

Co. Tipperary Senior Football Final
Match Programme
2017

Cumann
Lúthchleas
Gael
Tiobraid
Árann



Tipperary Senior Football Championship Final

Clonmel Commercials v Killenaule



Tipperary Minor 'A' Football Championship Final

Galtee-Golden v Moyle Rovers

Stáid Semple, Dúrlas Éile
Dé Domhnaigh, 15ú Deireadh Fómhair 2017

www.tipperary.gaa.ie

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Fáilte ón gCathaoirleach Bard Peil



FÁILTE go léir go dtí cluichí Ceannais Peil Thiobraid Árann i Stáid Semple. Taim cinnte go mbeidh sar cluichí peil spoirtiúla againn idar na foirne ins na dá cluiche cheannais.

I wish to welcome you all on behalf of the Tipperary County Football Committee and the Tipperary County Board to today's County Football finals. Each final promises to be competitive and of a high standard, with divided opinion on all the outcomes – a great day's entertainment is in store.

In the Senior final, Clonmel Commercials, the 2015 champions, will be asked all the questions by a Killenaule side who are appearing in the club's first ever county football final. It will be interesting!

In the Minor final, the big guns of the South, Moyle Rovers, versus the big guns of the West Galtee-Golden. Talented teams! What way will the pendulum swing?

Best wishes to all our referees and officials of the day and our thanks to all referees, officials and officers throughout the county for their dedication during the year.

Playing our Senior and Minor final in Semple Stadium is fitting for the occasion and our thanks to the Semple Stadium committee for the outstanding condition of the facilities and their work.

Welcome also to our generous sponsors, Tipperary Water, whose support of our championships is much appreciated.

Congratulations to the Loughmore-Casteliney team of yesteryear. Warriors all, setting standards for a proud club – 1987 and 1992 great years. Welcome to the players, mentors and their families and hope the day will be enjoyable and an opportunity to reminisce.

Best of luck to all. Enjoy the occasion.

Seosaimh Ó hAnnagáin

Cathaoirleach Peil Thiobraid Árann

Buíochas

We hope you enjoy reading today's programme. It has been produced with the assistance of Tom Maher (Assistant County Secretary), George and Aidan Barry (Clonmel Commercials), Eleanor Lahart (Killenaule), Jean O'Connor (Moyle Rovers) and John Morrissey/John Currivan (Galtee-Golden). Many thanks to Seamus J. King, Jeddy Walsh, Andy Fogarty, Enda O'Sullivan and Tadhg O'Connell for contributing articles. A special word of thanks to Eamonn McGee, Odhran Ducie and Sportsfile for their photographs.

GER CORBETT, Programme Editor



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~ Clár an Lár ~

- 12.57pm Galtee-Golden** amach ar an páirc
- 1.00pm Moyle Rovers** amach ar an páirc
- 1.15pm** Tús an chluiche
- 1.47pm** Leath-am
- 1.57pm** Tús an dara leath
- 2.30pm** Críoch an chluiche
- 3.55pm** Presentation of the **John Burke Memorial Cup** to the winning captain, followed by the presentation of the "Man of the Match" award (sponsored by John Quirke Jewellers, Cahir)
- 2.50pm** Presentation of the **Loughmore-Castleiney County Senior Football Champions 1987 and 1992**
- 3.07pm Clonmel Commercials** amach ar an páirc
- 3.10pm Killenaule** amach an an páirc
- 3.25pm** Pre-match parade led by the **Moycarkey Borris Pipe Band**
- 3.29pm** Amhrán an bhFiann
- 3.30pm** Tús an cluiche
- 4.02pm** Leath-am
- 4.12pm** Tús an dara leath
- 4.45pm** Críoch an chluiche
- 4.55pm** Presentation of the **O'Dwyer Cup** to the winning captain by Seosamh Ó hAnnagáin, Cathaoirleach Coiste Péil Tiobraid Árann, followed by the presentation of the "Man of the Match" award (sponsored by John Quirke Jewellers, Cahir)

MATCH OFFICIALS

Minor

GALTEE-GOLDEN v MOYLE ROVERS

- Referee:** JOHNNY BUTLER (Upperchurch-Drombane)
- Standby Ref:** Michael Heffernan
- Linesman:** Andy Murray
- 4th Official:** Tom McGrath
- Umpires:** Michael Grene, Joe Lowry, J.C. Ryan, Aidan Butler



Johnny Butler

Senior

CLONMEL COMMERCIALS v KILLENAULE

- Referee:** DEREK O'MAHONEY (Ardfinnan)
- Standby Ref:** Seanie Lonergan
- Linesman:** Seanie Peters
- 4th Official:** Bob Ryan
- Umpires:** Stan Barlow, Peter Macken, Evan Barrett, Paddy Noonan



Derek O'Mahoney

A message from Tipperary Club Championship sponsors



THIS is our second year sponsoring the Tipperary hurling and football club 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 the club 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.

Tipperary Water is proud and privileged to be your partners and join you at every step throughout the club championships. Congratulations to all involved, and best of luck to everyone participating in matches today.

Tipperary Water – Stronger Together.

JUSTINE BYRNE

Brand Manager
C&C Gleeson



Intriguing clash in prospect

By: ENDA O'SULLIVAN

TODAY'S minor final promises to be an intriguing clash between South champions Moyle Rovers and West winners Galtee Rovers St Pecaun's/Golden-Kilfeacle.

Moyle Rovers claimed the South Tipperary Minor A football championship this year, for the first time in nine years, after an impressive 3-11 to 1-7 win over Grangemockler-Ballyneale. A three-goal blitz in the opening half, the first two arriving within six minutes of the throw-in, meant it was a comfortable evening for the Monroe based outfit and it was county minor star Rian Quigley who grabbed all the headlines, finishing with a personal tally of 2-2.

Moyle Rovers had it all to do to overcome the challenge of JK Brackens in the county semi-final, scraping over the line 1-13 to 0-14. However, boasting superb talent like Ben Owens, Diarmuid Mulcahy, Conor McGrath, Jack Harney, Dara Bolger and the aforementioned Rian Quigley, who were all part of the county under-17 and under-18 panels this year, the South men will be confident of capturing the Michael Hogan Cup today.

They last won it in 2008 and so far have four titles to their name. Twice they won it amalgamated with Grangemockler (1984 and 1987) under the name Slievenamon and on their own in 2003 and 2008.

Last year's champions Galtee Rovers/St Pecaun's and Golden-Kilfeacle stunned Clonmel Commercial in the county final when, late in the game, Daire Egan kicked the winning point and they'll be hoping to repeat



John Owens (Moyle Rovers) and Willie Tarrant (Galtee-Golden) photographed at the launch of the Minor Football Final. (Photo: Odhran Duce)

that feat again today. In May they captured their third West Tipperary title in a row following a 2-13 to 2-8 win over Arravale Rovers with the two Alans, Byrnes and Flannery, grabbing the all-important goals before going on to account for North champions, Inane Rovers, in the county semi-final, 2-16 to 3-5.

