

Co. Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
1996



Nenagh
CO-OP

TIPPERARY
COUNTY

SENIOR
HURLING
CHAMPIONSHIP

THE NENAGH CO-OP TIPPERARY COUNTY SENIOR HURLING FINAL



**Stáid Semple, Dúrlas
27ú Deire Fomhair 1996**



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Clár an Lae

1.30 P.M.

COUNTY MINOR HURLING SEMI-FINAL

TOOMEVARA

v.

CLONOLTY/ROSSMORE

Réiteoir: LIAM CONNOLLY

3.00 P.M.

NENAGH CO-OP COUNTY SENIOR HURLING FINAL

TOOMEVARA

v.

BOHERLAHAN/DUALLA

Réiteoir: WILLIE BARRETT

COUNTY FINAL REFEREE:

WILLIE BARRETT

(Ardfinnan)

Linesmen: Paddy Lonergan (Stand-by Referee), Paddy Barry.
Umpires: Ritchie Boyle, Ml. O'Mahoney, Denny Whelan,
Sean Barrett.



BUÍOCHAS

To contest and win the County Senior Hurling Final is every hurler's dream and the chief aim of every hurling club in the county. Centre-stage on County Final Day naturally goes to the players and their mentors. However, the "behind the scenes" work, much of which normally goes unnoticed, is just as important in getting the teams to this stage. The officers, committees and supporters of both clubs are to be commended.

I would like to thank John Devane, Boherlahan/Dualla, and Donal Shanahan, Toomevara, for the pen-pictures of the players which they compiled.

Many thanks also to those who provided articles and to Brendan O'Connor and Jerry Ring for photographs.

John McCormack
(Editor)

Fáilte ón gCathaoirleach

A dhaoine uaisle agus a cháirde go léir, cuirim fáilte roimh gach éinne anseo inniu. Cuirim fáilte ar leith roimh na foirne. Tá súil agam go mbeidh sár imirt againn.

On behalf of Tipperary Co. Board, I welcome you all to Sempie Stadium for our senior hurling final. Boherlahan-Dualla and Toomevara take centre stage today and we extend good wishes to the players from both teams. We hope to see them do justice to their undoubted skills and bring honour and glory to their clubs and families. May the game of hurling be the real winner.

The draw and subsequent replay in this All-Ireland minor hurling final has delayed our minor championship. Unfortunately, we are unable to stage the Minor final as the curtain raiser here today, as a result. However, we have a very attractive semi-final between Clonoulty-Rossmore and Toomevara. The fact that both teams include personnel from our successful All-Ireland minor team is an added attraction.

We also welcome our referees and their officials. They have a very



Seán Ó Fógartaigh

important rôle to play in the smooth and sporting playing of our games and deserve our support and thanks at all times.

Down through the years the help of the Seán Treacy band, the Gardaí, the Order of Malta, has been invaluable. A special word of thanks to our groundsman Jimmy Purcell who looks after the pitch so well.

I hope our followers have a pleasant day and enjoy the games, and will continue to support us in the years ahead.

Seán Ó Fógartaigh

*Cathaoirleach,
Coiste Tiobrad Árann*

The Senior Man of the Match Award
is sponsored by
John Quirke
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Cahir, Co. Tipperary

TODAY'S Nenagh Co-op. County Senior Hurling Final has caught the attention of patrons throughout the land. The pairing of Toomevara and Boherlahan has not appeared on final day since 1930.

On that occasion, Toomevara emerged victorious after a replay. Despite the time-scale, there has been recent enough rivalry

Last year's semi-final produced a minor surprise, as the Mid men ended Toomevara's bid for a fourth title in a row and a club record. Memories of that two-point reverse have been revived this week and you can be certain that Toomevara's King will not surrender as easily as Cashel's Kings!

Ten years ago both clubs had links with Co. Final day. Toomevara were en route to their best ever Minor county title, which they eventually annexed, after two hectic contests with Moycarkey-Borris.

The Boherlahan-Dualla connection was provided by John Maher who refereed the senior decider between reigning All-Ireland club champions Kilruane McDonagh's and their successors at club, provincial and national level – Borrisileigh. It was the county final which preceded the Tipp revival and as such it still holds special memories for many people.

But back to today's opponents. They were both impressive at the semi-final stage two weeks ago and

if Philip O'Dwyer's score-taking claimed most of the headlines, there was much to admire about the overall performance of his team as they registered a sweet victory over near neighbours Cashel K.C.

Toomevara were not tested by Thurles Sarsfields, but that as hardly their fault! Their simple, direct, supportive and cerebral style of hurling impressed everybody and their balance is matched only by the high quality of their substitutes. Their squad strength is awesome.

*Toome'
are
favourites
– but it
won't be
easy!*

By SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

This is a perfect final pairing in many ways. Two rural clubs have worked their way (without divisional honours) to the Blue Riband decider with each fancying their chances of success. Toome' at least won the North Tipperary League (Hogan Cup), so they have something for their endeavours, but Sean Stack has not been driving from Clare to polish it!

His return has coincided with a renaissance in form by Toomevara and they have confirmed their readiness to reclaim the Dan Breen Cup. They have only to look back two years for their last title, when Cashel K.C. were beaten 3-11 to 1-9 in a disappointing decider.

The Mid men can only read of their club's last success, which dates back to 1941 and a 2-2 to 0-6 victory over Éire Óg (Anacarty). Boherlahan-Dualla will be encouraged by the Cashel mentors' comments after the semi-final between the teams. They made

◁ **Toome are favourites – contd.**

special reference to the benefits gained from losing a final, as you prepare for the next. The Cashel men should know – they lost in 1990 and won in 1991.

Toomevara won't be impressed by this argument and they will relish the challenge of avenging last season's setback. Armed as they are with a free-scoring forward line – all of whom, along with both midfielders, scored in the semi-final – they will expect a significant return from the sextet, which can surely anticipate a worthwhile supply of possession.

They have averaged more than 20 points a game between the quarter-final and semi-final, while conceding an average of only 7½ points, to the West and Mid champions respectively. It is impressive form however it is analysed.

Boherlahan's return to form following the Mid final reverse has also been impressive. They, too, have scored freely with five of their six forwards on the mark against Cashel K.C. Over the last two games their average winning margin was 12½ points. Boherlahan have shown they can score goals and

while marking will be tighter today, there is enough strength and pace to at least create the chances.

The presence of Brian Dwyer is a big advantage this year, while last year's captain, Michael Murphy, has rediscovered his best form. There is plenty of talent on both sides and given a reasonable day we could have a memorable County Final.

In the ten seasons since John Maher blew full-time, in the 1986 County Final, North and Mid teams have met on twenty-three occasions. The North lead with ten wins to eight. There were five draws. Toomevara being winners on five occasions, they drew once and lost once. By contrast, Boherlahan have one win and one loss, both in 1995.

Toomevara will be the favourites, but it will be difficult to beat Boherlahan-Dualla who are intent on making up for last year's final loss. Their appearance in Croke Park, as part of the Tubberadora celebrations last March, has reminded them of the rich tradition they inherit. But their rivals have their own tradition and it might just be Toomevara who will celebrate tonight.

