

Co. Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
2015

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Thiobraid Árann



Craobh Chluichí Iomána an Chontae 2015



Stáid Semple, Dúrlas Éile
25ú Deireadh Fómhair 2015

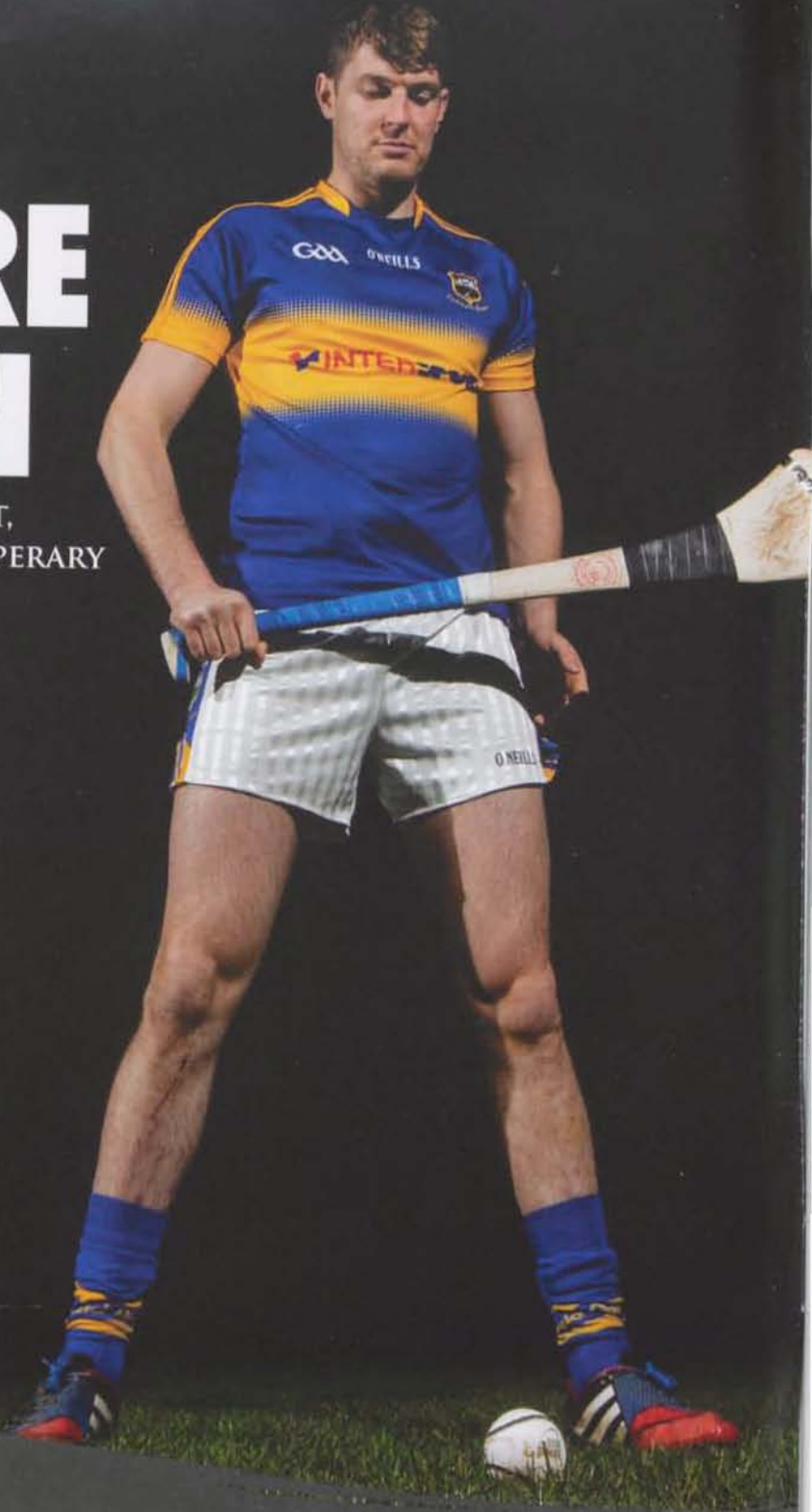
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FÁILTE ROIMHAIBH go léir go dtí Cluichí Ceannais Iomána Tiobraid Árann anseo i Stáid Semple. Táim cinnte go mbeidh iomaniocht laidir ann idir na foirne ins na dá cluiche cheannais. Fáilte fé leith roimh na h-imreoirí, na hoifigigh agus na reiteoirí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

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of Tipperary County Board to welcome you all to Semple Stadium today for what is the showpiece occasion in the Tipperary Hurling calendar, the County Senior Hurling Final. Both matches on today's programme have all the promise of two wonderful games displaying all the positive attributes that makes hurling the greatest field game there is.

I would like to welcome our Championship sponsors Clean Ireland Recycling and thank them for their generous sponsorship. Clean Ireland Recycling claimed a three in a row of National titles this year, winning back-to-back Repak Awards for their collection service. We wish them continued success in the future.

Today we also honour the Holycross-Ballycahill senior hurling team of 1990 which beat Cashel King Cormacs of that year. We welcome the players, mentors and their partners and hope they have a most enjoyable day with us. We thank the 'Tipperary Star' and O'Gorman's of Bohernacrusha, joint sponsors with us for this function.

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

The Senior final is an intriguing one. Last year's county champions and this year's current mid champions, Thurles Sarsfields, will go into the game as slight favourites but Nenagh Éire Óg, who have an abundance of talent in their ranks and have worked exceptionally hard to come through the county championship, will surely make it difficult for Sarsfields to retain their title.

The Intermediate final sees an all Mid pairing of last year's intermediate finalists, Thurles Sarsfields, and Clonakenny who will be focused on emulating the historic club side of 1967 when they won the last county Intermediate title. A most attractive curtain raiser which should provide splendid entertainment for today's attendance.

Best wishes to both Referees for today's games and their officials. Fergal Horgan, one of the national inter-county referees, takes charge of the senior final while John Butler takes charge of his first intermediate county final and they have given excellent service as referees in all grades to the county. My thanks to all referees in the county for their dedication to the task and also to the co-ordinator Jim O'Shea.

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

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

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Clár an Lae

- 12.42 CLONAKENNY** amach ar an bpáirc
- 12.45 THURLES SARSFIELDS** amach ar an bpáirc
- 1.00** Tús an chluiche – **Clean Ireland Recycling Intermediate Hurling Championship Final:**
CLONAKENNY v THURLES SARSFIELDS
- 1.32** Leath-am
- 1.42** Tús an dara leath
- 2.15** Críoch an chluiche
- 2.25** Presentation of the Jacksie Ryan 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)
- 2.35** Presentation of the **HOLYCROSS-BALLYCAHILL** 1990 County Senior Hurling Champions
- 2.53 NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG** amach ar an bpáirc
- 2.55 THURLES SARSFIELDS** amach ar an bpáirc
- 3.10** Pre-Match Parade lead by the Moycarkey-Borris Pipe Band
- 3.13** Amhrán na bhFiann
- 3.15** Tús an chluiche – **Clean Ireland Recycling Senior Hurling Championship Final:**
NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG v THURLES SARSFIELDS
- 3.47** Leath-am – Presentation of the Kellogg's Cúl Camps U-Can County Skills Winners 2015
- 3.57** Tús an dara leath
- 4.30** Críoch an chluiche
- 4.40** 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)

Aoife Butler from Knockfune, Kilcommom will sing Amhrán na bhFiann at today's County Final. Aoife has represented Seán Treacy's Club in Scór na bPaistí and Scór na nÓg in the Ballad and Solo Singing competitions. She won the Co. Final Scór na bPaistí in Solo Singing in 2012 and was County champion and Munster finalist in Solo singing in 2014. Aoife plays camogie with the Newport/Ballinahinch Camogie Club and won two County Medals Under-14 in the League and Championship. She also plays Junior and Senior Camogie with her school, Presentation Secondary School, Thurles.



Buiochas

We hope you enjoy reading today's programme. It has been compiled with the assistance of Tom Maher (Assistant County Secretary), Tim Floyd (County Secretary), Breeda Carroll (Clonakenny), Brian McDonnell (Nenagh Éire Óg) and Thomas Callanan (Thurles Sarsfields). Many thanks to all those who contributed material – Seamus O'Doherty, Noel Dundon, Jackie Cahill, James Hayden, Michael Dundon, Seamus J. King, Liam Ó Donnchú, John Smith, Seamus Ó Dubhagáin, Josephine Cahill and Ed Donnelly. A special word of thanks to Eamon McGee, Bridget Delaney, Andy Jay and Odhran Ducie for their photographs.