Like their opponents, they too boost of an experienced side with Edmund O'Dwyer, Adam McGrath, Jake Flannery and Shane Ryan all forcing their way into Matt Doherty's county Minor and Under-17 panels this year.

With such underage talent on display, this game promises to be an exciting affair and there is no doubt that many future stars of Tipperary football will be showing off their skills as they endeavor to capture the Michael Hogan Cup.

Supporters will get the opportunity today to see just how strong underage football currently is in the county and just how bright the future is. Playing in a county minor final, in Semple Stadium, is one of the greatest honours and thrills for any young player, made all the more special by the fact that most only get one opportunity to do so and we wish both sides, their mentors and the match officials the very best of luck.



Galtee-Golden



Back row (l-r.): Thomas Wade (Selector), Kevin Hally, Maurice O'Sullivan, Tony Byron, Brian Barlow, Keelan O'Connor, Adam McGrath, Patrick Tynan, Eoghan Brennan, Jim Quirke, Niall Grogan, Jack Fogarty, Alex Ryan, Rhys Byron, Darren Loneragan, Jake Flannery, Ed O'Dwyer, James Tierney (Selector). Front row (l-r.): Shane Ryan, Alan Flannery, Niall Heffernan, Eoin Gallagher, Jack Curran, David Sinclair, Killian Hayde, Andy Byrnes, Derry Ormond, Stephen Moloney, Willie Tarrant (Selector). Missing from photograph: Eoin Marnane and selector Michael McCarthy.

WITH both clubs short on numbers, Galtee Rovers and Golden-Kilfeacle decided to join forces at Under-14, 16 and Minor age groups, back in 2015.

Over the past three years, the combination has worked extremely well – winning the West Minor 'A' football championship three years in a row.

In 2015, the team lost out to Clonmel Commercials in the County Minor 'A' football semi-final. However in 2016, the team went a step further and beat Clonmel Commercials in the county final and return to Semple Stadium today to try and win back-to-back titles.

We wish the team and management the very best of luck today. We thank the team sponsors, families and supporters for all their

help over the years and compliment both sets of club officers for the work they have put in behind the scenes to make the combo the great success it is.

CLUB OFFICERS

Golden-Kilfeacle

Chairperson:	Michael Ormond
Secretary:	John Currian
Treasurer:	Michael Stapleton
PRO:	P.J. Collins

Galtee Rovers

Chairperson:	Katie Burke
Secretary:	John Morrissey
Treasurer:	Michael Barry
PRO:	Liam Bergin



PATHS TO THE FINAL

West Championship:

Round 1 – 29/03/2017

Galtee Golden.....	4-22
Knockavilla Kickams.....	2-06

Round 2 – 06/04/2017

Galtee Golden.....	2-09
Arravale Rovers.....	1-12

Round 3 – 13/04/2017

Galtee Golden.....	1-14
Cashel King Cormacs.....	2-07

West Final – 14/05/2017

Galtee Golden.....	2-13
Arravale Rovers.....	2-08

County Championship:

County Semi-Final – 23/09/2017

Galtee Golden.....	2-16
Inane Rovers.....	3-05

Annual GAA Memorabilia Fair in Thurles

Lár na Páirce, the GAA Museum here in Thurles, will hold a **GAA Memorabilia Fair** in Thurles Sarsfields Social Centre (*beside Semple Stadium*) on **Sunday, November 26th from 12.00 noon to 4.00pm.**

At this Memorabilia Fair, patrons will be given the chance to browse, purchase and search a large selection of Match Programmes, Club Histories, Hurling, Football, Camogie and Handball publications, not to mention a host of other somewhat rare GAA material, and all in the pleasant and spacious surroundings of Thurles Sarsfields Clubhouse. Dealers, Collectors, Sellers and Swappers are cordially invited to attend this event, where it is hoped they will find unusual and rare material aplenty to interest everyone in attendance. Sales positions, free of charge, can be booked in advance and anyone interested should contact the organisers before **November 23rd next.** Admission is €3, with accompanied children free.

For further information on this event, do contact **Seamus J. King** (Tel: 087 2246245) or **Liam Ó Donnchú** (Tel: 086 60365470 or email larnapaircemuseum@gmail.com).

This is one upcoming event certainly not to be missed by all lovers of GAA sports.

Galtee-Golden

Dathanna: Dubh agus Dearg



16. **JIM QUIRKE**
(Galtee Rovers)

17. **DERRY ORMOND**
(Golden-Kilfeacle)

18. **EOIN GALLAGHER**
(Galtee Rovers)

19. **KEVIN HALLY**
(Golden-Kilfeacle)

20. **JOHN O'SULLIVAN**
(Galtee Rovers)

21. **KELLAN O'CONNOR**
(Galtee Rovers)

22. **EOIN BRENNAN**
(Galtee Rovers)

23. **DAVID SINCLAIR**
(Golden-Kilfeacle)

24. **JACK CURRIVAN**
(Golden-Kilfeacle)

25. **EOIN MERNANE**
(Golden-Kilfeacle)

26. **SEAN DOWLING**
(Galtee Rovers)

27. **WILLIAM O'DWYER**
(Galtee Rovers)

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Management Team:

Willie Tarrant, Michael McCarthy (Galtee Rovers), Toss Wade, James Tierney (Golden-Kilfeacle)



Moyle Rovers

Dathanna: Gorm agus Dubhgorm



17. **RONAN QUIGLEY**

R. Ó Coigligh

18. **ANTHONY PHELAN**

A. Ó Faoláin

19. **KIERAN QUIRKE**

C. Coirc

20. **SEAN HACKETT**

S. Haicéid

21. **LOUIS QUIRKE**

L. Coirc

22. **JOEY DEVOY**

S. Ó Dubhú

23. **BRIAN McKEOWN**

B. Mac Eoghain

24. **BRIAN O'SULLIVAN**

B. Ó Súilleabháin

25. **MIKE McGRATH**

M. Mac Craith

26. **GAVIN BYRNE**

G. Ó Broin

27. **CALLUM MEAGHER**

C. Ó Meachair

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Management Team:

Tony Smith, Owen Fogarty, John McGrath, Noreen Burke

MOYLE ROVERS GAA Club

MOYLE ROVERS GAA Club was founded in 1928. In the early years the club depended on local farmers for the use of fields for training. The club mostly used the facilities of St Joseph's School, Ferryhouse and are very appreciative of them for their assistance over the years.

Since the 1980s major development has taken place, such as purchasing of the fields, erection of sports hall, flood lights erected on training field, erection of new entrance and car parking facilities, refurbishment of gym

At present there are five clubs running from Moyle Park – Moyle Rovers Senior Club, Moyle Rovers Juvenile club, Moyle Rovers Ladies Football Club, Moyle Rovers Tennis Club, Moyle Rovers Camogie. The Monroe Sports Centre is also running all year round.