THE MUNSTER GAME

Highlights of to-day's County Final can be seen on

“THE MUNSTER GAME”

as follows:

Suir Nore Relays – Wednesday, 8 p.m. (TNT Channel)

Irish Multichannel TV – Tuesday and Thursday, 12 midnight

PREVIOUS FINAL MEETINGS

– BOHERLAHAN 4, TOOMEVARA 2

By NOEL DUNDON (*Tipperary Star*)

AS the mighty Boherlahan/Dualla men go into battle this afternoon in the County Senior Hurling Final against Toomevara, they can take some comfort in the fact that history is on their side as regards clashes with the North men in finals.

The Boherlahan men have defeated Toome' four times in their history in county senior hurling finals, the last occasion being back in 1925 when they won out 5-4 to 2-3 winners. The other victories were in 1916 when they won 2-2 to 0-0, 1917 when Toome fared a little better and managed to score 1-1 against Boherlahan's 2-2 once more and 1918 when Boherlahan won 3-4 to 6-0.

This is the first time that the club managed to contest two county finals back to back since the 1927/28 years when the club was at its most prominent phase.

Toomevara have played in many county senior hurling finals but they only managed to beat Boherlahan on two occasions – the first one being in 1914 when they won 5-2 to 3-1 and the second being 1930 when Toome came out on top by 4-1 to 1-0.

Boherlahan's last victory in the 1941 final took place in Semple Stadium on the last week of November.

The divisional championships fell

far behind that year and the Mid final was played at Thurles on October 5th when Boherlahan defeated Thurles by 2-2 to 0-7. The West was played at Sean Treacy Park, Tipperary, on 19th October, and Éire Óg defeated Golden by 4-4 to 3-6.

Killenaule automatically became South champions without playing a match because neither Carrick Swans nor Carrick Davins could field a team. Roscrea defeated Kilruane by 6-3 to 2-7 in the North final at Borrisokane on August 24th.

Boherlahan played Roscrea in the county semi-final at Thurles on 19th October and emerged victorious by 5-3 to 1-3. The second semi-final was played at Cashel on 16th November and Éire Óg defeated Killenaule by 6-1 to 2-2.

Two weeks later in the final, again at Thurles, Boherlahan won what was to be their last county senior hurling championship when they beat Éire Óg by 2-2 to 0-6. It was Boherlahan's 20th appearance in a final and Éire Óg's first.

Today will be only Boherlahan's second final appearance since that great day for them back in 1941 and many people feel that it is necessary to lose a final before you win one, such is the experience required.

This might just be the year to bridge the gap. Toomevara, would you agree?

TODAY'S GAME TOMORROW

CLUAIN ULTAIGH/ROS MÓR

Clonoulty/Rossmore

(1) C. Ó Dubháin
CONOR DEVANE

(2) P. Ó Floinn
PADDY FLYNN

(3) L. Ó Mantáin
LIAM MANTON

(4) C. Ó Caoimh
CON O'KEEFFE

(5) B. Ó Floinn
BARTY FLYNN

(6) M. Ó hIfeárnán
MICHAEL HEFFERNAN

(7) P. Ó Mantáin
PHILIP MANTON

(8) C. Ó Riain
CONOR RYAN

(9) M. Ó Cinnéide
MICHAEL KENNEDY

(10) D. de Léis
DAN LACEY

(11) S. Ó Riain
JAMES RYAN

(12) D. Ó Riain
DECLAN RYAN

(13) A. Ó Cinnéide
ALAN KENNEDY

(14) P. Ó Briain
PADDY O'BRIEN

(15) T. Ó Riain
T. J. Ryan

FIR IONAD: (16) Liam Kearney (L. Mac Cearnaigh); (17) Michael Fogarty (M. Ó Fógartaigh); (18) Padraig Coen (P. Ó Codhain); (19) Richard Sadler (R. Sadler); (20) Edmund Maher (E. Ó Meachair); (21) Kieran Ryan (C. Ó Riain).

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Andrew Fryday, Michael Heffernan.

<i>Clonoulty/Rossmore</i>	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh leath					
2adh leath					
IOMLAN					

TUAM UÍ MHEARA

Toomevara

(1) P. Mac Craith

PATRICK McGRATH

(2) D. Ó hAbhartaigh
DIARMUID HAVERTY

(3) D. Ó Brisleáin
DERMOT BRISLANE

(4) S. Ó Meára
JAMES O'MEARA

(5) A. Ó Riain
ANDREW RYAN

(6) P. Haicéid
PADRAIG HACKETT (Capt.)

(7)
A.N. OTHER

(8) A. Ó Riain
ANDREW RYAN

(9) C. Ó Máirtín
COLWYN MARTIN

(10) B. Ó Duibh
BRIAN DUFF

(11) P. Ó Briain
PADDY O'BRIEN

(12) C. de Hál
KEN HALL

(13) B. Ó Doinn
BRENDAN DUNNE

(14) N. Ó Coimín
NOEL CUMMINS

(15) B. Ó Doinn
BARRY DUNNE

FIR IONAD: (16) Tomás O'Meara (T. Ó Meára); (17) John Meagher (S. Ó Meachair);
(18) Kevin Cummins (C. Ó Coimin); (19) Brian McGrath (B. Mac Craith); (20) Marty Ryan (M. Ó Riain);
(21) Michael Kelly (M. Ó Ceallaigh); (22) Thomas Hassett (T. Ó hAisi); (23) Anthony O'Neill (A. Ó Néill);
(24) Paul McGrath (P. Mac Craith); (25) Ronan Tynan (R. Ó Teimhneáin); (26) Alan Coffey (A. Ó Cofaigh);
(27) Tony Delaney (A. Ó Dúláinne); (28) Eoin Brislane (E. Ó Brisleáin); (29) Stephen O'Meara (S. Ó Meára);
(30) Ashley Comerford (A. Mac Cumascaigh).

