

Co. Tipperary Senior Hurling Final  
Match Programme  
2017

# Craobh Chluichí Iomána Thiobraid Árann 2017



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# Clár an Lae

- 12.57 Roscrea** amach ar an bpáirc
- 1.00 Toomevara** amach ar an bpáirc
- 1.15** Tús an chluiche – **Tipperary Water Séamus Ó Riain Cup Final:**  
**ROSCREA v TOOMEVARA**
- 1.47** Leath-am
- 1.57** Tús an dara leath
- 2.30** Críoch an chluiche
- 2.40** Presentation of the **Séamus Ó Rian 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 **TOOMEVARA County Senior Hurling Champions 1992, 1993, 1994**
- 3.07 Borris-Ileagh** 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  
Singer **Katie Shanahan** – All-Ireland Scór Champion 2017
- 3.30** Tús an chluiche – **Tipperary Water Senior Hurling Championship Final:**  
**BORRIS-ILEIGH 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)

## Buíochas

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), Mark McLoughlin (Roscrea), Gerry Delaney (Toomevara), Gerry Treacy (Borris-Ileagh) and Thomas Callanan (Thurles Sarsfields). Many thanks to all those who contributed material – Seamus O'Doherty, Noel Dundon, Jackie Cahill, Shane Brophy, Seamus J. King, Liam Ó Donnchú, Seamus Ó Dubhagáin, Josephine Cahill. A special thanks to our photographers who capture the moments so well – Eamon McGee, Bridget Delaney, John D. Kelly, Odhran Ducie, Sportsfile and courtesy of 'Faces and Places' Borrisoleigh & Ileagh. GER CORBETT, Programme Editor

**Programme Cover** – Included in the action photograph from the 1955 County Final between Borris-Ileagh and Thurles Sarsfields: T. Barrett, M. Butler, P. Delaney, P. Ryan and J. Pryor.





# Fáilte ón gCathaoirleach



**F**ÁILTE roimhaibh go léir go dtí Cluichí Ceannais Iomána Tiobraid Árann anseo i Stáid Semple. Táim cinnte go mbeidh iomaniócht 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 this Sunday afternoon for what promises to be a feast of hurling on one of the great days in the annual GAA calendar.

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 G.A.A. in Tipperary and we are delighted that they have continued their partnership with us this year. We wish them continued success in the future.

To commence proceedings today we have the Séamus

Ó Rian Cup final between two of North Tipp greats – Toomevara and Roscrea. This game will have generated great excitement in both clubs. They each have progressed to the Dan Breen sixteen for next year and adding today's accolade would be a great honour.

In the senior final a thrilling contest is guaranteed with Thurles Sarsfields going for four in-a-row and Borris-Ileigh endeavouring to capture the title, last won by the club in 1996. Unbeaten throughout the championship and winning their respective divisional titles with talent in abundance, it has the ingredients for a final of epic proportions, one which will lift the spirits of hurling followers all over the county.

Today is an extra special day for Toomevara as their county senior hurling champion teams of 1992/'93 and 1994 are being honoured. Our thanks to the Tipperary Star and Young's The Ragg for making this possible and to the committee responsible for the organisation of the event.

I would like to congratulate Tipperary Ladies Football team on their recent All-Ireland success. To the management and players our gratitude for your perseverance and endeavours in ensuring an All-Ireland title for Tipp.

Best wishes to both Referees for today's games and their officials. Fergal Horgan officiates at the Dan Breen final in what has undoubtedly been a great year for him as he refereed the All-Ireland Club and Senior hurling finals. Having done an excellent job on both, we wish him well today. Johnny Ryan referees the Séamus Ó Riain final and in recent years has given an excellent service in all grades in Tipperary. My thanks to all referees in the county for their dedication to the task and to the county referees co-ordinator Jim O'Shea for his organisation in this area.

The Co. C.C.C. and the four Divisions deserve special mention for the progression of the championship. As a result of last weekend's Congress and new changes to the inter-county championship structures, which are believed to be a benefit to club and

county players, we must take stock of the type of championship that we run in Tipperary to fit into the time frame available. This will be a hot topic for discussion over the next number of weeks. We must ensure that we finish up with a championship structure that is fair and fit for purpose.

My thanks to the programme editor and his contributors for an excellent programme. To the management, staff and volunteers of Semple Stadium for the excellent field and facilities at our disposal. Thanks also to my fellow officers for their diligence in organising all match day arrangements.

Finally to all our supporters I hope you enjoy today's games and the experience that is Semple Stadium on county final day. Many thanks for your support today and throughout the year at all our games and may today's game follow in the great tradition of the past and instil hope and confidence in Tipperary's hurling future.

### **MÍCHEÁL DE BÚRCA**

Cathaoirleach Coiste Thiobraid Árann



Toomevara County SHC teams of 1992, '93 and '94 are the Jubilee teams that will be honoured at today's game. Tipperary Star/Young's The Ragg are the co-sponsors in conjunction with the County GAA Board. Photographed at the launch at Young's The Ragg (from left): Jody Grace (Toomevara 1993 Captain), Donie Shanahan (Toomevara Chairman), Michael O'Meara (Toomevara 1992 Captain), Pat Carey (Tipperary Star and Organising Committee), Rosemary Young (Young's The Ragg), Michael Bourke (County Board Chairman), Rose Young (Young's The Ragg), John Costigan (County Board and Organising Committee) and Seamus King (Organising Committee). [• See pages 60-65]

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)



# Meet the Match Officials

## Senior Final Referee

## FERGAL HORGAN



**I**n refereeing this year's Tipperary Water County senior hurling final, **Fergal Horgan** joins a very elite band of Premier County Knights of the Whistle by becoming the fourth to referee the county showpiece game in the same year as refereeing the All-Ireland Final.

The Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams man received many plaudits for his role in the middle of the All-Ireland Final between Galway and Waterford in September and he has risen to become one of the top men in the land, having refereed extensively at all levels. He also refereed the All-Ireland Club Final on St Patrick's Day in Croke Park between Cualla and Ballyea, which the Dublin club won by 2-19 to 1-10.

The other men who achieved the honour of refereeing the All-Ireland Final and the County Final in the same years were:

Phil Purcell in the 1947 final between Carrick Swans and Borris-Ileigh with the Swans winning their first title;

John Moloney in the 1974 final between Thurles Sarsfields and Silvermines, with Sars' winning their 28th title;

Willie Barrett in the 2000 decider with Toomevara completing their three-in-a-row by defeating Sarsfields.

Interesting to note too that the clubs in today's senior decider played in the three other games which featured those referees.

Fergal Horgan is very widely regarded as a referee, not just by the referees committee at county, provincial and national level, but by the players themselves. That's saying something and the players are well aware of his style and of what he will tolerate and what he will not.

His common sense approach to the game and his willingness to let the play unfold makes him one of the finest referees in the game.

He is really looking forward to this afternoon's clash and will be doing all in his power to keep the play flowing as much as possible.

We wish Fergal and his officials all the best for the big game.

### OFFICIALS

*Standby Referee:* John McCormack

*Linesman:* Phil Ryan

*4th Official:* Pdraig Skeffington

*Umpires:* Paul Ryan, John Ryan, Sean Bradshaw, Mickey Butler.

## Minor Final Referee

## JOHNNY RYAN

**T**HERE are few more experienced referees in the country than Boherlahan Dualla man **Johnny Ryan** who takes charge of this afternoon's curtain raiser, the Séamus Ó Riain Cup Final between Toomevara and Roscrea.

In fact, Johnny is no stranger to County Final Day here in Semple Stadium, having been involved in many of the finals through the years, as well as having refereed at the highest level on the national scene too – he has many personal highlights from those days with All-Ireland semi and quarter finals, National Hurling League and the All-Ireland minor hurling final being up there among them.

Johnny is ever ready and willing to referee at all levels from juvenile right up to senior and his vast experience of the game has resulted in him

commanding the respect of players and managements alike. He has been, and continues to be, a major asset to the GAA in Tipperary and on the provincial and national panels as has the reputation of being a non-nonsense, but very fair official.



We wish Johnny well for this afternoon's big game between great rivals Roscrea and Toomevara.

*Standby Referee:* Kevin Jordan

*Linesman:* Michael Heffernan

*Sideline Official:* Aidan Barrett

*Umpires:* Tony Lacey, Willie Crosse, Seamus Manton, P.J. Bowden



# A message from Tipperary Club Championship sponsors



**T**HIS 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



# The two best teams

By: NOEL DUNDON  
(Tipperary Star)



IT DOESN'T always happen that the two best teams in the county end up in the County Final. But, thankfully the two best teams in Tipperary will contest this afternoon's Tipperary Water County Senior Hurling Final here in Semple Stadium, thereby creating an intriguing backdrop to the Premier showpiece.

Defending champions Thurles Sarsfields are seeking



ABOVE – Photographed at the launch of the Tipperary Water Senior Hurling Championship Final were the respective captains – Paddy Stapleton (Borris-Ileigh) and Padraic Maher (Thurles Sarsfields).

(Photo: Eamonn McGee)



their fourth title in-a-row – standing in their way, Borris-Ileigh, a club with tradition, history and culture galore, and a club bidding for their first title since 1986.

The scene could hardly be better painted and the propensity for a mighty battle is well on the cards. And you know, the Tipperary championship badly needs it. Attendances have been very low over the course of the last few rounds, but given the attractiveness of the senior final, and the

LEFT – Borris-Ileigh's Dan McCormack gets his handpass away despite the attentions of Drom & Inch's David Collins during the semi-final.

(Photo: Odhran Dúcie)



# is are in the final

Seamus Ó Riain Cup pairing, Board officials are hoping that this year's final can bring a great crowd to help create a lively atmosphere.

Borris' always bring great colour but this year their hurling has been colourful as well. They have taken on the many challenges presented and have overcome them with great flair and confidence. Manager Johnny Kelly has been credited with adopting a system that the players are comfortable with, but the management team – which includes Philip Maher, John McGrath, Philip Kenny and Coach Angelo Walsh – deserve enormous kudos too for buying into the project and helping to oversee it.

Borris-Ileigh are flying high right now, but they know that they must produce their best yet, this afternoon. They will face an entirely different challenge in attack and in defence – how they cope with those challenges will determine whether or not the Dan Breen Cup will have a new home this evening.

It has been said from some time out, that this title was Thurles Sarsfields to lose. That may seem a simple thing to say, and Sarsfields would certainly refute that and point to the challenges they have

encountered this season. They have been tested to the limit, but are still standing tall and the feeling is that those tests will stand them in good stead when the real pressure comes on this afternoon.

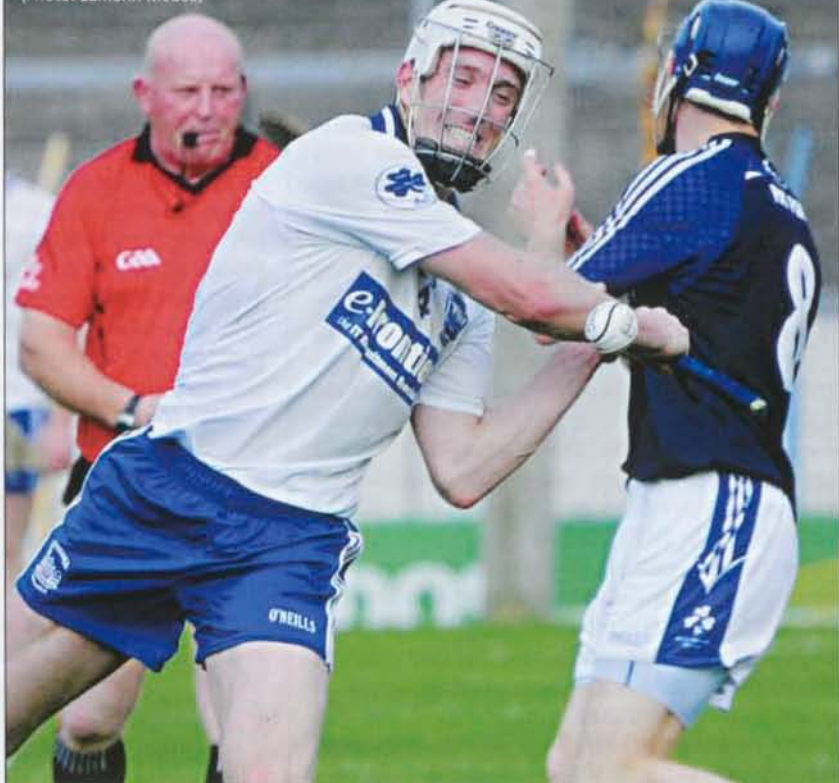
If they play like everybody knows they can, Sarsfields will not be beaten. However, if they are prevented from getting into their usual rhythm, the Blues will have to work very hard to make headway. They will be well aware of the way Borris' set up and will be doing all in their power to counteract it.

One would hope that

tactics will not destroy this game as they have some previous encounters in the championship. In fairness, Sarsfields and Borris' have both played the game with great flair and while they have adopted various different patterns in terms of their set-up, they still strive to attack at all costs and win games by scoring more than the opposition, rather than by confining them to scoring less.

This is one final which has generated a lot of excitement in the last few weeks – let's hope it lives up to the billing. Enjoy the game.

*Michael Cahill (Thurles Sarsfields) shows a face of determination as he clears his lines against Éire Óg Annacarty-Donohill during the semi-final.*  
(Photo: Eamonn McGee)





# Enhancing THE DAY

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



**T**HE pairing for this year's Seamus Ó Riain Cup final will add significant prestige to the occasion. On the *Field of Legends*, Roscrea and Toomevara meet for the second time in this competition, having clashed at the group stage earlier in the season. On that day, victory went narrowly to the Greyhounds and another close encounter is anticipated today. Both clubs have provided All-Ireland winning Tipperary senior captains – Matt Hassett 1961 and Thomas Dunne 2001 (Toomevara), with Tadhg O'Connor (Roscrea) in 1971.

Apart from that, the clubs have provided a generous supply of players to Tipperary teams at all grades over the years, with many of them serving as captains. The referee for the first All-Ireland final between Tipperary and Galway was Birr based Patrick White, a native of Toomevara parish.

St. Cronan's Park, Roscrea, which hosted four All-Ireland Senior Hurling finals, was also the venue for the Tipperary county finals in 1936 and 1959.

The last time the Roscrea seniors played at Semple Stadium on County final day was in 1985, when Ger O'Connor captained them against Kilruane MacDonaghs. The team included many players who had worn and others who would wear the blue and gold at senior level including Tadhg O'Connor, Kevin O'Connor, Francis Loughnane, Paul Delaney, Peadar Quealy, Donie Kealy and John Stone. A tremendous second half performance, inspired by man of the match Eamon O'Shea and Dinny Cahill, saw MacDonaghs claim the honours, despite the best efforts of the opposing forward line, which included Micheal Scully who scored 0-5 and is now Coach to the Roscrea team.

The club of course has a great tradition, playing in their first county final against Thurles Sarsfields in 1936. In the nineteen seasons from 1967 to 1985, they appeared in 13 county finals, winning six, while adding two Munster and an All-Ireland title to their roll of honour. Memories are still clear of the John Dillon led team winning the club's first county title in 1968, when Thurles



Philip Fogarty (Holycross-Ballycahill) moves in to challenge Roscrea's Shane Fletcher during the Ó Riain Cup semi-final.  
(Photo: Odhran Dúile)

Sarsfields could not stop the Roscrea machine, inspired by many great players including Kieran Carey, Patsy Rowland, Tadhg O'Connor, Mick Minogue, Francis Loughnane, Joe Tynan, Mickey Nolan and Liam Brussels.

Since 1985, Roscrea have only reached the county semi-final once, in 2004, when they also won their most recent North title, before losing to the Éire Óg-Golden combo. Today will give them valuable experience of the big day and with the North Minor title won for the first time since 2003, following a recent victory over Toomevara, and an epic extra time county semi-final win over Cashel there are firm indications that the club is progressing. Returning to play for the Dan Breen Cup next year is a deserved reward for their year's work.

Toomevara's glorious history was very much in the distant past – apart from 1960 – until the breakthrough by the 1992 /93/94 teams, which are being honoured here today. Martin Kennedy's 3-1 in the 1931 final helped his club to an easy win over Moycarkey-Borris and as captain he was the first man to receive the Dan Breen Cup. Billy Donovan was next to do so, when Toomevara surprised Thurles Sarsfields in 1960 at Templemore.

The club reached the county final again in 1961, but 'the Blues' reversed the result on a day



of difficult circumstances for the northerners, because Gerry Hough died in a traffic accident a couple of weeks earlier. Toomevara is second only to Thurles Sarsfields on the list of county titles won.

This proud club owes its modern revival to the wise members who established a Bord na nÓg section in the 1970s and with Minor and Under-21 titles claimed from the mid 1980s, following multiple under-12, 14 and 16 success, it was only a matter of time until the green and gold returned to the top of Tipperary hurling.

In the seventeen campaigns, 1992 to 2008, Toomevara won 11 County titles and were beaten in the 1996 final. They embellished those wins with three Munster club titles, but suffered the heartbreak of defeat in the All-Ireland final, when Galway's Sarsfields pipped them at Croke Park on St Patrick's day 1994. The club lost an epic All-Ireland semi-final to Kilkenny's Ballyhale Shamrocks at Portlaoise in 2007.

Michael O'Meara was the captain of the 1992 team and therefore became the first clubman to lift the Dan Breen cup in thirty two years. After that breakthrough, it became a lot easier!

The current North Tipperary Chairman, Dan Kennedy, who hurled for Toomevara, has been domiciled in Roscrea for many years, where he has worked hard to promote Gaelic Games at under age and adult levels. He famously won a Munster Inter-Firm hurling title with Antigen Ltd, when they beat town rivals the Bacon Factory in the Munster Final, played in January 1971. Pat Mc Grath, another Toomevara hurler and later a referee, was a key member of the Antigen team and scored the vital second half goal in a one point victory. Unfortunately, Clover Meats (Waterford) beat Antigen Ltd. by 3-10 to 3-9 in the All-Ireland final in April.

I spent many years involved with the Roscrea Hurling club and loved the excitement of big



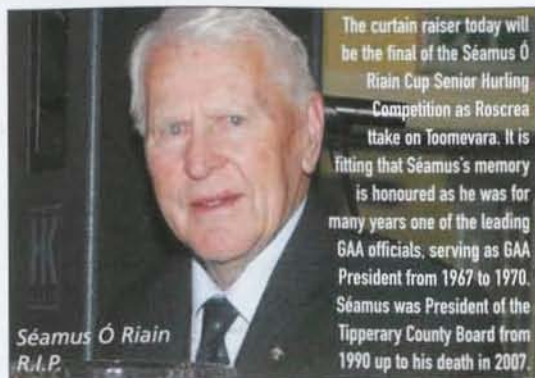
Toomevara's Benny Dunne attempts to break through the challenge of JK Brackens players during in the Séamus Ó Riain Cup semi-final.

(Photo: Eamonn McGee)

match occasions, which was the norm back in the day. When the club won their last county senior hurling title in 1980, captained by Kevin Brady, I held the impressive title of Equipment Officer! That was the day the late and much loved Roger Ryan, from Toomevara, scored the winning goal against Kilruane MacDonaghs, having come on as a late substitute wearing the number 17 jersey. Roger returned to Toomevara in later years and acted as a senior selector when county honours were claimed in 1998/99/00/01 and '06.

When Toomevara returned to Senior ranks in their centenary year of 1985, following their County Intermediate victory over Clonmore in 1984, which was inspired by the late Jimmy Dunne, they met Roscrea in the opening round of the North championship. Ros hadn't won a game in 1983 or 1984 and seemed vulnerable, but in a turn up for the books, the red and white won comfortably and showed Toomevara what senior hurling was all about. They learned well and reached the North final in 1986 – losing narrowly to Kilruane MacDonaghs. There were some setbacks along the way but the North was won in 1991, the county title followed a year later and you know the rest! The two clubs competing for the Seamus Ó Riain cup in 2017 have a proud heritage and no doubt their current teams will enhance it.

Today, as the teams prepare for the throw in, we remember two wonderful Gaels who sadly are no longer with us – Hugh McDonnell (Roscrea) and Frankie Ryan (Toomevara). Words are unnecessary.



The curtain raiser today will be the final of the Séamus Ó Riain Cup Senior Hurling Competition as Roscrea take on Toomevara. It is fitting that Séamus's memory is honoured as he was for many years one of the leading GAA officials, serving as GAA President from 1967 to 1970. Séamus was President of the Tipperary County Board from 1990 up to his death in 2007.

Séamus Ó Riain  
R.I.P.





# Fundúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha

TUILLEANN teanga na Gaeilge ómós agus gean mór ag gach leibhéal den Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, ach go minic ní bhíonn sé éasca a theacht ar bhealaí praiticiúla chun sin a léiriú, go háirithe acu siúd nach bhfuil chomh líofa sa teanga agus ba mhaith leo a bheith.

Is ar an údar sin a bunaíodh Fundúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha i mbliana chun cuidiú a thabhairt do gach cumann sa sa tír atá ag iarraidh an Ghaeilge a chur chun tosaigh i measc a gcuid baill féin.

In ómós an Iar-Uachtaráin agus an iar-iománaí Joe McDonagh atá an scéim ainmnithe agus tá sé leagtha amach ar bhealach a dhéanann oibair na gclubanna i bhfad níos éasca agus iad i mbun na hoibre.

An chúis atá leis sin go bhfuil go leor tacaíochta le fáil ón eagraíocht Glór nan Gael.

Níl le déanamh ag an gclub ach táille €30 a íoc a chlúdaíonn iad ar feadh tréimhse 3 bliana agus a luaitear agus a bhíonn sin déanta beidh gach cúnamh le fáil acu ó Glór na nGael agus Bonn Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha le fáil acu le crochadh ina gclub-theach, ach toradh sásúil a bheith ar a gcuid oibre.

Tá oibríthe ag Glór nan Gael i ngach ceantar den tír agus iadsan sásta a dhul isteach i gclubanna agus cabhair

agus comhairle a thabhairt maidir le gníomhartha agus imeachtaí a a spreagfaidh úsáid agus foghlaim na Gaeilge i measc na mball.

Tá liosta gníomhaíochtaí ina bhfuil 70 rud nach bhfuil deacair a dhéanamh aonaithe mar bhunchloch – rudaí simplí praiticiúla. Ar chuid acu sin tá dhá-theangachas a bheith i réim ar fhógraíocht, suíomh idirlín an chlub, ranganna a chur ar fáil, páirt a ghlacadh i 'Seachtain na Gaeilge', seisiún traenála trí Ghaeilge nó ciorcail comhrá a eagrú agus a leithéid sin.

Is rudaí simplí iad ar fad nach bhfuil mórán deacracht lena n-eagrú ná le iad a chur chun cinn agus is iontach an deis í an Ffundúireacht do chlubanna a ndualgais agus a meas ar an teanga a chomhlíonadh agus a chur chun cinn.

Is fearr ná sín fós gur féidir le clubanna atá cláraithe deontas a lorg ó Ffundúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha chun cuidiú lena ngníomhaíochtaí ar son na teanga a chur i gcrích.

Cuirfidh an Ffundúireacht maoiniú meaitseála ón chiste ar fáil d'imeachtaí r bhonn €2 do gach €1 a chuireann an club féin ar fáil – uasmhéid €400.

Déan teagmháil le Glór na nGael ag [clg@glornangael.ie](mailto:clg@glornangael.ie) nó

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## Fundúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha

is a practical and simple way to honour one of our greatest Gaels, the late **Joe McDonagh**, and to ensure that one the passions nearest to his heart lives on.

ag oifigi s'againn chun labhairt le ball foirne i do cheantar féin faoin chlárú leis an Ffundúireacht. Tá táille €30 chun clárú ar feadh tréimhse bliana féilire.

Gael go smior ab ea Seosamh Mac Donncha agus níl bealach is fearr ag clubanna Chumann Lúthchleas Gael lena n-omós a léiriú dósan agus don chultúr agus don teanga a raibh grá aige di, ná tacú leis an scéim seo.