The Club won its first South Senior Football title in 1991, and from 1995 to 2000 we enjoyed the most successful years ever – winning five south and county titles – winning our last county title in 2009. 2007 was an extremely momentous year for our club. Our Junior hurlers won our first ever Munster title and continued all the way to the All-Ireland Final in Croke Park. Unfortunately on the day the Kilkenny side of Conahy Shamrocks were the better side but it was a proud day for our club to see the Sky Blue & Navy of Moyle Rovers in Croke Park.

In 2011 our U14s made history, winning the All-Ireland Féile Peil Tournament. Five players from this panel are on today's panel. These players continue to make history for our club. In 2014 they won the Club's first

CLUB OFFICERS

<i>Chairman:</i>	John Owens
<i>Secretary:</i>	Jean O'Connor
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Frank Burke

County Minor 'A' hurling title and a lot of these players continued on their winning ways with the U21 hurling panel, who went on to win the club's first County U21 'B' hurling title.

In 2015 our club had the great unique honour of Tipperary Minor captains of both the Hurling and Football team. Stephen Quirke captained the Minor Hurlers and Danny Owens captained the football team.

2016 was also a fantastic year with Peter Acheson captain of the Senior Football team, leading them to the first All-Ireland Football semi-final in 81 years, along with club team mates Alan Campbell, Martin Dunne and Ciaran Kenrick. With Declan Browne the only Tipperary Footballer to receive an All-Star, it was fantastic news to see club mate Peter Acheson nominated for an All-Star Award along with four of his team mate.

Our club suffered a great loss last year, with the death of our Previous Club President Mick Morrissey. Mick was known to everyone young and old in our club. Mick was always there for training session, matches, meeting, and social events and was always on hand to help in any way. Mick was always there with a bit of advice for players, mentors and officer alike. Mick Morrissey always had the club's best interest at heart. Mick will be sadly missed on our side-lines.

The Club would like to thank all the people who give of their time voluntarily to help out in so many ways in the day to day running of the club. Thanks also to all the people who support the club throughout the year. We are grateful to our loyal supporters who attend our games with pride in our community. Finally, thank you to our club sponsor Mulcahy Construction. The support from Joe and his family is greatly appreciated.



Moyle Rovers



Back row (l.-r.): Tony Smith, Ben Owens, Sean Hackett, Michael Cleary, Cathal McKeown, Diarmuid Mulcahy, Luke Delahunty, Brian Quirke, Brian McKeown, Luke Fogarty, Sean Cotter, Sam Power, Gavin Byrne, John McGrath, Jean O'Connor. Front row (l.-r.): Owen Fogarty, Conor McGrath, Joey Devoy, Louis Quirke, Rlain Quigley, Cillian Crowe, Jack Harney, Ronan Quigley, Brian Lacey, Darragh Bolger, Kieran Quirke.

PATH TO THE FINAL

25/03/17	South Championship	Moyle Rovers.....	3-6
		Commercials.....	1-8
17/03/17	South Championship	Moyle Rovers.....	3-9
		Ballyporeen.....	0-12
28/04/17	South Final	Moyle Rovers.....	3-11
		Grangemockler.....	1-7
18/09/17	County Semi-Final	Moyle Rovers.....	1-13
		JK Brackens.....	0-14



Moyle Rovers Management Team (l.-r.): Noreen Burke, Tony Smith, Owen Fogarty, John McGrath.

Great to see Killenaule involved but Commercial

By: JEDDY WALSH
'The Nationalist', Clonmel



TODAY'S county final here in Semple Stadium is novel in that fact that we see Killenaule appearing in their first-ever county senior football championship final, 131 years after Templemore were declared the inaugural county champions way back in 1886.

It is a final pairing that few, if anyone, outside of Killenaule, would have envisaged at the beginning of the year. However, on closer analysis, seeing 'The Robins' here today, isn't the seismic shock that some would have you believe.

Traditionally a stronger hurling club than a football club, with 21 South senior hurling titles compared with just two South crowns at senior football, Killenaule come here today as rank outsiders against Clonmel Commercial, but write them off at your peril. There has most definitely being a sig-



Clonmel Commercial's Seamus Kennedy is under pressure from Loughmore-Castleiney's Liam McGee.

(Photo: Eamonn McGee)

nificant rise in the profile of Killenaule football over recent years, and Commercial won't be lured into any false sense of complacency today.

South Tipperary champions in 2012 and again in 2014 the graph for Killenaule football has steadily been on the rise and the county supplied three members to Liam Kearns' senior championship panel this year via Paddy Codd (a former county captain), Jimmy Feehan and Kieran Bergin, after the latter chose to opt away from Michael Ryan's hurling panel.

Add to that trio the likes of former county football keeper Matthew O'Donnell, the seriously talented John 'Bubbles' O'Dwyer, the youthfulness of Cillian O'Dwyer, Paidi Feehan and Liam Maher, and the priceless experience of the likes of team captain Tony Doyle, Declan Fanning and Michael Doyle and you have the backbone of a very formidable outfit indeed.

Under the guidance of team manager Kenneth Browne, Killenaule went through Group 1 undefeated with wins over Drom/Inch, JK Brackens and Kilsheelan/Kilcash before firing a warning shot to all other title contenders with a demolition job on Aherlow Gaels in the quarter-finals at New Inn a few weeks back.

In their semi-final at Cahir on Sunday week last, they got a deserved extra-time win over Moyle Rovers, producing top class football in spells. It was a deserved win from the point of view that they had previously suffered a South Championship semi-final replay loss to the Monroe club at Fethard, but in truth, they should have beaten the Rovers the first night under lights in Ballyporeen. In that disappointing defeat they had learned the more for the repeat county semi-final encounter.

So with just one defeat all season, and that by a single point, Killenaule come to head-

Commercials' experience should see them through

quarters today fully deserving of their maiden appearance on the biggest day of the football calendar in County Tipperary.

Having said all that, there is no doubting the magnitude of the task Killenaule face today against the hottest of favourites in Clonmel Commercials, Munster club champions just two short years ago.

The 2015 county champions are not alone anxious to capture their 17th county title today, but they relish another pop at the provincial crown - the only Tipperary club in history to have broken the almost total Kerry/Cork dominance of that competition. The All-Ireland semi-final defeat to eventual champions Ballyboden/St. Enda's in early 2016, still gives the Clonmel side nightmares, considering they were more than capable that year of ultimate All-Ireland success on St. Patrick's Day

And Charlie McGeever's side comes here today arguably an even better, and certainly more experienced side, than it was in 2015/2016. Unbeaten in all competitions this year, Group 4 of the County Championship, South, and county knock-out games, it is hard to see the Clonmel side, captained by Donal Lynch, not taking the O'Dwyer Cup to the county capital tonight.