GER CORBETT, Programme Editor

~ Meet the Match Officials ~

Senior Final Referee

FERGAL HORGAN

THE referee for this afternoon's big game is well known and popular **Fergal Horgan** from Knockavilla Kickhams – a man who has played the game and officiated at the very highest level.

Generally regarded as one of the best knights of the whistle in the business, Fergal has a lot of experience of big games and uses a common sense approach as well as strict adherence to the rules as his guiding principles when he takes to the field of play.

Fergal, who officiated at the All-Ireland minor hurling final in 2014 had refereed the All-Ireland Intermediate Club Final Kilnadeema-Leitrim v Rower-Inistioge, Allianz Hurling League Div 2A Final between Carlow and Kerry as well as the Munster Under-21 final between Clare and Cork. He has also taken charge of Tipperary County finals at all levels, Munster minor finals and Munster club finals. He also won the Young Referee of the Year Award to help enhance his growing reputation.

This year, he has refereed six county championship games and has been very busy on the inter-county front – he is on the national panel alongside Tipp's John O'Brien and Johnny Ryan, while John McCormack and Phil Kelly are both on the Munster panel.

As well as having played with distinction for his native Knockavilla, Fergal also played for Tipperary, winning an All-Ireland Minor medal in 1996 playing in goals when his county defeated Galway. He won a second Munster Minor medal in 1997. But, aged 30 he took up the whistle in 2009 and a year later, he retired from hurling stating that he could not do both.

"It was one or the other and I really wanted to

give refereeing a go.

It's not for everybody – I know that, but I would encourage people to have a go and see how they get on. You find that as you get up the grades to senior, the players are out to hurl and there is far less messing going on. They know that they won't get away with anything and they play the game as it should be played," said Fergal who clocks about 40 miles per week in training. The Munster refs train in Mallow every second Tuesday and the Tipp lads get together regularly in Clonmel and Boherlahan to work on their fitness. Most of Fergal's training is done in the Duck Pond in Dundrum.

Fergal, who refereed the 2012 final between Sarsfields and Drom & Inch, will have Paul Ryan, Alan Horgan, Eamon Fogarty and Mickey Butler as his umpires – all fully qualified officials. He is really looking forward to the big game and says that he will be a lot more relaxed this time round.

We wish Fergal and his officials well for the big game.



Standby Referee: John McCormack

(Knockavilla Kickhams)

Linesman: John O'Brien (Arravale Rovers)

Sideline Official: John Ryan

(Cashel King Cormacs)

Intermediate Final Referee

JOHNNY BUTLER

Club: Upperchurch-Drombane.

During his playing career John won West senior hurling medals with his club Knockavilla Kickhams. He has been a member of the referees panel for 10 years. To-day he has taken charge of Mid Senior hurling and football finals, Mid Intermediate finals and is a regular on the Munster Colleges football scene.

The rule change that John would make, if he had a choice, would be to allow 2 points for a score from a sideline. We wish Johnny and his officials well for today's Intermediate final.

Johnny Butler will have Paddy Burke, Joe Lowry, T.J. Butler and J.C. Ryan as his umpires.

Standby Referee: Liam Shanahan

Linesman: Andy Murray

Sideline Official: Mark Dunne.



Welcome from**Clean Ireland Recycling**cleanireland.ie

PROUD SPONSORS OF TIPPERARY GAA HURLING & FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2015

Clash of top hurlings towns in Tipp is sure to intrigue

– a message from club championship sponsors Clean Ireland Recycling

EXCITEMENT abounds for the hurling community today as Semple Stadium plays host to the Tipperary County Final.

In the three years since we have been sponsors of the Tipperary Championships, we have got a glimpse up close of what it means to clubs who climb the steps of Semple Stadium to raise the Dan Breen Cup. We've seen victors and their unabated celebration and, down on the field, the vanquished and no small hint of despair. There's so much at stake in a game to decide one of club hurling's most celebrated championships that these contrasting emotions are entirely understandable.

This is not any old county final. In any given year, with the inter-county tent rolled up and put away, the Tipperary county hurling final remains one of those universal fixtures that everyone with an interest in GAA keeps an eye on. Indeed, people will travel to today's final from neighbouring counties and further afield, such is the draw of the Tipp. decider.

The 2015 version of this great showpiece has got an intrigue all of its own. It brings together the two biggest 'hurling towns' in the county; the aristocrats of Thurles Sarsfields against the pretenders to their throne, Nenagh Éire Óg.

Sarsfields will be going for their 34th title in all, their fourth in five years and their second two-in-a-row of the decade. They are, of course, the biggest name in Tipperary club hurling, laden with honours at all levels and producing some of the greatest players not alone in Tipperary but the game nationally has seen, right up to the current day. There's a special incentive this year for them, no doubt, as they seek to honour the memory of probably the greatest of their great pantheon of stars, Jimmy Doyle, who passed away earlier this year.

By contrast and despite the club's undeniable passion for the game since the beginning of hurling time, Nenagh will be going for only their second title, having got their fingers on the Dan Breen for the first time 20 years ago. This will, however, be their sixth appearance in the final so they most definitely are no strangers to the big tent.

Relative newcomers they may be to the roll of honour but they've shown themselves to be a formidable force over recent years and will give little away to the Sarsfields', despite the 'Blues' carrying the mantle of favourites. They will be contesting their second final in three years and hoping to make up the inches that that separated them from victory in 2013 when Loughmore Castleiney pipped them by the narrowest of margins.

Looking at the head to head, all the portents suggests value for money – and we're all for that! Last year when the same two sides met at quarter-final stage, 'The Sars' got out by the skin of their teeth before going on to claim their 33rd county title. So, with all that in the mix, there's so much to play for. In their travels this week and last our own team on the ground reported back that the temperature has been rising steadily in both towns ahead of today's game.

Sarsfields, of course, have a big game in the curtain raiser when they clash with Clonakenny in the Intermediate final. The celebrations would be wild regardless of who wins but one expects they won't stop this side of Christmas if the men over Bournea way take the laurels.

Back to the main attraction; will it be a Nenagh breakthrough or Sarsfields continuing their dominance of this great championship? Come shortly after 5:15p.m. this evening, all should be revealed. That is save for a draw – and don't rule it out as the recent history of these two sides would suggest very little will separate them indeed.

As a family founded and owned business operating in every parish across the county, we have an understanding of what winning the Tipp. title means to each and every club. We are three years in as sponsors and it has been a great journey for us. Off the field and back at the office, those three years have also marked a remarkable period of growth and success for our own team, with Clean Ireland Recycling having claimed a three-in-a-row of national titles in this industry by winning back-to-back Repak Awards for Kerbside Collection Service of the Year over the past three years. Like today's finalists, it required a lot of pride in the jersey to get us there and getting our hands on the title made it all worthwhile.

On behalf of sponsors Clean Ireland Recycling, we wish for you another memorable county final day here in Semple Stadium.

CAROLINE WALSH
Financial Controller



Intriguing final in prospect

By: NOEL DUNDON 'Tipperary Star'