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Foundation**

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# Senior level beckons for victors

By: SHANE BROPHY  
(Nenagh Guardian)



**A**NYONE who left MacDonagh Park in Cloughjordan on Sunday 30th April last when Toomevara edged Roscrea in the very first game of Séamus Ó Riain Cup wouldn't have been foolish to suggest that they would be the last two standing come the final.



Roscrea's Evan Fitzpatrick is challenged by Shane Ryan (Holycross-Ballycahill) during the semi-final.

(Photo: Odhran Duce)

Just over five months later it has come to pass as the two North Tipperary rivals come head-to-head to claim the trophy named after the former GAA President from the Moneygall club, which fittingly separates the two finalists in terms of location.

The clubs are two of the most successful North Tipperary clubs in terms of winning county senior hurling titles with Toomevara second only to Thurles Sarsfields with 22, while Roscrea have won it on six occasions, along with Borris-Ileigh.

So you would think that winning a Séamus Ó Riain Cup wouldn't be that much to celebrate for either club considering their history, but in terms of getting back into the mix to contend for Dan Breen Cups in the near future, this would be a good starting point.

Both clubs have achieved their target for the season by reaching the final which guarantees them promotion to Roinn 1 for next year, replacing Ballina and Burgess. However, Toomevara and Roscrea will be

keen to seal it with silverware.

It is still a Semple Stadium final which brings with it prestige as well as the motivation to get back there to play in the senior final once again over the next few years.

You would think that Roscrea would have the extra motivation for the game considering the manner they were defeated by Toomevara in their group stage clash, when they led from almost the first minute to the last with the Greyhounds overtaking them in injury time with two late points.

Man of the match that day was midfielder Joey McLoughney, whose return to the panel this year has been one of a number of key factors in terms of Toomevara's upturn in fortunes, but the fact that he will miss the final due to being on honeymoon after getting married last Friday, and with John O'Brien possibly being unavailable also, robs Toome of considerable big game winning experience.

While hurling is touted more and more as a young mans game, the value of experienced heads was never more evidenced than in both sides respective semi-finals when Ken Dunne (Toomevara) and Liam England (Roscrea) played lead roles from centre forward in their victories over JK Brackens and Holycross/Ballycahill.

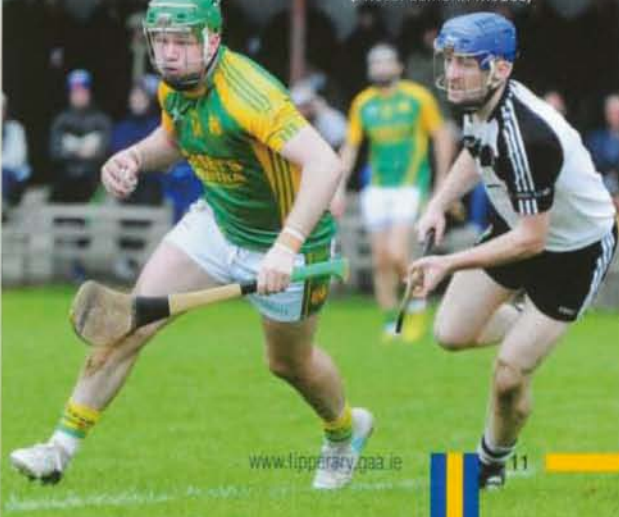
As well as contributing themselves, they benefit others around them in potent forward lines with Mark McCarthy and Colm Canning in great form for Toomevara in recent games while Sam Conlon and Shane Fletcher provide a major goal threat for Roscrea.

It may not be the competition final both Toomevara and Roscrea would prefer to be in at senior level, but a win here could propel them back to there in the not too distant future.

Enjoy the game!

Toomevara's Mark McCarthy in action against JK Brackens' Keith Kennedy in the semi-final.

(Photo: Eamonn McGee)





# County Final Moments

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

## Dominant divisions

THE last eight years have seen the Mid totally dominating the senior championship. It hasn't been just one club either and three (Thurles Sarsfields, Drom & Inch and Loughmore-Castleiney) have been champions, confirming the strength of the Division. There were also two runs of seven years when the senior hurling title remained in the same Division. Between 1903 and 1909, Thurles Sarsfields and Moycarkey-Borris kept the crown in the Mid, while in the 1975 to 1981 era Mon-eygall, Kilruane MacDonaghs, Roscrea and Borris-Ileigh held sway in the North.

Way back from 1894 to 1901, the Mid held the monopoly for eight years thanks to Suir View, Drombane, Tubberadora, Horse & Jockey- Moycarkey and Two-Mile-Borris.

## Keeping it local

THERE have been twenty county finals involving two clubs from the same Division, with the first in 1962 seeing Thurles Sarsfields overcoming Moycarkey-Borris by 1-7 to 1-6. The first all North clash involved Roscrea (5-8) and Borris-Ileigh (3-6) in 1972. In all, there have been 13 all-North and 7 all-Mid deciders. The most recent local encounter was in 2014, when Thurles Sarsfields proved too good for defending champions Loughmore-Castleiney.

## High whites

THE highest tallies of points (white flags) scored in county finals have been recorded by the following clubs –

- Thurles Sarsfields 27 v Kildangan 2016.
- Nenagh Éire Óg 25 v Boherlahan-Dualla 1995.
- Loughmore-Castleiney 22 v Drom & Inch 2007.
- Toomevara 22 v Thurles Sarsfields 2001.
- Thurles Sarsfields 22 v Loughmore-Castleiney 2014.
- Thurles Sarsfields 21 v Drom & Inch 2012.
- Toomevara 21 v Nenagh Éire Óg 2006.

## Western ways

THROUGH the decades there were always good hurling referees in the West Division. Bill O'Donnell (Golden) was the county final referee in 1938, 1942, 1945 (draw and replay), Timmy Hammersley (Clonoulty) took charge in 1955 and Jim Stapleton Solohead was chosen in 1960 and 1962.

John Moloney (Galtee Rovers) was the most famous and refereed every county final from 1966 to 1972 inclusive and then added 1974, 1977 (draw and replay) 1979, 1983 and 1989 to his list. There was also George Ryan (Lattin Cullen), who handled the deciders of 1975 (draw and replay) 1976 and 1982 (draw and replay). Paddy Verdon (Solohead) held sway in 1973, while Paddy Lonergan (Galtee Rovers) was the man in the middle for the 1993 decider.

Paddy Russell (Emly) was in charge of the drawn 2002 Mullinahone v Thurles Sarsfields final, Richie Barry (Cappawhite) and was there for Toomevara's win over Nenagh Éire Óg in 2006.

Since then, Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams has provided three county final referees, with Sean Bradshaw (Thurles Sars v Drom) in 2009, John McCormack (Loughmore-Castleiney v Nenagh Éire Óg) 2013 and (Thurles Sarsfields v Kildangan) 2016 with Fergal Horgan (Thurles Sarsfields v Drom & Inch) in 2012 (Thurles Sarsfields v Nenagh Éire Óg) in 2015 and now Thurles Sarsfields v Borris-Ileigh in 2017.

Seamus O'Dwyer set the refereeing record for KD Kickhams club men, by taking charge of four consecutive finals in 1956/57/58/59 – which coincidentally were all won by Thurles Sarsfields.



John Moloney



# Previous Final Meetings

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



**T**HERE have been two previous county final meetings between today's rivals. The results were -

**14/9/1952 at MacDonagh Park Nenagh, quarter-final:**

**THURLES SARSFIELDS 5-6, BORRIS-ILEIGH 1-8**

A new county final record crowd of 15,000 attended the game and that caused problems, as spectators encroached along the sidelines. The clubs had met in the 1950 county semi-final at Thurles and the defending county champions, Borris-Ileigh, won by 3-5 to 1-8.

The 1952 semi-finals saw victories for Sarsfields over Kickhams (3-10 to 1-6) and for Borris over Carrick Swan (1-7 to 2-1).

The referee was Hubie Hogan (Lorrha), who had come on as a substitute in the 1948 county final loss to Holycross-Ballycahill and four years later was his club's top scorer in their 1956 final loss to Thurles Sarsfields. Despite Paddy Kenny's accuracy - he shot 1-6 for Borris-Ileigh who trailed by 2-4 to 0-7 at half time - Sarsfields had more scoring power with John Maguire 2, Jack Dwyer, Tommy Ryan and Connie Keane all find-

ing the net. Thurles Sarsfields were captained by Tommy Doyle, who lined out at left half back. The Borris captain was Philly Ryan, who started at full forward.

**2/10/1955 at Thurles Sportsfield:**

**THURLES SARSFIELDS 4-10, BORRIS-ILEIGH 0-6**

Following a brief local interruption by Boherlahan and Holycross-Ballycahill in 1953 and 1954 respectively, Sarsfields were back in business for 1955. They trounced Killenaule in the county semi-final by 4-14 to 2-3, while Borris felt the pressure from Kickhams, before reaching the final on a 5-14 to 6-5 scoreline.

The attendance this time was 11,000, but they were disappointed by the quality of the game. Sarsfields led by 3-4 to 0-4 at half-time after playing against a strong wind, so the outcome was obvious from an early stage. The late Liam Devaney was one of Borris' best performers, but there was only one team in it and with Michael Butler 1-4, Tommy Barrett 1-1, P.J. O'Brien 1-0, 'Musha' Maher 1-0 all scoring, plus supplementary points from Tommy Ryan 2, Larry Keane and Connie Keane, the referee Timmy Hammersley (Clonoulty) was not overburdened. Mickey 'Rattler' Byrne was the winning captain.

Action from the 1955 County Senior Hurling Final between Thurles Sarsfields and Borris-Ileigh.





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*Together we are strong*



# County Final Moments

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

## On this date

THE LAST county senior hurling final played on today's date, October 8th, was in 1988, when Loughmore-Castleiney beat Borris-Ileigh, in a Saturday replay, at Semple Stadium by 2-7 to 1-8. Noel O'Dwyer and Conor Stakelum had scored rallying points to earn Borris a draw. The replay was headed for the final two minutes when Pat McGrath shot a rebound to the net to give Loughmore-Castleiney a one point lead. Mick McGrath added a point and victory had been achieved. Eamon Sweeney captained the Mid club to their first county title, five years after Borris-Ileigh had beaten them in their final debut at Cashel, 0-17 to 1-11.

Prior to that, the 1939 final, which saw Thurles Sarsfields beat Cashel by 5-3 to 4-2 at Boherlahan, was the previous occasion that October 8th was the date for the county decider. Patrick Maher (Sarsfields) and John Maher (Cashel) both scored 2-0, as Jim Lanigan captained his club to Dan Breen success.

## Drawn days

IT IS now fifteen years since the county Senior hurling final ended in a draw. Mullinahone and Thurles Sarsfields drew 0-14 each at Semple Stadium on November 3rd 2002 and the Southerners won the replay, also at Semple Stadium, by 2-10 to 1-11, to lift their one and only title. The other drawn finals were in 1930, 1945, 1965, 1975, 1977 1982 1988 and 1992.

## Valuable players

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 performance award since 1989 and always presents a special trophy to mark the occasion.

**Thurles Sarsfields** – 2009 & 2010 Padraic Maher, 2012 Aidan McCormack, 2014 & 2015 Stephen Cahill, 2016 Ronan Maher.

**Borris-Ileigh** – 1981 & 1983 Noel O' Dwyer, 1986 Philip Kenny.

## Last visitor

IT IS sixty four years since a referee from outside the county was invited to take charge of a Tipperary senior hurling final. In 1953, William O'Donoghue from Limerick whistled the clash of Borris-Ileigh (winners) and Boherlahan on October 4th at Thurles. The attendance of 16,000 set a new record for a Tipperary county final. Borris-Ileigh defeated KD Kickhams, while Boherlahan overcame Killenale, in their respective semi-finals.

## Maher and Ryan

ONE of the great traditions of Tipperary hurling is the regular appearance of certain surnames on the county senior team. Among the most popular names are Ryan and Maher, with many others like O'Meara, Leahy, Doyle, O'Neill, Stakelum, O'Dwyer and O'Brien emerging through the decades.

Tipperary's success in 2016 under the Management of Michael Ryan and the captaincy of Brendan Maher prompted the question as to which name has been more prominent in Tipp hurling over the years.

So, I counted those who played championship hurling for Tipperary over the past fifty years (1968 to 2017 inclusive) and discovered that the Ryans hold sway, with 18 to 10 for the Mahers. (Hopefully I have included them all).

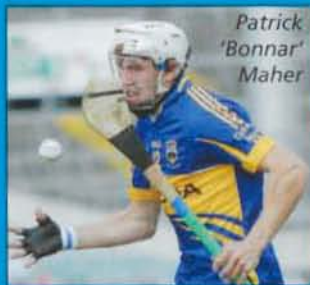
The players involved were –

**RYANS** – P.J., Jimmy, Roger, Jack, Dinny (Sean Treacys), Pat (Floury), Seamus, John, Bobby, Aidan, Declan, Dinny (Newport), Michael (Upperchurch-Drombane), Raymie, Paul, Michael (Templeberry Kenyons), Willie and Gearóid.

**MAHERS** – Liam, Philip, Martin, Shane, Padraic, Brendan, Patrick (Bonnar), Donagh, Ronan and Bill.



Michael Ryan



Patrick 'Bonnar' Maher



# Premier Legends

CHARTING THE CAREERS OF 17 TIPP GREATS  
WILL BE LAUNCHED IN DECEMBER

**A** NEW book due to be launched on Saturday December 2nd in St Patrick's College, Thurles casts the spotlight on seventeen former Tipperary hurling greats.

*Premier Legends*, penned by Tipperary Star journalist Noel Dundon, charts the careers, achievements, the highs and the lows of household names of the ancient game and gives a new insight into what made them the highly successful hurlers they were.

The players featured – Len Gaynor, John O'Donoghue, Pat Fox, Kieran Carey, Michael Maher, Theo English, Liam Devaney, Declan Ryan, John Leahy, Sean McLoughlin, Paddy Kenny, Michael Cleary, Larry Kiely, Mick Roche, Mick Burns, Donie Nealon and Francis Loughnane – are all associated with the the very successful eras of Tipperary hurling and while they are all similar in many ways, they are very different in other ways too.

For instance – Larry Kiely is surely the only All-Ireland winning hurler to represent Ireland at the Olympics? John Leahy is the only player ever to win an All-Star Award without playing in the championship of that year. What of Mick Burns – the most successful hurler to ever come out of Nenagh. Or Mick Maher, who went on to become Chairman of the Munster Council and a GAA Presidential candidate. How did Michael Cleary become known as Skippy, or Billy Devaney as Liam? Why did Paddy Kenny refuse to play for Sarsfields in the 1955 county final? And, how did Donie Nealon and Theo English happen to play on the same team in the county senior hurling final of 1957 against The Blues?

These and many other stories will be told in this compelling account of the hurling greats of The Premier County.

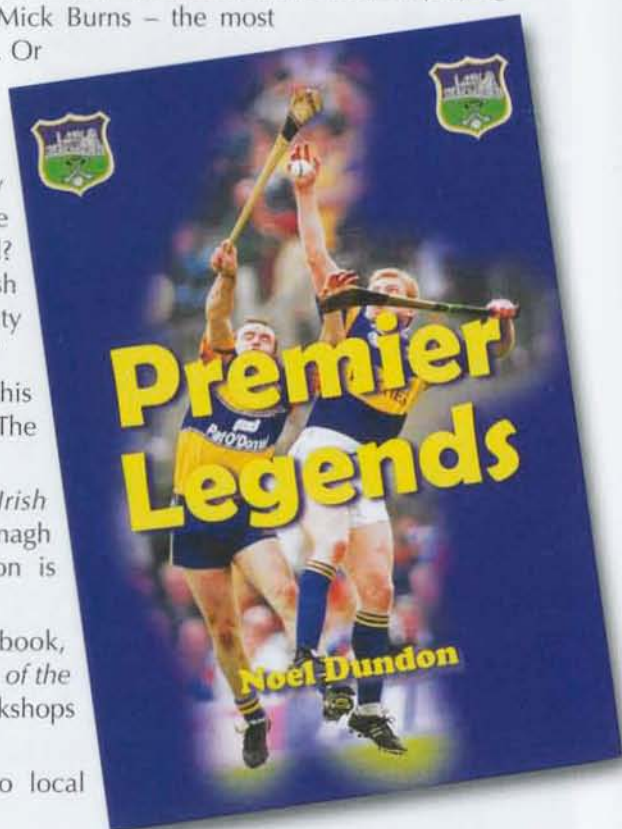
The book will be launched by the *Irish Independent* Chief Sports Features Writer, Nenagh man Vincent Hogan, and an open invitation is extended to all to come along.

The book, the authors second GAA book, following on from the very successful *Captains of the Premier Ship*, will be available in local bookshops thereafter.

Proceeds from the sale will be going to local organisations.



Noel Dundon



# Cumann Iománaíochta Ros Cré

Cathaoirleach:	Brendan Carey
Runaí:	Mark McLoughlin
Cisteoir:	Paul Phelan
Oifigeach Poibli:	Fiona Phelan

## TRADITION

Roscrea bring a strong tradition to Sempie Stadium. Fifty years ago a young Roscrea team lost out to Carrick Davins in the county final. However, they went on to capture Dan Breen in 1968, defeating Thurles Sarsfields. This talented side went on to win subsequent titles in 1969, '70, '72, '73 and '80. They were Munster club champions in 1969 and 1970 and inaugural All-Ireland Club champions in 1971, defeating St. Rynagh's, Offaly 4-5 to 2-5. The game played on December 19th was refereed by one Frank Murphy (Cork).

## ROSCREA CAPTAINS

A number of Roscrea players have brought silverware back to club and county.

All-Ireland Senior Hurling 1971 – Tadhg O'Connor

All-Ireland U21 Hurling 1964 – Francis Loughnane

All-Ireland U21 Hurling 1985 – Micheál Scully

All-Ireland Minor Hurling 1976 – Joe Hogan

All-Ireland Club Hurling 1971 – Donie Moloney

All-Ireland 7 A-Side-Hurling 1979 – Jody Spooner

## ROSCREA ALL-STARS

Francis Loughnane (3) – 1971, 1972, 1973.

Tadhg O'Connor (3) – 1971, 1975, 1979.

Paul Delaney (1) – 1991

John Carroll (1) – 2000

## THE FUTURE

While success has been hard to come by in the nineties and naughties for Roscrea, there are signs that a sleeping giant may be about to awaken. In recent years the Senior team has become increasingly more competitive, contesting a North semi-final in 2016 and now the Seamus Ó Riain final. Irrespective of today's result they will be in the top 16 competing for the Dan Breen in 2018.

They won County Junior Hurling honours in 2015 and are 2017 North Minor champions. A lot of hard work, energy and resources have been invested in underage hurling in recent years and this may be about to bear fruit for the men in red and white.

## TRIBUTE

Roscrea lost one of its great servants this year, the late Hugh McDonell R.I.P. Originally from Burgess, Hugh settled in Roscrea and served with distinction in a variety of positions including club Chairman. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dhilis.



Roscrea's Shane Fletcher fires home his second goal to give Roscrea victory in the Seamus O'Riain semi-final clash over Holycross-Ballycahill.  
(Photo: Odhran Dúcie)



# ROSCREA



Back row (l.-r.): Liam England, Brian Davis, Pat Fitzgerald, Fergus Hannon, John Ryan, Keith McMahon, Davin Flynn, Jason Fitzpatrick, Michael Ryan, Michael Parlon, Padraic Carroll, Sam Conlon, Michael Campion. Front row (l.-r.): Joe Carroll (Capt), Conor Bergin, David Buckley, Shane Fletcher, Conor Sheedy, Daryl Ryan, Enda Moloney, Jason Gilmartin, Colman Treacy, Evan Fitzpatrick, Shane Davis. Missing from photo: Lee Cashin.

## PLAYER PROFILES

Daryl Ryan	22	Barber	Sam Conlon	21	Factory Worker
David Buckley	29	Sales Assistant	Shane Davis	24	Engineer
Shane Fletcher	19	Student	Keith McMahon	28	Factory Worker
Lee Cashin	21	Hurley Maker	Evan Fitzpatrick	21	Factory Worker
Pat Fitzgerald	31	Veterinary Surgeon	Padraic Carroll	34	Recruitment Manager
Jason Gilmartin	18	Factory Worker	John Ryan	23	Software Engineer
Conor Sheedy	23	Student	Davin Flynn	25	Sales Representative
Colman Treacy	18	Apprentice Electrician	Fergus Hannon	26	Banagher Concrete
Joe Carroll	26	Bank Official	Brian Davis	20	Farmer
Jason Fitzpatrick	26	Factory Worker	Michael Parlon	23	Accountant
Liam England	38	Sales Executive	Enda Moloney	21	Apprentice Electrician
Michael Campion	23	GIS Technician	Michael Ryan	24	Apprentice Electrician
Conor Bergin	25	Engineer	Daniel Ryan	18	Student

## PATH TO THE FINAL

- Round 1 – 30-04-17:  
Roscrea 3-13, Toomevara 1-20
- Round 2 – 27-05-17:  
Roscrea 1-17, Newport 1-11
- Round 3 – 13-08-17:  
Roscrea 3-25, Ballingarry 2-11
- Quarter-Final – 10-09-17:  
Roscrea 4-19, Templederry Kenyons 2-19
- Semi-Final – 24-09-17:  
Roscrea 3-14, Holycross-Ballycahill 0-20



Roscrea Management – Ger Fitzpatrick, Micheál Scully, Dan Gilmartin.



# TOOMEVARA



Back row: Conor O'Meara, Paul Ryan, Andrew Ryan, Eoin Grace, John Delaney, Bob Delaney, Darren Cuddihy, Colm Canning, Darren Delaney (Capt), Aidan Cahill, Shane Nolan, Mark McCarthy. front row: Liam Ryan, Jack Delaney, Ken Dunne, Jake Ryan, Josh McCarthy, Cathal Kennedy, Sean Flaherty, Luke Ryan, Pauric Shanahan. Mascot: Tadhg Kelly.

## PLAYER PROFILES

Darren Cuddihy	29	Fitness Instructor
Cathal Kennedy	22	Carey's Glass
Andrew Ryan	25	Teacher
Liam Ryan	21	Student
Jake Ryan	19	Student
Jason Ryan	22	Student
Darren Delaney	25	A Sportsman's Dream, Nenagh
Josh McCarthy	19	Student
Paul Ryan	21	Student
Colm Canning	24	S&C Coach
Ken Dunne	40	Teacher
Benny Dunne	36	C&C Manager
Sean Flaherty	19	Student
Mark McCarthy	22	Carey Glass Administrator
Jack Delaney	21	Student
Aidan Cahill	25	Revenue Worker
Conor O'Meara	26	Arrabawn Co op

Colin Hall	23	Mechanic
Eoin Grace	19	Student
Alan Ryan	21	Student
John Delaney	31	Farmer
Joey McLoughney	29	Electrician
John O'Brien	36	PR Consultant
Shane Nolan	23	Salesman
Luke Ryan	22	Quantity Surveyor
Paddy Grace	25	Teacher
Pauric Shanahan	23	Cctv provider
Kieran Flaherty	21	Student
Mark Harty	23	Arrabawn Co op
Niall O'Farrell	20	Student
Bob Delaney	18	Student
Seamus O'Farrell	18	Student
Conor Delaney	23	Student
Tadhg Fogarty	19	Student
Willie Coffey	21	Student

## PATH TO THE FINAL

### Round 1:

Toomevara 1-20, Roscrea 3-13

### Round 2:

Toomevara 2-23, Ballingarry 1-17

### Round 3:

Toomevara 2-20, Newport 0-12

### Quarter-final:

Toomevara 0-22, Silvermines 1-06

### Semi-final:

Toomevara 2-24, JK Brackens 3-14



Toomevara Management Team (l.-r.): Tommy Dunne, Denis Kelly, Kevin Cummins.