In their group they recorded wins over Ballyporeen, Upperchurch/Drombane and Cahir before accounting for Arravale Rovers under lights at Dr. Tom Morris Park in the quarter-final. They produced a storming display in Leahy Park, Cashel, on Sunday week last to dethrone the county champions, Loughmore/Castleiney.

In All-Star Michael Quinlivan, they have exactly that, a player with untold ability and a potential matchwinner everyday. Jack Kennedy is fast developing into the best midfielder in the county while dual star Seamus Kennedy is the engine room that powers Commercials so often, especially in close



Jack Kennedy (Clonmel Commercials) set up another attack as John McGrath (Loughmore-Castleiney) moves in to challenge during the semi-final.

(Photos: Eamonn McGee)

encounters. Add in the undoubted talents of attacking defenders Kevin Fahey, Ross Peters and Kevin Harney, to the electrifying pace of the likes of Jason Lonergan and Pauric Loomam and Commercials look the stronger outfit all told. Their strength in depth too is also significant, the changes at half-time against Loughmore/Castleiney proving hugely significant.

Hopefully this novel pairing will provide us with a fitting finale to the senior football championship today. The wide open spaces of Semple Stadium may suit the pacier Commercials more. Killenaule will do well to settle into the game early on but if they can manage that they might surprise a few. But all things considered it is hard to look beyond Clonmel Commercials, the 1-3 favourites with the bookmakers, completing a memorable year on the Western Road with their sister club St. Mary's having already captured the County Intermediate Hurling Championship.

Good luck to both sides.

Clonmel Commercials

Dathanna: Glas agus Ór



16. JAKE McDONALD S. Mac Dónaill	20. RYAN LAMBE R. Ó Luain	24. CATHAL McGEEVER C. Mag Iomhair	28. FERGAL CONDON F. Ó Condon	32. ALAN BRANNIGAN A. Ó Branagáin
17. RITCHIE CARROLL R. Ó Cearúil	21. RICHIE GUNNE R. Mac Giolla Dhoinn	25. EOIN FITZGERALD E. Mac Gearailt	29. CONNOR McGEEVER C. Mag Iomhair	33. RONAN DUFFY R. Ó Dufaigh
18. JOHNNY HARNEY S. Ó hAthairne	22. ALAN LONERGAN A. Ó Longargáin	26. CONALL KENNEDY C. Ó Cinnéide	30. LIAM MURCHAN L. Ó Murcháin	
19. SHANE FLYNN S. Ó Floinn	23. DAVID LYONS D. Ó Laighin	27. NIALL KELLY N. Ó Ceallaigh	31. PAUL NOLAN P. Ó Nualláin	

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Manager: Charlie McGeever

Selectors: Martin Quinlivan, Tom Ó Ceallaigh, Anthony Shelly, D.J. Dwyer



Killenaule

Dathanna: Dearg agus Búi



16. **THOMAS FITZGERALD**

T. Mac Gearailt

17. **EDDIE O'BRIEN**

E. Ó Briain

18. **MICHAEL FITZGERALD**

M. Mac Gearailt

19. **EOIN BARRY**

E. de Barra

20. **DEAN O'CONNOR**

D. Ó Conchúir

21. **DANIEL GUINAN**

D. Ó Coinneáin

22. **TOM STAKELUM**

T. Stakelum

23. **DENIS FOGARTY**

D. Ó Fogartaigh

24. **JONATHAN BERRY**

S. Ó Béara

ROGHNÓIRÍ

Manager/Coach: Kenneth Browne

Selectors: Michael Gleeson, Anthony Doyle, Niall O'Dwyer

Kitman: Michael Guinan

Physio: Kevin Shelly

CLONMEL COMMERCIALS

FOUNDED in 1934, Clonmel Commercials first taste of county success came in the form of a minor title in 1935. A County Junior title followed in 1940, before the first of the club's 16 Senior titles in 1944.

Three county titles in a row in 1965, 1966 and 1967 really put Commercials on the map. All three teams were led by the great Brian O'Callaghan.

After five county titles and two Munster Final appearances in the 80s and early 90s, the club went through a barren patch before winning their 14th title in 2002 when the team, led by manager Ben Keane, accounted for Aherlow by 9 points.

It would be another 10 years before title No 15 when in 2012, 2011 All-Ireland Minor hero Colman Kennedy put in a 'Man of the Match' performance to inspire Commercials to a 1-9 to 0-5 victory over Thomas MacDonagh's.

It's 2015 and it's Mallow that is perhaps most fondly remembered by all involved in the club. A narrow one point victory over Moyle Rovers in Semple Stadium brought County title No 16 and after overcoming Newcastle West (Limerick) and Miltown Mallbay (Clare) Commercials reached the



The Clonmel Commercials U10 team that recently won the Eddie Hanrahan Tournament.

provincial final for the 5th time where they were pitted against 15 times winners Nemo Rangers. Title no 16 looked like it was on the way back to Cork but Tipperary's 46-year wait for a Munster Club Senior Football title ended in the most dramatic manner after Michael Quinlivan pounced on Seamus Kennedy's long delivery for the winning goal 30 seconds from the end of injury-time sent the Commercials crowd into raptures.

Quinlivan continued his amazing form into 2016 when he became the club's first ever All-Star after a number of eye catching performances in Tipperary's amazing run to the All-Ireland semi-final.

We take great pride seeing a large number of players in the Senior Final today who came through the Juvenile Club ranks. Clonmel Commercials Juveniles provide coaching and training for in excess of 300 boys and girls, the emphasis being on the skills of the game while providing a safe and fun environment for the kids to learn the game and enhance their social skills.

In September the Club held the Annual U10 Eddie Hanrahan Tournament featuring boys and girls teams from all Counties in Munster. In recent years the club has enjoyed unprecedented success at juvenile level and currently we are the South U14A Peil holders and South and County U14C winners.

A vibrant Ladies section also exists within the club. From humble beginnings in 2001, the Ladies Club has grown and prospered and we are now among the leading ladies clubs in the County. Having won the County Junior Championship in 2016 and the Intermediate Championship just two weeks ago after a 5-16 to 3-02 win over Ardfinnan, we will join the Senior ranks for the 1st time ever in 2018.

Finally, the club would like to thank all the people who give their time voluntarily to help out in so many ways in the day to day running of the club, our sponsors and of course our supporters. Na Trachtálaithe Abú!



Back row: Liam Murchan, Niall Kelly, Jake McDonald, Paucir Loomam, Seamus Kennedy, Ian Fahey, Michael O'Reilly, Michael Quinlivan, Richard Carroll, Kevin Harney, David Lyons, Eoin Fitzgerald, Alan Brannigan, Stephen Kelly, Conor McGeever, Conal Kennedy. Front row: Ryan Lambe, John Harney, Jack Kennedy, Donal Lynch, Shane Flynn, Danny Madigan, Kevin Fahey, Luke Moore, Jason Lonergan, Liam Ryan, Paul Nolan, Cathal McGeever and Ross Peters.