Toomevara	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh leath					
2adh leath					
IOMLAN					

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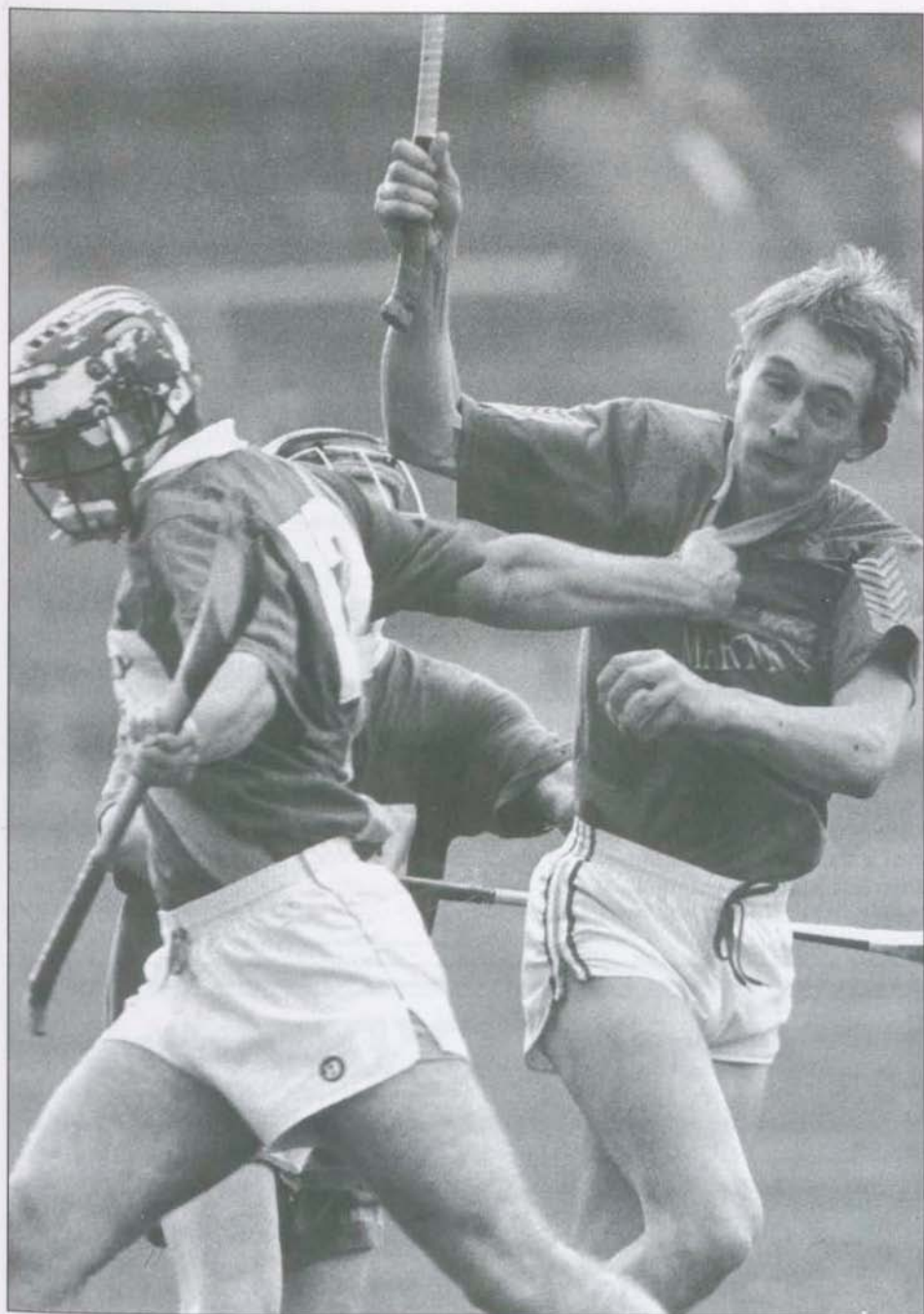
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*Ger Flanagan (Boherlahan/Dualla) and George Frennd (Toomevara)
tussle for the ball.*

Boherlahan-Dualla G.A.A. Club

Today the parish makes a twenty-second appearance in the county senior hurling final and the eighth contest with great old rivals Toomevara. Between 1913 and 1930 these games were eagerly awaited throughout the county. It is interesting to note that prior to Toomevara's recent three-in-a-row '92-'94 each club had only one victory each since the glory days, 1941 for Boherlahan and 1960 for Toomevara.

Boherlahan-Dualla has had an up-and-down year in 1996. A hard fought draw and replay against Loughmore in the first round of the mid championship, a one point win over Hollycross followed by a free-flowing display against Moycarkey-Borris.

In the mid final we were defeated by a much sharper Thurles Sarsfields. The county quarter-final against Ballingarry was a chance to redeem ourselves and then last Sunday week, goals at vital stages saw off friends and rivals Cashel King Cormacs.

The background to today's appearance can be traced to the good work of many people at underage level over the years. Many of today's team have tasted minor success and also reached a county U-21 final. Last years mid senior title was an important development and under manager Martin O'Dwyer, selectors Willie Joe Dwyer and Kieran Maher and trainer Donncha O'Donnell, hopes are high that the Dan Breen cup will reside tonight near Tubberadora.

"Where the beautiful springs do flow"

OFFICERS:

Chairman:	Billy Maher.
Vice-Chairman:	Paddy Stapleton P. J. Maher
Secretary:	John Devane
Asst. Sec.:	Bob McLoughlin
Treasurers:	John Maher, Liam O'Dwyer.
P.R.O.:	Philip Ryan

Martin O'Dwyer
Quality Butcher,
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Every Success to Boherlahan-Dualla

MEET THE PLAYERS

(Boherlahan/Dualla)



Philly Ryan (29) captain. 1 mid senior medal, 1 Cahill cup, 2 mid U-21 medals, 2 Fitzgerald cup, Kinnane cup, 1 National hurling league. Played Minor, U-21 and Senior for Tipperary.

William Hickey (18) student. Munster and All-Ireland minor hurling. Mid and county minor hurling medals, mid senior and U-21, Nenagh Co-op county U-16 hurling.



T. J. O'Dwyer (26) engineer. 1 mid senior, 2 mid U-21 hurling, Cahill cup, mid and county minor hurling 'B', Fitzgibbon cup, 2 Fitzgerald cup, Croke cup.

Tommy Dwyer (30) farmer. 1 mid senior hurling, 1 Cahill cup, 2 mid U-21 hurling, 2 Fitzgerald cup.

Seamus Hickey (19) student. mid senior hurling, mid U-21, mid and county minor 'A' and 'B' hurling, played U-16 minor and U-21 for Tipperary.

Conor Gleeson (23) garda. Mid senior hurling, Cahill cup, mid U-21, Mid and county minor 'B' hurling, Ryan cup, All-Ireland R.T.C., played U-21 and senior hurling and football for Tipperary.

David Ryan (23) bank official. 1 mid senior, 1 Cahill cup and U-21, mid and county minor 'B' hurling and football, All-Ireland inter-bank medal 1996.

Michael Ferncombe (20) electrician.

Munster minor hurling medal, mid senior, Cahill cup, mid U-21, mid and county minor 'A' and 'B' hurling, All-Ireland Vocational Schools football. County minor hurling captain 1994.

J. J. McGrath (25) Civil servant. Mid senior hurling, Cahill cup, U-21, mid and county minor 'B' hurling, Croke cup, Fitzgerald cup.



Ger Flanagan (20) student. Mid senior hurling, Cahill cup, mid and county minor 'A' and 'B', mid U-21, All-Ireland U-21 hurling, Munster U-16 and U-21, Freshers All-Ireland hurling, Rice cup, Fitzgerald cup, two Garda cups.

Michael Murphy (25) boner. Mid senior hurling, Cahill cup, mid U-21, mid and county minor 'B' hurling. Captain in 1995.

Brian O'Dwyer (26) plumber. Mid and county minor 'B' hurling, Cahill cup, 2 mid U-21, Fitzgerald cup. Played minor and U-21 hurling for Tipperary.