# Roscrea

**Dathanna: Dearg agus Bán**

**Séamus Ó Riain Cup**



	1st LEAGUE	2nd LEAGUE	3rd LEAGUE
CUIL			
CUILÍN			
SEACHAÍ			
GS			
SAM			
POCANNA			



16. E. Ó Maolomhnaigh  
**ENDA MOLONEY**

19. P. Mac Gearailt  
**PAT FITZGERALD**

22. M. Mac Parthaláin  
**MICHAEL PARLON**

25. B. Dáibhis  
**BRIAN DAVIS**

17. F. Ó hAnnáin  
**FERGUS HANNON**

20. P. Ó Cearúill  
**PADRAIC CARROLL**

23. M. Ó Riain  
**MICHAEL RYAN**

18. G. Mac Giolla Phádraig  
**JASON FITZPATRICK**

21. D. Ó Riain  
**DANIEL RYAN**

24. C. Ó Treasaigh  
**COLMAN TREACY**

**Selectors:** Ger Fitzpatrick, Dan Gilmartin, Micheál Scully **Masseur:** Jimmy Cunningham

**Doctor:** Dr. Paul Booth **Logistics:** Kevin O'Donoghue **Stats:** Stephen Ahern





# Toome look ahead with hope

**W**HEN Toomevara senior hurlers dash on to the famed sod of Semple Stadium to-day to contest the Ó Riain Cup final against Roscrea, they do so in the knowledge that they are back in the draw for the Dan Breen Cup in 2018.

For the past couple of years Toomevara have been in transition, but with some

recent success most notably at Under-16, Under-21 and Junior level, the hope is that the Senior hurlers will be contenders once again for Divisional and County honours in the not too distant future.

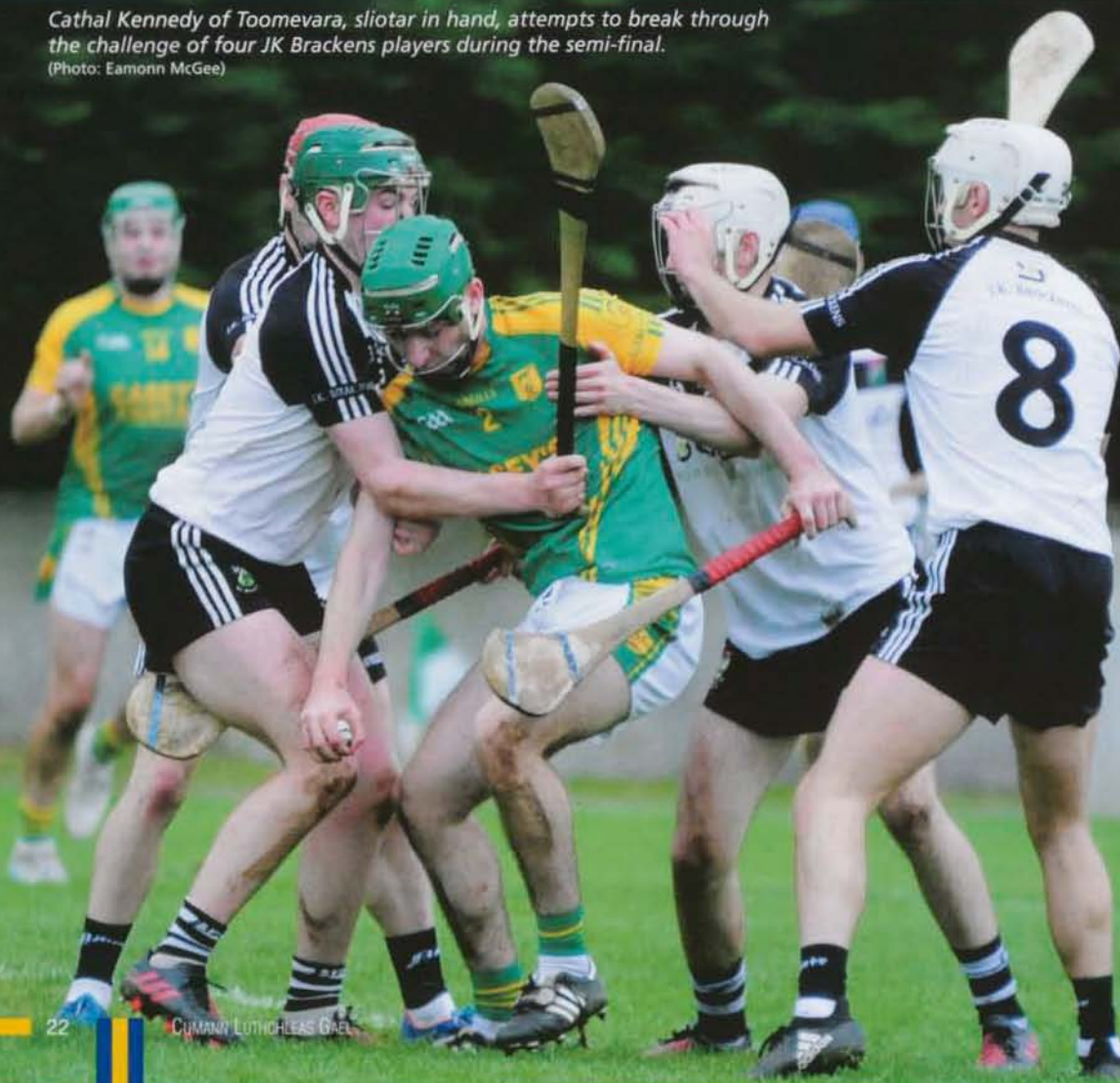
As a club we are delighted to be part of to-day's programme, especially since our senior hurling teams of 1992-'93-'94 are being honoured by Tipperary

County Board in association with the sponsors 'Tipperary Star' and Youngs of the Ragg.

We salute and congratulate our teams of the past on their wonderful achievements and hopefully their presence here to-day will inspire and encourage our hurlers to succeed against Roscrea in what should be another progressive step for hurling in Toomevara.

*Cathal Kennedy of Toomevara, sliotar in hand, attempts to break through the challenge of four JK Brackens players during the semi-final.*

(Photo: Eamonn McGee)





# TIPPERARY

## All-Ireland Intermediate Ladies Football Champions 2017



### Craobh TG 4 i bPeil na mBan

Back row: Evrena Everard, Emma Buckley, Allison Lonergan, Anna Carey, Aoibhe O'Shea, Orla O'Dwyer, Siobhán Condon, Patricia Hickey, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Laura Dillon, Laura Morrissey, Anna Rose Kennedy, Aine Fitzgerald, Nicola Loughnane, Jennifer Grant, Elaine Kelly, Rachel O'Donnell.

Front Row: Roisin Howard, Aishling Moloney, Mairead Morrissey, Caoimhe Condon, Gillian O'Brien, Samantha Lambert, Niamh Lonergan, Maria Curley, Cathriona Walsh, Aisling McCarthy, Sarah Everard, Brid Condon, Elaine Fitzpatrick.

[Photo: John D. Kelly]



# Champions Tipperary attack

By: JACKIE CAHILL



**T**O understand the journey they've been on, it's useful to reference where they've come from.

In July 2015, Tipperary bowed tamely out of the TG4 All-Ireland ladies' intermediate championship against Roscommon in a preliminary round fixture.

Roscommon were narrow 1-15 to 2-11 winners but earlier in the season, Tipp were hammered by 29 points against Waterford in the Munster championship.

Manager John Leahy left after two seasons at the helm and Donegal native Gerry McGill, who guided Dublin to senior glory in 2010, was drafted in as his replacement.

McGill inherited a rudderless group as former Tipp hurler Leahy blew up a storm in 2014 when he axed five players from his squad.

Mairéad Morrissey (an All-Star nominee from the previous season), Jennifer Grant (vice-captain at the time), Kelly Hackett, Samantha Lambert and Patricia Hickey were all deemed surplus to requirements by Leahy and the move caused deep divisions.

But McGill moved quickly to reintegrate the quintet and the healing process could begin.

Tipp performed well in 2016, losing narrowly to Waterford in a Lidl Division 3 League final replay, before winning the Munster championship with final victory over Clare.

When the counties met again, at the All-Ireland semi-final stage, Clare won by just a single point, 3-14 to 2-16, at the Gaelic Grounds.



Tipp's management team: Tony Smith, Shane Ronayne and Alan O'Connor.



Tipperary captain Samantha Lambert is carried shoulder-high after victory over Tyrone.

(Photos: John D. Kelly)

McGill, who had put in plenty of good work, vacated his role and Cork native Shane Ronayne took over.

Ronayne's stock was high, after he guided Mounseabey to an All-Ireland senior club final appearance in 2015.

He worked alongside Cork manager Eamonn Ryan in 2014 and 2015, when All-Ireland senior victories were achieved, and masterminded O'Connor Cup glory for UCC in 2012.

During his time at Coláiste Dún Iascaigh in Cahir, where he works as a teacher, Ronayne has overseen a number of All-Ireland title wins, in both girls' and boys' competitions.

Ronayne is also a former Cahir senior men's team manager and was also in charge of the Tipp ladies when they were senior in 2009, as well as the minors and U16s.

Ronayne brought high quality with him, with highly-rated strength and conditioning coach Alan O'Connor coming on board.

O'Connor, a Cahir man, had built an impressive CV in recent years, having worked with the Tipperary All-Ireland minor winning footballers



# ain Senior status for 2018

in 2010, former county football and hurling champions Loughmore-Castleiney, and the Wexford senior footballers with David Power.

O'Connor was also a key member of the backroom team when Cahir stormed to All-Ireland intermediate club camogie glory in 2016.

Tony Smith and Tomás Mac a tSaoir, a former Kerry senior footballer and goalkeeping coach, also came in alongside Ronayne and Elaine Harte, the multiple All-Ireland winning goalkeeper with the Cork seniors, was another key member of the backroom team in 2017.

The early-season signs were good, as Tipp went one better than last year by landing the Division 3 title, gaining promotion to the second tier of the Lidl League in the process.

They retained the Munster title but the All-Ireland crown was always viewed as the big one.

A first intermediate win since 2008, and the silverware that comes with it, was the big prize on offer.

Senior championship football in 2018 was another carrot dangling in front of Ronayne

*Tipperary's Aishling Moloney brushes past the challenge of Tyrone's Christiane Hunter during the All-Ireland final.*

*(Photo: John D. Kelly)*



and his players and they achieved it, seeing off Tyrone by 1-13 to 1-10 in the recent Croke Park decider.

The team boasted a lovely blend of youth and experience.

Gillian O'Brien was superb at full-forward, Aishling Moloney and All-Ireland final player of the match Aisling McCarthy brought youth, exuberance and an attacking threat, while the likes of Grant and Morrissey provided the cool, experienced heads.

But from 1-15, and with subs Caoimhe Condon and Catriona Walsh also playing their part, this was very much a team effort, as Tipp went through the entire season unbeaten.

There was always a sense of destiny about the Tipperary ladies' footballers this year – and victory ensured that the wheel had well and truly come full circle following some dark days.

The campaign was capped in style when Moloney was nominated for a prestigious TG4 All-Star award – and she could collect one of the prized statuettes at a gala banquet at the Citywest Hotel on November 25.







*"My Photograph of the Year"*



By: **EAMONN MCGEE**  
(Photographer)

The Tipperary-Kilkenny rivalry is one that is as old as the GAA itself – 5 year old Tipp fan Daniel Taylor of Thurles shows his defiance as he finds himself standing beside 7 year old Kilkenny supporter Sean Tierney from Johnstown for Amhrán na bhFiann before Tipp and Kilkenny's National League encounter in April, thus ensuing that this legendary rivalry continues for the next generation



# THINKING ALOUD

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



**A**NOTHER year heads towards its conclusion and after the drama of the high profile inter-county games the spotlight has returned to the clubs. County final day has great appeal not only for the participating clubs, but also for supporters of the game in the Premier county.

The last Senior hurling game of the year (unless there is a draw) will confirm our champions for 2017 and also determine which club will have a shot at winning the Munster championship and try to end the county's All-Ireland 'famine', which will extend to 31 years next St Patrick's day. Thurles Sarsfields will regret the late slip to Ballyea in the 2016 campaign, until the day they regain the Munster title. Borris-Ileigh players have no doubt heard the tales of the glorious 1986/87 season in the build up to this highly anticipated final. Hopefully, the attendance will be sizeable and provide plenty of vocal support to the two teams.

The championship, structured on a graded all

county basis, has been a progressive step towards achieving a more streamlined competition. The quarter-final encores of earlier rounds were unfortunate, but can be addressed for the future. It is always the case that teams are involved in competitions they have little chance of winning, but the solution is to reduce the number of also rans and group them in an environment where they can thrive. Progress below the Premier grade can help a club to establish itself and give them time to prepare for life at the top level. Too often teams are blown away with devastating damage to morale. Hence Toomevara, the club which dominated from 1992 to 2008, started 2017 in the Seamus Ó Riain, Roinn 2 competition. Were they out of place? No, they were participating at the level previous performances had positioned them. The two promoted teams for 2018, which are in opposition today, will have no shortage of motivation to establish themselves at the higher level. Past glories and new traditions!

The inter-county year left us disappointed and with significant regrets, especially at Senior and Minor levels.

## SENIOR HURLING

After the achievements of 2016, expectations were high that the MacCarthy Cup could be retained. Despite Kilkenny's success in that regard, Munster counties have found it more difficult, with only Cork managing to retain the title (1976/77/78 and 2004/05) since Tipp last did so in 1965. Galway's achievement in 1987/88 is also acknowledged.

The Winter was well managed and players were careful about the extent of victory celebrations. A satisfactory Division 1 'A' Group campaign in the League, which saw Tipperary top the table with three wins and one draw augured well, even if the one defeat was by the minimum margin away to Cork. The game of the campaign was most definitely the thrilling draw with Kilkenny under lights at Semple Stadium on March 11th. The concession of two penalty goals undid much of Tipperary's good work and Steven O'Brien had to save the game



Tipperary's Dan McCormack holds possession during the All-Ireland SHC semi-final against Galway. (Photo: Bridget Delaney)



with a late point. The 14,763 attendance enjoyed every puck as Kilkenny sought solace for the 2016 All-Ireland defeat. It was the most talked about contest of the competition.

The knock out stages saw Tipperary overcoming Offaly and a rapidly improving Wexford, before taking a hit against Galway in the final. The Munster championship game against Cork was only five weeks away and the priority meant that training had to be geared appropriately regardless of the risks.

After a Spring of praise for their overall situation – including a sizeable talented squad – opinions changed sharply after the League final.

The championship opener in front of 30,133 patrons on May 21st saw Tipp rated as favourites in most quarters to advance, but on a day when goal scoring chances were missed and Cork played with a resolution not seen for a few seasons, a 1-26 return was not enough to stop the Rebels, who won by four points. Thereafter 'events' intruded on the team's preparations and it took firm guidance by the Management and leadership group to regain the necessary focus. The qualifier draw was favourable and Westmeath came to Thurles for a first ever championship encounter between the counties, with both managed by a Michael Ryan. Tipp never found their best form and were a goal ahead when Darragh Mooney saved brilliantly from Cormac Boyle. In the concluding minutes Tipp added the insurance scores, including a goal by John McGrath and into the bowl they went for Round 2, on a 2-18 to 0-15 scoreline. More good fortune and a home game with Dublin saw greater energy, focus and teamwork which produced a runaway win, inspired by Seamus Callanan's personal contribution of 3-11, even if several scoring opportunities were lost and 1-19 was conceded.

The reopened Páirc Uí Chaoimh hosted the All-Ireland quarter-final with Clare, whose form against Cork had, like ours, fallen short of expectations. Despite a Banner rally in both halves, Tipperary, who led by five points at half-time, always looked like winners and won by three (0-28 to 3-16), with Brendan Maher's long range free near the end demonstrating his dead ball ability from distance while under pressure. Concerns were raised about goal-keeper and defence after this game and in the fortnight leading to the semi-final with Galway, tactical changes were made. Alas our brave effort failed by a whisker, as memories of the League final drubbing were erased. Both

teams had chances of points and goals, which were missed and even though Galway dominated for several periods, they could never get too far ahead. Tipperary's inner defence and goal-keeper responded well, but not every player was as effective as he had been last year and yet again a narrow defeat was the outcome. An attendance of 68,184 witnessed the usual one point winning margin. It was the fifth time in the last seven championship meetings that one white flag separated the teams. Would Tipp have beaten Waterford in the final? Perhaps, but it would have been hard earned.

Looking back, it was a year which promised much and yielded nothing tangible. History was against us with the three game path to retaining the Munster title – it is rarely achieved in this competitive province. Losing to Cork dented confidence and the team did well to recover sufficiently to push Galway to the limit. Tipp have been in the last four on nine occasions in the past ten years, but only two All-Ireland titles have been claimed from five final appearances.

The prevailing wish, even in defeat, was that the team Management would remain in place, with a view to returning to Croke Park for another tilt at the MacCarthy cup in 2018. That arrangement has been formalised for a three year term, so we may now look forward with a sense of optimism.

## PROPOSED STRUCTURES

The new hurling championship structure proposals, which emerged following a Gaelic Football proposal to have two groups of four playing off for four semi-final places, lost support as the 2017 championship came to an exciting conclusion, with two cracking semi-finals and an unique final pairing. A decade ago we had two mini leagues in the hurling championship (2005/06/07), which was not retained, after a three year trial. We already have round robin games – the National Hurling League – where Munster and Leinster teams will be meeting each other. Unless the distinction is clear, we will end up merging League and championship and be confused about which is which. The 2017 hurling qualifier system was as good as it gets for the number of hurling counties who can realistically compete for top honours. Both provincial campaigns were competitive this year, with some unforgettable games and a new final day attendance record set in Leinster, due mainly to Wexford's revival. Running a



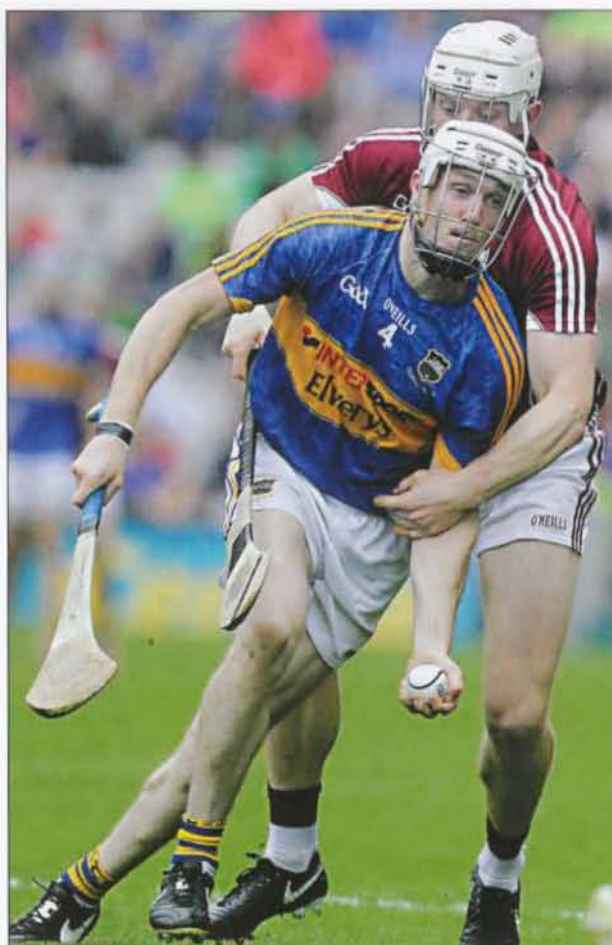
Provincial championship on a league system (ignore the carrot of two home games each!) would end those much anticipated and well attended semi-finals. The integrity of the recent system is that all teams play to win and control their own destiny. A team already qualified for a final might not "give everything" in a final round robin game, while other games could be of no consequence. Championship has to be about everyone playing for victory and all games being meaningful.

Counties gradually realised that their club championships will be compromised with these additional games – many of which are not knock out – while domestic completion dates could be challenging, if the county team(s) progress and with August dates for All-Ireland Finals. It is looking like April would be a club month and the next one might be September. Hardly good enough for the grassroots players, who already give up so much of their lives training for undated games. The Club Players Association made their views clear to everyone and whatever inter-county fixture lists produced must respond to their specified needs. The Special Congress on September 30th was arranged to address proposals for change. The round robin system for both provinces and the Development group was passed by 62% to 38 %, despite alternatives to and reservations with the Central Council proposal. The provision of a meaningful club games' programme probably is more important to the general playing membership than the system used for the inter county championship. The trial period is three years so time will tell if it was a wise decision.

## UNDER-21

Having lost to the eventual All-Ireland winners for five consecutive seasons (2012-2016) there were hopes that the sequence might end. Despite good preparations by Willie Maher and his management, an overwhelmed Tipp side, conceding age, size and experience lost first time out to Limerick. An early scoring blitz unsettled Tipp and by half-time they trailed by ten points. Despite a gutsy display from Ger Browne who scored 0-5 there was no comeback and the 3,076 attendance saw a comfortable home win – 2-24 to 0-19. It was a disappointing and immediate end to a season of hope.

The Minors of 2015/2016 are still growing up, so hopefully 2018 might be the season when success is achieved again. So much depends on the draw and how the venues work out. Mun-



Michael Cahill (Tipperary) holds possession with Galway's Joe Canning in close pursuit during this year's All-Ireland Senior Hurling semi-final.

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)

ster champions Limerick, while having to play three games to win the title, had the consolation of playing them all at home! Supporters make a difference at these games.

The unfortunate experience suffered by the Derry team in the All-Ireland semi-final last August led to much debate about the best way to run the championship. Many supported the idea of the Ulster teams participating in Leinster on a graded system, with Galway either joining them or continuing to come in at the semi-final stage, where they are usually competitive. Others favoured the idea of an open draw, which could present logistical difficulties on a Wednesday night. The Special Congress also addressed this issue by assigning Galway and Ulster's best to Leinster and having the two provincial finalists meeting in the All-Ireland semi-finals. It is an excellent competition and



should be retained as recent winners (2000-2016) Waterford, Limerick, Clare, Galway, Tipperary and Kilkenny will gladly confirm its value. The 2017 All-Ireland Final saw Limerick comfortably beating Kilkenny to claim the title for the second time in three years and extend Tipp's defeats, by the eventual champions, to an unprecedented six consecutive seasons.

## MINOR

Following a narrow win over Limerick in the opening round, at Semple Stadium (4-15 to 2-18) hopes were high that defending Munster and All-Ireland champions Tipperary could follow the Senior team in search of another run to glory. Their semi-final game against Cork at the field of legends on June 29th was a classic. The quality of the hurling was superb, the game went to extra time and Cork saved it with an 83rd minute goal from a free by Evan Sheehan – Tipp 2-18 Cork 1-21. Tipp led by two points at half-time and when Jake Morris put the home team ahead in added time victory looked secure, but Robert Downey saved Cork and brought the game to extra time, during which Darragh Woods fired in 1-4 for Tipp. Despite that Tipperary missed some vital frees and went too long without scoring. It could have been won in Thurles.

The replay four nights later at Páirc Uí Rinn saw an attendance of 8,142 present. They witnessed Cork taking a comfortable lead to half-time 2-10 to 0-8, before stretching it out to 11 points after 42 minutes. A rally boosted by goals from Cathal Bourke and Kevin McCarthy brought it back to a point, before a brace of white flags gave Cork victory by 2-22 to 2-19. These two encounters were among the most thrilling and absorbing contests ever played in the history of the competition. It was no wonder that both team managers expressed regret afterwards that the Minor age limit would be changing to under 17 in 2018. They were not alone in expressing those sentiments. Cork subsequently beat Clare and Dublin comfortably to reach the All-Ireland final against Galway. Their September loss confirmed how close the top four (Tipp, Kilkenny, Galway, Cork) were in ability, but the Irish Press Cup went West and set the tone for a third Minor and Senior All-Ireland double in the last four seasons.