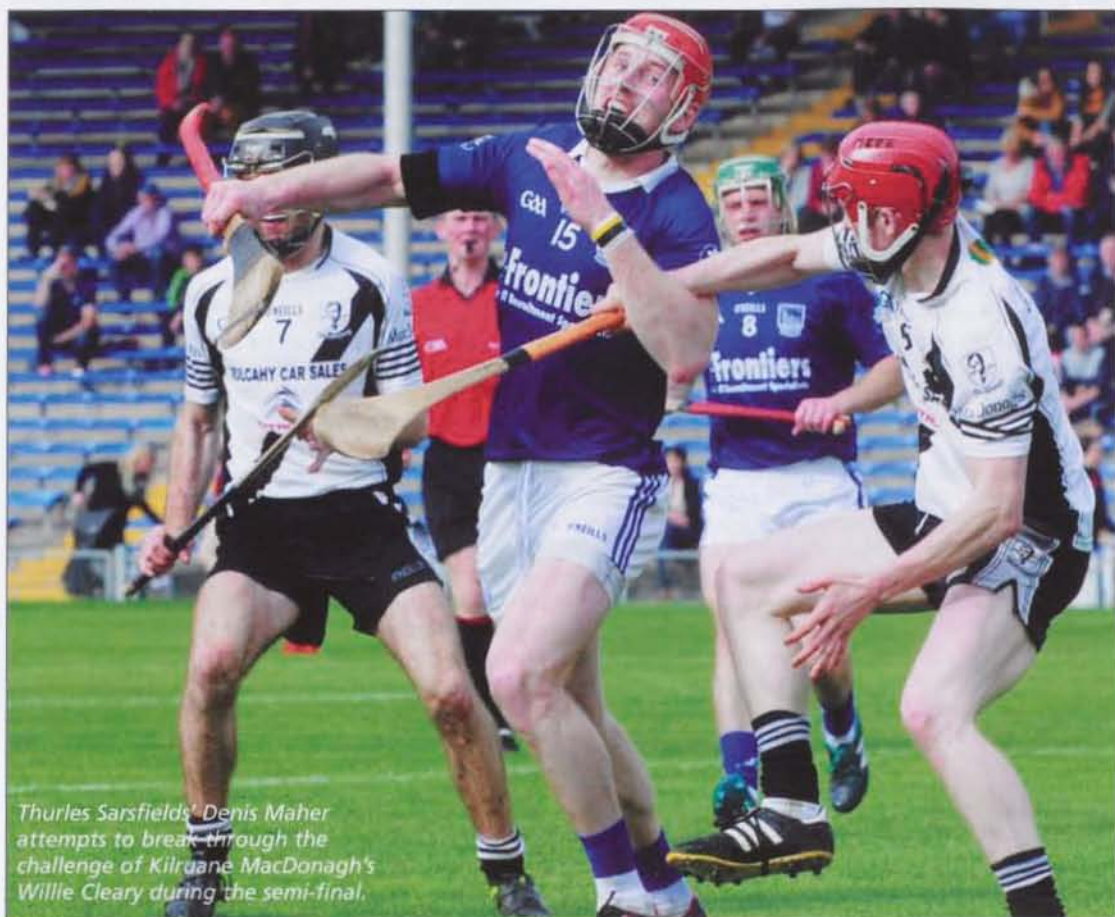
THE Clean Ireland Recycling County senior hurling final is always a very special occasion in The Premier County – the biggest day, bar none, in the domestic GAA scene.

They come from all over to be here in Semple Stadium for the big event and no matter who is playing, the die hards will still make the effort to be here. This afternoon, thankfully, we have a novel pairing – the first ever clash of challengers Nenagh Éire Óg and holders Thurles Sarsfields in the decider. Those of you who have made the effort to be here are part of history now.

Of course, the contenders have met each other on plenty of occasions in quarter and semi-finals and they have featured regularly in

finals against other opposition as well. Indeed, this is Sarsfields seventh County Senior Hurling Final since 2005 – they lost just one in 2006 to Toomevara, who are the last team from outside of Mid Tipperary to have won the Dan Breen Cup. Few enough would have seen that coming given the dominance of north teams up to that with the likes of Borris-Ileigh, Kilruane MacDonaghs, Moneygall and Roscrea enjoying much success in the seventies and eighties, and then a real mixture of Holycross-Ballycahill, who are being honoured here today, Cashel King Cormacks, Clonoulty-Rossmore, Loughmore-Castleiney, Cappawhite and Moycarkey-Borris claiming titles in the eighties and nineties.

Nenagh Éire Óg came good in 1995 when they beat Boherlahan Dualla by 2-25 to 2-8 – the Mid men returned a year later to claim the silverware at Toomevara's expense. Only Kevin



Thurles Sarsfields' Denis Maher attempts to break through the challenge of Kilruane MacDonagh's Willie Cleary during the semi-final.

Tucker survives from the Nenagh team of '95, but interestingly enough, current Manager Liam Heffernan, was the man at the helm back then as well.

Nenagh Éire Óg is the only North club to have lost a county senior hurling final since 1996 when Boherlahan beat Toomevara – they have lost finals in 1999, 2006 and 2013 and can perhaps seek solace from today's opponents who went 31 years trying to bridge an ever growing gap – losing no fewer than five in eleven years as they sought to make a breakthrough.

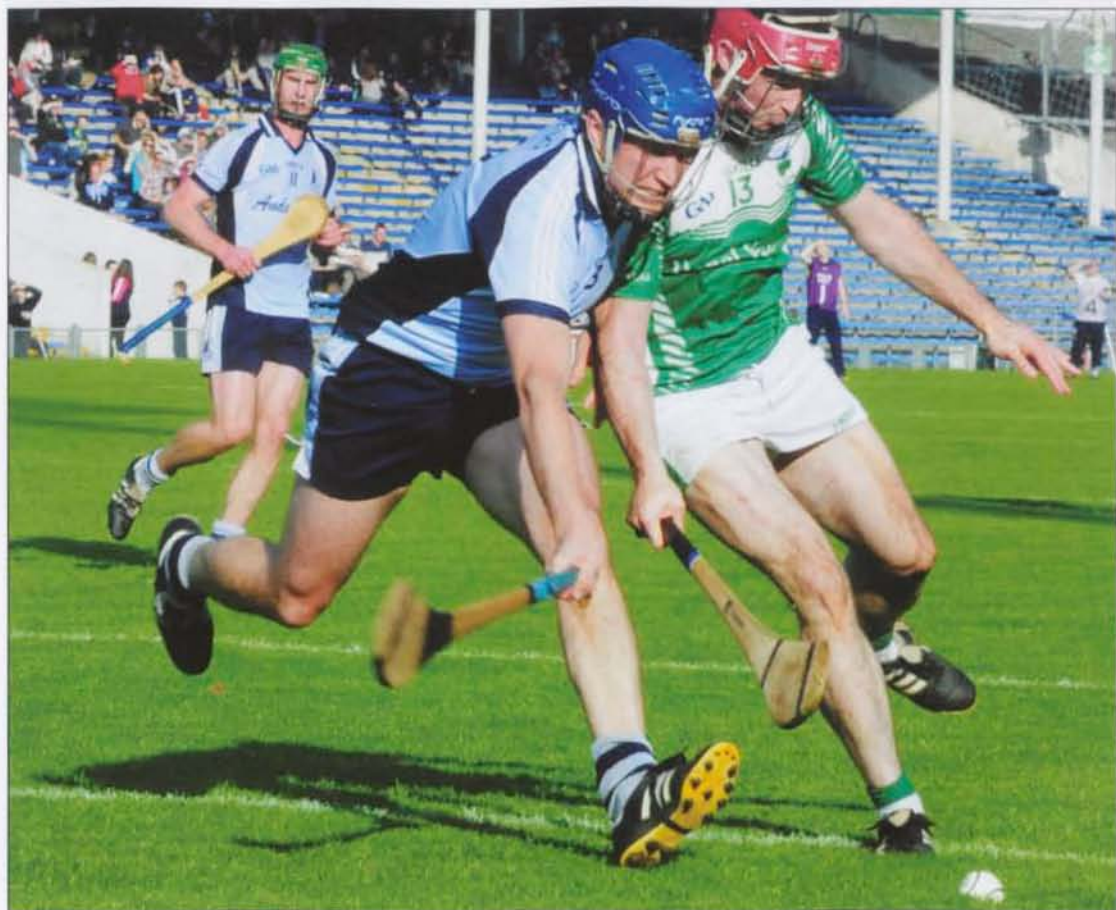
None of this will matter a whit though when the sides take to the field this afternoon. The bookies are favouring back-to-back titles for Sarsfields, but Nenagh Éire Óg are relishing the challenge and will give the Thurles lads plenty to think about. Indeed, they have been boosted hugely by their semi-final victory over Drom & Inch and they come into the final with confidence sky high.

Tipperary needs a good county final this

afternoon and the expectation is that Sarsfields and Nenagh Éire Óg will come up with it. Expect a free flowing, open game with plenty of scores, a very high skill level and many twists and turns. Expect goals too – Sarsfields have shown great potency in attack when it comes to creating green flags, but Nenagh Éire Óg will be buoyed by the difficulties Sars' had in dealing with the Kilruane MacDonaghs full forward line – they could be tempted to deploy a few mortars in the hope of creating havoc.

Nenagh Éire Óg will know that they cannot afford to squander chances as they did against Drom & Inch. They were fortunate to survive considering, but will have checked that aspect of their game in the meantime. One suspects such squandering would be fatal against the Blues, who are very accurate and efficient in front of goal.

It should be an intriguing final – let's hope we have a cracking game to give us all something to cheer about at seasons end.



Seamus Butler of Drom & Inch and Nenagh Éire Óg's Daire Quinn in action in the County Semi-Final.