Philip O'Dwyer (20) student. Mid senior hurling, mid U-21 hurling, mid and county minor 'A' and 'B' hurling, All-Ireland U-21, Munster U-16, minor, U-21 hurling, Fitzgibbon cup, Rice cup, Fitzgerald cup, two Garda cups played U-16, minor, U-21 and senior hurling for Tipperary.

Liam Maher (36) garda. Mid senior hurling, 2 Cahill cups, mid and county intermediate, 1985 open draw with Tipperary, intersarsity hurling. Played

Continued

minor, U-21 and senior with Tipperary.

Aidan Flanagan (22) student garda. Mid senior, Cahill cup, mid U-21, mid and county minor 'B' hurling, Munster and All-Ireland

U-21 hurling, Fitzgibbon cup, Combined Universities, Tony Forristal U-14 hurling.

Seamus Murphy (27) factory employee. Mid senior hurling, Cahill cup, 2 mid U-21 hurling, Colleges football.

Pio Delaney (31) farmer. Mid senior hurling, 2 Cahill cups, Mid U-21, minor 'B' mid, Croke cup, Fitzgerald cup, Corn Phádraig U-18.

Garrath McLoughlin (20) student. Mid

senior, mid U-21, Mid and county minor 'A' and 'B' hurling, minor 'B' football, u-16 football, played minor football for Tipperary 1993.

Dave Delaney (28) feed quality control. Mid senior hurling, Cahill cup, 2 mid U-21 hurling.

Thomas Quirke (24) farmer. Mid senior, Cahill cup, mid and county minor 'B' hurling and football, U-21 'B' football (mid).

Alan Wade (26) Mid senior, Cahill cup, mid and county minor 'B' hurling, three Croke cup, 1 Fitzgerald cup.

Seán Corbett (32) Mid senior, 2 Cahill cups, U-21 'B', mid hurling, mid junior football, county inter-firm hurling.



Semi-Final action Brian Dwyer (Boherlahan) and Colm Bonnar (Cashel King Cormacs)

BOHERLAHAN/DUALLA - Tipperary County Senior Hurling Finalists 1996



BACK ROW (l.-r.): J. J. McGrath, Aidan Flanagan, Liam Maher, T. J. O'Dwyer, Conor Gleeson, Michael Murphy, Seamus Hickey, Philip O'Dwyer. FRONT ROW (l.-r.): Brian Dwyer, William Hickey, Philip Ryan (Capt.), Ger Flanagan, Tommy Dwyer, Michael Ferncombe, David Ryan.

BÓTHAR LEAGHAN/DUBH-AILLE

Boherlahan/Dualla

Dathanna: Blue with Gold Band

(1) P. Ó Riain

PHILLY RYAN (Capt.)

(2) L. Ó hÍcí

WILLIAM HICKEY

(3) T. Ó Duibhir

T. J. O'DWYER

(4) T. Ó Duibhir

TOMMY DWYER

(5) S. Ó hÍcí

SEAMUS HICKEY

(6) C. Ó Gliasúin

CONOR GLEESON

(7) M. Ferncombe

MICHAEL FERNCOMBE

(8) D. Ó Riain

DAVID RYAN

(9) S. Mac Craith

J. J. McGRATH

(10) G. Ó Flannagáin

GER FLANAGAN

(11) B. Ó Duibhir

BRIAN DWYER

(12) P. Ó Duibhir

PHILIP DWYER

(13) M. Ó Murchú

MICHAEL MURPHY

(14) L. Ó Meachair

LIAM MAHER

(15) A. Ó Flannagáin

AIDAN FLANAGAN

FIR IONAD: (16) **Barry Crosse** (sub goalie) (B. Mac an Chroisáin); (17) **Pio Delaney** (P. Ó Dúlainne); (18) **Garrath McLoughlin** (G. Mac Lochlainn); (19) **Seamus Murphy** (S. Ó Murchú); (20) **Alan Wade** (A. Mac Uaid); (21) **Thomas Quirke** (T. Ó Coirc); (22) **Dave Delaney** (D. Ó Dúlainne); (23) **Eamonn Maher** (E. Ó Meachair); (24) **John Maher** (S. Ó Meachair); (25) **Seán Corbett** (S. Ó Corbáid); (26) **Albert Maher** (A. Ó Meachair); (27) **Brendan Ferncombe** (B. Ferncomb); (28) **Jason Hassett** (S. Ó hAisi).

ROGHNÓIRÍ: Martin O'Dwyer, Kieran Maher, Willie Joe Dwyer; Don O'Donnell (Trainer).

<i>Boherlahan-Dualla</i>	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh leath					
2adh leath					
IOMLAN					

TUAIM UÍ MHEARA

Toomevara

Dathanna: Green and Gold

(1) S. de Grás

JODY GRACE

(2) P. Ó Meachair

PAT MAHER

(3) R. Ó Brisleáin

RORY BRISLANE

(4) A. Ó Meiscill

AIDAN MAXWELL

(5) S. Frend

GEORGE FREND

(6) M. Ó Meara

MICHAEL O'MEARA

(7) P. Ó Seancháin

PHILIP SHANAHAN

(8) A. Ó Dúláinne

TONY DELANEY

(9) P. Ó Ciorga

PAT KING (Capt.)

(10) L. Ó Nualláin

LIAM NOLAN

(11) C. Ó Cinnéide

KEVIN KENNEDY

(12) C. Ó Dóinn

KEN DUNNE

(13) M. Bevans

MICHAEL BEVANES

(14) C. Mac Cormaic

KEVIN McCORMACK

(15) T. Ó Doinn

THOMAS DUNNE

FIR IONAD: Justin Cottrell (sub goalie); (16) Liam Flaherty (L. Ó Flaithcartaigh); (17) Terry Dunne (T. Ó Doinn); (18) Michael Murphy (M. Ó Murchú); (19) Declan O'Meara (D. Ó Meára); (20) Tommy Carroll (T. Ó Cearúil); (21) Damien O'Meara (D. Ó Meára); (22) Martin Cahalan (M. Ó Cathaláin); (23) Joe O'Meara (S. Ó Meára); (24) Denis Kelly (D. Ó Ceallaigh); (25) Paddy O'Brien (P. Ó Briain); (26) Ray Hackett (R. Haicéid).

ROGHNOIRÍ: Sean Stack (*Manager*), Dinny Haverty, Matt O'Meara.

<i>Toomevara</i>	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh leath					
2adh leath					
IOMLAN					

TOOMEVARA – Tipperary County Senior Hurling Finalists 1996

18



BACK ROW (l-r.): Philip Shanahan, Terry Dunne, Jody Grace, Pat Meagher, Tommy Dunne, Pat King (Captain), Kevin McCormack, FRONT ROW (l-r.): Ken Dunne, Liam Nolan, Michael Bevans, Michael O'Meara, Tony Delaney, Aidan Maxwell, George Frend, Rory Brislane.