The leadership of team captain Paddy Cadell from JK Brackens was exceptional throughout, inspiring his team mates by his on-field deeds, in all three games. Well done to the Manage-

ment led by Liam Cahill, who having won Munster titles in 2015 and 2016 and claimed the Irish Press Cup last year, came very close to launching another All-Ireland challenge. I recall watching a practice game against Kilkenny at the Dunmore Training Centre back in the Spring, on a wet, dark, windy, cold night, as the selectors went about their business of building a team. People who only go to the championship games, don't realise how much time and effort goes into preparing an inter-county team, which is a valid reason for not criticising players or management whatever the outcome.

## VOLUNTEERS

Our clubs would be struggling without the wonderful body of volunteers which keeps them going year after year. We owe these people a great debt of appreciation for their ongoing commitment. So much of their work is unseen, that many people don't realise how talented and generous they are. All these members want is respect, as they perform their duties with pride and honour. Many thanks to you all.

## 1992

It is hard to believe that the Toomevara team which played Thurles Sarsfields in the county final, draw and replay in 1992, will be honoured here today along with those who joined the squad in 1993 and 1994. The years have flown and interestingly 1992 was the year that Waterford and Galway played in the All-Ireland Minor final, with current Senior Managers, Derek McGrath (centre forward) and Micheal Donoghue (left half back) in opposition. Congratulations to the Toomevara players whose victory started a golden era for their club. May they enjoy today's reunion and the memories, which county final day inspires.

## FOLLOWING THE TRADITION

The appointment of Fergal Horgan to take charge of his first All-Ireland Senior final was a predictable choice. His progress has been impressive and following recent Ulster (2014), Leinster (2016) and Munster (2017) Finals, his readiness was not in doubt. Fergal joined an elite club of Tipperary men who have handled the big game and became the first West club



Fergal Horgan (Referee)





ABOVE – Our Lady's Templemore – Harty Cup and All-Ireland Colleges winners.  
RIGHT – Our Lady's Templemore Captain Paddy Cadell lifts the All-Ireland Colleges Cup.

(Photos: Bridget Delaney)

man to referee the All-Ireland final since George Ryan (Lattin Cullen) in 1985. Tipperary referees have been disadvantaged throughout the decades by the success of our own teams and many top class officials have not been seen as often as they might otherwise have been on All-Ireland day. Fergal has upheld the great tradition and it reflects well on everyone involved in the refereeing world in Tipperary that one of our own was chosen to officiate this year.

## HEALTH IS WEALTH

The Tipperary GAA Yearbook 2017 carried a story about the ill health and hospitalisation of former county Minor, Under-21 and Senior hurler and selector John Kelly (Cappawhite, UCC, Kilruane MacDonaghs, Tipperary and Munster). The ray of hope was provided by a visit from Tipp Chairman Michael Bourke and two previous Chairmen Sean Nugent and John Costigan with the All-Ireland Senior and Minor Cups last September. John was appreciative of the gesture, but unsure about his future. Having taken ill on a flight home from the USA in June 2015, he had been an in-patient since then. It was with great delight that we read in the national media last August of his recovery, after more than 500 days in Beaumont Hospital and his discharge in December 2016. In a 'Hidden Heroes, Extra Mile, Staff Awards' scheme at the Hospital, former patients nominated staff who helped them back to recovery. John nominated Dr. James O'Rourke, Consultant Anaesthetist, to receive an Award. "He inspired me to have confidence and hope that someday I would get home and he kept that light shining for me" said John. In response Dr. O'Rourke insisted that "John was the most committed man to getting home. He had the motivation to get home himself and when you have that it's important."

## MAROON DAYS

The highlight of the GAA year for many Tipperary people was Our Lady's Templemore victories in the Harty and Croke Cup finals.

Not only did the All-Ireland final success bridge the school's gap back to 1978 (then Templemore CBS), but beating the Kingpins of Colleges' hurling, St Kieran's Kilkenny, greatly enhanced the season. The win was based on a tremendous team effort, clever management and a groundswell of support. Following victories by Thurles CBS in 2009 and Nenagh CBS in 2012, this latest success is a great boost to colleges hurling, in the Premier county.

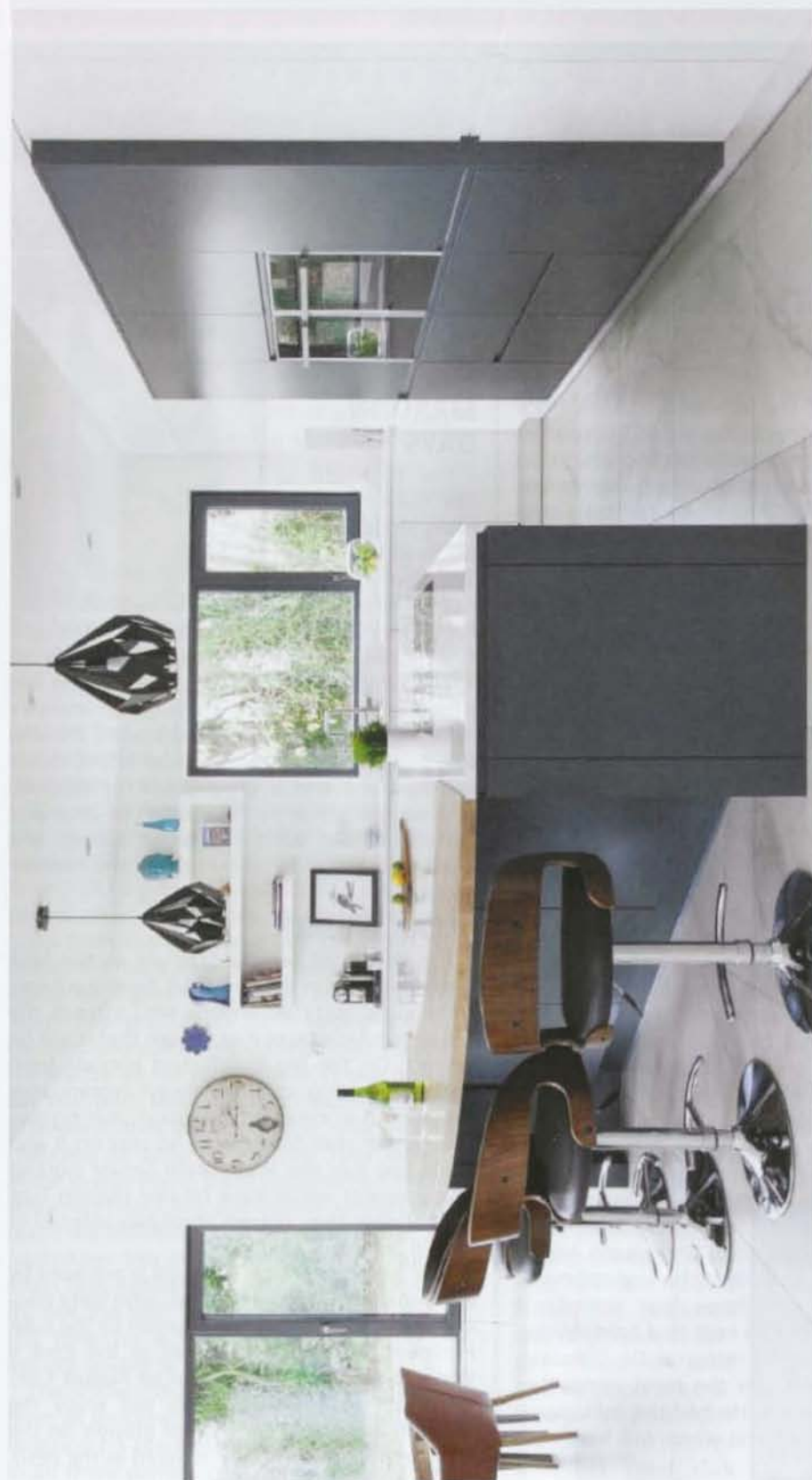
## CLEAR WINNER

The choice of Semple Stadium as the best pitch in Ireland in the new GAA Awards scheme came as no surprise. Anyone who attends the venue regularly takes it as a given that it will be perfect. On the big match days patrons from the participating counties always remark that the pitch is in excellent condition. It is no surprise either that players love to play on it and while last July the Westmeath Senior Hurling Management would have fancied playing Tipp in Mullingar, their players absolutely wanted to play in Semple Stadium.

This consistently high standard is achieved by a group of dedicated personnel, who were honoured with the formal presentation by the GAA President, Aodhan Ó Fearghail at the Cork v Waterford All-Ireland semi-final on August 13th. No doubt today's participants will enjoy the occasion and the experience of playing on the Semple sod, now officially declared as the best!







## The very best of luck to Borris-Ileigh in the County Final

**savvy.**

Kitchens by Andy Spillane

O' Donovan Rossa St. Thurles CO. Tipperary

00 353 504 90515

[savvykitchens.ie](http://savvykitchens.ie)



They say that the way to cure homesickness is  
to go home. And when you can't go home, or  
can't go back, the mind's eye takes you there.

## *Lovely Fair Ileigh*

(by Pat Mahon)

*I know a little winding road, so beautiful to stray,  
When the wild perfume of the hawthorn's bloom,  
and the woodbine skirts the way.  
The heather brown upon the hill, and the wild flowers in the lea,  
The shady road winds on between, to Lovely Fair Ileigh.*

*Ileigh it is a beauty spot, down in a shady dell,  
The green hills fair raise above, where many a brave man fell.  
Here the trees are evergreen, the flowers you'll always see,  
The roses' perfume scents the air 'round Lovely Fair Ileigh.*

*If you wander up the green hill slopes, midst the pure and balmy air,  
You can view the rolling plains below, so lovely bright and fair.  
There nature gives her richest garb to every bush and tree,  
And spreads the wildflowers o'er the vale, round Lovely Fair Ileigh.*

*At evening time in the old kiln field, you can see the boys so bold,  
'Twould remind you of old Knocknagore, in Kickham's story told.  
To see them wield their camáns, so brave and manfully,  
There's many a Matt the Thrasher 'mongst the lads of Fair Ileigh.*

*Yonder stands the little church, and the graveyard all around,  
Where three of Ireland's noble dead, rest in that holy ground.  
There are three green graves, sad I ween, no monument have they  
Where rests in peace the ashes of young Russell, Bourke and Shea.  
But the day is not far distant, and we hope it may not be,  
When we'll raise a monument o'er their graves in Lovely Fair Ileigh.*





# Borris-Ileigh

[https://www.myclubfinances.com/localhome.asp?LL\\_ID=549&\\_ga=2.14304948.2027740901.1506948632-468187229.1506948632](https://www.myclubfinances.com/localhome.asp?LL_ID=549&_ga=2.14304948.2027740901.1506948632-468187229.1506948632)



## Borris-Ileigh GAA Club

[www.myclubfinances.com](http://www.myclubfinances.com)

*Support the fundraising efforts of  
Borris-Ileigh GAA Club, Lower Main Street,  
Borrisoleigh, Tipperary*

<https://www.facebook.com/borrisileigh.gaa>



## Borris GAA / Facebook

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

*Borris GAA is on Facebook. Join Facebook to  
connect with Borris GAA and others you may  
know. Facebook gives people the power to share  
and makes the world...*

[https://twitter.com/borris\\_gaa?lang=en](https://twitter.com/borris_gaa?lang=en)



## Borris-Ileigh GAA (@Borris\_GAA) / Twitter

[twitter.com](https://twitter.com)

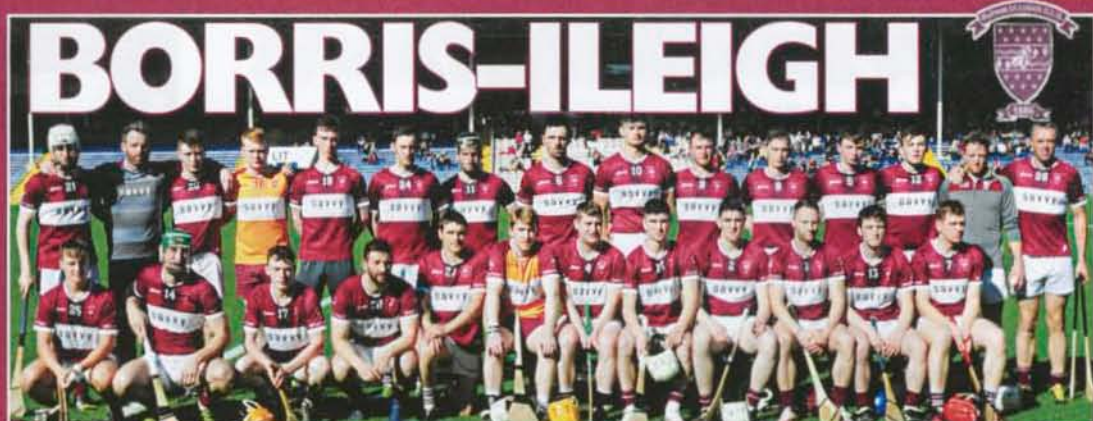
*The latest Tweets from Borris-Ileigh GAA  
(@Borris\_GAA). Official twitter account of Borris-  
Ileigh GAA. One club-one life. Bishop Quinlan Park*



*Borris-Ileigh's Niall Kenny  
gets around the challenge  
of Drom & Inch's  
Michael Campion during  
the semi-final.*

*(Photo: Eamonn McGee)*





Back row (l.-r.): Vincent Stapleton, Rory Kinane, Eoin Stapleton, James McCormack, Shane Kenny, Cathal Bourke, Dan McCormack, Ciaran Cowan, Niall Kenny, Seamus Burke, Brendan Maher, Liam Ryan, Jerry Kelly, Jody Harkin, Aidan Cowan. Front row (l.-r.): Aaron Reid, Conor Kenny, Tommy Ryan, David O'Connor, Keith Ryan, Jack Bourke, Matthew Stapleton, Kieran Maher, Thomas Fahy, Paddy Stapleton, Jack Hogan, Sean McCormack.

## PATH TO THE FINAL

Round 1 – 29/04/17:

Borris-Ileigh 1-13, Kiladangan 1-20

Round 2 – 28/05/17:

Borris-Ileigh 1-16, Loughmore-Castleiney 1-16

Round 3 – 12/08/17:

Borris-Ileigh 4-17, Uppercurch-Drombane 0-15

Prelim Quarter-Final – 10/09/17:

Borris-Ileigh 3-17, Carrick Swans 2-5

Quarter-Final – 17/09/17:

Borris-Ileigh 1-18, Loughmore-Castleiney 1-17

Semi-Final – 24/09/17:

Borris-Ileigh 1-16, Drom & Inch 1-12.

## PLAYER PROFILES

Jack Bourke	24	Bank Official
Thomas Fahy	26	Quantity Surveyor
Paddy Stapleton	32	Teacher
Matthew Stapleton	33	Civil Servant
Liam Ryan	22	Farmer
Ciaran Cowan	29	Electrician
Sean McCormack	26	Trainee Solicitor
Brendan Maher	28	Senior Consultant-Teneo PSG
Seamus Burke	22	Farmer
Niall Kenny	21	Trainee Accountant
Dan McCormack	24	Educator
Jerry Kelly	18	Student
Jack Hogan	20	Trainee Accountant
Conor Kenny	25	Civil Servant
Kieran Maher	21	Cabinet Maker

James McCormack	20	Cabinet Maker
Tommy Ryan	22	Farmer
Maurice Ryan	30	Farmer
Shane Kenny	21	Student
David O'Connor	31	Civil Servant
Vincent Stapleton	35	Priest
Jody Harkin	31	Teacher
Shane McCormack	22	Farmer
Cathal Bourke	27	CEO-Bourke Sports
Aaron Reid	19	Student
Eoin Stapleton	20	Student
Keith Ryan	31	Owner-Tipp Top Tree Surgery
Aidan Cowan	39	Telecommunication Engineer
Rory Kinane	38	Headmaster
Michael Ryan	22	Student



Borris-Ileigh Management Team (l.-r.): Angelo Walsh (Strength & Conditioning Coach), John McGrath (Selector), Philip Maher (Selector), Johnny Kelly (Manager) and Philip Kenny (Selector).

(Photos: Eamonn McGee)



# Borris-Ileigh

Dathanna: Marún agus Bán

SENIOR

	1ain LEATH	2ain LEATH	3ú LEATH
CÓIL			
CÓILÍNÍ			
SEACHAÍ			
BS			
SADH			
POCAINNA			



16. S. Mac Cormaic <b>JAMES McCORMACK</b>	20. D. Ó Conchúir <b>DAVID O'CONNOR</b>	24. C. de Búrca <b>CATHAL BOURKE</b>	28. A. Ó Comhain <b>AIDAN COWAN</b>
17. T. Ó Riain <b>TOMMY RYAN</b>	21. U. Mac an Ghaill <b>VINCENT STAPLETON</b>	25. A. Ó Maoildeirg <b>AARON REID</b>	29. R. Ó Coinneáin <b>RORY KINANE</b>
18. M. Ó Riain <b>MAURICE RYAN</b>	22. S. Ó hEarcáin <b>JODY HARKIN</b>	26. E. Mac an Ghaill <b>EOIN STAPLETON</b>	30. M. Ó Riain <b>MICHAEL RYAN</b>
19. S. Ó Cionaoith <b>SHANE KENNY</b>	23. S. Mac Cormaic <b>SHANE McCORMACK</b>	27. C. Ó Riain <b>KEITH RYAN</b>	

Manager: Johnny Kelly    Selectors: Philip Kenny, Philip Maher, John McGrath  
S&C Coach: Angelo Walsh    Physio: Declan Maher    Doctor: Kevin Delargy



# Thurles Sarsfields

Dathanna: Gorm agus Bán

SENIOR

	1 <sup>st</sup> LEATH	2 <sup>nd</sup> LEATH	3 <sup>rd</sup> LEATH
CUIL			
CUILÍ			
SEACHAI			
DS			
SAOR POCANNA			



- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 16. L. Ó Tiarnaigh<br><b>WILLIE TIERNEY</b> | 21. R. Puirseil<br><b>RORY PURCELL</b>       | 26. D. Ó Cinnéide<br><b>DAVID KENNEDY</b> | 31. C. Ó Treasaigh<br><b>CIAN TREACY</b>    |
| 17. T. Ó Dúghail<br><b>TOMMY DOYLE</b>      | 22. P. Ó Dolinn<br><b>PA DUNNE</b>           | 27. P. Ó Meachair<br><b>PAUL MAHER</b>    | 32. S. de Buitléir<br><b>SEANIE BUTLER</b>  |
| 18. R. Ó Duáin<br><b>RORY DWAN</b>          | 23. S. Ó Derby<br><b>JACK DERBY</b>          | 28. D. Ó Meachair<br><b>DAVID MAHER</b>   | 33. A. Ó Riain<br><b>AIDAN RYAN</b>         |
| 19. C. Ó Lonagáin<br><b>CONOR LANIGAN</b>   | 24. M. Mac Cormaic<br><b>MOSSY McCORMACK</b> | 29. C. Ó Gormáin<br><b>KEVIN O'GORMAN</b> | 34. M. Ó Puirseil<br><b>MICHAEL PURCELL</b> |
| 20. M. Ó Briain<br><b>MIKEY O'BRIEN</b>     | 25. D. Ó Coirbín<br><b>DAVID CORBETT</b>     | 30. B. Ó Dubhuir<br><b>BARRY O'DWYER</b>  |   |

Manager: Tommy Maher Coach: Paddy McCormack Selectors: Eoin Kelly, Johnny Enright Masseurs: Mick Clohessy, Aoife Lonergan  
Team Doctor: Dr. Paul Ryan Backroom Team: Eamon, John & Brian Stakelum, Connie Maher, Tony O'Mara, Gary Loughnane

# BLUES NEWS

## in 2017

2017 has been a very busy year for Thurles Sarsfields both on and off the field.

In early 2017 we embarked on phase two of the redevelopment of our clubhouse. Phase one was completed back in 2014 and has greatly added to our existing facilities in Arús na Sáirséalaigh.

Phase two of the redevelopment included the construction of new toilet facilities and a new kitchen. The new kitchen has enabled us to cater for visitors to the clubhouse on big match days. It will also be a fantastic asset to the club for catering for our own players and members into the future. We have also added a new chiller room for the bar and also a storage room. This development will in time enable us to extend the bar facilities and bring them in line with modern clubhouses around the country.

Progress on the new field development on the Racecourse Road has been slow but this is due in part to the delay in the allocation of the Sports Capital Grant. We have applied for funding for this grant but work cannot begin on the project until we hear whether or not we have been approved for any type of grant aid. We have however removed the hedge in the middle of the field and squared off the back of the site. Ducting has been laid to bury the ESB wires and fencing the perimeter of the site is also due to be completed in the next few months.

In July of this year we again hosted hurling, ladies football and camogie tournaments as



*Thurles Sarsfield's captain Padraic Maher with Laragh, Issy and Emma Griffin after the Mid Final.*

part of the Thurles Sports Festival. There was also a re-enactment of the 1887 All-Ireland Hurling Final between Thurles and Meelick.

Our updated website [thurlessarsfields.com](http://thurlessarsfields.com) went live earlier in the year. The website was developed by Clubify and it is linked with an application compatible with all apple devices. It has proven to be a very popular and accessible means of updating all our club members on the latest fixtures, results, lotto updates and club news. Currently we have close to three hundred subscribers to the application. To subscribe please visit the website and click on the link to subscribe.

Best of luck to our seniors hurlers today as they attempt to retain the Dan Breen cup.

**Thomas Callanan**  
Club Secretary



*Thurles Sarsfields backroom team (l.-r.): Brian Stakelum, Tony O'Mara, John Stakelum, Gary Loughnane, Declan Ryan, Eamon Stakelum, Aoife Lonergan, Connie Maher, Mick Clohessy. Missing from photo team doctor Paul Ryan.*



# THURLES SARSFIELDS



Back row (l-r): Lar Corbett, Denis Maher, Mossy McCormack, Conor Lanigan, Paul Maher, David Corbett, Ronan Maher, Aidan McCormack, Stephen Maher, Willie Tierney, Billy McCarthy, Padraic Maher, Pa Bourke, Declan Ryan, David Maher, Barry O'Dwyer, Rory Purcell, Kevin O'Gorman. Front row (l-r): Conor Stakelum, Cian Treacy, Tommy Doyle, Michael Cahill, Stephen Lillis, John Maher, Cathal Moloney, Mickey O'Brien, Stephen Cahill, Patrick McCormack, Pa Dunne, Rory Dwan.