CLUB OFFICERS

President	John McNamara
Chairman	Derek Williams
Vice Chairman	Dan McMenamin
Secretary	George Barry
Treasurer	Tommy Morrissey
PRO	Aidan Barry



Ladies footballers celebrating after last week's Munster quarter-final victory.

PATHS TO THE FINAL

- 7/5/17 – County Championship Group 4 Round 1
Clonmel Commercials 0-21
Cahir 3-08
- 24/5/17 – County Championship Group 4 Round 2:
Clonmel Commercials 1-19
Ballyporeen 0-07
- 17/6/17 – County Championship Group 4 Round 3:
Clonmel Commercials 3-17
Upperchurch-Drombane 1-6
- 27/9/17 – County Quarter-Final:
Clonmel Commercials 0-10
Arravale Rovers 0-9
- 1/10/17 – County Semi Final:
Clonmel Commercials 1-9
Loughmore-Castleiney 1-6



Clonmel Commercials Management Team – Dan McMenamin, D.J. O'Dwyer, Anthohy Shelly, Martin Quinlivan, Tommy Toomey and Charlie McGeever (Manager).

First appearance for Killenaule in a County Senior Football Final

KILLENAULE G.A.A. Club was founded in 1885, and is one of the oldest clubs within Co. Tipperary. We would be a club that is mostly known for our success in hurling, rather than football. The club is currently second in the South Senior Hurling Championship Roll of Honour, with 18 South titles on the field of play, but holds 21 South Hurling titles overall.

Unfortunately, Killenaule have never managed to win the Dan Breen Cup, but have appeared in two County Senior Hurling Championship Finals. Moycarkey/Borris beat Killenaule in the 1932 County Final by 7-06 to 5-01, while Thurles Sarsfields beat us in the 1942 final by 8-05 to 0-01.

The taste of success in football began when the club managed to reach the Senior grade in 2004. Killenaule won the County Intermediate Football Championship Final that year, by beating Kilsheelan in the final, which was played in Clonmel. Ever since then, Killenaule have managed to remain a Senior Football Club, since winning promotion to the grade in 2004.

Underage success in football began to follow after that, and history was made when Killenaule won the South Minor 'A' Football Championship for the first time ever in 2006, after a 2-12 to 2-06 victory over Clonmel Óg in the South Final. Goals in that final from Michael Doyle and Brian Murphy helped to secure our one and only South Minor 'A' football title that year, as today's goalkeeper, Matthew O'Donnell, became the first ever Killenaule man to get his hands on that cup. We managed to reach the County Final after that, but lost out narrowly to Thurles Sarsfields in the decider by 0-10 to 0-05, which was played in Cashel.

A County Football title did arrive in

CLUB OFFICERS

<i>Chairperson:</i>	Anthony Purcell
<i>Secretary:</i>	Eleanor Lahart
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Niall Prendergast
<i>P.R.O.:</i>	James Gleeson



Killenaule three years later in 2009. Our minor footballers of that year defeated Borris-Ileigh in the County Minor 'B' Football Championship Final on a scoreline of 2-18 to 2-06 in Boherlahan.

It took a further three years for Killenaule to make the breakthrough in football at Senior level. We won our first ever South Senior Football Championship title in 2012, after beating Moyle Rovers in the final by 0-17 to 1-12, which was played in Kilsheelan. Two years later, in 2014, we travelled to Kilsheelan again to claim our second ever South Senior Football title, beating today's opponents Clonmel Commercials in the final by 2-04 to 1-06.

Today is Killenaule's first ever appearance in a County Senior Football Championship final. What a dream it would be to add a County title to our previous two South football titles. There has been tremendous red and yellow colours up around Killenaule, Moyglass, Ballinure, and Ballynonty over the last two weeks, and to claim our first ever County Senior title on the Field of Legends today here in Semple Stadium, against a fantastic and most talented Clonmel Commercials team, would be one hell of an achievement for our club. Everyone in the club/parish of Killenaule would like to wish Kenneth, his selectors and all of the players, the very best of luck today in the final.

ROBINS ABU!!!

James Gleeson
(Killenaule GAA PRO)



Back row (l.-r.): Daniel Guinan, Tom Stakelum, Declan Fanning, Bubbles O' Dwyer, Tony Doyle, Eddie O'Brien, Joe O'Dwyer, Paddy Codd, Jimmy Feehan, Paudie Feehan, Stephen Browne. Middle row (l.-r.): Gearóid O'Rourke, Michael Doyle, Jonathan Bery, Tom Fitzgerald, Matthew O'Donnell, Dean O'Connor, Eoin Barry. Front row (l.-r.): Eoin O'Connell, Killian O'Dwyer, Kieran Bergin, Michael Fitzgerald, Liam Meagher, Denis Fogarty.

Killenaule's Path to the Final

7/5/2017	Round 1:	Killenaule.....	3-17
		Kilsheelan.....	2-12
24/5/2017	Round 2:	Killenaule.....	2-22
		Drom/Inch.....	2-09
17/6/2017	Round 3:	Killenaule.....	1-13
		JK Brackens.....	0-13
23/9/2017	Quarter-Final:	Killenaule.....	3-14
		Aherlow.....	2-05
1/10/2017	Semi Final:	Killenaule.....	2-16
		Moyle Rovers.....	1-18 (aet)



Killenaule Management Team – Back row (l.-r.): Michael Gleeson (Selector), Kevin Shelley (Physio), Anthony Doyle (Selector), Kenneth Browne (Manager), Niall O'Dwyer (Selector), Michael Guinan (First Aid). Front row: Young Killenaule supporters.

TIPPERARY

Allianz National Football League Division 3 Champions 2017

Back row (l.-r.): Liam Treacy, Emmet Moloney, Willie Connors, Martin Dunne, Liam Casey, Alan Campbell, Evan Comerford, Michael Quinlivan, Josh Keane, Jack Kennedy, Alan Moloney, George Hannigan, Joseph Hennessy, Charlie Manton. Front row (l.-r.): Robbie Kiely, Paddy Codd, Bill Maher, Kevin Fahey, Kevin O'Halloran, Shane O'Connell, Brian Fox, Conor Sweeney, Luke Boland, Liam Boland, Liam McGrath, Colm O'Shaughnessy.





Friends of TIPPERARY FOOTBALL

By: ANDY FOGARTY, PRO Friends of Tipperary Football



IT WAS another busy and very successful year for the *Friends of Tipperary Football*. The Friends of Tipperary Football main objective is to raise funds to support the huge costs involved in the preparation of all Tipperary inter-county football teams, i.e. Senior, U-21 and Minor. Also, the funds raised goes to supporting the Development Squads in the county which is very important in ensuring we can compete at the top level going forward.

