore)
10. Stáid an lae inniu.

r	o	c	t	u	b	a	c	ú	i	L	i	n	s	t	a	m	n	i	o
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t	w	d	p	s	e	r	d	o	t	N	c	a	p	t	a	e	n	a	n
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p	l	e	w	r	t	n	p	f	i	t	r	u	a	p	c	e	l	s	i
s	e	m	p	l	e	t	r	c	b	v	o	a	e	r	t	f	h	t	g



Loughmore-Casteleiney Tráth na gCeist.



Newport Ballad Group Champions.



JK Brackens Nuachleas.



Sinéad Grant – All-Ireland Finalist.



Annual Memorabilia Fair

Sunday, November 27th, 2016, 12-4pm
Thurles Sarsfields Social Centre
(beside Semplic Stadium)

This G.A.A. Memorabilia Fair will give customers a chance to browse and search a large selection of match programs, club histories, hurling, football, camogie and handball publications as well as other G.A.A. material in the pleasant and spacious surroundings of the Thurles Sarsfields G.A.A. Centre, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

Collectors and sellers are cordially invited to attend this event, where it is hoped they will find plenty of material to interest them.
Sales positions, free of charge, may be booked in advance by contacting the organisers before November 23rd.

Admission will be €3 with accompanied children free.
The venue will have disabled access, bar facilities and teas & coffees.
It is located within a five minute walk from Thurles Railway Station.

For further information contact:
Seamus J. King: 087-2246245
seamusjking@gmail.com
or
Liam Ó Donnchú 086-6036547,
liam.odonnchu.alfiegeach@gaa.ie

Lár na Páirce G.A.A. Museum, Slievenamon Road, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.
0504 22702. larnapaircemuseum@gmail.com

REGULATIONS Stáid Semple

1. All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following Rules (which are designated to protect the Health and Safety of all entrants to the ground). Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all of these Rules.
2. The management reserves the right of admission.
3. The instructions of the stewards must be obeyed at all times.
4. All persons entering the ground agree to be searched by a member of the Garda Síochána.
5. Every person (including infants) entering the ground must have a ticket.
6. The following are not permitted:
 - 6.1 Entry upon the pitch or engaging in conduct that causes or is likely to cause injury or harm to, or otherwise interferes with, disrupts, hinders, or distracts a person playing in, refereeing or otherwise having a role in a match at this ground.
 - 6.2 Any unauthorised contact with the boundary wall surrounding the pitch or incursion on to the pitch. Any such unauthorised contact or incursion constitutes a trespass to property.
 - 6.3 The climbing of floodlights or other pylons, stands or other buildings. Such behavior constitutes a trespass to property.
 - 6.4 Throwing of objects onto the pitch.
 - 6.5 Remaining or loitering in any gangway or aisle.
 - 6.6 Behaving in an offensive or indecent manner.
 - 6.7 Bringing of alcohol into the ground.
 - 6.8 Bringing into the ground of fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles, distress signals, laser pointers and similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon.
- 6.9 Excessive noise such as that from use of radio sets, air horns, vuvuzelas or other appliances and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind including foul or abusive language.
7. If a person commits a trespass, reasonable force may be used to prevent, restrain or terminate any trespass.
8. Where a person is in breach of any of these rules, or where the management believes that a person constitutes a source of danger to others, or to the ground, such person may be refused entry or ejected from the ground, and reasonable force may be used for that purpose.

Safety and General Information

Supporters are asked to respect the fact that they are entering and leaving the stadium through residential areas.

Safety Notice



In the interests of safety, patrons will not be allowed to enter the playing area after the games.

The policy to prohibit such encroachment in the future has been taken to avoid injuries and possible fatality and has been taken on the advice and promptings of the safety authorities, namely the Gardai, Fire Brigade and the HSE.

The full co-operation of supporters is requested to avoid serious injury and to ensure that games can be enjoyed without resource to fencing or avoidable obstructions to seeing action from all vantage points.

Together we can ensure that the Stáid Semple experience is both enjoyable and safe, particularly for the young and vulnerable.

Smoking Policy

Stáid Semple operates a No Smoking policy except in designated areas of the ground.



Medical Assistance



First Aid Centres are located at the four corners of the pitch and at the centre on both sides.

Should you require assistance please enquire which is the nearest to you from a member of An Garda Síochána or official steward.

Lost Children



Lost children should be brought to Stewards at the Centre of the Pitch on either side.





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