## PLAYER PROFILES

Patrick McCormack	33	Teacher	Tommy Doyle	26	Garda
Stephen Maher	25	Teacher	Rory Dwan	23	Student
Cathal Moloney	20	Student	Conor Lanigan	22	Apprentice Electrician
Michael Cahill	28	Physiotherapy Student	Mikey O'Brien	25	Student
Ronan Maher	22	Student	Rory Purcell	19	Student
Padraic Maher (Capt)	27	Garda	Pa Dunne	25	Teacher
Stephen Lillis	31	Teva Pharmaceutical Employee	Jack Derby	20	Student
Stephen Cahill	22	Student	Mossie McCormack	24	Carpenter
John Maher	30	State Street Employee	David Corbett	24	Stryker Cork Employee
Billy McCarthy	20	Student	David Kennedy	33	Accountant
Aidan McCormack	25	Defence Forces	Paul Maher	24	Business Analyst
Pa Bourke	29	Semple Stadium Employee	David Maher	26	Student
Conor Stakelum	19	Student	Kevin O'Gorman	27	Teacher
Denis Maher	26	Defence Forces	Barry O'Dwyer	34	Medical Rep
Lar Corbett	36	Publican	Cian Treacy	26	Student
Willie Tierney	21	Apprentice Electrician	Seanie Butler	21	Apprentice Electrician
			Aidan Ryan	22	Student
			Michael Purcell	18	Student

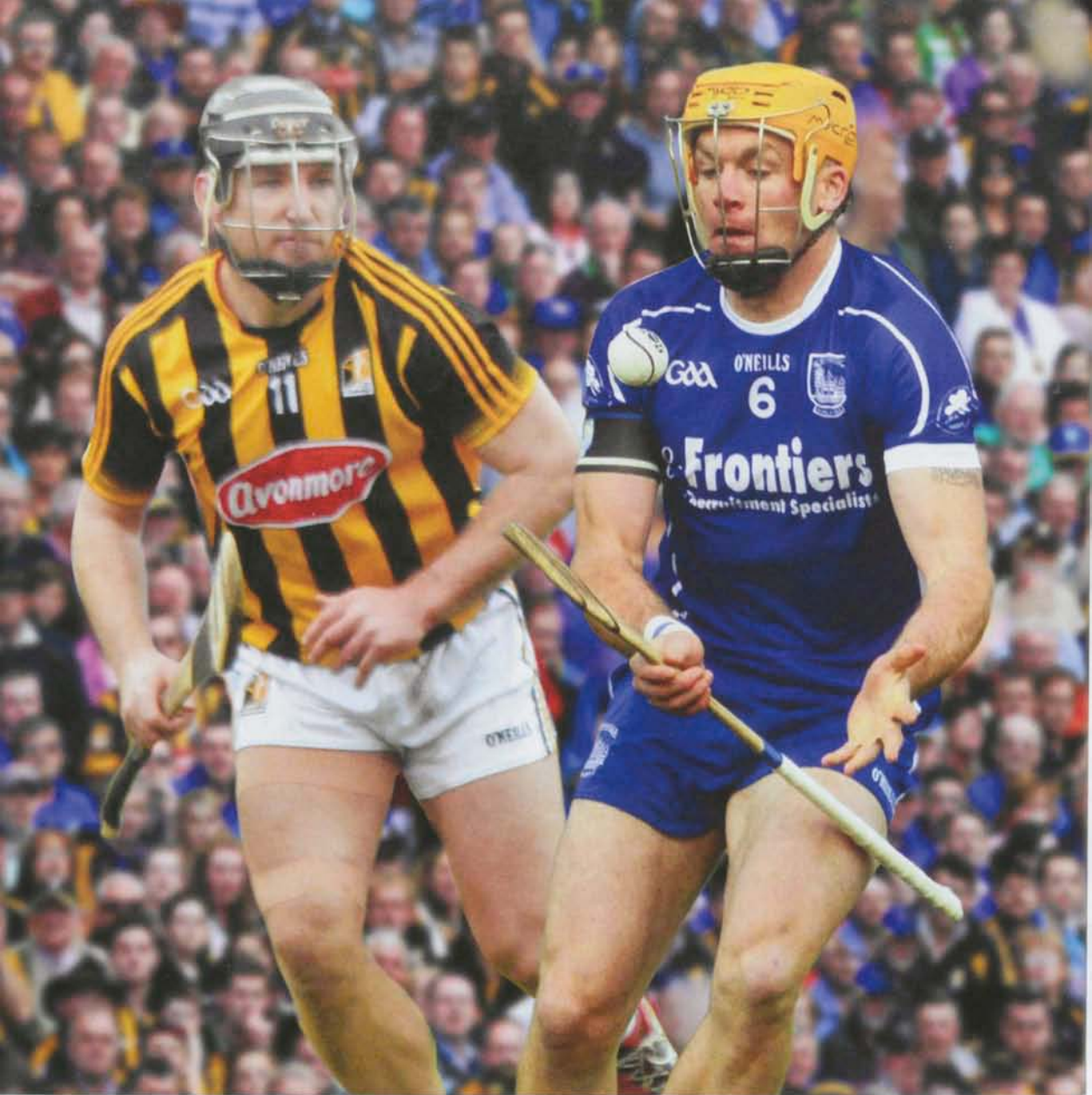
## PATH TO THE FINAL

<b>Group Stage:</b>	Thurles Sarsfields.....	5-32	Carrick Swan.....	0-17
	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-25	Kilruane MacDonaghs.....	2-15
	Thurles Sarsfields.....	4-20	Éire Óg Nenagh.....	2-10
<b>Mid Quarter-Final:</b>	Thurles Sarsfields.....	3-27	Drom & Inch.....	1-16
<b>Mid Semi-Final:</b>	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-33	Holycross-Ballycahill.....	0-20
<b>Mid Final:</b>	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-14	Upperchurch-Drombane.....	2-10
<b>County Q-Final (a.e.t.):</b>	Thurles Sarsfields.....	3-26	Kilruane MacDonaghs.....	1-22
<b>County Semi-Final:</b>	Thurles Sarsfields.....	0-27	Éire Óg Annacathy-Donohill.....	0-18



Thurles Sarsfields Management team (l-r): Eoin Kelly, Johnny Enright, Tommy Maher, Paddy McCormack.





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# WINNERS ALL

The county final winning captains were –

## THE BLUES

1887	Denis Maher
1904/1906/1907/ 1908/1909 /1911	Tom Semple
1929	Jack Stapleton
1935/1936/1938/ 1939/1942	Jim Lanigan
1945/1946	John Maher
1946	Ger Cornally
1952	Tommy Doyle
1955/1956	Mickey Byrne
1957	Larry Keane
1958/1959	Tony Wall
1961	Martin Maher
1962	Mick McElgunn
1963	Bobby Mockler
1965	Patsy Dorney
1964/1974	Jimmy Doyle
2005	Ger O'Grady
2009	Johnny Enright
2010	Patrick McCormack
2012/2015/2016	Padraic Maher
2014	Pa Bourke



Ger Cornally – Thurles Sarsfields captain 1946

## THE MAROONS

1949/1950	Sean Kenny
1953	Tim Ryan
1981	Timmy Stapleton
1983	Francis Spillane
1986	Mick Ryan



Sean Kenny – Borris-Ileigh captain 1949/1950

# Changing sides

**T**HERE have been several instances of players facing their original or native clubs in Tipperary championship hurling over the years.

In 1951, **Jack Gleeson** played in goal for Clonoulty-Rossmore in their county final loss to Holycross-Ballycahill (5-15 to 1-4).

Perhaps Jack should have remained in goal for his previous club, which was ironically . . . Holycross-Ballycahill.

He first played senior for Holycross-Ballycahill in 1942, but the breakthrough didn't come until 1947, when they beat Thurles Sarsfields to win the club's first Mid senior title. Match reports lauded Jack, who gave a 'sparkling display in goal'. Unfortunately Carrick Swan beat HB in the county semi-final (5-7 to 5-3) at Cashel on September 28th before going on to beat Borris-Ileigh in the county final. Jack had a setback in 1948, when he suffered a blood poisoned hand and couldn't play. Ironically, his club beat Lorrha in the county final to win their first county title.

In 1950, he began playing with Clonoulty-Rossmore and in 1951 he savoured victory over the dominant West team of that era KD Kickhams, by 3-2 to 0-3 in the final at Cashel. It was the club's first Divisional title since 1933. It got even better with a county semi-final win over defending County champions Borris-Ileigh (3-7 to 1-8) at Thurles on October 21st. The run ended with an emphatic loss to Holycross-Ballycahill in the final at Thurle, on November 6th. Jack played on until 1954, when the club divided into two teams and his Clonoulty were beaten by Rossmore. Jack died on April 2nd 2009, RIP.

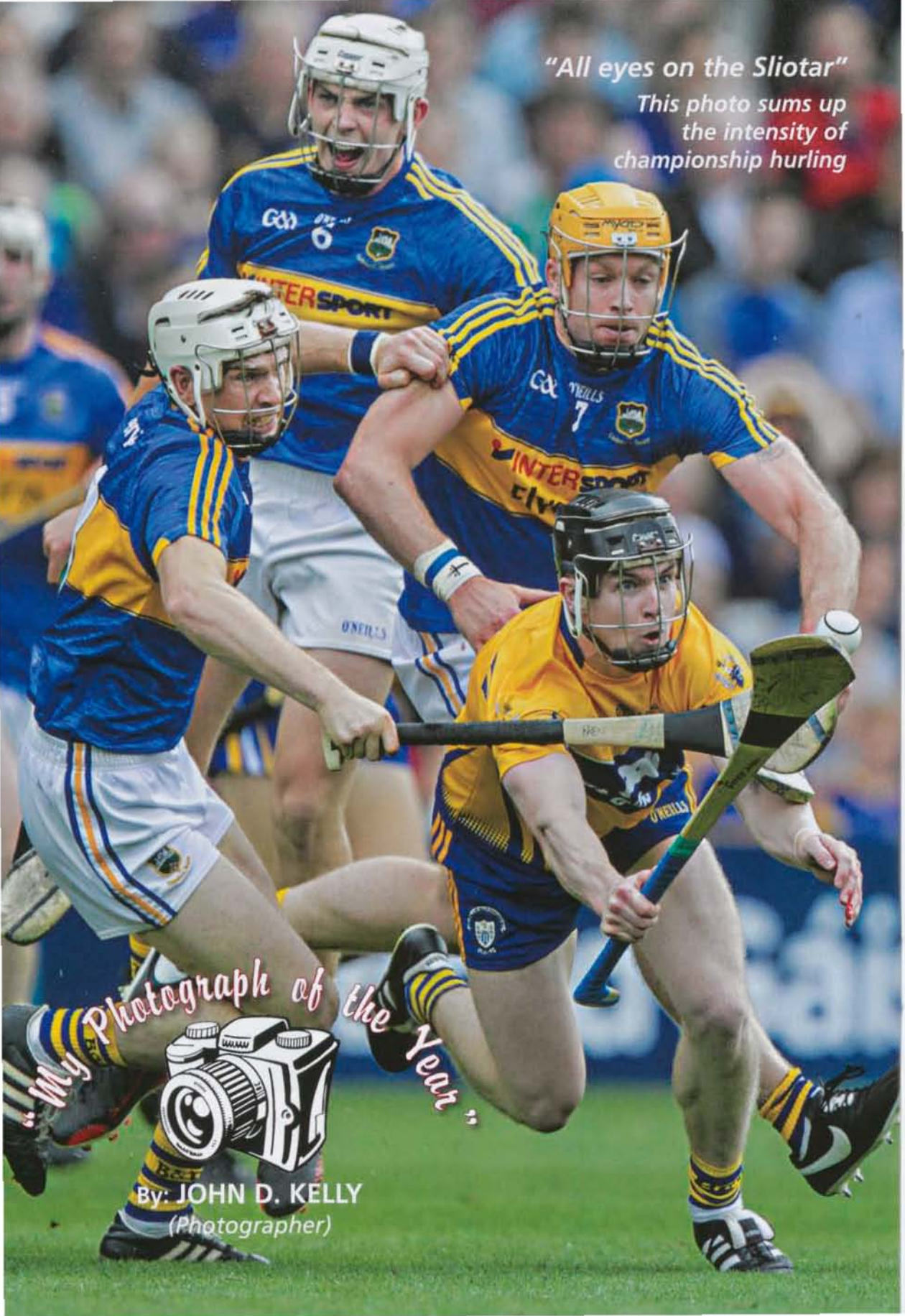


Jack Gleeson



*"All eyes on the Sliotar"*

*This photo sums up  
the intensity of  
championship hurling*



*My photograph of the Year*



By: JOHN D. KELLY  
(Photographer)



# COUNTY FINAL TRIVIA

By: NOEL DUNDON  
(Tipperary Star)



## Last Meeting

THE last time Sarsfields and Borris-Ileigh met in the county senior hurling final was 1955 when the great Paddy Kenny, now living in Thurles and hurling with Sarsfields, refused to play against his native club in the game. Sarsfields won out by 4-10 to 0-6. Sarsfields had also defeated the Borris' lads in 1952 by 5-6 to 1-8.

## The Stakelum link

CURRENT Tipperary selector Conor Stakelum won an All-Ireland Club Final with Borris-Ileigh in 1987 and was the club Coach a few seasons ago – his son Conor is a key member of the Sarsfields attacking unit having won many titles with Dúrlas Óg as a juvenile. What a conflict of emotions today will be for Conor senior and the family.

## Grandsons of the men of '52

SARSFIELDS midfielder/attacker Tommy Doyle is a grandson of the great Tommy Doyle – aka – 'The Rubber Man' who was on that Sarsfields team of 1952 – the first time the sides met in the county final. And, playing in goals for Borris-Ileigh that day was Paddy Delaney – grandfather of current Borris' corner forward Jack Hogan.

## Borris' greatest day masterminded by Sars' man

PERHAPS the greatest day in Borris-Ileigh's history was masterminded by a Sarsfields man – Paddy Doyle. He coached the club to win the county final in 1986 and they went all the way to Croke Park on St Patrick's Day where they captured the silverware – the last Tipperary club to do so. Interestingly, when Borris were last in the county final

– in 1988 – Paddy was also coach to the side which lost to Loughmore-Castleiney after a replay. And, helping the champions that year was Paddy's brother, the late, great Jimmy Doyle.

## Bless me Father

THE hurler living closest to Semple Stadium, the venue for Sunday's decider, is actually Borris-Ileigh attacker/midfielder, Fr Vincent Stapleton, who is a Curate in Thurles, and living in Bohernanave Presbytery. Fr Vincent has been very warmly received in Thurles since his posting last year and he has taken Thurles to his heart also. And, while he might be hearing the confessions of Thurles folks these days, he'll be hoping to be praying for forgiveness by Sunday evening, if his team can defeat the Sars'. He is the first clergyman to tog out for a county final since Fr Peter Brennan for Clonoulty-Rossmore in 1998 – he had also played, and won, with his native Loughmore-Castleiney a decade earlier in the county final against Borris-Ileigh. To add to it all, Fr Vincent is a first cousin of Sarsfields club Secretary Thomas Callanan.

## Brothers in arms

THERE are eight sets of brothers involved in the county senior hurling final today – six of them from Borris-Ileigh. Sarsfields have two sets of Mahers – captain Pádraic and his brother Ronan; while John, Stephen and Paul Maher are also brothers and son of the club Chairman Michael Maher. Meanwhile in Borris-Ileigh – Jack and Cathal Bourke; Matthew and Vincent Stapleton; Ciaran and Aidan Cowan; Niall and Conor Kenny; and Jody and Benny Harkins are all brothers.

## The Kelly connection

THURLES Sarsfields selector Eoin Kelly, who captained Tipperary to win the All-Ireland Final of 2001, wore the number 15 jersey on many occasions during his time. But, wearing the number 15 jersey of Borris-Ileigh on Sunday will be his cousin Kieran Maher. Eoin, of course, won the Dan Breen Cup with his club Mullinahone in 2002 when they beat the Blues – can his cousin Kieran follow in his footsteps by helping to defeat Sarsfields on Sunday?



# Looking Back....

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



## A CENTURY AGO

### Club scene

**T**HE 1917 Tipperary championship saw action in Mid and North, before the county semi-final and final were played. Eight teams affiliated in the North and the quarter-final draw was – De Wets v Kilbarron, Toomevara v Portroe, Lorrha v Borrisokane and Derrycallaghan v Silvermines.

In the first semi-final at Toomevara, Derrycallaghan beat De Wets by 3-2 to 1-2. The second semi-final was scheduled for Eglis on August 26th but on the day, referee Felix Cronin postponed the game following discussion with the Toomevara and Borrisokane cap-

tains. The reason given was that Jack O'Meara (Toomevara) was playing for Tipperary against Clare on the same day. The game was refixed for September 15th but Borrisokane conceded a walk over.

The final was set for Ardcroney on October 14th, but Derrycallaghan (incorporating many of the Moneygall team from 1916) declined to travel, claiming that all of their games had been played a long way from home and the expense was too great. Toomevara were awarded the championship.

Meanwhile, the Mid saw Thurles beating Two-Mile-Borris in the opening game at Drombane, by 8-2 to 2-2. The semi-final against Cashel, played in the shadow of the Rock, saw the home team leading by eight points at half-time. Thurles took over in the second half and won by 6-2 to 5-1. Boherlahan had a bye to the final at Coolcroo Castle, Two-Mile-Borris and took a while to find their best form. They trailed by five points at half time, but



DUBLIN – All-Ireland Senior Hurling Champions 2017

The first person, back left, is Pat Cullen, the uncle of Loughmore's famous Pat. The priest at the end of the second row, is Fr. Tim Corcoran, later a Professor of Education in U.C.D. and a native of Moneygall parish. Four of the players are from Tipperary – Jim Cleary (Faughs) in the middle row is from Kilruane; Hugh Burke (Faughs) second from the end of the same row, is from Lorrha; Martin Hackett (Faughs) in front row, is from Toomevara; Sean Mockler (Faughs) in the same row, is from Horse & Jockey.



recovered to win by 7-0 to 3-3.

The County semi-final produced a gallant struggle, but a very sporting game, at Thurles. Boherlahan, who led 2-0 to 0-0 at half time, got through against Toomevara by 2-2 to 1-1. The huge crowd created a great atmosphere and they enjoyed the contest, which was embellished by some memorable goalkeeping at both ends. The county final saw Emly, St. Ailbe's who had the Senior hurling to themselves in the South (before the West Board was established) facing the formidable Boherlahan at Cashel on May 26th 1918. The result of the final was not highlighted and we must draw our own conclusions from the line in one report which read – 'St. Ailbe's made a poor showing'.

The winning squad was listed as – Johnny Leahy, Paddy Leahy, Joe Nagle, Jack Doherty, William Dwyer, Dick Walsh, Jack Power, Paddy Power, Willie Dwyer, Paddy Dwyer, Thady O'Donnell Lar O'Brien Dan O'Brien, Jack Gleeson, Matty Maher.

### Inter-county

Defending Munster and All-Ireland Champions Tipperary (Boherlahan selection), received a walk over from Kerry in the opening round of the Munster championship scheduled for July 22nd. They beat Clare by 3-6 to 1-2 in the semi-final at the Markets Field, Limerick, on August 26th. The Munster final against Limerick produced a draw, 3-4 each, at the Cork Athletic Grounds on September 9th, but Tipp won the replay by 6-4 to 3-1 at the same venue on October 7th.

There was no All-Ireland semi-final, so the final against Dublin (Collegians selection) was played at Croke Park on October 28th, before an attendance of 12,000, with Waterford's Willie Walsh as referee, throwing in the ball at

noon. The *Irish Independent* report noted "it was a fine day of sunshine".

The match summary claimed Dublin won because "they had to put in more brilliant hurling and keep up a faster pace than in any game of their career".

The Dublin team included "many seasoned hurlers from the southern counties who had qualified by residence in the capital". These included Tipperary men Martin Hackett, Jimmy Cleary, Frank Burke and Bob Mockler, along with the legendary Tommy Moore from North Kilkenny. Mockler had been involved previously with Tipperary and was in great form for Dublin. Luckily perhaps for the Premier county, Jimmy Murphy, another Tipp native, didn't play because of his origins. Stephen Hackett, Martin's brother played for Tipperary. Dublin led at half time by 2-2 to 2-0 (Hugh Shelly and Jer 'Darby' Collison scored for Tipp) and the city men were comfortably ahead, before Tipp finished with 2-1 (Willie O'Dwyer and Mick Leahy raised the green flags) to bring respectability to the scoreline. Frank Burke supplied the perfect pass to set up Brendan Considine's memorable goal for Dublin.

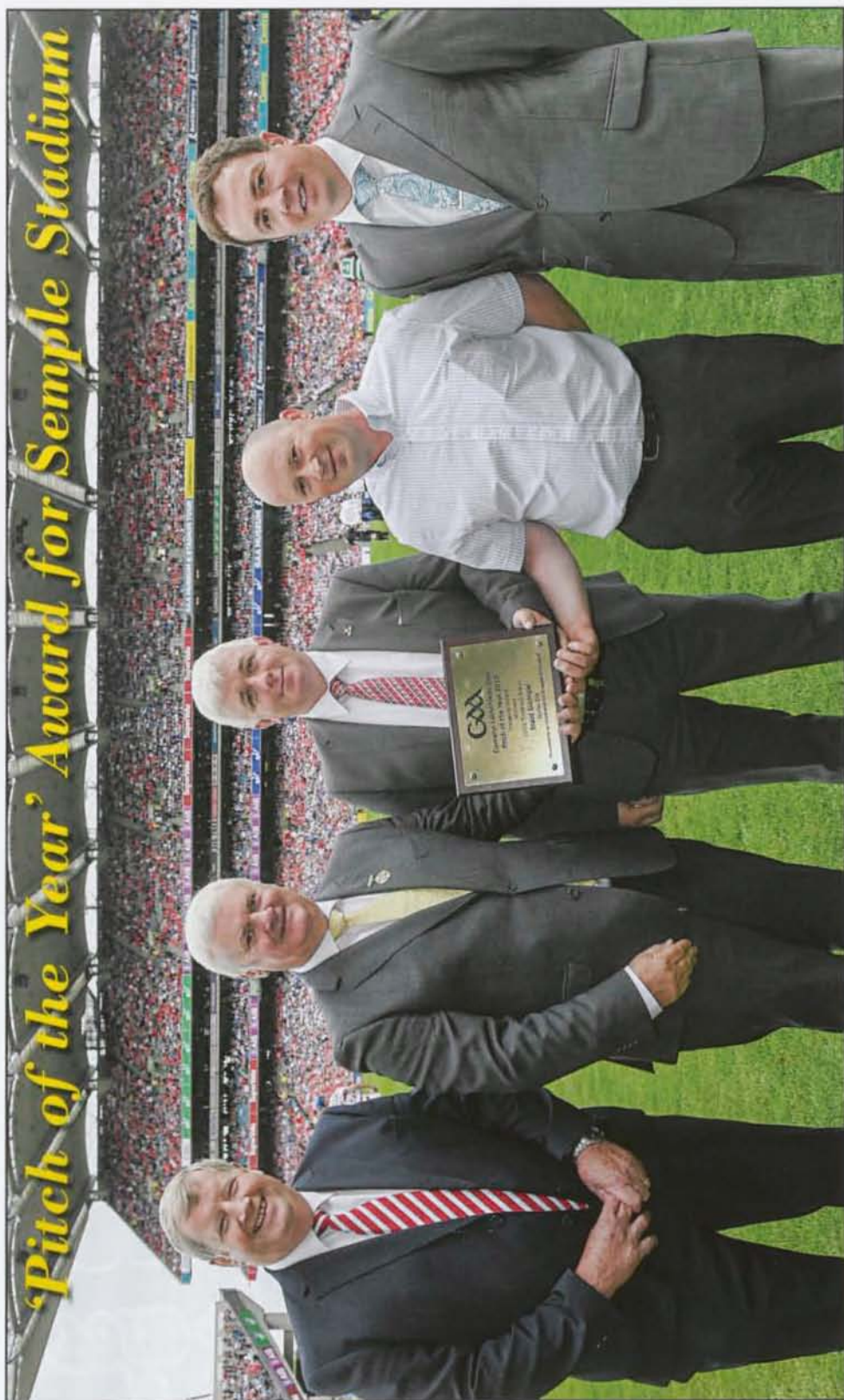
Dublin, who beat Kilkenny (5-1 to 4-0) in the Leinster final on September 9th, had a very talented team at the time, powered by the Collegians and Faughs clubs and they proved too good for Tipperary, winning by 5-4 to 4-2. Johnny Leahy was the Tipperary captain, with players included from Boherlahan, Thurles, Kilkennaule, Toomevara, Moneygall, and Two-Mile-Borris. After the presentation, Dr. John Ryan the Dublin captain was carried shoulder high, cup in hand, from the pitch. This was Dublin's only senior hurling championship win over Tipperary.

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**STARS**  
*in their eyes*





At the 'Pitch of the Year' presentation during half-time in the GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship Semi-Final between Cork and Waterford at Croke Park on 13th August are (l.-r.): Committee Chairman Kieran McGann of the National Pitch Maintenance Work Group; Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Aogán Ó Fearghail; Tipperary County Board Chairman; David Hanley, Semple Stadium pitch team and Croke Park Head Groundsman Stuart Wilson.