(Photos: Eamonn McGee)

On this day

THE last county final played on October 25th was the 1981 clash of Borris-Ileigh and holders Roscrea. At the end of the day, there were new champions as Borris lifted the Dan Breen Cup for the first time since 1953, on a 1-14 to 0-12 scoreline.

Timmy Stapleton was the victorious captain and Noel O'Dwyer was top scorer with 0-8, which earned him the 'Man of the Match' award. Borris had previously beaten Roscrea in the North Final by 1-8 to 1-6. It was the tenth county final involving clubs from the same Division. Billy Carroll from St Mary's, Clonmel was the referee.

Standing out

NOT ONLY does Nenagh Éire Óg's win in the 1995 County final stand alone on the club's list of honours, but their score of 2-25 in beating Boherlahan-Dualla, was the highest tally recorded by a winning team since Thurles beat Racecourse/Grangemockler by 10-4 to 5-2 in the 1909 decider, which was played at Fethard.

No green seen

THERE have been six county finals which failed to produce a goal. The years were- 1887, 1986, 1990, 2002 (draw), 2007 and most recently 2009, when Thurles Sarsfields beat Drom & Inch by 0-14 to 0-5.



Denis Maher (Thurles Sarsfields) puts Kiruane MacDonagh's Darragh Peters under pressure during the semi-final.

(Photo by Eamonn McGee)

COUNTY FINAL *moments*

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

Urban legends

THE FIRST ever county final meeting of Thurles Sarsfields and Nenagh Éire Óg is an historic occasion and their modern day rivalry should ensure an intense contest in pursuit of the Dan Breen Cup.

In 1992, the teams drew in the county semi-final 1-12 each, but Sarsfields won the replay by 2-15 to 2-6, to earn a place in a county final for the first time since 1979. The two blues met in another semi-final in 2003 and Sarsfields won again by 3-17 to 2-18.

On the quarter-final stage, Nenagh Éire Óg won in 2007 – 4-17 to 3-17, Sarsfields had their revenge in 2009 – 1-18 to 0-18, while last year's encounter went to extra time, before the Thurles men scraped home by a point – 0-20 to 0-19. That result is the starting point for the 2015 final and many people expect another close finish today.

Interestingly, there has not been a final between two clubs from the major towns since Roscrea beat Thurles Sarsfields in the 1970 decider to claim a three in-a-row. In the decade preceding that encounter, there were also urban finals involving Thurles Sarsfields v Roscrea 1963 and 1968, Thurles Sarsfields and Carrick Davins 1965 and Roscrea v Carrick Davins, 1967 and 1969.

Men of the match

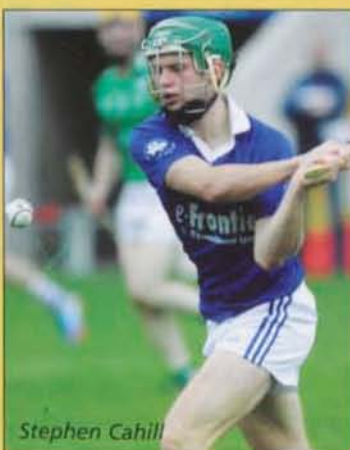


Eddie Tucker

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

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

Nenagh Éire Óg – 1993 Michael Cleary, 1995 Eddie Tucker.



Stephen Cahill

Something new

WHILE we are anticipating a first ever final clash of the two blues, it is interesting to review the trend which has been emerging over the past ten years. In that time, we had a first ever Thurles Sarsfields v Drom & Inch decider in 2005, another first for Drom & Inch and Loughmore-Castleiney in 2007, Clonoulty-Rossmore and Thurles Sarsfields in 2010 and Drom & Inch against Clonoulty-Rossmore in 2011, Loughmore-Castleiney v Nenagh Éire Óg 2013 and Thurles Sarsfields v Loughmore-Castleiney 2014.



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Clonakenny seeking to bridge 48-year gap

By: JAMES HAYDEN

TODAY marks a historic day for the Clonakenny Club as they bid to bridge a 48-year gap and capture their first Intermediate county title since 1967.

Standing in their path of is a Thurles Sarsfields side gunning for their first county title at this grade and in doing so atone for last year's disappointing loss to Moyne-Templemohy in what proved a one-sided final.

Both sides have already met in this year's county championship, albeit last April, with Thurles Sarsfields coming out on top on a score-line of 1-18 to 2-12.

However, their respective paths failed to cross in the Mid championship with Sarsfields easily overcoming Moycarkey-Borris before succumbing to a strong Drom & Inch side in the mid final.

Any designs Clonakenny had on a Mid title quickly evaporated at the semi-final stage after Drom overcame them by just a solitary point, 0-20 to 2-13 in the semi-final.

Given the nature of the results in the Mid and County championship to date and the subsequent peaks and troughs in the form of both finalists here today, it is distinctly difficult to predict who will prevail.

No doubt, Thurles Sarsfields appear to be coming on strong in the past couple of weeks. A two point win over St. Mary's, Clonmel provided the platform for a tilt at beaten North finalists, Ballinahinch.



*Semi-final
action between
Thurles
Sarsfields and
Ballinahinch*

Ballinahinch really put it up to Sars' and fought back from the concession of 1-3 in the opening five minutes to snatch the lead in the early stages of the second half. Crucially for Sars', their experience told in the closing stages with Barry O'Dwyer, John Lawlor and Stephen Lillis guiding the 'Blues' to a deserved four point victory.

Sarsfields possess a potent mix of youth and experience and today's final will be the final step in their road to redemption following last year's disappointment. Standing in the path is a Vincent McKenna trained Clonakenny side fully capable of putting one over on their illustrious divisional counterparts.

A hard-earned 1-20 to 0-13 semi-final win over Newport following a dominant second half-display underpinned a landslide victory over an out of their depth Latin-Cullen Gaels side in the quarter-final.

Their physicality has been a notable factor in their victories to-date with the likes of former county minors Willie Ryan and Pa Ryan recording notable performances. Throw in the guile and craft of the likes of John Costiogan, John Joe Ryan, Nicky Ryan, Bobby Bergin and Liam Mullally and you have a well-balanced side fully capable of making a little bit of history here in Semple Stadium today.

Whatever transpires we are in for a treat in today's curtain raiser with very little to separate the sides!



*Semi-final
action
between
Clonakenny
v Newport*

Disappointed captains

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



THE PLAYERS most forgotten after county finals are usually captains of the defeated teams. These players have given tremendous service to their clubs and their disappointment is always greater. Let us acknowledge these outstanding club men, who were the unlucky captains from 1973 to 1992:

1973 Sean Hyland (Kilruane MacDonaghs)
1974 Jim O'Brien (Silvermines)
1975 Paddy Williams (Kilruane MacDonaghs)
1976 Brendan Maher (Roscrea)

1977 Pat Maher (Borris-Ileigh)
1978 Liam Spooner (Roscrea)
1979 Michael Dundon (Thurles Sarsfields)
1980 Denis O'Meara (Kilruane MacDonaghs)
1981 Roger Ryan (Roscrea)
1982 Peadar Quealy (Roscrea)
1983 Richard Stapleton (Loughmore-Castleiney)
1984 Kieran Hough (Lorrha)
1985 Ger O'Connor (Roscrea)
1986 Tony Sheppard (Kilruane MacDonaghs)
1987 John Treacy (Loughmore-Castleiney)
1988 Bobby Ryan (Borris-Ileigh)
1989 Rory Dwan (Holycross-Ballycahill)
1990 Cormac Bonnar (Cashel KC)
1991 Phil Dwyer (Holycross-Ballycahill)
1992 Jim Moloney (Thurles Sarsfields)

BOBBY MOCKLER R.I.P.

BOBBY MOCKLER, Mathew Avenue, Thurles, who died this week (October 20th), came to prominence as a hurler with Thurles C.B.S. in the mid 1940s. In 1947 he won an All-Ireland minor medal with Tipperary, playing at left corner-back, on a team captained by Paddy Kenny, Borris-Ileigh. The following year Bobby again lined out in the same position but the team lost the Munster final to Waterford. In his early years, Bobby hurled with Rahealty but in 1952, he transferred to Thurles Sarsfields. The following years were the most successful in the 'Blues' history, winning several Tipperary championships and Bobby Mockler played an vital part in those successes and captained the team to county final victory over Roscrea in 1963.