MEET THE PLAYERS

(Toomevara)

Jody Grace (29) farmer. Won many medals at underage level. Represented Tipp in all grades. Won All-Ireland J.H. medal in 1989. All-Ireland S.H. medal in 1991. N.H.L. medal in 1994. Holder of 3 county S.H. medals.

Pat Meagher (30) office clerk. Won medals in all grades at underage level. Holds 3 North S.H. and 3 Co. S.H. medals. Has played U-21 hurling with Tipp.

Rory Brislane (29) company rep. Captained Toome to North S.H. honours in 1991. Won many underage medals. Holds 3 North and county S.H. medals. Has played minor and U-21 with Tipp.

Aidan Maxwell (22) farmer. Captained Toome to win county U-21 honours in 1995. Has won many underage medals. Made his senior debut in 1995.

George Frend (26) school teacher. Has won county championship medals in all grades. Holds 3 county S.H. medals and U-21 medal in 1989. Captained Tipp to win N.H.L. honours in 1994.

Michael O'Meara (27) factory employee. Won county medals in underage grades. Holds 3 North and Co. S.H. medals. All-Ireland S.H. medal in 1991. Captained Tipp M.H. in 1987 and to win the Munster S.H. title in 1993.

Philip Shanahan (22) factory employee. Holder of 3 North and county S.H. medals. Won two county U-21 medals. Won N.H.L. medal in 1994 and All-Ireland U-21 medal in 1995. Also played minor for Tipp winning a Munster medal in 1991.



Tony Delaney (25) Company rep. Holder of 3 North and county S.H. medals, also has won many underage medals and has represented Tipp at minor and U-21 level.



Pat King (31) factory employee. Captain for today's final. Has won many underage medals. Won county intermediate in 1984 and holds 3 North and county S.H. medals. Was a member of Tipp team that won N.H.L. honours in 1994.

Terry Dunne (21) Has won many underage medals including two Co. U-21 medals, 3 county medals, Munster minor medal '93 and All-Ireland U-21 medal '95. Was captain of Tipp U-21 team for '96.



Tommy Dunne (22) company rep. Has represented Tipp in minor, U-21 and senior. Won. Munster minor medal in '91, N.H.L. medal in '94, All-Ireland U-21 medal in '95. Holder of Fitzgibbon Cup medal with Waterford R.T.C.

Ken Ryan (19) company rep. Holder of 3 North minor medals, Co. U-21 medal '95, 2 North senior medals and Co. S.H. medal in '94.



Michael Bevans (19) student. Has played minor and U-21 with Tipp. Holder of two North S.H. medals, one Co. S.H. medal and three North minor medals.

Kevin McCormack (25) carpenter. Has played for Tipp in Minor, U-21 and Junior. Won many underage honours and holds three Co. S.H. medals.

Liam Nolan (31) publican. Has represented Tipp. at Minor and U-21. Won Munster M.H. medal in 1983. Holds two Co. U-21 and three Co. S.H. medals.

Kevin Kennedy (25) Company rep. Played for Tipp minor team in '88 and '89. Won

Continued

many underage honours. Holds two Co. S.H. medals and was a member of Tipp senior hurling panel for 1996.

Justin Cotterell (19) E.S.B. apprentice. Won Co. U-21 medal in '96 and is holder of three North minor medals. Was member of Tipp U-21 panel for 1996.

Liam Flaherty (31) Farmer. Has won many medals at juvenile level. Won two county U-21 medals and is the holder of 3 North and Co. medals.

Michael Murphy (31) blocklayer. Has played minor, U-21 and junior for Tipp. Won many underage medals and is the holder of 3 North and Co. medals.

Declan O'Meara (26) carpenter. Won underage medals in all grades. Holds three North and Co. medals. Played minor and Under-21 for Tipp. Was captain of Tipp minor team in 1988

Tommy Carroll (25) factory employee. Won underage medals in all grades. holds three North and county medals. Has played minor and U-21 for Tipp.

Joe O'Meara (21) factory employee. Won

many underage medals and county U-21 medal in 1996. Holder of one Co. S.H. medal and 2 North S.H. medals.

Denis Kelly (19) student. Won 3 North minor medals. Holds two North S.H. medals and one Co. S.H. medal. Played minor hurling for Tipp in 1995. Co. U-21 medal in 1995.

Damien O'Meara (19) student. Won three North M.H. medals. Holds two North S.H. medals and one Co. S.H. medal. Co. U-21 medal in 1995.

Ray Hackett (19) builder. Has played for Tipp at minor level. Holds three North minor medals, two North S.H. medals, one Co. S.H. medal and a Co. U-21 medal in 1994.

Martin Cahalan (19) student. Won three North M.H. medals and one county U-21 medal, holder of two North S.H. and one county S.H. medal.

Paddy O'Brien (17) student. Won All-Ireland minor medal in 1996, is holder of three North M.H. medals. Won Co. U-21 medal in 1995.



Semi-Final action – Ken Dunne (Toomevara) chases Brendan Carroll (Thurles Sarsfields)

TOOMEVARA

Toomevara team sponsors Martin & Rea

Ever since the foundation of the G.A.A. hurling and Toomevara have become synonymous whenever our ancient game is discussed. The past 112 years of our club have been filled with some wonderful moments, great personalities and some great teams. Recounting those victories of the teams of 1913, the late 20's, the early 30's and the 60's are part and parcel of our folklore.

The real heartbeat of our club is not in the Semple Stadium's etc. but in the fields behind every house in the parish from Curraheen to Killowney where the young boys of the parish may not learn to hurl before they can walk but as soon as they can walk.

Hurling in Toome, is "the" one great binding force among both young and old. Friendships that are struck on the hurling field last a lifetime. During the summer months and many a

winters night it provides the topic of conversation inside pubs, after Mass or over a game of cards, and is often the basis for many an argument. The people of the parish know their hurling and praise is hard earned. Past achievements have set high standards, and when not reached one is not left in any doubt as to where one went wrong.

The 1990's have been wonderful years for our senior hurlers, with many successes in the North Tipp championship and League and the winning of a historic three-in-a-row of Tipp county titles from 1992 to 1994. Though losing to Sarsfields of Galway in the All-Ireland club final on St. Patrick's Day 1994, the panel have once again regrouped under trainer Séan Stack, and hopes are high that if they can overcome the challenge of Boherlahan-Dualla in today's final, they may be on the road to win that elusive National title.