(Photo: Ray McManus/Sportsfile)



## Club Stalwart . . .

Eamon  
**STAKELUM**

THURLES SARSFIELDS

By: JACKIE CAHILL



IT'S no surprise, given the family background, that Eamon Stakelum's life revolves around hurling.

His father, John, was a three-time county senior hurling medallist with Holycross-Ballycahill, and brother of Pat, one of the county's finest-ever stalwarts.

It was the late John who introduced Eamon and his siblings to hurling at their home in Castle Avenue in Thurles.

Every Sunday, hurling was the hot topic of discussion in the house and cousins Bobby and Aidan Ryan, and the Stakelums, Richard and Conor, are dyed-in-the-wool Borris-Ileigh men.

During his own playing days, Eamon won a Mid Intermediate championship with Sars, and two county junior titles.

But in an ironic twist of fate, Eamon won the first of his county junior medals in a Borris-Ileigh shirt in 1987!

"We played Lorrha-Dorrha," he recalls.

"Funnily enough, we played in Borris-Ileigh in Borris' jerseys. We had to change jerseys, and Borris' gave us a set."

Eamon finished his playing career with the club in 1997.

He's the club's kitman now, and is assisted by sons Brian and John.

Eamon's daughter, Sarah, plays camogie with the Sars, and county final weekend is special for the family.

"I started doing this with Andy Rossister, Lord have mercy on him, in 2005," Eamon says.

"Then I went away from it for a while, I'd have been a selector a few times with intermediate teams.

"But I remember back in 1997, Ger Corbett, who was over our intermediate team at the time, told me I was in the shape of my life.

"Two weeks later, I was in Beaumont hospital getting fitted with a pacemaker.

"I was at home and took a turn one day. We thought it was an epileptic fit but I went to the doctor, he sent me



Eamon Stakelum

to Nenagh and I was sent for the pacemaker."

Thankfully, Eamon's had no ill-effects since then and he's been kitman for the club in a more permanent capacity for the last four years.

"We divide it up on the day," he explains.

"I write out the sub slips for Tommy (Maher), and I have my own two lads, Gary Loughnane, Tony O'Mara and Connie Maher helping out.

"Water, Lucozade, jerseys, bibs, hurley bag, team sheet, sub slips, bibs for the Bainisteoir and bibs for the subs warming up on the sideline – all that has to be looked after.

"I'd drive my wife, Lisa, mad on the night before a match and the next morning, in and out. There's a fair boot in the car!"

Through the years, Eamon has noticed huge changes in the club.

He hurled for just one year with Durlas Óg, when juvenile hurling wasn't as strong then as it is now.

The local feeder club was very much in its infancy in the late 1970s and Stakelum also lived through the lean years, when Sarsfields went from 1974 until 2005 without a county senior hurling title.

It's helped him and many of his clubmates to appreciate the good times they live in now, as the Blues aim for a fourth successive Dan Breen Cup success.

Eamon says: "When we did eventually win it (2005), we didn't know how to celebrate after so many disappointments.

"Four-in-a-row hasn't been spoken about," he insists.

"The lads are level-headed and I'd have nothing only respect for the them, from Lar (Corbett) down to (goal-keeper) Patrick McCormack.

"We had our lean years too, we were beaten in four county finals in a row (2000-2003)."

Should Sars triumph today, they'll savour it, as they'd become the first club since Toomevara (1998-2001) to win four successive titles.

But for now, the champagne is very much on ice. There's a job to be done – and for Eamon Stakelum, he'll have more on his plate than most.



Brian and John Stakelum



# Paddy STAPLETON

## BORRIS-ILEIGH CAPTAIN

By: JACKIE CAHILL



**B**ORRIS-ILEIGH have come a long way since April.

In the opening round of the Tipperary Water county senior hurling championship, Kiladangan beat them by 1-20 to 1-13 but captain Paddy Stapleton was pleased with the squad's reaction.

When they regrouped at Bishop Quinlan Park to sift through the wreckage, Stapleton detected a determination to put things right – and quickly.

"I knew the week after that the boys weren't throwing toys out of the pram," he says.

"Everybody came back to the Park, dusted themselves down and

went again."

A draw with Loughmore-Castleiney in the group stages kickstarted Borris-Ileigh's campaign, and victory over Upperchurch-Drombane saw them emerge from the group.

September was a good month, as Borris' cruised past Carrick Swan to book a place in the last eight of the county championship, while also winning the North title with victory over Nenagh Éire Óg.

Then it was Loughmore once again, and a narrow 1-17 to 1-16 victory set up a semi-final shoot-out with Drom & Inch.

When the dust settled on that

game, Borris were through by four points, 1-16 to 1-12, and into a first final since 1988.

Stapleton was just three years old when Borris last contested a Dan Breen decider – but he was reared on tales of the great teams of old.

He says: "You hear of them straight away. My father made hurleys for them and like any parish, there's a big history.



(Photo: Eamonn McGee)



"You'd meet a few since and I met some after the semi-final and it means a lot to them.

"They haven't seen much either since then, although Borris' would still have had a lot of good says.

**"I knew the week after that the boys weren't throwing toys out of the pram."**

"They probably get sick of hearing about themselves and we get sick hearing about them as well! We wouldn't mind having our own bit of history."

Sometimes, as Stapleton notes, things just fall into place at the right time.

And he reveals: "You could even say that players have given more in other years.

"We're giving loads this year and loads every year but there were years in the mid and late 2000s where lads were really obsessed, so committed, and it just didn't happen.

"It fell into place this year – that's the way it happens sometimes."

Victory would seal a first county senior title for Borris' since way back in 1986 – but he's acutely aware that Sars are going for four-in-a-row, and will present formidable opposition.

He said: "We've seen them in Tipp over the last ten years, they've dominated the whole thing and have been very unlucky not to get to All-Ireland final day.

"You couldn't say they were better than Ballyea (Munster club championship last year) but they dominated most of the game and gave away a couple of silly goals.

"I thought they (Sars) were the best team in Munster and it's a huge challenge.

"We know we have the capability to go toe-to-toe with them but we have to perform and put the shoulder to the wheel.

"If we don't, we've seen the last day in the Annacarty game how they can rip you apart early on, and in the county final last year the same thing. We're under no illusions but



(Photo: Odhran Dúdie)

we'll give it a go anyway."

During his playing days with Tipperary, Stapleton claimed All-Ireland senior medals in 2010 and 2016, before drawing the curtain on a glittering inter-county career.

Back with the club, it's very much a family affair as he explains: "I have two cousins, one (Matthew) is corner back with me. We'd be narking at each other a good bit!

"Vinny, his brother and my cousin, is a priest in Thurles and that adds a novelty factor to it.

"There are loads of cousins and brothers involved, the two Kennys, lots of Mahers.

"It's the very same as any other club and you need that. Good players bring on good players and when you're a little kid, playing with brothers and cousins who are good, you'll make each other good. That's the formula that breeds success."



## Club Stalwart . . .

# Timmy DELANEY

BORRIS-ILEIGH

By: JACKIE CAHILL



**B**ORRIS-ILEIGH stalwart Timmy Delaney won three county senior hurling championship medals during his playing days with the club – and he achieved a unique double in 1981.

With five minutes left in the county minor final of that same year, Delaney left the dug-out, headed for the dressing rooms and pulled on the number five shirt for battle in the senior decider.

At the time, Delaney was principal of a two-teacher school in Ballagh, Clonoulty.

He takes up the story.

"One of my claims to fame is that I put through my hands the great Declan Ryan, who was a pupil of mine," he smiles.

"We still retain very fond memories of one another. In that particular year, 1981, I was principal in Ballagh, in the parish of Clonoulty.

"The late, great Jim Ryan Hanna was chairman of the local club, a larger than life character.

"He came down to the school one evening and said 'you're steeped in hurling, we have a grand minor team, maybe you'd give us a hand?'



Timmy Delaney's grandson Jerry Kelly (Borris-Ileigh) finds himself surrounded by Drom & Inch players during the semi-final.

(Photo: Eamonn McGee)

"I said I'd talk to my wife, Sheila, and I agreed to train that minor team in 1981.

"At that time, the county minor final was the curtain-raiser to the senior game.

"Clonoulty were playing Toomevara in the minor final and with five minutes left, we were well in front. I ran into the Borris' dressing room, threw on the number five jersey.

"So, I trained the Clonoulty minors, they won a county final, and the Borris-Ileigh seniors won their final, too.

"A little addendum to that story is that John Kennedy of Clonoulty went on to captain the Tipperary minors who won the All-Ireland in 1982."

Delaney, who's 68 now, played senior for Borris-Ileigh in 1966, when he just 16 and a half years of age.

The club won a county U21 title in 1970 and Delaney recalls that success spawning a breed of future senior stars, and sparking 'a bit of life' into Borris'.

“Look, maybe it's a pipe dream but some fella dreamed one time that we could get to the moon, and we did.”

The club reached a county final in 1972 but Delaney recalls a talented Roscrea outfit 'giving us a fair old trimming.'

They were back in 1977, but defeated by arch-rivals at the time, Kilruane MacDonaghs, after a replay.

In 1981, the door finally opened for Borris', as the club tasted senior county glory for the first time in 28 years.

They saw off Roscrea by 1-14 to 0-12 and at the homecoming, Delaney sang 'Lovely Fair Ileigh'.

It wasn't the first time he'd do it, and he harbours a dream of blasting it out again if Borris' are successful against Thurles Sarsfields in this afternoon's Tipperary Water sponsored decider.

Delaney says: "1981 was followed by '83, we had a good run.

"We beat Loughmore in the county final in Cashel, when the Stadium wasn't available because of preparations for the GAA's Centenary Year in 1984.

"We had two ferocious encounters with Middleton in the Munster club final in Kilmallock, arguably the best games of club hurling many people said they'd ever seen around that time.





Timmy Delaney rendering Liam Devaney's Graveside Oration which concluded with the singing of 'Lovely Fair Ileigh'.  
(Photo: Bridget Delaney)

"All those memories are great and then in 1986, we won it again and we went the distance, going on to win the All-Ireland in 1987.

"But 1981 is jumping out at me. Why? I'm not entirely sure but after such a long time, 28 years, it kind of jumps out at me as maybe more of a significant milestone than the others."

After five years in Ballagh, Delaney moved on to St Michael's in Holycross, where he spent 26 years there. A former principal, Delaney retired seven years ago, and laughs as he now describes himself as a 'pretend farmer', with 'a few cattle and a brown tractor!'

Every Thursday, he hits a few golf balls with Paul Byrne, son of the late 'Rattler' Byrne and a former long-serving teacher.

"We played county minor and U21 together, and trained as teachers together," Delaney says.

"We were in St Pat's in the early '70s, Brian Cody and Ger Loughnane were in college with us, and Gilbert Williams from Kilruane."

All the while, Delaney remained closely aligned to his beloved club.

He was a committee member for many years, assisted in field development and also compiled a club history, along with the late Tom Tierney.

The direct link to the current Borris-Ileigh senior team is Jerry Kelly, his grand-son and a key player for Our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore, who won the Harty and Croke Cups earlier this year.

"Jerry's mother, Julie, is a daughter of ours,"

Timmy explains with pride.

"She's married to Denis Kelly from Toomevara. Jerry's the apple of our eye, he can do no wrong! We're pure delighted to follow him in all of the matches and he's a fair detail, a good hurler with good hands."

When we speak, Timmy's on his way back from Carlow, having dropped Jerry back to college in IT Carlow.

"He's doing Sports rehab and athletic therapy there," says Timmy.

"I dropped him down this morning. He was home training for the weekend.

"That's the joy of having time on your hands!"

He adds: "They're very kind to me in the club. I'm not involved in a hands-on way but I help out when something needs to be done.

"When Liam Devaney was buried in August, the club asked me to deliver the graveside oration.

"Please God, if we win the county final, they'll be asking me to sing off the back of a lorry!

"Look, maybe it's a pipe dream but some fella dreamed one time that we could get to the moon, and we did.

"We're very mindful of the powerhouse that the present Thurles Sars crop have at their disposal and the tremendous tradition behind them but I would say, with the height of respect, that we have a fair bit of tradition ourselves, and I'm fairly certain that we'll give a decent account of ourselves.

"I don't know what way it will go and the pundits will say 'don't be foolish, Timmy, ye are up against an insurmountable force' but you know the emblem on the Borris' jersey, it's a farmyard cockerel.

"That goes back to 1949/50, when they were known as the 'cocks of the North'.

"Maybe arrogance is the wrong word but there was a bouldness, a colour and cockiness about Borris'.

"I'd be surprised in the Stadium on Sunday if one of the local boys doesn't let go of a cock with the Borris' colours flying.

"That's why we embrace the cock as part of the logo for the club.

"I remember the '81 North final, and in 1983 as well, Ned Harty, Lord have mercy on him, had a cock, with maroon and white colours on its two feet.

"He let it go and it did its lap of honour in the sky."

Maybe, just maybe, history might repeat itself today. And Timmy Delaney will get the chance to warm up those vocal chords again.



# PADRAIC MAHER

By: NOEL DUNDON



**P**ADRAIC MAHER being captain of Thurles Sarsfields is not something Padraic Maher would turn down and when

he was asked a few seasons ago to lead The Blues, he had no hesitation in accepting the honour. And, the clubs attitude has been simple – if the model is not broken, don't try to fix it.

For club and county, the 28 year old is a natural leader – a man who drives other

players on by his sheer desire to win. And, captaincy sits easy with him.

"In clubs they usually pass it around from year to year, but the lads just asked me to do it for the last few years now – it is not something that you would turn down anyway. I am very proud to lead the boys and it's great to be back in another final," he says.

When the backs were to the wall for Sars' this season, Padraic was one of the main men. He has been in sparkling form and his displays against Upperchurch-Drombane and Kilruane MacDonagh in particular, when his team needed him most, were inspiring. The Blues have beaten all before them en-route to the county final and as a result are hot favourites to take their fourth title in succession and give Padraic his 7th medal.

"It is very easy for people looking in from the outside to say that Sars' are favourites and to give ridiculous prices on us to win matches. But if you come into our camp it's very, very hard to win a county final every year. There are games there where we are only getting over the line – Kilruane is a perfect example. We have had some ding-dong battles with Nenagh over the last few years. It is has always been about getting over each match. We are delighted to be back in the county final but we have plenty to improve on. We have no

*Thurles Sarsfields  
Captain Padraic  
Maher in action in  
the semi-final  
against Éire Óg  
Annacarty-Dohohill.*

(Photo: Odhran Dúclé)





# winning is something that doesn't just happen

doubt that Borris-Ileigh are there on merit and from what we have seen this year they have been a real force – they will come in with plenty of confidence. So, we will have to be on our toes and mentally ready for that,” he says.

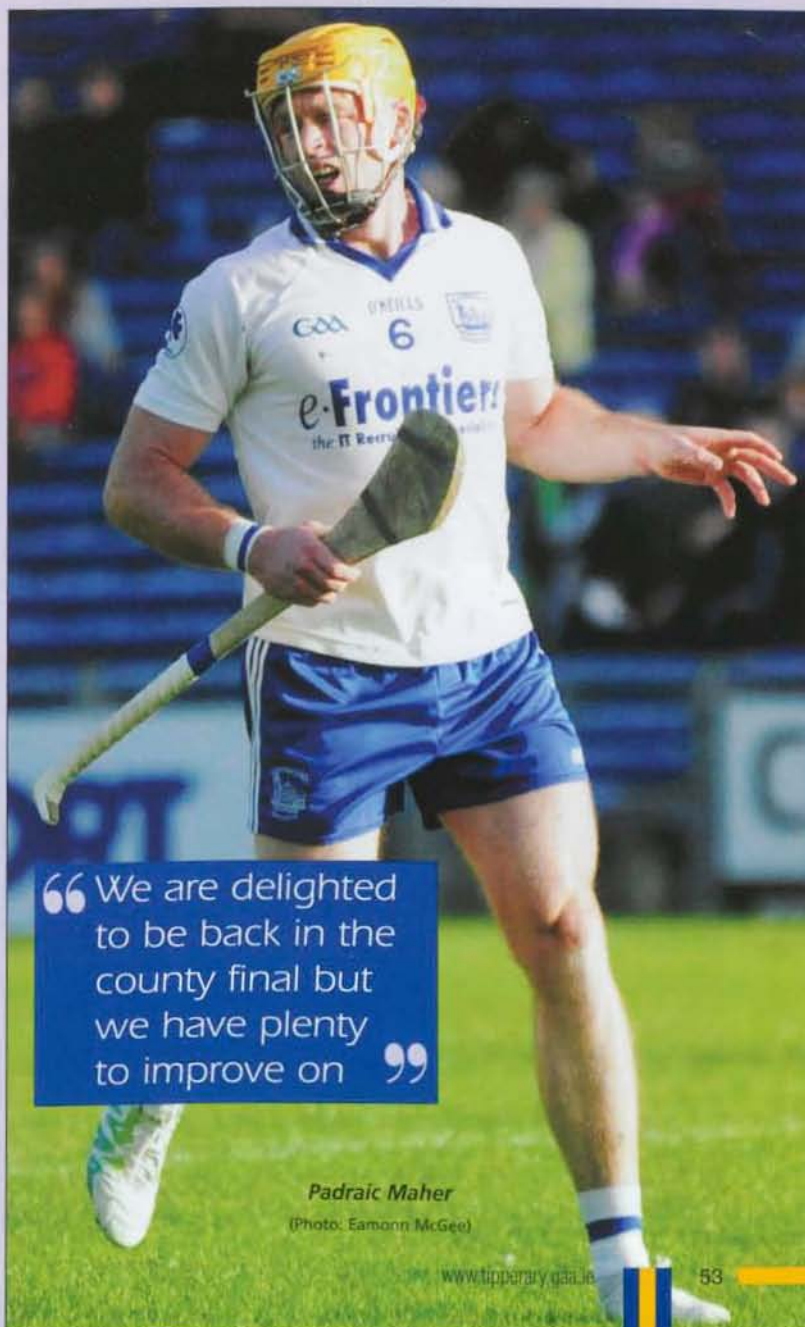
He added, “Whatever way Borris-Ileigh set up, we have to play it. They seem to have a very good system working for them at the moment. So, it is going to be very difficult to break down, but, again, it is up to us to get around that and try to impose our game on them and not have them dictating the match. That is something for us to work on and think about. It's a county final so you are not going to get it too easy anyway. It is their first county final in a good number of years and they are going to bring everything they can to it.”

“County finals are getting harder to win every year. We are very grateful to be back here again. We are a very hungry group of players – we train very hard and I don't think it is any coincidence that we keep getting back to the final every year. People might say that we have a talented pool of players to pull from, but we do work very hard and I think that comes out in the games.

“There is a great effort going in through Dúrlas Óg and Sarsfields, but we know that this won't last forever – you see the likes of Toomevara. They are going out to play in the Séamus Ó

Riain Cup final and a couple of years ago they were the dominant team in the Dan Breen Cup. So, it's not going to be there forever and we want to take the opportunity while we have it. Just

because we are here for the last couple years doesn't mean that we take it for granted. We have worked very hard and we will try our very best to retain the cup,” he says.



“We are delighted to be back in the county final but we have plenty to improve on”

**Padraic Maher**

(Photo: Eamonn McGea)

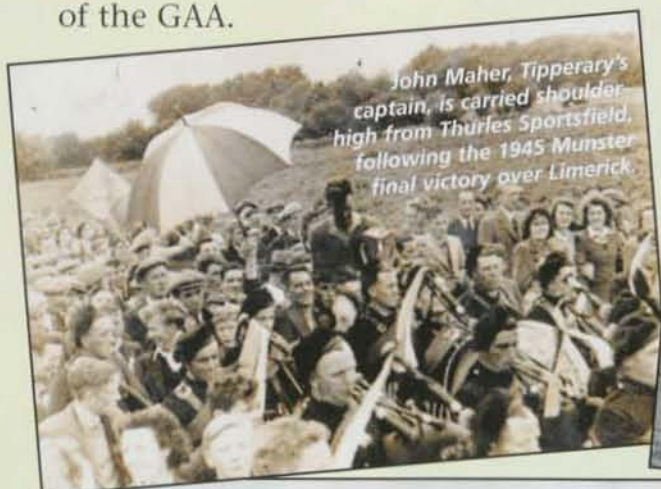




# Thurles Sarsfi

## VOLUME 1

A SELECTION of photographs from the forthcoming publication:- **Thurles Sarsfields GAA Story - Volume 1**, by Liam Ó Donnchú. This fascinating publication runs to over 500 pages, packed with facts, figures and photos about the club at the birthplace of the GAA.



John Maher, Tipperary's captain, is carried shoulder-high from Thurles Sportsfield, following the 1945 Munster final victory over Limerick.



It's four to one - Donie Nealon, Na Píarsaigh, is surrounded by Sarsfields backs: Tony Wall, Larry Keane, Bobby Mockler and Mickey Byrne at the 1957 Tipperary County Final at Leahy Park, Cashel.



GAA Patron, Archbishop J. Kinane, throws in the ball to start the 1955 Tipperary County Final at Thurles Sportsfield, between Thurles Sarsfields and Borris-Ileigh. Left to right: Musha Maher, Micheál McElgunn, Matty White, Liam Devaney and Tommy Barrett. County Secretary Phil Purcell is on the right.



# Thurles Sarsfields GAA Story



## Thurles Sarsfields GAA Story – Volume 1

*will be launched at*

**Thurles Sarsfields Clubhouse**

*on Friday, 10th November 2017*

*at 7.30pm*

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



Mickey Byrne in full flight with Liam Reidy (Kilkenny) in the 1950 All-Ireland final.



Thurles Sarsfields – tournament winners at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny in the early 1940s

Back row (l.-r.): Mick Murphy, John Delahunty, Tommy Lanigan, Tim Nyhan, Paddy Bowe, John Maher, John Lanigan, John Semple, Ger Cornally, Gerry Doyle, Dan Mackey, Paddy Maher (W). Front row (l.-r.): Denis 'Bunny' Murphy, Tommy Semple, Tommy Lanigan, Danny Doyle, Jim Lanigan (Capt.), Eddie Gleeson, Tommy Doyle, Paddy O'Gorman.

This long-awaited hard-back publication, costing €25, will be available in Thurles at Bookworm, Lár na Páirce, Eason and Thurles Sarsfields Social Centre or online from [www.bookworm.ie](http://www.bookworm.ie)

It can also be ordered by post (€10 extra) from:

**Liam Ó Donnchú, Ballymoreen Littleton Thurles, Co. Tipperary**



# Liam Devaney

**T**HE passing of Borris-Ileigh hurling legend Liam Devaney on August 15th last occasioned great sadness in the hurling world, but it was felt nowhere more than in his native parish – a parish and a people he loved so much.

Billy, as he was known locally – it was RTÉ commentator Micheal O’Hehir who christened him Liam – was conveyed home to be buried in his native soil with his parents Jim and Josie. And, as a gentle rain descended upon those gathered in the graveyard to listen intently to an excellent oration by Timmy Delaney, there was a real sense of loss. For, not only had a real character of note been called ashore, but one of Tipperary’s finest ever hurlers was no more.

In an extraordinary career, Billy Devaney would play for Tipperary in every position except full back, would win five All-Ireland senior hurling titles, eight Munster medals and eight National Hurling Leagues. But, perhaps more importantly, he would win a county senior hurling final medal with his friends and neighbours in Borris-Ileigh in 1953 – a cherished medal for a player who won just about everything. How he would have revelled in today’s showpiece clash with his beloved Borris’ taking on the Blues of his adoptive home of Thurles.

Growing up in Borrisoleigh, the young Billy could hardly have missed the hurling bug. His father Jim was



something of a local legend as a player and later as a mentor – he won an All-Ireland medal in 1937 in that great Tipperary team led by Jim Lanihan. On that side too was the great John Maher, captain of the 1945 All-Ireland winning side and overseeing matters from the sideline was Johnny Leahy of Tubberadora, so it is clear to see where Jim Devaney could have gotten his hurling education.