As a hurler, playing full-back for Sarsfields, Bobby possessed a very safe pair of hands. Renowned for his close tackling and blocking and his quick flick of the ball away from the danger area. He often remarked that his task was made simple by the fact that he had Michael 'Blackie' Keane in goals behind him, Mickey 'Rattler' Byrne beside him and Tony Wall in front of him.

Here at Semple Stadium, Bobby is remembered for his work in maintaining the pitch, cutting the grass and making sure that the playing area was in pristine condition for Munster championship games and particularly for the Centenary All-Ireland hurling final, played here in 1984. This was a task Bobby performed with diligence for many years and he had great personal pride in the stadium, ensuring that the Thurles pitch maintained its reputation as the best hurling surface in the country. Bobby was also a member of Semple Stadium Committee and is credited with proposing the fundraising scheme 'Double Your Money', which generated much needed funds for the stadium in the 1980s.



We extend sincere sympathy to his wife Nora, sons Pat, Jim, Gerard and Paul, daughters Mary, Nuala and Anne, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

- L. Ó D.

Clonnakenny

CLONNAKENNY GAA club is located between Roscrea and Templemore and therefore is on the border of the Mid and North Division. Around the time of its foundation in 1903, Clonnakenny played in the North division for a few years but for the life time of present club members Clonnakenny has played in the Mid Division. Ironically, we won a North Minor B hurling final recently as part of a combination with Moneygall with whom we have joined forces at U14, U16, Minor and U21 level in the last few years.

We are one of the smallest rural clubs in the county drawing on a parish with less than two hundred households. Our scarcity of numbers has meant that the club has mainly played in B and C competitions at underage level since these grades were introduced.

We have had our share of success winning county finals in minor and U21 C competitions in both hurling and football over the last twenty years.

We have to go back to the late sixties for our last victory at intermediate level or No 1 junior hurling as it was known in 1967 when Clonnakenny defeated Kilsheelin in the county final. That same group of players also brought the only county junior football title to the parish in 1966.

As often happens, a few barren years followed this great team of the 60s. We did manage to win the Mid No 2 junior hurling final in 1973 and went on to contest three mid intermediate finals in the 1980s without success. We were mid Junior B champions in 1995 but were defeated by Toomevara in the county final. We competed at Junior A level from 1996. In 2001 and 2002 we won the Mid Junior A hurling but failed to capture a county title – we all remember the memorable draw with Ballinahinch in 2002 only to lose the replay. In 2003 we went Intermediate again and won the Mid Final but Kilruane defeated us in the county semi-final. We won the Mid Junior B football in 2001 and 2005.

The current era saw four successive Mid titles at Intermediate level in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 only to fail at county quarter-final or semi-final

on each occasion. While being defeated at the Mid semi-final stage this year by Drom & Inch, we progressed to the county quarter final of the open draw where we defeated Lattin-Cullen Gaels and qualified for today's final with a fantastic win over Newport in the semi-final.

Despite being a very small club numerically, we can be proud of our clubs facilities with our pitch opened in the centenary year of 1984. Since then we have erected dressing-rooms, a stand, two ball stop nets and most recently some safety barriers and advertising boards. All of these developments would not be possible without the fantastic support we receive from the entire parish. Our main fundraising activities are the County Board Draw, our parish bazaar and various other events throughout each year. All of which are wonder-

fully supported by the people of the parish. We very much appreciate that support both financially and in following all our teams.

It is fair to say that we have had reasonable levels of success in both hurling and football over the years and we are very proud of all our players who have been so committed

and dedicated and have always worn the Black and Amber with pride. Many former players have gone on to give great service to the club as coaches and selectors and we thank them for all their work over the years.

Players from Clonnakenny have represented Tipperary at all grades in hurling, minor, U21, intermediate and senior. While we have also had players on Tipperary minor and junior football teams over the years.

We are very fortunate to have had very dedicated juvenile committee and coaches down through the years. It is this continuous commitment that develops players such as those representing the club here today.

On a sad note, it would be remiss if we were not to remember our long serving chairman John Moloughney who passed away late last year. John dedicated almost thirty years of his life to the club and would be so proud to be here today. Ar dheis De go raibh a nAinm.



Proudly Sponsoring the Clonnakenny Hurling Team

FRS FARM RELIEF SERVICES

● Farm Services ● Fencing ● Training ● Recruitment ● Homecare ● Herdwatch

CLONAKENNY



The Clonakenny Panel that won the County Intermediate Hurling League 2014

Back row (l-r): Liam Mullally, Conor Ryan, David Cody, Liam Quigley, Brian Mullally, Paul Crampton, Michael John Carroll, Eddie Byrne, Mark Ryan, William Ryan, John O'Meara, Alan Abbott, Jonathan Cody, Nicky Ryan, John Joe Ryan, Martin Joe Murray, Mark Talbot, William Moloughney, Ger Byrne, Bobby Bergin. Front row (l-r): Niall Matthews, Paul Bergin, Donnacha Murray, Donal Greed, John Costigan, Michael Costigan, Seamus Nolan, William Costigan, Pa Ryan, Stephen Russell, Jim Costigan, David Crampton, Prionsios Matthews, Brian Shanahan. Missing from photo: Eoin Ryan, Eoin Nesbitt, Matthew Longe, Delacy Byrne, Diarmuid Ryan and Walter Byrne.

PATH TO FINAL

Apr 11th, Round 1: Clonakenny 2-12, Thurles Sarsfields 1-18

May 10th, Round 3: Clonakenny 1-17, Shannon Rovers 1-10

May 24th, Round 4: Clonakenny 0-16, Cashel 0-10

July 25th, Round 5: Clonakenny 2-17, Galtee Rovers/
St Pekaun 3-9

Aug 8th, Round 2: Clonakenny 1-17, Moyle Rovers 2-8

Sept 27th, Prelim QF: Clonakenny w/o v cc Rockwell Rovers

Oct 4th Q.F.: Clonakenny 6-07, Lattin-Cullen Gaels 0-10

Oct 10th Semi-Final: Clonakenny 1-20, Newport 0-13

CLUB OFFICERS

Patron:	Fr. Noel Kennedy
President:	John Clarke
Vice-President:	Martin Murray
Chairman:	Gerry O'Hara
Vice-Chairman:	Ger Byrne
Secretary:	Breeda Carroll
Treasurer:	Seamus Nolan
PRO:	Mark Talbot
Childrens Officer:	David Longe
Registrar:	Jackie Keane
Co. Board Draw Coordinator:	Oliver Mullally
School Liaison Officer:	Margo Greed
Cultural Officer:	Tim Shanahan



Clonakenny Management Team (l-r):

Michael Smith, Roger Quigley, Seamus Nolan,
Vincent McKenna.

Also on the extended Clonakenny Panel:

David Cody, Jonathan Cody, Mark Ryan, Eoin Ryan,
Eddie Byrne, Eoin Nesbitt, Matthew Longe.

CLONAKENNY PLAYER PROFILES

Name	Age	Occupation
Stephen Russell	22	Teacher
Donal Greed	26	Sales Advisor
Liam Mullally	22	Student
Michael Costigan	30	Carpenter
Michael John Carroll	23	Student
Willie Ryan	24	Student
Pa Ryan	24	Teacher
Conor Ryan	30	Plasterer
John Joe Ryan	20	Student
Paul Bergin	20	Student
John Costigan	28	I.T. Executive
Nicky Ryan	26	Accountant
Diarmuid Ryan	17	Student
Donnacha Murray	34	Co. Director
Bobby Bergin (Capt)	23	Engineer
Walter Byrne	32	Office Manager
Ger Byrne	36	Farmer
William Moloughney	29	Carpenter
David Crampton	32	Civil Engineer
Prionsios Matthews	25	Graphic Web Designer
Mark Talbot	35	Clinical Nurse Manager
William Costigan	21	Student
Niall Matthews	30	Painter
Liam Quigley	18	Student
Delacy Byrne	17	Student
Alan Abbott	33	Quantity Surveyor
Paul Crampton	18	Student
Jim Costigan	36	Civil Servant
John O'Meara	19	Student
Brian Shanahan	19	Student
David Cody	26	Co. Executive
Jonathan Cody	26	Software Developer
Mark Ryan	31	Welder
Eoin Ryan	37	Factory Employee
Eddie Byrne	28	Machinery Operator
Eoin Nesbitt	17	Student
Matthew Longe	18	Student

Thurles Sarsfields

INTERMEDIATE



Back row: John Lawlor, Declan Ryan, Pa Phelan, Dylan Burke, Ger O'Grady, Tom King, Paul Sammon, Graham Maher, Cathal Moloney, David Corbett, Jack Derby, Michael Russell, Aidan Doyle, Aidan Ryan, Willie Tierney, Kevin Smith. Front row: Barry O'Dwyer, Rory Dwan, Paul Maher, Kevin Dunne, Pa Crone, Michael O'Dwyer, Pa Dunne, James Ryan, Eoin Russell and Seanie Butler.