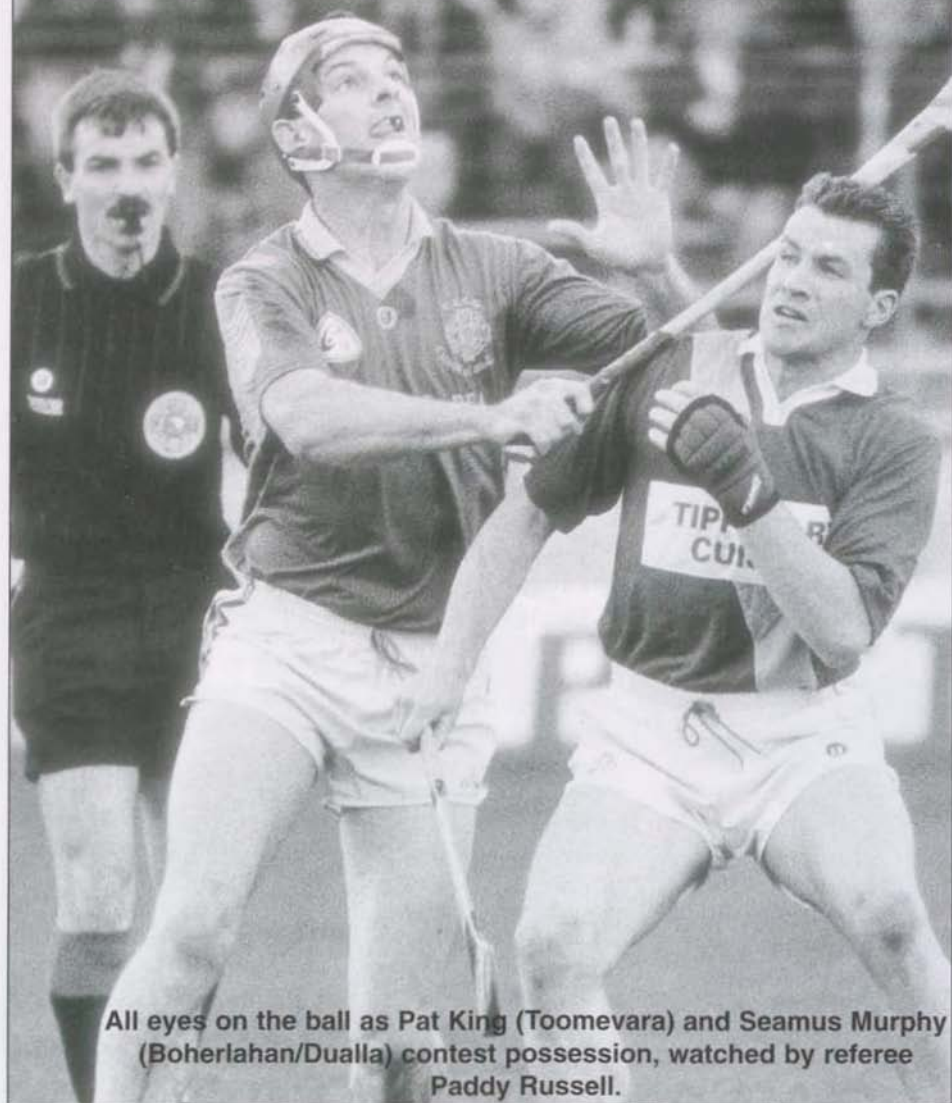
To date 1996 has been a very successful

year, with county titles won in U-12 hurling and U-16 hurling. The U-14 team represented Tipp. in Féile na nGael, the minor team had a great tussle with Roscrea before taking divisional honours, and the senior team defeated Borris-Ileigh in the League final, the junior team have qualified for the North final which will be against Ballina.

It is no secret that Toomevara gives a lot of attention to the promoting of hurling at juvenile level. Young boys take great pride in wearing the green and gold jersey, the four schools of the parish continue to do great work. The teachers and club mentors at all times encourage every boy in the parish to play hurling. It is always stressed that the last sub on the panel is as important as any player on the first fifteen.

So, Pat King and his team will be making a huge effort today to bring home the Dan Breen trophy and add to Toomes. handsome collection so far this year.

Action from
last year's
Semi-final
clash



All eyes on the ball as Pat King (Toomevara) and Seamus Murphy (Boherlahan/Dualla) contest possession, watched by referee Paddy Russell.

Is This A Record?

When the secretary of Lár na Páirce G.A.A. Visitor Centre Tony Casey attended the recent All-Ireland Senior Football Final replay between Mayo and Meath, it was the 92nd time he had been to an All-Ireland Final. Since he attended the All-Ireland senior football final between Kerry and Roscommon in 1946, Tony has rarely missed a final in hurling or football.

On September 22nd, 1956 he watched Wexford hurlers beat Cork 2-14 to 2-8 and since that day he has never missed an All-Ireland hurling or football final, or indeed a replay. This means he has attended 86 finals consecutively. Is this a record for a Tipperary man?

In his playing days Tony was no mean performer on the pitch, representing Tipperary in Minor football and winning a Tipperary county Senior football medal with Thurles Crokes in 1960. Now as secretary to Lár na Páirce, Tony looks after all financial matters, relating to

the project, where his undiminished ability to tot up long lines of figures without the aid of a calculator is legendary. Still as trim and fit as in football days, Tony is often to be seen

after a big game dashing back to Lár na Páirce to help staff cope with the after match rush.



Tony Casey

Lár na Páirce Visitor Centre, which tells the full story of Gaelic Games is open seven days a week from March to the end of November. Of course Gaelic Games in Tipperary features most prominently, with many exhibits from around the county and a full computer Roll of Honour listing all Tipperary's achievements and profiling more than five hundred players who have won All-Ireland, Senior hurling and football medals for the county. So on the 3rd Sunday of September in the year 2000 when Tony – all going well – will attend his 100th All-Ireland final, let's hope that a Senior football team from Tipperary will grace the occasion and add further to this great Roll of Honour.

*To facilitate those attending today's
County Senior Hurling Final, Lár na
Páirce will remain open late this evening.
Last admission 6.00 p.m.*

GIANTS CAST LONG SHADOWS

By PADDY DOHERTY

THE name Garrett Howard cropped up many times in the course of conversations I had with former hurling stars over the years. In 1984 I had the pleasure of meeting Garrett, on an invitation from his daughter Mrs. Jo Needham, in his home in Monroe, Newtown. Present also was his daughter, Liz Howard, P.R.O. of Tipperary County Board.

Garrett began by telling of his early days in Patrickswell where he grew up and of how fortunate he was to live near a great talented Gaelic hurling family – the Mangans.

"'Twas hurling there night, noon and morning", he said, "and later I went to the Christian Brothers schools in Adare which provided a playing field with nets, which was unusual at that time and greatly helped to promote Gaelic games". He also recalled playing handball: "There was no ball alley but we played against the gable end of a house".

Another happy memory was his first Junior hurling match against Fedamore for the Father Connolly medals and cup. He laughed as he recounted the selector, the late Ned Harvey, say: "Oh, we'll play young Howard today". Garrett continued: "I must have played all right because I was picked to play later. In the meantime the 'Troubles' intervened and things were quite for a while. But, to get back to the hurling, we met Fedamore in the final and that was the start of my hurling career".

"My next encounter on the hurling scene was when I fielded against Young Irelands and scored three goals, that was my first real game which charted me on to what was to be a great hurling career. At that time there weren't any motor cars, I hadn't even a

bicycle – 'twas all walking and running and it kept me very fit and in form. Anyhow, to get on with it, I was picked to play for Limerick, that would have been about 1920 and I played in the half-forward position. Hurling was very high in Limerick at that time".