Billy actually had the pleasure of lining out alongside his father in the Borris’ team – and when that county title of ‘53 was captured at the hands of Boherlahan by 4-8 to 4-4 in Thurles, Jim played a major role from the sideline as organiser, trainer, motivator and coach. On that team also was Jim Quinn, a cousin of Billy’s who was the holder of a National Hurling League medal with Tipperary. In fact, Jim bagged 2-0 in that final against Boherlahan, while Liam chipped in with a point.

Given that this was Borris-Ileigh’s fourth county senior hurling final appearance in five years – they won three of them – Devaney probably expected to add to his county medal haul in years to come. He had captured north Tipp senior hurling titles in 1953, 1955, 1972 and 1973 and these were hard won medals with the likes of Kilruane MacDonagh, Roscrea and Toomevara competing with great purpose each year. However, they lost to Sarsfields in the

1955 county final and had to wait until 1972 to get back to the county’s showcase event again – defeat at the hands of Roscrea on this occasion by 5-8 to 3-6 being their lot. They were again in the final of ‘77 but lost after a replay to Kilruane MacDonagh and had to wait until 1981 to finally reach the Holy Grail again by winning the Dan Breen Cup against Roscrea by 1-14 to 0-12.

Of course, Liam Devaney was long finished by this stage but his influence in the training field was still being felt as he imparted his huge knowledge of the game to the players who listened intently to what they were being told. After all, this was a living legend in their midst, a man who could make the ball talk and who could hurl with a freedom and abandon so rarely seen in Borris’, or anywhere else for that matter.

After showing great promise as a young hurler, he commenced his inter-county hurling career with Tipperary with two Munster and All-Ireland minor titles in 1952 and 1953 – what a year ‘53 was to be for him winning the county senior hurling championship and an All-Ireland minor medal within a few weeks of each other.

The ‘52 final was won at the hands of Dublin by 9-9 to 2-3 after Tpp had dealt with the challenges of Waterford, Cork and Clare in Munster – the provincial final was won by a whop-



Liam Devaney and Jimmy Doyle in action against Kilkenny in the 1967 All-Ireland Final.



# remembered

ping 10-7 to 1-2 and this was followed up by a 9-3 to 0-1 victory over Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final.

In the final, Dublin came out with all guns blazing and threw everything they had at Tipp. But, by the interval Tipp were in front by 1-2 to 1-1 and while Dublin were to manage just one more point in the game, Tipp managed to tag on eight goals and seven points to steer captain Tony Wall – who was playing at centre forward incidentally – up the steps of the Hogan Stand to accept the Irish Press Cup. That team included future Tipp seniors such as Sean McLoughlin and Tony Wall and when the title was retained in '53, Devaney and McLoughlin would again be in the team – McLoughlin scored 3-2 in the final of '52 and followed up with 4-2 in the final of '53, a remarkable scoring feat.

The '53 campaign saw Tipp defeat Dublin in the final again by 8-6 to 3-6 on September 6th in Croke Park. Tipp used great teamwork and were by far the most impressive team as they displayed pace and power in abundance to blitz the Capitalists in the third quarter, with Devaney and McLoughlin going to town in the attack and Ray Reidy and Liam Quinn



Head to head – Cork's Christy Ring and Tipperary's Liam Devaney.

defending resolutely in the backs.

So, with two All-Ireland minor medals to his name, Liam Devaney was sure to get a look in with the Tipp seniors who had won three-in-a-row in '49, '50 and '51. Many of those players were still in circulation but Trainer Paddy Leahy was only too well aware that he had to continuously freshen up the scene if he was to keep the hunger in the side.

Liam made his debut with the Tipperary senior team in the National League campaign of 1954-55, winning the first of his eight league medals with the county. Championship success eluded him until 1958, when he won the first of five All-Ireland championships when Galway were beaten by 4-9 to 2-5 in

Croke Park. The other four were in 1961, when he played a major part in Tipperary's victory over Dublin, 1962 against Wexford, 1964 against Kilkenny and 1965 against Wexford. He was also on the losing side in three finals and retired from inter-county hurling after the 1968 Oireachtas final win over Cork. He also won eight Munster championship medals in those years.

The esteem and affection in which Devaney was held was very clearly seen over the course of his obsequies. They came from far and wide to pay their respects to a man who once said that he would gladly have shared some of his All-Ireland medals in order that other counties could experience the thrill of victory – what a tremendously sporting outlook he possessed.

We can only wonder what Liam would make of today's game. He would surely crack that wry smile of his accompanied by the quick witted comment for anyone who dared to hop a ball with him in relation to Borris-Ileigh's prospects. He would be up to speed with everything relating to the team and would gladly offer his view on where the game would be won and lost. The Cattle Mart in Thurles would be buzzing as Devaney shared his views with those in attendance.

But Devaney is no more – another gentle giant of the game resting in his Heavenly home. Another legend has taken his leave. Another great of the game gone.

We remember him especially today, and all those others who have crossed the threshold as well.

*FOOTNOTE: There is a chapter on Liam Devaney's life and times in a book entitled 'Premier Legends' to be launched in a few weeks time. The book has been penned by Tipperary Star journalist Noel Dundon.*



Movement in unison... as Wexford's Dan Quigley chases Liam Devaney in the 1965 All-Ireland Final.





This picture was captured immediately after Tipperary's heavy defeat to Galway in the League Final at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick and epitomises that sport breaks all barriers. These two Galway fans clearly idolise the talents of Noel McGrath and he obliges with a request for a photo despite his disappointment with losing a National Final.

*My World Photograph of the Year*



By: BRIDGET DELANEY  
(Photographer)



# Tom MAHER – man of many roles

**T**OM MAHER was one of the first people to arrive at Semple Stadium this morning – but he might not get to see much of the action unfold on the field of play.

The Moyne-Templetuohy clubman fulfils a number of roles on behalf of the county board.

He's assistant board secretary, and he's also secretary of the Competitions Control Committee.

In addition, Maher is Semple Stadium's deputy event controller, takes care of ticketing at the venue, and also oversees fixtures for Munster GAA's Post-Primary Schools competitions.

These are busy times for Maher, who might get the chance to take a week's holidays towards the end of November.

He'll take the odd day or two during the year but in an all-encompassing brief, which has been full-time since 2014, there's little or no room for breathing space.

Maher's administrative work as CCC secretary entails setting and distributing fixtures, taking minutes at meetings, providing notice to referees and also managing their match reports.

"I reckon we'll play about 470 matches by the time we get to the end of the year," he explains. "And that's just the Tipperary CCC."

"I have other roles with ticketing and I'm semi-employed by Munster schools, looking after fixtures, referees and venues. And then I'm in Semple Stadium."

Maher's first involvement in administration dates back to the 1970s, when he served in various roles for Moyne Athletic club.

In the early 1980s, he became treasurer of Moyne-Templetuohy GAA club, before moving on to become treasurer, first, and then secretary of the Mid Board.

He assumed the role of secretary in 2005, when the late Mattie Connolly passed away, and was in that position until the end of 2009.

He's been in his current position with the county board since then, and full-time for the past three years, having worked for 29 years in the Insurance business with Royal Liver.

The late Tom Collum's untimely passing in 2013 saw Maher take over the Munster schools job.

The county board then moved to link Maher's various roles into a full-time position.

Planning for today's games began when the final pairings were revealed, as Maher explains: "My job then was to call an event meeting, link with the Gardaí, medical people, Robert



By: JACKIE CAHILL



Ryan over the security part of it.

"I'm involved in making out the Clár an Lae, and to ensure that it works on the day.

"So, I'll come in early in the morning for a check on the stadium, that nothing's lying around and that the venue is safe, before anybody comes into the place.

"Then, when people come in, it's about making sure all of the teams get to the right dressing rooms, and have their right dug-outs, make sure programmes are dishd out to the press, teams, stewards."

All the while, Maher aims to ensure that the various items on the daily plan are attended to.

When the games get underway, Maher is still on call, and doesn't get a chance to watch the action.

"No, I never see the game," he says. "No matter what matches you'd be at – county championship, Munster championship, people might ask did you see this fella do this? I'd never see it, I really wouldn't."

"I might get to the gate but even then, when I'm looking on, I'm not thinking about the game because I'll get a call to do something else. I'll record the game and watch it on TV if possible later."

On big days at Semple Stadium, Maher confirms that it's very much a team effort.

"A lot of people put their shoulders to the wheel," he says. "Dave Hanley and his crew are looking after the pitch and people are in cleaning up and making sure the toilets are clean.

"It's a big operation. People don't realise that it doesn't just appear there. It's a multi-thousand euro operation."

With so many fixtures finally run off, and silverware handed out across the various grades, you'd think that Maher might have some time to draw breath.

He says: "The county championships won't finish until the end of November, and the schools are right up to Christmas.

"Then there's the report for county convention. I generally take a week off towards the end of November but that's all really, maybe a day or two here and there.

"You're always busy. At the start of the year you have the League and you're organising that, club games, the schools from January to May and the ticket situation in the summer time. Then it's back to the county championships and on to Christmas again. But it's great to be able to do it."



# 3-in-a-row after a 32 YEAR GAP

By: SEAMUS J. KING



**I**N WINNING the county senior hurling title of 1992, Toomevara ended a great famine that had lasted thirty-two years. They won the title in a replay with Thurles Sarsfields at Semple Stadium on November 8, the same opposition they had defeated in their previous, 1960 victory.

The celebrations were mighty immediately after the victory and later in the village. One of the speakers at the homecoming was Neil Williams, who had played a major part in the revival of hurling in the parish, and he had some prophetic words on the occasion: 'There was a warrant out for the arrest of Dan Breen and Toomevara executed the warrant. We'll keep him in captivity for quite some time. He's home to stay!'

The victory in 1992 was followed by two more in subsequent years to make it three-in-a-

row. Nenagh Éire Óg, Boherlahan-Dualla and Clonoulty-Rossmore intervened during the next three years, but Toomevara came back with a bang in 1998 to win four-in-row and dominate the senior hurling scene in the county. Mullinahone spiked their guns in 2002 but they came back for a double in 2003 and 2004, and finished off a great period by winning again in 2006 and 2008, for a grand total of eleven victories in seventeen years, eliminating any vestiges of the famine.

## 1992

Having lost to Cashel King Cormacs in the 1991 county semi-final, Toomevara made the breakthrough in 1992. They started the year well by winning the league, with victory over Borrisileigh and this victory was to prove important as they had to rely on it to get into the knockout stages of the county championship.

They didn't do well in the North championship, losing to Borrisileigh in a replayed first-round game. This put them into the losers group. They beat Kilruane-MacDonoghs and Portroe to win the final and qualify for the semi-final proper. It took three games to decide the tie against Lorrha and Toomevara came out on the wrong side of the verdict.

This is where the league victory came into play. As winners Toomevara had earned the right of a play-off with the championship runners-up for the right to represent the division as the second team in the county championship. Ironically, Lorrha were again their opponents. After a very poor start Toomevara found themselves eleven points in arrears at the end of the first quarter. However, the team rose to the challenge and eventually won by four points and qualify for the county championship.

## County Championship

Four days after the victory over Lorrha on September 13 Toomevara played Ballingarry in the quarter-final at Semple Stadium and won by 2-9 to 0-10. Four weeks later they played Loughmore-Castleiney in the semi-final. The mid side were hot favourites to win



Kevin Kennedy and Tommy Dunne celebrate after the 1992 County Final.





Back row (l.-r.): Sean Nolan, Michael Nolan, Mike Murphy, Pat Meagher, Pat King, Liam Flaherty, Tommy Dunne, Tommy Carroll, Kevin Kennedy, Liam Nolan. Middle row (l.-r.): Aidan Maxwell, Philip Shanahan, Tony Delaney, George Frend, Jodie Grace, Declan O'Meara, Michael O'Meara, Rory Brislane, John Ryan. Front row (l.-r.): Jimmy Dunne, Terry Dunne, Mike McCormack, Noel Kenneally, Michilin Delaney, Brendan Spillane, Kevin McCormack.

this encounter but Toomevara hung in and scored four points without reply in the final quarter to reach the county final for the first time since 1961 on a scoreline of 0-11 to 0-9.

Their opponents in the final were Thurles Sarsfields and the sides clashed in Semple Stadium on November 1. An uninspiring game saw the sides level on a scoreline of Thurles Sarsfields 1-10, Toomevara 0-13 at the end of sixty minutes and the teams had to meet again a week later. On this occasion Toomevara came out on top by 0-12 to 1-6 in a great game to win their eleventh county senior hurling title.

The county champions were as follows: Jody Grace, Pat Meagher, Rory Brislane, Michael O'Meara (capt.), George Frend, Declan O'Meara, Philip Shanahan, Pat King, Tony Delaney, Tommy Dunne, Michael Murphy, Terry



Pa Joe Whelehan  
- Coach/Selector

Dunne, Liam Flaherty, Liam Nolan, Tommy Carroll. Subs: Michael Nolan for Liam Flaherty, Kevin McCormack for Tommy Carroll. Also: Sean Nolan, Kenneth McDonnell, John Ryan, Jimmy Dunne, Brendan Spillane, Kevin Delaney, Owen Cuddihy.

Selectors: Fr. Michael Casey, Jim McDonald, Frank Ryan. Coach/selector: P. J. Whelehan.

Referee: Tommy Lonergan (Kilsheelan)

The win qualified Toomevara for the semi-final of the Munster Club championship. On a day on which they played great hurling but drove twenty-three wides, they lost by two points on a scoreline of 2-7 to 0-11.

## 1993

Toomevara failed once again to win the North championship. They came through the league when they defeated Roscrea in a replay

**By winning their three-in-a-row, Toomevara confirmed their domination in senior hurling in the county and established themselves as one of the great teams in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Not since the 1970s, when Kilruane MacDonaghs won the previous three-in-a-row, was there a team of equal dominance.**

**In winning the three-in-a-row Toomevara equalled a club record achieved in the period 1912-14.**





Brendan Carroll (Thurles Sarsfields) and Pat King (Toomevara) during the 1992 County Final.

by 1-11 to 1-7. They lost the first round of the championship to Nenagh Eire Óg by 1-9 to 1-8 on a day when Toomevara had two men sent off. Taking the losers group route, they defeated Newport and Borrisokane, before overcoming Borrisoleigh by 1-10 to 0-11 after a dramatic finish, during which they scored 1-1 to grab a semi-final spot.

Toomevara's opponents were Nenagh Eire Óg, who were in outstanding form on the day and their dominance was reflected in the score-line of 5-13 to 1-10. Nenagh went on to defeat Moneygall in the final and Toomevara's entrée to the county championship depended on defeating the runners-up. They made easy work of the task, defeating Moneygall by 1-17 to 1-7 at Cloughjordan on August 29 and qualifying for the county championship.

### County Championship

Toomevara's opponents in the county quarter-final at Templemore on September 12 were Cashel King Cormacs. They gave a very impressive performance in hammering the West champions by 1-17 to 1-4. Their opponents in the semi-final on September 25 were Thurles

Sarsfields. This was a most disappointing game in which the champions outshone a poor Sarsfields performance and won by 0-18 to 0-9, having outscored their opponents by 0-6 to 0-1 in the final quarter.

Toomevara's opponents in the final were Nenagh Eire Óg, a team that had defeated them twice in the North championship. Yet, Toomevara went into the game as favourites on the basis that they hadn't their act together when they went down in defeat. They justified their favourites tag in the first half leading by 1-8 to 0-3 approaching the interval. While Michael Cleary hit three points to improve Nenagh's position just before the half-time whistle, Toomevara were still favourites to win. However, Nenagh were transformed after the interval and midway through the second half they went into the lead by 1-11 to 1-9. Toomevara rallied again and with ten minutes to go it was anybody's game. In a very exciting ending Toomevara went ahead by two points,

Nenagh brought it back to one and in a welter of excitement Toomevara survived to win by 1-14 to 1-13 and produce a tremendous ending to a year that hadn't started off too promising.

The county champions were as follows: Jody Grace (capt.), Pat Meagher, Rory Brislane, Declan O'Meara, George Frend, Michael O'Meara, Philip Shanahan, Tony Delaney, Pat King, Michael Nolan, Michael Murphy, Liam Flaherty, Tommy Carroll, Kevin Kennedy, Tommy Dunne. Subs: John Ryan for Michael Murphy. Also Kevin McCormack, Terry Dunne, Liam Nolan, Michael Delaney, Sean Nolan, Jimmy Dunne, Aidan Maxwell, Brendan Spillane, Noel Kenneally, Michael McCormack.

Selectors: Fr. Michael Casey, Jim McDonnell, Frank Ryan. Coach/selector: Sean Stack.

Referee: Paddy Lonergan (Galtee Rovers).

Toomevara went closer to winning a club All-Ireland in 1993 than in any other year as

### Toomevara Club Officers 1992-1994

President: Matt Hassett  
Vice-President: Tom Shanahan  
Chairman: Fr. Michael Casey, C.C.  
Secretary: Matt O'Meara  
Treasurer: Bernard O'Neill  
Registrar: Neil Williams  
P.R.O.: Kieran Grace/Philip Shanahan



county champions. Two weeks after winning their second senior championship in a row, they faced Patrickswell at home in the first round of the Munster championship. Before a large crowd they won a comprehensive victory on a scoreline of 5-15 to 1-10. They also drew a home venue for their semi-final encounter with St. Finbarrs on November 7 and won again, this time by the much narrower margin of 1-10 to 0-12. The final was played at Limerick against Sixmilebridge, which had the awkward predicament that the Toomevara coach, Sean Stack, played centreback for Sixmilebridge. Toomevara came through by 0-15 to 0-7 to bring the Munster Club title to the parish for the first time. The All-Ireland semi-final against Ballycran was played at Croke Park on February 28, 1994 as a curtain-raiser to a NFL game between Dublin and Down and Toomevara came through by 1-13 to 1-5. They were now in the All-Ireland final and their opponents on St. Patrick's Day were the Galway champions, Sarsfields. Toomevara played with the wind in the first half and led by 2-4 to 0-4 at half-time. However, corner-back, Pat Meagher, was sent off in the twenty-third minute, which meant that the team had to play with fourteen men for most of the hour. It proved too great a task and they were beaten in the end by two points, on a scoreline of 1-14 to 3-6.

## 1994

Toomevara looked form horses for a third county final in 1994. They were the team to beat. Their performance in the club championship was a signal to all that they were a powerful hurling force once again. They won the league for the third year in a row, beating Nenagh Eire Óg by 0-13 to 0-11 in the final.

They also accounted for Nenagh in the first round of the championship, winning by the same margin of two points. They drew with Lorrha in the second round, but won the replay. They overcame Moneygall by 1-13 to 0-8 in the North semi-final and set up a meeting with Kilruane MacDonaghs in the final. This match was played at Nenagh on August 14 and Toomevara easily overcame the opposition by 1-16 to 0-7. The twelve-point margin of victory was a good indication of their superiority.

## County Championship.

Toomevara's opponents in the county quarter-final at Templemore on August 27 were Thurles Sarsfields. Two goals between the tenth and thirteenth minutes effectively killed off the



Sean Stack with selectors Fr Casey, Jim McDonnell and Frankie Ryan.

mid side's challenge and Toomevara went on to win by 2-16 to 0-9. They played Clonoulty-Rossmore in the semi-final and although Toomevara had a player sent off after only eight minutes, they went on to dominate the game in the second half and win by 4-17 to 1-12.

Toomevara were two to one favourites going into the final against Cashel King Cormacs. They got an early goal, led by 1-6 to 0-4 at the interval, were ahead by 2-9 to 0-6 entering the final quarter and in the end were worthy champions by 3-11 to 1-9.

*The county, 3-in-a-row, champions were as follows:* Jody Grace, Pat Meagher (capt.) Rory Brislane, Declan O'Meara, George Frend, Michael O'Meara, Phil Shanahan, Terry Duunne, Pat King, Kevin Kennedy, Michael Murphy, Tony Delaney, Liam Nolan, Tommy Dunne, Tommy Carroll. *Subs:* Liam Flaherty for Rory Brislane, Rory Brislane for Liam Nolan. *Also:* Justin Cottrell, Kevin McCormack, Aidan Maxwell, Joseph O'meara, Denis Kelly, Michael Bevans, Ray Hackett, Damien o'Meara, Ken Dunne.

*Selectors:* Fr. Michael Casey, Jim McDonald, Frankie Ryan. *Coach/selector:* Sean Stack

*Referee:* Michael Doyle (Holycross-Ballycahill).

Toomevara set out to retain the Munster Club title they had won for the first time the previous year. They easily overcame Ballyduff by 1-18 to 1-6 at home in the first round. They followed up with victory over Clarecastle at Ennis by the minimum of margins, 1-12 to 1-11 in the semi-final. Their final opponents were Kilmallock. Played at Thurles, Toomevara gave a rather flat performance before going down by 2-11 to 1-11.



# TOOMEVARA

## PLAYER PROFILES

**JODIE GRACE** (*Coolkereen*) was a commanding presence in the goals for the three county final victories and captain of the 1993 side that won the Munster Club title as well. He won junior & senior All-Irelands with Tipperary in 1989 and 1991 respectively.

**RORY BRISLANE** (*Ashgrove*) was Toomevara's ever-present fullback all through the nineties. He captained Toome to their breakthrough North final win in 1991. A winner of Harty and Croke Cup medals with St. Flannan's, he represented the county at minor and under-21 levels.

**PAT MEAGHER** (*Grennans-town*) was corner back on all three winning teams and was captain of the 1994 side that also won North senior league and championship.

**GEORGE FREND** (*Barnagrotty*) was a vital member of the defence on all three winning teams. He won an All-Ireland under-21 title with Tipperary in 1989 and captained the county to a National Hurling League title in 1995.

**MICHAEL O'MEARA** (*Ballintotty*) was captain of the team for the first of the three-in-a-row county titles. He won a senior All-Ireland with the county in 1991 and captained to county to Munster final glory in 1993.

**PAT KING** (*Killowney*) was a key centrefield player on the three teams. Earlier in his career he won county intermediate and under-21 titles. In 1995 he won a National Hurling League medal with Tipperary.

**TONY DELANEY** (*Chapel Street*) was one of the most versatile and durable players on the panel, successfully playing in many positions. A winner of county minor and under-21 medals, he is the holder of an astonishing eleven county senior medals.

**MICHAEL MURPHY** (*Millview*) was an aggressive centre-forward. He won a county intermediate medal in 1984 and county under-21 titles the following two years.

**PHILIP SHANAHAN** (*Coolederry*) was a classy and skilful defender. He won an All-Ireland under-21 medal with Tipperary in 1995 and, in 1998 captained Toome to a county senior title.

**TOMMY DUNNE** (*Curraheen*) won a North senior title with his father, Tony, in 1991. A winner of an All-Ireland under-21 title in 1995, he captained Tipperary to a senior All-Ireland in 2001. He has three All-Star awards and was named Texaco Hurler of the Year in 2001.

**TERRY DUNNE** (*Curraheen*) was a commanding presence

on the field. He won an All-Ireland under-21 medal in 1995 and a senior medal with Tipperary in 2001. He finished his career with eleven county senior hurling medals.

**KEN DUNNE** (*Curraheen*) was a notable free-taker and became the third member of his family to captain Toome to a North title in 2002. In 2006 he displayed nerves of steel to land the winning point in the Munster Club final.

**MICHAEL NOLAN** (*Kilnafinch*) was an accurate forward during this era. In 1986 he captained Toome to their first ever county minor title. He won an All-Ireland under-21 title with Tipperary in 1989.

**LIAM NOLAN** (*Kilnafinch*) was a forward with a devastating shot. He won county under-16, intermediate and under-21 titles, and scored a goal in the All-Ireland Club final in 1994.