The last couple of years has seen tremendous success with the Tipperary senior team reaching the All-Ireland semi-final in 2016, and the minors and U21's reaching the All-Ireland Final in 2015. This year was another successful year with the senior footballers winning Division 3 of the Allianz Football League and gaining promotion to Division 2 for next year. To try to help to ensure that we can continue to be as successful going forward the *Friends of Tipperary Football* have to continue to look at new ways of increasing the level of funds been generated through our fundraising activities.

This year we made a big push to increase the Membership of the *Friends of Tipperary Football* and we were very successful in doing so. The Membership of the *Friends of Tipperary Football* only costs €20, and by joining, the membership not only are people supporting this important source of funds but are in with a chance of winning the following prizes:

- Two All-Ireland Final Football Tickets
- Two All-Ireland Final Hurling Tickets
- Two Tickets for each Tipperary Senior Football Championship matches
- Two All-Ireland Club Final Tickets

- Two National Football League Tickets for each Tipperary League match



Overall winners of the Mr Mister Thurles Annual Menswear Golf Classic John Darmody, Ger Ward, Anthony Ward and Paul Kennedy representing James Nolan & Co Solicitors, Clonmel.

We also held our now Annual Golf Classic in Thurles Golf Club on the first weekend of May which was another great success this year and there was a large number of teams participating throughout Thursday, Friday and Saturday. A special thanks to all our sponsors and to our main sponsor Mr Mister. There is a huge amount of work involved in organising and running a Golf Classic and great credit must go to all the members of the *Friends of Tipperary Football* committee in ensuring that the 2017 Annual Golf Classic was a resounding success. I must pay a special tribute to Martin O'Dwyer who is the main organiser of the event for all the work and effort he puts in to ensuring that it is a success.

You can't stand still and you must be always looking at ways to improve and build on in order to grow and be more successful. In 2017 we did this with the setting up of the Dublin Working Group of the *Friends of Tip-*

perary Football. On Wednesday, 8th February 2017 the Dublin Working Group of the *Friends of Tipperary Football* held their inaugural meeting in Chaplin's Public House on Hawkins' Street. This working group will no doubt be of huge benefit to the fund-raising efforts and to the profile of the *Friends of Tipperary Football* going forward.

The officers of the new Working Group in Dublin are, Chairman Jimmy Darcy, Secretary Jim McAuliffe and Treasurer Michael Quinlivan. Since the Working Group were formed they have been very active in raising funds for the *Friends of Tipperary Football*. On Thursday night, March 23rd they hosted their first event which was a Table Quiz in Chaplin's Public House on Hawkins' Street. Today FM presenter Paul Collins, who is from Annacarty in West Tipperary, was the quiz master on the night. A large crowd attended for what was a great night's entertainment and fun and much needed funds were raised on the night.

The following month on April 28th in Newlands Golf Club they ran a hugely successful Golf Classic which raised much needed additional funds. A special thanks to Jimmy Darcy and Jim McAuliffe and all the com-

mittee for all their hard work in making the day such a great success.

We are fortunate to have officers of the calibre and expertise of Chairman Michael Power (Moycarkey), Secretary Trish Gavin and Treasurer Michael Power (Newcastle) who is also Treasurer of the County Senior Board leading the *Friends of Tipperary Football*. These three people have put huge work and effort in to ensure that the *Friends of Tipperary Football* can help to improve the fortunes of Tipperary football and that the funds raised can help to ensure that Tipperary football continues to be successful going forward. Thanks also to the hard working committee who work continuously to fundraise on behalf of the "Friends". A special thanks to all those who support our fundraising activities throughout the county and further afield. Your support is much appreciated.

Finally on a sad note we lost our esteemed President of the *Friends of Tipperary Football*, Con Ryan of Bouladuff, Drom. Con also served as Chairman of the "Friends" and did tremendous work in fundraising and promoting football in Tipperary. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a nam.



Killenaule footballers who had their primary school education in the smallest school in the parish – Ballinure. This school has just two teachers and usually about 35 students per year in total, but for such a small school it has produced four fabulous footballers who are on the panel for Killenaule at the County Final today. Left to right: Jimmy Feehan, Tom Stakelum, Denis Fogarty, and Paudie Feehan.

Loughmore-Castleiney

County Senior Football Champions

1987 & 1992

By: SEAMUS J. KING



LOUGHMORE-CASTLEINEY senior football team had a very successful year in 1987 winning the Mid and county championships as well as the Tipperary-men's Cup.

The first of these successes came at Templemore on August 30, when they defeated Templetuohy-Moyne by 1-9 to 0-6 in the final of the Mid championship.

In the county quarter-finals the Mid qualifiers met the South and Loughmore came up against Fethard at Cashel on October 4, coming through by 2-6 to 0-10. Their semi-final encounter against Emly was also played at Cashel. On November 8, in atrocious weather

conditions the stronger Loughmore side led by three points at half-time, and a goal by Michael McGrath, twelve minutes into the second half, clinched the game for them on a final scoreline of 1-9 to 0-4.

Loughmore-Castleiney had their third game at Cashel a week later, when they met Commercial in the final on a day scarcely fit for playing football. In spite of this both teams played a keenly contested game, well up to the standard of previous finals and finished level, 2-8 each, at the final whistle.

The replay caused problems. The Munster Club championship was already fixed for November 29, and could not be re-arranged. Tipperary were fixed to play Wexford in the league on November 22, and they wouldn't agree to a postponement. So, the replay had to go on depriving the county



LOUGHMORE-CASTLEINEY – 1987 County Football Champions

Back row (l.-r.): T. Ryan, P. McKeivitt, J. Kiely, P. Lynch, E. Webster, R. Stapleton, T. McGrath.

Front row (l.-r.): F. McGrath, M. McGrath, E. Brennan, P. McGrath, N. Ryan, J. Cormack, P. Treacy, J. Treacy.

panel of many of their best fifteen.

The game was fixed for Holycross and, in much better conditions, was again a very tight game. Loughmore came through on a scoreline of 3-2 to 2-3, with neither side scoring during the last twenty minutes. The winners were helped by two soft goals in the first half, and they led by 2-1 to 2-0 at the interval.

The winning side was as follows: Joe Kiely, Tom Ryan, Eddie Webster, Richard Stapleton, Eamon Brennan, Pat McGrath (capt.), Pat Treacy, Paul McKevitt, Ned Ryan, Tom McGrath, Jim Maher, Frankie McGrath, Michael McGrath, John Treacy, Pat Lynch. Subs: Liam Cormack for Pat Lynch, Gerry Stapleton for Liam Cormack.

Referee: John Moloney (Galtee Rovers)

Selectors: Eddie Webster, Sean Mockler, Tommy Egan, Johnsie Bourke, Michael O'Connell.