PLAYER PROFILES

Kevin Smith	23	Employee Setanta College
Rory Dwan	20	Student
Pa Dunne	23	Teacher
Paul Maher	22	Student
Tom King	29	Teacher
Barry O'Dwyer	33	Medical Rep
Cathal Moloney	18	Student
Stephen Lillis	29	Employee TEVA Pharmaceutical
Aidan Ryan	21	Student
David Corbett	22	Student
Michael Russell	24	Teacher

Kevin Dunne	20	Student
Seanie Butler	19	Student
John Lawlor	34	Barman
Ger O'Grady	36	Self Employed
Willie Tierney	19	Student
Dylan Burke	21	Student
James Ryan	22	Medical Doctor
Pa Phelan	20	Student
Michael O'Dwyer	22	Student
Rory O'Shea	24	Trainee Accountant
Aidan Doyle	21	Student
Paul Sammon	19	Student
Pa Crone	23	Student

PATH TO THE FINAL

County Group:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-18	Clonakenny	2-12
	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-13	Galtee Rovers	0-11
	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-16	Cashel	1-13
	Thurles Sarsfields.....	2-19	Shannon Rovers	1-7
Mid:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-12	Drom & Inch	0-17
	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-14	Gortnahoe-Glengoolie	1-7
	Thurles Sarsfields.....	3-16	Holycross-Ballycahill.....	0-14
Mid Semi-Final:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	2-22	Moycarkey-Borris	0-12
Mid Final:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	0-11	Drom & Inch	0-15
County Quarter-Final:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-14	St. Mary's	0-15
County Semi-Final:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-22	Ballinahinch.....	2-15



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



Clonakenny

Dathanna: Dubh agus Ómra

INTERMEDIATE

	Team LEATH	Team LEATH	Team LEATH
CUIL			
CUILINÍ			
SEACHAI			
ISM			
SABH POCANNA			



- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 16. U. Ó Broin
WALTER BYRNE | 20. D. Matthais
PRIONSIOS MATTHEWS | 24. L. Ó Coiligh
LIAM QUIGLEY | 28. S. Mac Oistigáin
JIM COSTIGAN |
| 17. G. Ó Broin
GE BYRNE | 21. M. Talbóid
MARK TALBOT | 25. D. Ó Broin
DELACY BYRNE | 29. S. Ó Meára
JOHN O'MEARA |
| 18. L. Maolfhachtna
WILLIAM MOLOUGHNEY | 22. L. Ó Oistigáin
LIAM COSTIGAN | 26. A. Abóid
ALAN ABBOTT | 30. B. Ó Seancháin
BRIAN SHANAHAN |
| 19. D. Crampton
DAVID CRAMPTON | 23. N. Matthais
NIALL MATTHEWS | 27. P. Crampton
PAUL CRAMPTON | |

Management Team: Michael Smith, Roger Quigley, Seamus Nolan Trainer: Vincent McKenna
 Physio: Fiona Connolly

Thurles Sarsfields

Dathanna: Gorm agus Bán

INTERMEDIATE

	Team LEARN	Team LEARN	Team LEARN
CÚIL			
CÚILÍNÍ			
SEACHAÍ			
OS			
SABH			
POCARNA			



16. L. Ó Tiarnaigh
WILLIE TIERNEY

19. D. de Búrca
DYLAN BURKE

22. A. Ó Dúghaill
AIDAN DOYLE

17. S. Ó Riain
JAMES RYAN

20. M. Ó Dubhuir
MICHAEL O'DWYER

23. P. Ó Bradáin
PAUL SAMMON

18. P. Ó Faoláin
PA PHELAN

21. R. Ó Sé
RORY O'SHEA

24. P. Cróin
PA CRONE

Team Management: Tommy Maher, Paddy McCormack, Connie Maher, Jack Griffin

Medical: Mick Clohessy, Aoife Lonergan

Doctor: Dr Paul Ryan

Equipment: Eamonn and Brian Stakelum

Thurles Sarsfields GAA Club Development Plan

COUNTY final day is always a special day for a club. Thurles Sarsfields are extremely fortunate to be challenging for honours in both deciders. A lot of hard work has been put in by team mentors and players to qualify for both county finals, two years in succession. To supplement the hardwork and success of our hurlers on the field in recent years the club launched a major redevelopment of our facilities during 2013.

We completed our new dressing rooms at Arús Na Sáirséaligh in early 2014 that has been a much needed boost to our facilities for the expanding needs of our hurlers, footballers, camogie players and ladies footballers across all ages and grades, as well as other local users of our facilities.

Thurles Sarsfields purchased 14.8 acres of land at Toor, Killinan in November 2014 which is directly across the road from Thurles Racecourse. The club had been actively seeking to purchase a land bank for a number of years and are extremely satisfied with the location of our new piece of land.

In early 2015 a club development committee met and have developed a plan to develop the land which we hope to launch in the coming months. The land purchase and proposed development of the site will require extensive fundraising and we hope that all our players, members and supporters at home and

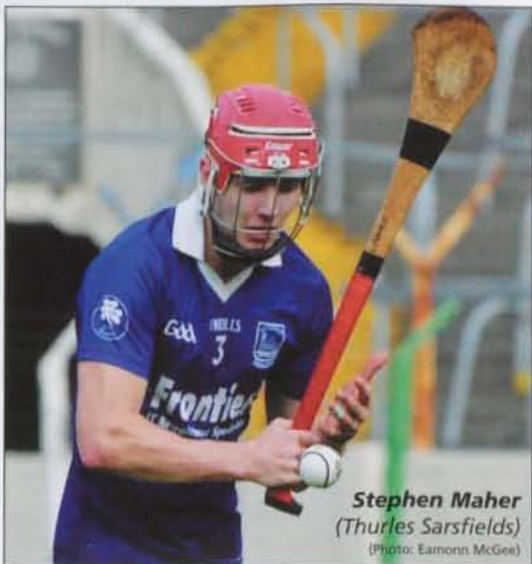


John Maher (Thurles Sarsfields).

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)

abroad will continue to support us.

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



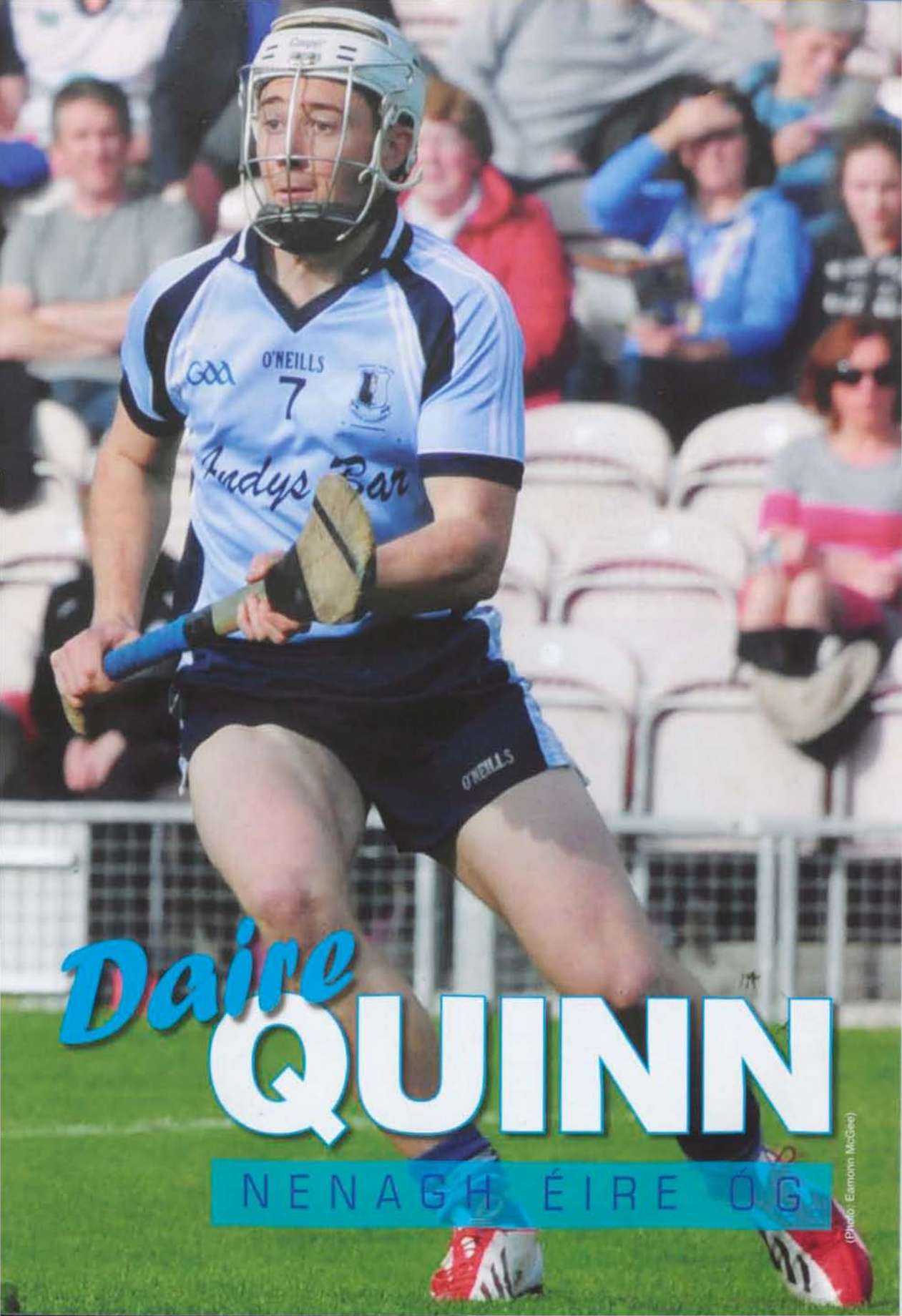
Stephen Maher (Thurles Sarsfields)