He continued: "The Black and Tans reigned supreme at the time, they often stopped us in the field and broke our hurleys, and on two or three occasions I was caught by the neck coming home at night, but we hadn't any fear of them. That passed and hurling started again. In the meantime I had joined the Guards, that would have been around 1923" he recalled.

"I played a few matches with the Guards before they formed the Siochána Athletic Club under the late General O'Duffy. There they had boxers, hurlers and footballers in training. We had the best boxing club in Europe", he exclaimed.

"At that time we began putting a good team together as Mattie Power and Mick Gill and other good hurlers came into the Guards. We went on to win five Dublin championships in a row, we beat the great Faughs team, which hadn't been beaten for years, and we went on to greater success as the Garda team had some of the best hurlers from many counties. There was Martin Hayes and myself from Limerick, you had Mattie Power (Kilkenny), the Fowler McInerney, Tommy Daly and Jack Gleeson (Clare), Jack Conroy and Ned Tobin (Laois). And, before coming down to Toomevara, I won a National League with Dublin in 1929".

"I remember arriving in Cloughjordan railway station. I was about twenty-six years of age at the time and all I had with me by way of luggage was a small neat suitcase with two hurleys strapped to it. Anyway, I



enquired from a man standing in the railway station how far was it to Toomevara? 'Arra, about seven miles' the man answered. I then asked him if I could get a car. 'Not a hope', he replied. "Well, said I, I'll walk it and not a bother on me! I hadn't gone too far when a car caught up with me. 'Are you looking for a car?' the driver asked. I am, I said, and sat in.

"Dad, tell us about the Wedger Meagher", Liz asked.

"Wedger", said Garrett, "was one of the nicest fellows you could meet in a day's walk . . . all life . . . hopping off the ground; a block of a man was Wedger. He went to America shortly afterwards.

"However", continued Garrett, "I was very happy in Toomevara. I joined the hurling club. They used to meet in the hall at first but eventually the meetings were held in the Guards station. You know", he said laughingly, "I didn't know what P.R.O. meant in those days. I used to go out and meet the lads in their homes. One day I would visit Stephen Hackett and have a chat, then off with me to Martin Kennedy and Jack Gleeson. We would chat and trace, it kept the thing going".

"Nobody in Toomevara ever said a wrong word to me while I was there. Anyway, we hurled a lot and as far as I can recall we played Newport, Nenagh and Lorrha and, as the late Paddy Leahy used to say, we sailed through fairly comfortably!"

When asked about the hurlers in Toomevara at the time, he recalled Tommy O'Meara as a top-class goalie, always drilling the backs. There was Jack Kennedy ("The Wren") of Moneygall, Paddy Ryan the full-back, Stephen Hackett at left corner-back, M. O'Brien, Jack Gleeson (blacksmith) at centrefield, Jack Gilmartin half-forward, Tom Burns and Bill O'Meara centre-forward, and Tom Gleeson at left-half, at right corner-forward Paddy O'Meara, Martin Kennedy full-forward and I'll put him as one of the best, if not the best, I ever saw and, of course, at top of the left was Jack Donovan, S. Gleeson and T. Collison - a great bunch of men.

Garrett recalled the 1930 final in Thurles when they met the famed Boherlahan hurlers. "Well", said Garrett taking up the

story, "the game was in progress for about twenty minutes when I received a blow to the head, the blood was flowing freely, I was concussed. I couldn't remember which way we were playing. Of course, they wanted me to come off, but I said no, I'll continue. Anyhow, somebody stuck something to the wound and I hurled on. We were very lucky to come away with a draw, and after the match I received six stitches in my head".

The replay was fixed for Nenagh. I asked him if he could remember how that went. "Well", we started well and we finished even better", Garrett said with a laugh. He continued: "That game drew an almighty crowd. I can recall there was a stoppage during the game which lasted for about twenty minutes due to a fracas, and every man, woman and child seemed to have taken part in it. But when the game ended we were the best of friends and the victory celebrations afterwards were hectic".

At this point we asked Garrett to expand on the Boherlahan v. Toomevara games. There was a pause while he seemed lost in the memories of those days. "Well, my goodness tonight", he exclaimed, "I don't know how best to describe it", he said. "It was tough, rough - they were battles", he said, striking the table with a clenched fist. They were something special, and we'll leave it at that!" said Garrett.

He also spoke with great affection of the happy days he and his family spent in Carrick-on-Suir while stationed there. "They were happy times", he concluded.

Garrett Howard won every honour in the game and was the only Limerick man to hold five All-Ireland medals. His hurling life spanned sixteen years and he represented three counties - Limerick, Dublin and Tipperary.

Once again Thurles is host to those two teams, bringing with them hurling lore and tradition which go back to the very roots of the G.A.A. After the game will it be the strains of *Hurray For Toomevara* or *God Bless You, Boherlahan* which will resound most enthusiastically from the heavenly abodes of Garrett Howard, Wedger Meagher and Paddy Leahy?

Anyway, may the best team win today!

BLESSED EDMUND RICE

– A Man For Our Time

By J. PERKINS

We travelled to Rome on 6th October, 1996, for the Beatification of Edmund Rice. He is now Blessed Edmund Rice and well does he deserve the title. He is a man for our time. He always saw the needs of country and did not stand idly by but worked through the schools which he founded to give a good all-round education to his pupils. He believed in "a healthy mind in a healthy body" – *Mens sana in corpore sano*.

Edmund Rice was born in Westcourt, Callan, on 1st June, 1762. He got his elementary education in his home and at the local hedge-school and, then, for about two years attended an academy in Kilkenny city.

We do not know much about his young days. I'm sure, being a Kilkenny man, he saw plenty of hurling around Callan, in the fields of Westcourt and down by the King's River where he often spent his leisure hours.

He took over his uncle's business in Waterford city, in getting provisions as a ship-chandler. He became very prosperous and married Mary Elliott in 1785 and at the age of twenty-three. 1789 saw the death of his wife and the premature birth of his disabled daughter, Mary, for whom he cared well during the rest of her life.

His life was shattered. He turned to God who had a greater mission in store for him and saw in Edmund a man for his time when poverty was to be seen all round him on the streets of Waterford and other towns.

He opened his first school in a stable in New Street, Waterford, and proceeded to teach, feed and clothe those who came to him and to his helpers who joined him in his good work.

It was not an easy time for Edmund. He had to put up with many setbacks. Continue on he did. He bore his cross with courage and perseverance.

The second foundation and school outside Waterford was Carrick-on-Suir, Co.

Tipperary was lucky to have the Christian Brothers schools in Carrick, Clonmel, Tipperary, Cashel, Thurles, Templemore, Nenagh, Roscrea.

The wheel is turning again. Now, owing to the lack of vocations, the Brothers have not been able to be part of these schools. They have left their spirit in them and now the good work is continued by devoted teachers who are proud of the founder – Blessed Edmund Rice.

The work which he started continues on. The pupils are being educated, mentally, spiritually and physically. Gaelic games have been played in all the schools and there is no need to mention some of the great players who have begun their education in the schools.