Munster Club

The county champions had to line out the following Sunday on the Munster Club championship semi-final. Their opponents were Newcastlewest and the venue was Askeaton. In an incident-packed game, the Tipperary champions were disallowed a goal in time added on, which would have given them a dramatic victory. After a slow start, Loughmore settled down and the sides were level, 2-0 to 1-3 at half-time. They fought



Seamus Bohan (with the O'Dwyer Cup) captain of the victorious 1992 Loughmore-Castleiney senior football team with some jubilant supporters after the county final.



Pat McGrath, Captain of the 1987 Loughmore-Castleiney's victorious championship team, receiving the trophy from Pakey Savage (Ardfinnan), Football Board vice-chairman.

with great tenacity through the second half but tired in the final quarter to lose by 3-3 to 2-5.

In the same year Loughmore-Castleiney retained the Tipperarymen's Cup senior football league, which was played at Boherlahan on September 18, by defeating Cahir by 1-8 to 0-5.

THE VICTORY IN 1992

Loughmore-Castleiney won the Mid senior football final at Templemore on July 25, 1992. There were only three teams in the championship, the other two were Oliver Plunketts (Moynemount/Gortnahoe-Glengoele) and Thurles Sarsfields. Loughmore defeated Thurles Sarsfields in the first round and Oliver Plunketts by 1-7 to 1-4 in the final.

In that year the Mid representatives met the West in the county quarter-finals. Loughmore's opponents at Golden on September 13 were Lattin-Cullen and they easily accounted for the West side by 5-6 to 2-4. In the semi-final played at Cashel on October 4, Loughmore's opponents were Commercials. They dominated the first half but were in front by only 0-4 to 0-2 at the interval. They went further ahead on the resumption, but a Commercials goal brought them right back into the game and a further point gave them a draw at 1-6 to 0-9.

The replay was at the same venue two



weeks later. A fine team effort of grit and determination saw Loughmore-Castleiney overcome their southern rivals. Commercial led by 0-7 to 0-6 at the interval but a Loughmore goal midway through the second half, decided the issue, and gave victory to the Mid men by 1-12 to 0-12.

Loughmore's opponents in the final, which was played at Cashel on October 25, were Fethard. The game ended in a draw, 0-10 each. Loughmore got an equalising point at the end of a five-minute injury time period to win a reprieve. Fethard had led by two points at the interval.

The replay was at the same venue on November 7. In a tremendous game of football, a Loughmore-Castleiney goal in the final two minutes decided the issue. The Mid representatives trailed by a point, 0-5 to 0-4, at half-time and had two points to spare at the final whistle on a scoreline of 1-9 to 0-10.

The winning side was as follows: Declan Laffan, Tom Ryan, Pat Treacy, Noel Kennedy, Seamus Bohan (Capt.), Ned Ryan, John Kennedy, Philip Kennedy, Pat McGrath (0-1),

Tom McGrath (0-6), John Cormack, Michael Ormond (0-1), Michael McGrath, John Treacy (0-1), Pat Lynch. *Subs:* Timmy Cullen (1-0) for Pat Lynch, Richard Stapleton for Noel Kennedy, Frank McGrath for John Cormack.

Referee: John Moloney (Galtee Rovers)

Selectors: Eddie Webster, Pat Healy, Sean Mockler, Tommy Egan, James Meagher.

Munster Club

The county champions had to turn out in the Munster Club championship the day after the county final, which was the worst possible scenario for the club. Their opponents were St. Senan's, Kilkee and the match was played at Templemore. Loughmore-Castleiney had to field a depleted and weary side. They were in front by 1-4 to 0-6 at the interval, thanks to a fortuitous goal just before the interval, when the St. Senan's goalkeeper was adjudged to have stepped behind the goal-line with the ball after saving it. It put the Tipperary champions in a rather flattering position, which they could not live up to in the second half, and were, eventually, beaten by 3-12 to 2-7.

LOUGHMORE-CASTLEINEY

1987 & 1992

PLAYER PROFILES

Pat McGrath captained the team from centreback in 1987 and was centrefield in 1992. Another dual player, Pat won titles at all levels in both codes over a long career. He also represented his County at all levels and is the holder of an All-Ireland senior hurling medal from 1989

The 1992 team was captained from right half back by the dynamic **Seamie Bohan**. His no-nonsense approach got him to win many battles for possession and helped set up crucial scores. Another dual player he represented Tipperary at minor and U21 level in hurling.

Goalkeeper on the team in 1987 was **Joe Kiely**, who gave great service to the club winning Mid and county titles at all levels.

Declan Laffan was goalkeeper in 1992 at just 17 years of age and the youngest player on the panel. He later played outfield in both codes and is the current manager of our senior teams

Right corner back in both years was **Tom Ryan**, who was also captain of the team which won the title in 1983. Tom also won numerous titles at underage level in both codes.

Eddie Webster filled the full back position as well as being a selector in 1987 when winning his 5th medal, his first being in 1973. Eddie played football at all levels for Tipperary and was on the winning Munster Railway Cup teams in 1975 and 1976

Left half back in 1987 and full back in 1992 was the versatile **Pat Treacy**, another accomplished dual player who won county titles in both codes at all levels. Pat also represented his county at all levels in football.

Richard Stapleton was left corner back in 1987, with injury ruling him out of the 1992 deciders. Another dual player,

Richard captained the hurling team to their first Mid senior title in 1983.

Left corner back in 1992 was **Noel Kennedy**, who proved a more than adequate replacement for the injured Richard Stapleton. Noel went on to represent the club with distinction in both codes for many years.

The versatile **Eamon Brennan** was right half back in 1987, with injury ruling him out of the 1992 deciders. An accomplished dual player Eamon won many titles with the club and also represented the county.

Centre back in 1987 and centrefield in 1992 was another versatile performer in **Ned Ryan**. An accomplished dual player, Ned won titles at all levels in both codes and is the holder of an All-Ireland senior hurling medal from 1991.

Left half back in 1992 was the tenacious **John Kennedy**, whose never say die attitude helped the club to victory. Another dual player who gave great service to the club throughout his career.

Paul McKevitt played centrefield in 1987. Always a most dependable and stylish performer Paul's career was cut short by injury.

Philip Kennedy played centrefield in 1992 and was renowned for his high fielding and the occasional foray into the forward line to claim crucial scores. Another dual player, Philip won many titles at all levels with the club.

Right half forward in 1987 and left half forward in 1992, when he won his 5th title was the versatile and athletic **Tom McGrath** who gave sterling service to the club in both codes over a long career. Tom also represented his county at all levels in both codes. He is currently club secretary.

Michael Ormond played at right half forward

in 1992 and used his pace to good effect in creating chances for his team mates. A keen student of the game Michael brought a keen tactical awareness to the team.