(Photo: Eamonn McGee)



Lar Corbett (Thurles Sarsfields)

(Photo: Eamonn McGee)



Daire **QUINN**

NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

Nenagh Éire Óg Health Club Project

By: Michael Geaney
(Project Leader)

THE STORY so far . . .

Nenagh Éire Óg was one of eighteen clubs selected to participate in phase one of the GAA Healthy Club Project.

There were many reasons why Nenagh Éire Óg wanted to become a 'Healthy Club', but the core aim was and is to place the club at the heart of our local community's health and well-being.

The launch of the Nenagh Éire Óg Project took place in May 2013. The completion of an online survey was the first step in the club's involvement with the project. This survey of club members and the wider community identified key health issues which the Healthy Club Project team would subsequently prioritise. These are: well-being and mental health, com-



munity interaction and inclusion, anti-bullying, diet and nutrition, drug and alcohol awareness and the promotion of health and well-being through physical activity

The project team hosted four successful



Pictured at a GAA Healthy Club Project event at the Abbey Court Hotel in Nenagh earlier this year were (from left): Michael Geaney (project leader Healthy Club Project), Sr Claire Slattery (Healthy Club Project), Jim Nagle (Nenagh Éire Óg Club Chairman), Stacy Cannon (Croke Park Healthy Club Project co-ordinator), Christy Kenneally, Ger McCarthy (Nenagh Éire Óg Juvenile Club Registrar) and Phil Hennessey (Proctor & Gamble).

seminars with over five hundred attending.

The first seminar featured Conor Cusack (Cork) and Séamus Hennessey (Kilruane MacDonaghs) as speakers. In addition, a number of local organisations, including Áras Folláin and Living Links, also featured at the event. This seminar worked to develop an awareness of mental health issues and offer hope to those affected by depression.

The second seminar featured a presentation made by Fr. Tony Butler SMA who willingly shared his experience of life, the ups and the downs. Sadly, Fr. Tony passed away, but everyone associated with the Healthy Club Project remembers Fr Tony with a deep affection and are grateful to him for giving so generously of his time.

'Harnessing strengths during challenging times' was the title of the presentation given by Shane Martin at the project team's third seminar held in November 2014 – Shane is a psychologist dedicated to teaching self-help psychology which works to empower people to enhance the quality of their lives.

'From Heartbreak To Hope – An Evening with Christy Kenneally' was held in April 2015. Christy Kenneally, the veteran broadcaster and author of numerous publications including the bestselling book *Living with Loss*, brought great hope and insight to the large gathering who attended the event came.

The feedback from all of the seminars was very positive.

The project team also hosted a 'Wellness Workshop' in partnership with SOS (Suicide or Survive) last January. The workshop aimed to help attendees understand and take responsibility for their own mental health. The workshop, with forty individuals attending, proved a resounding success.

Within the Nenagh Éire Óg club this year an emphasis was placed on anti-bullying, team-building and bonding while in 2016 the club will launch the 'Teammates Now – Friends Forever' campaign.

Éire Óg also launched the 'Éire Ógres – GAA for Beginners' programme this year – this free initiative targeted junior and senior infants and was designed to reach out to every family in the town of Nenagh. Everyone associated with the programme was overwhelmed by the response to the initiative – sixty young beginners and their families participated.

The project team also rolled a diet and nutrition programme which worked to highlight healthy eating in primary schools. Indeed, the Nenagh Éire Óg Healthy Club Project team has been commended by Croke Park for the work undertaken by the club. As a result of their endeavours the Nenagh Éire Óg Healthy Club Project team, represented by Michael Geaney and Sr. Clare Slattery, were asked to showcase their amazing work at the GAA Health & Well Being Conference in Croke Park last March.

The GAA Healthy Club Project is currently being evaluated by Waterford IT while, in addition, Irish Life have made a commitment to invest €1 million in the scheme which will be rolled out on a phased basis to every GAA club in the country.

The success of the Healthy Club Project is due to the commitment shown by those on the project team: Michael Geaney (project leader), Sr. Clare Slattery, Greg Browne, Catherine McTiernan and Tom Moylan.

All details in relation to the Nenagh Éire Óg Healthy Club Project can be found on www.nenaghgaa.com.

MODEST TALLIES

IT IS generally expected these days that both participants will score a respectable tally on county final day. All of the training, coaching and lifestyle disciplines usually pay off but there have still been some amazing final score lines.

In the first county final played, Thurles beat North Tipp by the modest full time of 0-3 to 0-0. It is hard to end up without scoring but over the past 50 years some teams hit miserable totals on a day that was meant to be successful. In 1969 Carrick Davins, champions in 1966 and 1967, scored 0-5 in a 20 point loss to Roscrea. In 1975 Kilruane MacDonaghs only scored 0-5 in a county final replay loss to Moneygall. Two years later they won a first title beating Borris-Ileigh also in a replay by 1-5 to 0-5.

More recently Drom & Inch scored 0-5 in losing to Thurles Sarsfields in 2009, Lorrha lost by 12 points to Carrick Davins in 1966 scoring only 1-3 themselves. Roscrea seeking a fourth county title in a row landed 0-6 when losing to Moyne-Templetuohy in 1971. Holycross-Ballycahill had 1-4 to their name when being trounced by Thurles Sarsfields in 1964, while reigning All-Ireland Club champions Kilruane MacDonaghs only managed 0-7 in a double score loss to Borris-Ileigh in 1986.

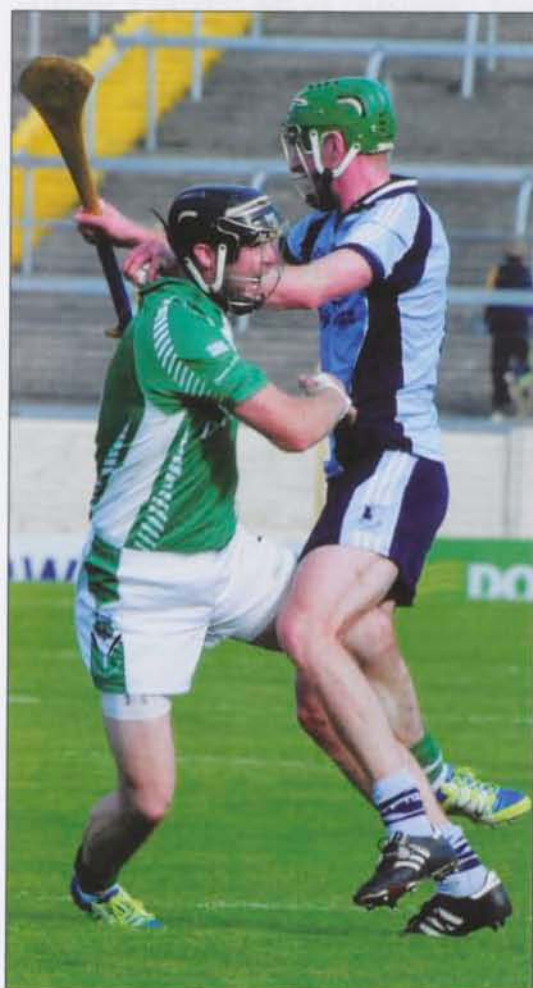
COUNTY FINAL

moments

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

Hat trick man

WE MUST go back to 1951 for the last player to score a trio of goals in a Tipperary county final. The man whose record has stood for 64 years was Holycross-Ballycahill's Ned O'Gorman aka 'The Rock', whose scoring prowess did much to derail Clonoulty's ambitions in the final at Thurles on November 6th which was refereed by Mr. J Vaughan (Waterford).