**SEAN NOLAN** (*Kilnafinch*) was the oldest of the three Nolan brothers. He won a county intermediate title in 1984 and was fullback on the Toome team that won the breakthrough North final of 1991.

**MICILIN DELANEY** (*Chapel Street*) won a county minor medal with Toome in 1986 and an All-Ireland Colleges B medal with Nenagh CBS. A year later he won another county minor medal, and a Munster minor medal with Tipperary

**KEVIN McCORMACK** (*Church Street*) was a very fine goalkeeper, but he also



played out the field. He won an All-Ireland Vocational Schools title in 1988, when he scored three goals in the final at Croke Park. He also won a Munster under-21 medal in 1990.

**KEVIN DELANEY** (*Clonolea*) won a North minor hurling title in 1985, and North and county minor titles the following year. He also has junior A and junior B North titles to his credit.

**OWEN CUDDIHY** (*Gawn*) was a highly regarded goalkeeper. He won a North junior A title in 1991 and North and county junior B titles in 1995.

**JOE O'MEARA** (*Roscordagh*) won the Corn Mhic Ruain with St. Joseph's, Borrisoleigh in 1992, a North minor title in 1993, and North and county under-21 titles in 1995.

**DENIS KELLY** (*Borrisofarney*) won North minor titles in 1993, 1994 and 1995, when he captained the side. He won an All-Ireland Colleges B title with Our Lady's, Templemore, and North and county under-21 titles in 1995.

**NOEL KENNEALLY** (*Millview*) won North and county junior B titles in 1995, and North and county junior A titles in 1997. In 2000 he won North and county junior B titles.

**JUSTIN COTTRELL** (*Temple-downey*) was an able goalkeeper, who played for the county at under-21 and senior level. He won North and county under-21 titles in 1995. In 2001 he captained

the first Toome team to win four county senior titles in a row.

**RAY HACKETT** (*Gawn*) won North minor titles in 1993 and 1994. He won North and county under-21 titles in 1995 and North and county junior A titles in 1997.

**AIDAN MAXWELL** (*Glenaguile*) was a fine defender. He won North and county titles at under-12, under-14 and under-16 levels. In 1995 he captained the Toome under-21 team to North and county titles.

**MIKEY BEVANS** (*Ballymackey*) captained Toome to county senior final wins in 2003 and 2008. In 1995 he won North and county under-21 titles. In 1999 and 2000 he won Fitzgibbon Cup medals with Waterford IT

**JIMMY DUNNE** (*Curraheen*) RIP, the younger brother of Tony, won a North junior football title in 1982, and North and county intermediate titles in 1984. He captained Toome to North and county junior A titles in 1997.

**BRENDAN SPILLANE** (*Lissaniskey*), a tight marking corner back, he won North and county intermediate titles in 1984, North and county under-21 titles in 1985 and also has junior A and junior B titles to his credit.

**KEVIN KENNEDY** (*Chapel Street*) was a very effective full forward. He won North and county minor medals in 1987, and North and county under-21 medals in 1990, and

a championship medal in New York.

**JOHN RYAN** (*Curraheen*) was a fast and elusive forward, who won North and county under-21 titles in 1985 and 1986

**LIAM FLAHERTY** (*Barnagrotty*) was a hard working forward, who won North and county under-21 titles in 1985, and North and county junior A titles in 1997.

**KENNETH McDONNELL** (*Blakefield*) captained Toome to a North minor title in 1985 and was a member of the county under-21 panel in 1988.

**TOMMY CARROLL** (*Blean*) was an astute corner forward who won North and county minor titles in 1987, and a county under-21 medal in 1990.

**DECLAN O'MEARA** (*Ballintotty*) won North and county minor medals in 1986 and 1987 and was a superb defender on the three-in-a-row teams. He won a Munster minor medal in 1987 and captained the Tipperary minor team in 1988.

**MICHAEL McCORMACK** (*Church Street*) won North and county intermediate medals in 1984 and a North junior A title in 1991.

**DAMIAN O'MEARA** (*Woodlands*) was one of the minors drafted into the senior panel in 1994. He captained the minor team to a North title that year, and added North and county under-21 titles, as well as another minor title the following year.



# TIPPERARY COACHING & GAMES DEVELOPMENT

By: ANDY RYAN

## THURLES FRESH MILK TIPPERARY HURLING DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

2017 was another busy year for Tipperary Hurling Development Squads. 2017 saw changes to other years in ages and competitions in which Tipperary took part. These changes included the Munster Inter-Divisional going from Under-16 to 15, a Munster and All Ireland competition for Under-17s to facilitate the players who are going to miss a year of minor due to the new rule with Minor going to Under-17. Another change for Tipperary is that they had two Tipperary teams in the Celtic Challenge. **Under-17s:**

Tipperary's first development squad out were the Under-17 hurlers who got the tough draw of facing a very strong Cork side and to make it harder were giving the task of an away venue. Tipp battled hard throughout the game but a very strong Cork team took over in the final stages winning by a score line of Cork 2-22 Tipperary 2-9. Cork went on to beat Waterford in the Munster Final.

### Munster Inter-Divisional Hurling:

This year saw a change in the age of this competition where the age group was changed from Under-16 to 15. Like last year it was decided that Tipperary would enter 3 regions in the A section rather than 4 divisions with one division playing in B grade, and like last year this worked out quite well for all involved. This competition was run over the May Bank Holiday weekend with qualifying rounds played at various venues around Munster and the semi-finals, shield final and final played on the Monday in Mallow. Our three regions competed quite well in the qualifying rounds with North Tipp and Mid Tipp qualifying for the semi finals on Bank Monday. North Tipperary were beaten by North Cork in the Final with Mid Tipperary winning the Shield Final.

### Celtic Challenge

The Celtic Challenge is the only competition in hurling that has teams from all 32 counties participating. In 2016 a total of 38 teams with over 1000 players played in this national competition. Tipperary had one team in the competition last year where the players representing Tipperary were from South West Tipperary clubs. In 2017 it was decided for Tipperary to enter two teams into the Celtic Challenge, one from South West clubs and one from North Mid.

After all the round robin games were played North Mid Tipperary finished third in Group A behind Galway McDonaghs and Galway Maroons and were put in Division 2 for the knockout stages. In Group E South West

finished runners up to East Cork and qualified for Division 1 for the knockout stages. In the knockout stages both Tipperary teams competed in some very tough games with Tipperary coming out victorious in Division 1 final. This was a fantastic achievement for both players and mentors involved. The following are the results of knockout stages.

**Quarter-Final, 10/6/17:** South West Tipperary 1-16, Kilkenny Amber 2-12 in WIT Waterford. **emi-Final, 15/6/17:** South West Tipperary 1-18, Kilkenny Black 1-15 in WIT Waterford. **inal, 24/6/17:** South West Tipperary 2-11, Galway Maroons 2-11

### Division 2

**Quarter-Final, 10/6/17:** North Mid Tipperary 1-22, South East Clare 0-12 in Birr. **Semi-Final, 17/6/17:** North Mid Tipperary 1-16 North Cork 3-12 in Golden. The following are the players and mentors of the victorious South Tipperary team:

**South West Tipperary –** Jack Downey (Clonmel Óg), Cian Mullane (Clerihan), Brian Barlow (Golden-Kilfeacle), Ger O'Dwyer (Knockavilla Kickhams), Josh Ryan (St Mary's Clonmel), Eoghan Connolly (Cashel King Cormac), Mark Stokes (Kilsheelan-Kilcashi), Martin Keogh (Mullinahone), Rian Quigley (Moyle Rovers), Mark Downey (Rosegreen), Oisín Drennan (Mullinahone), Aidan Griffin (Éire Óg Annacarty), Aaron Ryan (Cappawhite), Stephen Grogan (Cahir), Tomás Vaughan (Skeheenarinky), Nicholas Reidy (Cahir), Conor Duggan (St Patrick's), Shane Farrell (Knockavilla Kickhams), Conor McGrath (Moyle Rovers), Paul Devlin (Éire Óg Annacarty), Shane O'Connor (Clonmel Óg), Paudie Maher (Ballingarry), Stephen Carr (Sean Treacys), T.J. Quigley (Clonmel Óg), Fionn Brady (Cappawhite), Colm O'Dwyer (Cappawhite), Tony Byron (Galtee Rovers)

**Mentors:** John Ryan (Golden-Kilfeacle), Declan Hickey (Skeheenarinky), Tom O'Donnell (Golden-Kilfeacle), Fergus McGrath (St Mary's Clonmel).

## HURLING DEVELOPMENT SQUADS TOURNAMENTS

As like other years 2017 was another busy year for our hurling development squads. With the year starting off with our Inter Divisional competitions which were run a round robin basis. Once these competitions finished county mentors started holding trials in all ages, after a series of trials coaching sessions and challenges games were held in preparation for the development squad tournaments held in August. August 28th was the busiest day of the year for all these squads when the hurling tournaments took place in various venues throughout Munster. Below is a report on all ages and how they performed on the day in the various competitions.

### Under-14:

Our Under-14s took part in The Tony Forristal and Sonny Walsh







tournaments in Waterford. Our A team were based in Mount Sion and B team based in Walsh Park and their semi-final played in Erin's Own Poleberry. The four divisions were well represented on both panels with 15 players from the Mid, 14 from the West, 12 from the North and 7 from the South. The following are the panels, management and results from the tournaments.

#### **A Panel (Tony Forristal)**

After a shaky start in their first game against Dublin, this group settled down and were superb throughout the day, showing great character and skill. All players got game time, which was a huge asset, as management were able to rest players in all games throughout this long day for 13 year olds. After a very tough game in the semi-final against a very well coached Laois team, Tipperary went on to beat Galway in the final and the Tony Forristal returned to the Premier County for the first time since 2009. Emmet Butler of Kilsheelan-Kilcassidy accepted the cup on behalf of this fine group of players. The divisional breakdown for this panel was North 9, Mid 7, West 6 and South 2.

The following were the players and management of the winning Tipperary Squad: James Finn (Portroe), Conor Horgan (Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickams), D.J. McGrath (Kiladangan), Luke Galvin (Holycross-Ballycahill), Edward Meagher (Loughmore-Castleiney), Michael Corcoran (Silvermines), Jamie Duncan (Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickams), Robert Doyle (Clonoulty-Rossmore), Paul Seymour (Kiladangan), Eoin Grace (Burgess), Ciaran McCormack (Loughmore-Castleiney), Emmet Butler (Kilsheelan-Kilcassidy), Stephen Ferncombe (Clonoulty-Rossmore), Jack Leamy (Golden-Kilfeacle), Darragh Stakelum (Dúrlas Óg), Eoghan Loneragan (Arravale Rovers), Louie Doyle (Killenaule), Luke Shanahan (Upperchurch-Drombane), Eddie Ryan (Borris-Ileigh), Liam McCormack (Dúrlas Óg), Tony Cahill (Drom & Inch), Michael Ryan (Burgess) and David Fogarty (Holycross-Ballycahill). Conor McKelvey Silvermines was part of the panel but got injured just before the tournament.

Management: Andy Ryan (GDA), Damien Ryan (Portroe) and Joe Carmody (Cappawhite).

This squad on paper were a very strong squad with 8 players coming from each of the Mid and West 5 from South Tipperary and 3 from the North, in other years the standard they were playing at a number of players would make an A squad. Unfortunately our boys were put in a very tough group with Kilkenny and Galway with Cork being in a lot easier group. When it came to semi-final stages Cork were a lot fresher and came out winners by 4 points. Cork went on to win the Sonny Walsh in easy fashion against Clare.

#### **Under-15**

Our Under-15 panel were split between Cork and Clare with the A team in Carrigdhoun tournament in Cork and the Bs in Tualla Co Clare for the B tournament.

##### **A Panel**

Tipperary's first game in the Carrigdhoun team was against the host team Cork, this was always going to be an uphill battle as Tipp had played Cork recently in a challenge game which Cork won convincingly. It was a totally different game in the tournament with Tipperary boys giving it their all and just losing out by a single point. They then went on to

draw with Limerick and qualify for the Plate Final in which they beat a fancied Waterford side. Tipperary A panel had 8 players from South Tipperary, 6 each from Mid and West and 4 from North Tipperary.

##### **B Panel**

With 12 players from North Tipperary, 6 from West, 5 from Mid and 1 player from South our Under-15 B panel played games against Waterford, Galway and Clare. After these game they qualified for the Shield final against a very strong Kerry team.

#### **Under-16**

South Tipperary were the hosts of the Under-16 A Arrabawn and Under-16 B John Doyle Cup. Tipperary A team was based in Moyle Rovers and the B team based in Fr Sheehy's with their semi-final being held in Ballylooby. Players were spread out from around the county on these panels. On the A players were from: North Tipp 9, Mid 8, West 5 and South had 3. On the B the breakdown was very even with North, South and West having 7 each and Mid having 5.

##### **A Panel**

This was a group which hadn't achieved or performed in tournaments Under-14 and 15. The Under-16 management were put together early in the year which gave them a chance to see all players available to them in the inter-divisional competitions. Once these competitions were over trials were held for a short period and management selected their players for both panels. This was run on a very professional basis with coaching being the key. This paid off in the tournaments as both teams really excelled above to the previous two years.

Tipperary were drawn in a group with Offaly, Clare and Dublin winning all their games. They faced Galway in the semi-final, winning out by a 12 point margin – then to face a strong Kilkenny team in the final who had played a game less than Tipperary throughout the day. This showed in the final as some of Tipperary players just ran out of steam after giving it their all throughout the day when Tipperary lost by 2-10 to 4-12.

##### **B Panel**

This panel worked as hard as the A panel in training under a very good management team. On the day of the tournament they had big wins over Carlow and Westmeath first teams and Clare's second team. In a cracking semi-final against Cork they narrowly lost out on penalties. This panel were a credit to Tipperary hurling the way they went about their business and a lot of players standing up to the plate of county development squad standard.

Overall it was a successful tournament weekend for Tipperary squads. Tipperary were involved in 23 games – winning 16, drew 2 and losing 5. It is very important that we compete well in all these competitions and use them for the development of our players. Although it is nice to win, I think we should always have that as a bonus, but development comes first.

All divisions were well represented in all squads with the total breakdown being 44 from North Tipperary, 39 from Mid, 38 from West and 26 from South Tipperary.



# Cluiche ó neamh

By: SEAMUS Ó DUBHAGÁIN

**T**Á ÁIT ar Leith i gcuimhne na cosmuintire ar an gcoimhlint idir Buirgheas agus na Sáirséalaigh le glúinte fada anuas. Bhíodh na seandaoine ag trácht de shíor ar imirt órga Jimmy Finn, loinnir gréine i ré órga na hiománaíochta. I gcuideachta Liam Devaney agus Jimmy Doyle, beirt sár laoch imithe anois ar shlí na fírinne, ba léir an tardmheas, an t-ómós agus an dílseacht dá chéile. Ar ndóigh, ní raibh imreoir riamh ar aon dul le Paddy Kenny agus gach buille mar urchar as gunna aige agus é ina laoch do-chloíte ag an dá chlub lenar imir sé ar feadh a shaoil. Buaileadh sonc mór asainn féin mar imreoirí óga ag deireadh na seascaidí nuair a chasamar ar a leithéid de Noel Dwyer, Timmy Delaney agus Paul Kennedy i gcluiche ceannais an chontae faoi 21. Ach, é is moite den obair iontach a bhí idir lámha ag an bhfear séimh, Paddy Prior, ag an am, maraon leis na Sáirséalaigh, níor éirigh go ró-mhaith le ceachtar foireann ó thaobh na mbonn óir de ach rug Borris cur chuige gleoite, flaithiúlacht

anama agus greann damanta leo ar pháirceanna Thiobraid Árann gach samhradh in aimsear an ghorta iománaíochta. Níos déanaí, tháinig glúin eile chun tosaigh, Bobby, Flowery agus Aidan Ryan ina measc a thuill clú agus cáil dá bparóiste dúchais féin agus a bhí mar chnámh droma ag Tiobraid Árann féin ar a mbealach chun a nard réime athuair. D'éirigh leo mar go raibh taithí as cuimse acu, iad chomh chrua le cloch agus ag an am céanna ba rógaíri cearta iad freisin!

Inniu, níl a macasamhail in Éirinn d'iománaí gleoite mar Brendan Maher. Tá maorgacht iománaíochta ag síleadh uaidh. Ní taise do Phádraig Maher mar thacaí-seasann sé céim le céim le laochra móra Thiobraid Árann a sheas i mbéal an bhearna, a shinsear féin san áireamh. Is é seo a chuireann brí agus beocht sa chluiche inniu – comhrac eile a chuirfidh go mór le cuimhní cinn na hiománaíochta agus an tseanchais a bhaineann leis.



Paddy Dolan holding Borrisoleigh's famous mascot.





# A match made in heaven

By: SÉAMUS Ó DUBHAGÁIN

**T**HERE is something special about Borrisleigh and the Sarsfields that goes back generations. The old people spoke about the mercurial aspect of Jimmy Finn's play in an era of real hurling greatness. In the company of Liam Devaney and Jimmy Doyle one could always sense the mutual respect and the fierce loyalty between them. Of course, there never would be another player like Paddy Kenny who had the hardest shot in hurling and was adored by both clubs with whom he played on many occasions.

One of the first great shocks of my hurling career was running into the metaphorical uppercut at the hands of Noel Dwyer, Timmy Delaney, Paul Kennedy et al in a county U/21 final at the end of the sixties. Borris-Ileigh, like Sarsfields, despite the wonderful work of that quiet gentleman, Paddy Prior, spent long periods in the doldrums but I always felt that

notwithstanding the lack of a bishop's coat of arms, they still held that decency, sense of fun and real hurling style that they brought in spades to hurling fields all over Tipperary for many a summer in the famine years.

Later on, a generation that included Bobby, Flowery and Aidan Ryan would bring great glory to Borris and indeed be the backbone of Tipperary resurgence but they achieved it with great hands, teak toughness and more than a flash of humour and devilment!

Today, there is not a more stylish hurler in Ireland than Brendan Maher. Everything he does oozes class. Likewise in defence, Padraig Maher can stand tall in the company of great centrebacks including his granduncle John.

It is this presence of real hurling class in so many positions that makes today's game instinctively mouthwatering – another tussle to add to golden memories of hurling and hurling men.



Sean Kenny – 1949 – leads Borrisoleigh to victory.





# Scór

## Scór Thiobraid Árann 2017 – What a Year!

**W**HAT a year it was for Tipperary Scór. Not alone did we have a very successful Scór na bPáistí competition across the county but history was made when we had eight Munster Champions in Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsear, with three of six at Scór Sinsear level emerging victorious All-Ireland winners in the hallowed halls of Belfast's Waterfront Theatre.

No other county in the history of Scór has achieved



Newport – winners of the Instrumental Music in the All-Ireland Final of Senior Scór.



Joseph Boyle (Borrisoleigh) – winner of the Solo Song in the Co. Final of Scór na nÓg. He is pictured with Josephine Cahill (Co. Chairperson Scór) and Tipperary footballer Josh Keane.

such success agus Tréaslaíonn Bord agus Coiste Scór an Chontae le na hiomaitheoirí agus na moltóirí uile idir pháistí is déagóirí is daoine fásta a ghlac páirt sna comórtais go léir i rith na bliana.

Our officers and local committees do sterling work in the promotion, the organising and the celebration of the cultural identity that is Scór and we do hope that success will breed success and we will have an equally busy and happy year in the 2017-2018 season.

We would encourage all club members to take part in or promote the many competitions that make up Scór and as we develop a Munster Scór Strategic plan for 2017-2020 we hope that we will go ó neart go neart. Taking part is what really matters and there are many Scór officers that are only too happy to offer advice and provide you with the appropriate information.

We wish all finalists in today's matches Ádh mhór and go mbeidh an lá is an bhliain againn i gCúrsaí Scór agus i gCúrsaí CLG.



JK Brackens – winners of the Set Dancing in the Munster Final of Senior Scór.



Newcastle – winners of the Set Dancing in the Co. Final of Scór na nÓg.

### Katie Shanahan – Borrisoleigh's All-Ireland Scór Champion 2017

Borrisoleigh's own Katie Shanahan is a wonderful advocate of Scór. Katie won the All-Ireland Final of Scór Sinsear in Amhránaíocht Aonair in Belfast earlier this year. The following is a short interview with Katie

**Q:** You did your leaving Cert last year Katie. What course are you following?

**A:** At the moment I am studying Beauty and Body Therapy and hope to make a career of it. I will keep music and singing very close.



**Q:** When did you first participate in Scór?

**A:** 2013 and I have since gone on to participate in Scór na

nÓg, Scór Sinsear and Scór Encore on TG4.

**Q:** What has been your greatest achievement to date?

**A:** Winning the All Ireland Scór title in Belfast in 2017. Being feted in my home parish on the Sunday evening with friends and family...

**Q:** What does Scór mean to you?

**A:** It means a lot to me as I have gotten great confidence in my singing from Scór over the years. It's a great way of making new friends and it helps you to grow in

confidence in what talent you have. I'm 18 years old now and since I was about 7 or 8 I have had a great interest in music and singing and its a big part of my life.

**Q:** Who are your idols?

**A:** A few of my idols are Dolores Keane, Luke Kelly and Finbarr Furey.

**Q:** What are your predictions for the match today?

**A:** Hopefully all will go well for Borris and they will bring Dan Breen home to Borris. Go raibh maith agat Katie. Tá fáilte romhat.



# Scoláireachtaí 2017

**D**'ÉIRIGH le níos mó ná 50 dalta scoile ó na clubanna i dTiobraid Árann scoláireachtaí a bhaint amach i mbliana agus tréaslaíonn Coiste an Chontae leo uile.

Over 50 students from clubs all over the county travelled to Coláiste na Rinne agus Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltachtaí and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Gan amhras bhain siad idir taitneamh is tairbhe as an tréimhse sna coláistí agus tá súil acu go léir filleadh amach anseo.

All clubs will be circulated with application forms early in 2018 and the forms will also be available to download on the Tipperary GAA website. Má tá suim agat sa chóras bí cinnte go bhfuil sé lionta i gceart agus go bhfuil cláruimhir an chlub breactha síos agaibh. Cuirfear na hiarrthóirí go léir faoi agallamh agus beidh teastas molta ón gclub ag teastáil chomh maith.

Bígí ag faire amach ar na fógraí ar an suíomh agus ó rúnaí an chlub. Is fiú go mór dul go Gaeltachtaí na Mumhan.

Seo cuid de na daltaí a bhain scoláireachtaí amach anuraidh.

## Dúrlas Óg – Oisín Ó Briain agus James Tréanlámhach

Ta Oisín agus James sa 3ú bliain i Scoil na mBráithre i nDúrlas Éile. Chaith siad tréimhse i nGaeltacht na Rinne le linn an tSamhraidh agus ní bréag a rá gur bhaineadar sár taitneamh as. Tá bua na cainte labhartha acu agus tá siad líofa sa Ghaeilge. Is buachaillí móra spóirt iad



Oisín O'Brien and James Armstrong.

agus Imríonn siad le scoil na mBráithre agus le Dúrlas Óg. Bhí an bhliain acu i mbliana agus tá súil acu beirt go mbeidh an bua ag na Sars inniu. Na Sáirséalaigh abú

## Tuairim na gCailíní

Tá na cailíní seo ag freastal ar Clochar na Toirbhirte sa bhaile mór. Chaith siad tamall i gColáiste na Rinne i mbliana agus ná bí ag caint ar an dul chun cinn agus ar an sult a bhain siad as.. Tá bua an cheoil, bua an spóirt agus dar ndóigh bua na cainte acu go léir agus tá súil againn go mbeidh siad thar nais sa 5ú bliain linn. Deir Caoimhe go mbeidh an bua ag Borris inniu toisc Paddy Stapleton a bheith ina chaptaen acu!



Ón chlé: Máire Cáit Ni Chathail, Róisín Ni Dhonghaille, Aoife Ni Dhonnchadha, Caoimhe Ni Chradóg, Máire Ni Chinnéide.



## 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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