Jim Maher lined out at centre forward in the 1987 replay at a rain and wind swept Holy-cross, when he scored the decisive third goal. Another dual player of distinction, Jim won titles in all grades in both codes, and in 1980 captained Tipperary to All-Ireland minor hurling honours.

John Cormack lead the attack in the 1992 decider where his ball winning ability was critical. Another dual player John won numerous titles in both codes and is the holder of All Ireland medals at minor, under-21 and senior levels.

Left half forward in 1987 was **Frankie McGrath**, another dual player who gave great service to the club over many years. A winner of numerous titles in both codes at all levels Frankie was renowned for his shrewd and tactical approach to situations.

Michael McGrath was right corner forward on both teams from where he either created or provided many match winning scores. Another dual player he won honours in both codes. He is the holder of an All-Ireland under21 hurling medal from 1979.

The full forward berth was manned by the long serving **John Treacy**, who was winning his 6th title having being part of the 1973 panel. John amassed a huge collection of titles in both codes. He represented his county in all grades of football. He also served as club secretary from 1983 to 2012.

Pat Lynch lined out at left corner forward in both finals. A fine fielder Pat notched many important scores from his position. Another dual player who won many honours with the club in a variety of grades.

Tim Cullen started in the 1992 drawn game but when introduced in the replay provided the answer to the question "Who put

the ball in the Fethard net ? ". A most accurate finisher he was also an accomplished goalkeeper winning many honours in both codes.

Martin Meagher served the club well over a long career in both codes both as a defender and midfielder. Represented his county in football at all levels.

Gerry Stapleton was another member of the 1973 team to contribute to the 1987 success. Gerry played at all levels with Tipperary during a long and title laden career.

Fr Peter Brennan was another dual player who contributed hugely to the winning of many titles. Injured in the 1987 hurling final loss to Cappawhite he had moved to "pastures new" in 1992. Peter went on to win divisional and county honours with clubs in Mid, South and West Tipperary. Truly, a remarkable achievement.

Liam Cormack was introduced in the 1987 replay where his pace and power were seen to good effect. Another honours laden dual player Liam was more renowned for his hurling exploits over a career interrupted by injury.

Tom Connolly was another dual player being part of a successful 1974 minor team which put the club on the hurling map. He played consistently for the club over a long career.

Tim Connolly was another member of the 1987 panel who played for the club in both codes during a long and successful career.

Eugene Stapleton was another member of the 1987 panel, acting as sub goalkeeper. Won many honours at underage level he is the current club chairman.

A Louth native, **John Lawlor** was a tenacious and versatile defender who shared in many victories during his career with the club.

Joe Ryan was another member of the 1992 panel and contributed to many victories during his career.

KILLENAULE FOOTBALL — cultivating its own tradition

By: TADHG Ó CONAILL

In Classical Roman antiquity, the *Ludis Circencus* or “Circus Games” enthralled the Colosseum and similar amphitheatres every year for an astonishing 135 days. No battles were fought, nor was business permitted or conducted during that time, as the empire and its masses, marvelled in awe and basked in the entertainment of the compelling spectacles before them. Quite simply, the serious stuff was parked, and enjoyment became the currency. Similarly, in Killenaule, when the yearly crusade for the elusive Dan Breen Cup comes up short and the hurling season is consigned to past-tense, footballs are summoned for, and a schoolyard, devil-may-care mindset replaces the rigorous regimen and pressured environment that comes with their annual small ball odyssey. It’s a notion that has intrigued local football coach and mentor Anthony Doyle for years. He explains “when our lads play football they’re a lot more relaxed. Because the hurling schedule is so demanding, there is no window for football training, so when the matches come around there is a tendency to enjoy it more because expectations aren’t generally that high”. Doyle has an indelible link to almost every football success the club has had, and has been involved in nurturing the skills of Gaelic Football in the primary schools of the parish for over two decades. His genesis sprouts from Killorglin’s Laune Rangers and the indigenous footballing doctrine preached on the Ring of Kerry has transmitted to his sons Tony and Michael, who’s natural handling ability and marksmanship has been the hallmark of many a Killenaule victory.

The epoch of this curious journey can be found way back in 1994, when a County Junior A Final was claimed against Borrislisleigh, in which locals still reminisce about the match winning Christopher ‘Valderamma’ Devitt overhead goal.

County U21 B titles followed (1993, 1998 and 2000), all while Killenaule continued to endure its Senior Hurling ‘famine’. In fact, an unprecedented U21 A hurling and football double was on the cards in 2003 when Tony Doyle almost single handedly dragged Killenaule over the line against North champions Ballina. It wasn’t to be however, but the seeds were sown for the following year when a Michael Fitzgerald led Intermediate side lifted South and County titles, and with a consecutive U21 A hurling County title tucked away earlier in the year, it remains the most successful year the club has had to date.

Former coach and Loughmore-Castleiney clubman Tom McGrath is not surprised by Killenaule’s emergence as a football force. “The potential was always there. I actually expected them to make the breakthrough long before now. Their cavalier approach is very admirable, and with two recent divisional titles at Senior level, they fully deserve their place at football’s top table.” Those Senior wins in 2012 and 2014 have certainly heightened the club’s football profile. The current panel boasts no fewer than 11 players who have played football for Tipperary at some level or another. The ageless lionheart that is Declan Fanning was gracing Croke Park in an All Ireland football qualifier as far back as 2003. He was joined on the panel by Tony Doyle, who between 1999 and 2009 represented Tipperary at every grade. Paddy Codd lifted National League Division 4 silverware a number of years ago, and his current Inter-County colleague Jimmy Feehan was nominated for the GAA-GPA Young Player of the year award in 2016.

Killenaule’s harvesting of County finals in football did not cease with that Intermediate success. The 12 point win in the County Minor B final of 2009 against Borris-Iliegh, in Boherlahan reads as one of the most emphatic victories since

the competition’s inception. This afternoon, at a little before 3:30pm, the men in red and yellow, will run onto Tom Semple’s field in a quest for the ultimate accolade. The occasion may lack the thunderous cacophony of the Roman Colosseum, but this team has captured hearts and minds throughout this campaign, and that in itself fuels the aura of many a champion.



Killenaule County Intermediate Football Champions 2004 — Back row (l-r): Tom Shelly, Declan Fanning, Joe Ceasar, Darren Kelly, Thomas Shelly, Patrick Fennelly, Ian Murphy, Jonathan O'Dwyer, Barry Murphy, Johnny Grace, T.J. Maher, Conor O'Donnell, Tony Shelly, Peter Kennedy, Michael Brennan. Front row (l-r): Tom McGrath, Brendan Fanning, Jonathan Berry, Philip Blake, Tony Doyle, Keith Kennedy, Declan Ryan, Kenneth Browne, Michael Fitzgerald (Capt). Missing from photo: Kenneth Cleary, Michael Doyle.

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