Being a past pupil myself, I have always thanked God for the all-round education we received and how it was enlivened by the games the likes of which we see today. Tom Semple himself was imbued by the spirit of the Brothers or the monks as they were called in those far-off days.

We think of the great games that were played, of the many sons of Edmund Rice who gave much of their lives in promoting the games of the Gael. We offer them our thanks and pray for the many who have now joined Blessed Edmund in the fields of Heaven.

Blessed Edmund Rice died at Mount Sion, Waterford, on 29th August 1844. His coffin can be seen in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel there any day you wish to visit Mount Sion.

A Protestant journalist who attended his funeral summed up his feelings thus: "Why are you sorrowful? Why are you sad? Mr. Rice is not dead! He lives! Yes, he lives the highest, noblest and greatest life. He lives in the noble band of Christian workmen to whom he has bequeathed his **spirit** and his **work**"



This year is the twentieth running of the senior hurling championship in its present format. It came into existence at the 1977 county convention after a successful motion from the Gortnahoe-Glengoole club. It was "that the county senior hurling championship be contested by the divisional champions and one other team from each division. The motion received the statutory two-thirds majority required to abolish the open draw as convention voted by 148 votes to 52 in favour.

The open draw senior hurling championship came into being in the 1969 county convention as a result of a large majority in favour of a motion submitted jointly by Holycross and Moneygall and moved by Philip Ryan of the latter club. Arguments used in favour included one to raise the status of the county championship and to give clubs a chance to play outside their divisions. It was also expected it would improve the standard of hurling in the county.

There was criticism of the new system from the beginning. At the 1970 convention Tommy Barrett was none too happy with it. It was in the overall devoid of interest. There were too many bad games. There was a motion to abolish it but it failed to get the required two-thirds majority. Another attempt to change it in the 1972 convention failed to get the requisite two-thirds majority. Further attempts in 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976 all failed to get the necessary two-thirds.

Until 1959 the county championship

consisted of the divisional winners contesting the semi-finals with the winners going forward to the county final. In 1960 the county board introduced a new system which included two teams coming forward from each division. Mid winners Thurles Sarsfields beat south losers, Carrick Swans. Mid losers, Holycross-Ballycahill beat west victors, Kickhams. North winners, Toomevara, beat west losers, Solohead and north losers, Kilruane-MacDonaghs, beat south winners, Marlfield.

A variation was introduced in 1961 because there had been a number of poor games the previous year – Sarsfields beat Carrick Swans 10-14 to 1-2,

Toomevara beat Solohead 3-20 to 1-0 and Kilruane-MacDonaghs beat Marlfield by 8-8 to 1-4 – the number of quarter-finals was reduced to two. Under this system the north runners-up played the south champions and the mid runners-up played the west champions with the winners joining the north and mid

champions in the semi-finals.

This system continued until 1966 when a motion to county convention increased the number of quarter-finals to four by bringing in two teams from the south and west as well as from the north and mid. This system continued until the introduction of the open draw in 1969.

Since the abolition of the open draw in 1977 divisional champions have gone on to win the county final on fourteen occasions. The first exception was in 1984 when the mid champions, Drom-Inch were knocked out by Lorrha in the semi-final. Lorrha were in turn defeated in the county final by mid runners-up, Moycarkey-Borris.

(continued)

The Senior Hurling Championship

By S. J. King

On the other four occasions when divisional champions failed to win the county final, the north league winners came through. The first time was in 1986 when Borris-Ileigh, as league winners, beat championship runners-up Toomevara in the play-off. Of course Borris-Ileigh went on to claim an All-Ireland club championship. In 1992 and 1993 Toomevara came through by virtue of being league winners. In the former year they beat Lorrha in the play-off and in the latter, Moneygall. Last year's winner, Nenagh, took the same route to county final honours when they beat north championship runners-up, Borris-Ileigh, in the play-off.

Whether this is a good or a bad thing is a matter for debate. Some believe that county champions should be first and foremost, divisional champions. Others disagree and hold the county championship to be a separate competition that need not have any links with the divisions. However, since qualification for the county championship is through the divisional championships,

there is a very definite connection. Perhaps it is time to rethink the system of running our county championship and go for radical change. The open draw was discredited because there were too many bad games and too many teams masquerading as senior. In the last year of the draw no less than thirty-three senior teams participated. If they all numbered senior players we should have had the strongest county senior panel in the country. But they didn't and we were very much in the doldrums, inter-county wise, at that period.

Maybe there is an opportunity of a revised open draw with sixteen teams or less. Who would decide could be left to a specialist committee. It ought to be possible to decide on some system of relegation and promotion each year. All first round games could be played on the last two weekends of June, the quarter-finals at the end of July, the semis at the end of August and the final on the fourth week in September. Of course the divisional championship would remain intact. What about it?

ROLL OF HONOUR

Thurles Sarsfields (28) – 1887, 1904, '06, '07, '08, '09, 1911, '29, '35, '36, '38, '39, '42, '44, '45, '46, '52, '55, '56, '57, '58, '59, '61, '62, '63, '64, '65, '74.

Moycarkey-Borris (14) – 1889, 1899, 1900, '01, '03, '05, '26, '32, '33, '34, '37, '40, '82, '84.

Tubberadora/Boherlahan-Dualla (13) – 1895, '96, '98, 1915, 1916, '17, '18, '22, '24, '25, '27, '28, '41.

Toomevara (13) – 1890, 1910, '12, '13, '14, '19, '23, '30, '31, '60, '92, '93, '94.

Borris-Ileigh (6) – 1949, '50, '53, '81, '83, '86.

Roscrea (6) – '68, '69, '70, '72, '73, '80.

Kilruane-McDonaghs (4) – 1977, '78, '79, '85.

Holycross-Ballycahill (4) – 1948, '51, '54, 1990.

Carrick Davins (2) – 1966, 1967.

Moneygall (2) – 1975, '76.

Cappawhite (1) – 1987.

Carrick Swans (1) 1947.

Clonoulty (2) – 1888, 1889.

Drombane (1) – 1894.

Lahorna De Wets (1) – 1902.

Suir View (1) – 1897.

Moyne-Templetuohy (1) – 1971.

Loughmore Castleiney (1) – 1988.

Cashel King Cormacs (1) – 1991.

Éire Óg (Nenagh) (1) – 1995.

Éire Óg (Annacarthy) (1) – 1943.

**RORY
BRISLANE**

(Toomevara)



LIAM MAHER

(Boherlahan/
Dualla)





**that's about
the size of it.**

The Examiner

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TIPPERARY – All-Ireland Minor Hurling Champions 1996



BACK ROW (l.-r.): Thomas Keane, Eugene O'Neill, Fergal Heaney, John Carroll, Donncha Fahy, Michael Ryan, Thomas Costelloe. **FRONT ROW (l.-r.):** Aidan Doyle, Michael Kennedy, William Maher (Capt.), Fergal Horgan, John Teehan, Paul Kelly, Declan Brown, William Hickey.