No way through . . . action from the semi-final between Nenagh Éire Óg and Drom & Inch.

(Photo: Eamonn McGee)

Shooting the breeze

THE highest ever return of points in a Tipperary county final was achieved by Nenagh Éire Óg, with 25, in their 1995 win over Boherlahan-Dualla. Other high tallies were achieved by Loughmore-Castleiney 22 v. Drom & Inch in 2007, Toomevara 22 v. Thurles Sarsfields in 2001, Thurles Sarsfields 22 v Loughmore-Castleiney in 2014, 21 v Drom & Inch in 2012 and Toomevara 21 v Nenagh Éire Óg in 2006. Not surprisingly the clubs which posted these points tallies were all winners.

Difficult task

SINCE the first Dan Breen Cup was presented in 1931, the only clubs which have retained it are –

Thurles Sarsfields 1935/36, 1938/39,

1944/45/46,

1955/56/57/58/59, 1961/62/63/64/65,
2009/10.

Toomevara 1992/93/94, 1998/99, 2000/01
2003/04

Roscrea 1968/69/70 1972/73

Moycarkey-Borris 1932/33/34

Kilruane MacDonaghs 1977/78/79

Carrick Davins 1966/67

Borris-Ileigh 1949/50

Moneygall 1975/76.

Paying their way

THE FIRST time that an admission fee (2d old pence) was taken in Tipperary was at the 1895 county Senior hurling final between Tubberadora and Suir View (Ballydine/Bawnmore/Ardmayle), which was truly a local derby. The gate was a significant £40 (representing a paying attendance of 4,800) and the teams finished level at 1-6 each. Extra time was played to decide whether Mikey Maher (T) or John Fogarty (SV) would be the winning captain. In the end, Tubberadora pulled away and won by 3-9 to 2-7.

Green over white

SIXTY ONE years ago Holycross-Ballycahill beat Roscrea in the county final by 6-5 to 2-3. They were captained by top scorer Francis Maher (1-3) and this was the last occasion that a team scored more goals than points in winning the Dan Breen Cup.

GRAND HA SHIRBAR, 1954
Mairistir Na Chroise agus Darle Cacht
(Londra agus 1954)

(1)	(2)	(3)
S. O. Deán (H. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(4)	(5)	(6)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(7)	(8)	(9)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(10)	(11)	(12)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(13)	(14)	(15)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(16)	(17)	(18)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(19)	(20)	(21)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(22)	(23)	(24)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(25)	(26)	(27)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(28)	(29)	(30)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(31)	(32)	(33)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(34)	(35)	(36)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(37)	(38)	(39)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(40)	(41)	(42)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(43)	(44)	(45)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(46)	(47)	(48)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(49)	(50)	(51)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(52)	(53)	(54)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(55)	(56)	(57)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(58)	(59)	(60)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(61)	(62)	(63)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(64)	(65)	(66)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(67)	(68)	(69)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(70)	(71)	(72)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(73)	(74)	(75)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(76)	(77)	(78)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(79)	(80)	(81)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(82)	(83)	(84)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(85)	(86)	(87)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(88)	(89)	(90)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(91)	(92)	(93)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(94)	(95)	(96)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(97)	(98)	(99)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)
(100)	(101)	(102)
S. O. Deán (S. Deán)	P. O. Deán (P. Deán)	M. O. Deán (M. Deán)

1954: 18, A. Gorman; 19, J. Hogan; 20, A. Kelly; 21, J. Handrick; 22, G. Mulaney.

Out of luck

OF THE seven county finals which have been won by a point, the losers' white flag tally was thirteen on four occasions. Those unlucky teams were Roscrea 1978, Kilruane MacDonaghs 1980, Loughmore-Castleiney 1987 and Nenagh Éire Óg 1993.

Nenagh woes

SEMPLE STADIUM was the scene of Nenagh Éire Óg's only county senior title win on October 15th 1995, when Conor O'Donovan's on-pitch remark to the Steward, who escorted him to the presentation area to receive the Dan Breen cup was – "I want to savour this moment". This Field of Legends has seen the club enjoy other good days too, but there have been many occasions when heartache and regret were the inner feelings at the game's end. Over a fifty year period, the following is a list of their major disappointments at Semple Stadium –

- 1964 Lost Co. S/F to Holycross-Ballycahill replay & extra time 0-15 to 0-14
- 1982 Drew Co. Q/F with Moycarkey-Borris 0-11 to 1-8. Lost replay in Cloughjordan
- 1991 Lost Co. Q/F replay to Holycross-Ballycahill 4-6 to 1-14

- 1992 Drew Co S/F with Thurles Sarsfields 1-12 each. Lost replay in Cloughjordan
- 1993 Lost Co. Final to Toomevara 1-14 to 1-13
- 1998 Lost Co. S/F to Clonoulty-Rossmore 3-11 to 1-16
- 1999 Lost Co. Final to Toomevara 1-17 to 0-13
- 2001 Lost Co. Q/F to Clonoulty-Rossmore after extra time 4-20 to 3-18
- 2003 Lost Co. S/F to Thurles Sarsfields 3-17 to 2-18
- 2005 Lost Co. S/F to Drom & Inch 2-17 to 0-14
- 2006 Lost Co. Final to Toomevara 1-21 to 2-14
- 2007 Lost Co. S/F to Loughmore-Castleiney 0-15 to 0-13
- 2009 Lost Co. Q/F to Thurles Sarsfields 1-18 to 0-18
- 2011 Lost Co. Q/F to Clonoulty-Rossmore 3-18 to 0-14
- 2013 Lost Co. Final to Loughmore-Castleiney 1-17 to 1-16
- 2014 Lost Co. Q/F to Thurles Sarsfields, after extra time, 0-20 to 0-19

All-Star men

THIS YEAR'S county finalists both boast All-Star winners since the introduction of the official GAA scheme in 1971.

Nenagh Éire Óg's Michael Cleary holds four awards, which he won in 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993.

Thurles Sarsfields had Eddie Enright honoured in 2001, Padraic Maher in 2009, 2011 and 2014, Lar Corbett in 2009, 2010 and 2011, and Michael Cahill in 2010 and 2011.



Variable margins

IN THE past fifty championships (1965-2014 inclusive), the county final winning margins have varied, but it is worth considering that twenty three of those titles have been decided by a goal or less. The analysis of those near misses confirms that seven finals were won by one point, another seven by two points and nine by three points. The margins between success and failure remain tight.

COUNTY FINAL *moments*

Two colours

IT WAS unusual to see Alan and David Kennedy wearing the victorious Thurles Sarsfields colours against their native Clonoulty-Rossmore in the 2010 County Final. Previously Jack Gleeson played in goal for Clonoulty in the 1951 County Final loss to Holycross, having previously minded the net for the Abbeysiders.

Then in 1955, Paddy Kenny from Borris-Ileigh had transferred to Thurles Sarsfields, but didn't play in the county final and earned a medal as a substitute with the Blues.

Record haul

MICKEY BYRNE, aka 'The Rattler', still holds the record for most Tipperary County senior hurling titles with fourteen wins to his credit. He captained Thurles Sarsfields to victory in 1955 and 1956 while his son, Paul, was also a medal winner with Sarsfields in 1974. Mickey's record was set in 1965 and will not be equalled in the near future.

THE REFEREE

PLAYERS must realise that, like themselves, no referee will produce a perfect performance in every game. They do their best from start to finish and make instant decisions based on what they see. Referees are like pitches, you need one to have a game but even if you don't get your preferred choice, the other team will have the same starting point. The referee (by the rules of the GAA) is always right, so there is no advantage in attempting to change his mind. Respect for colleagues, opponents and match officials is remembered long after the cups are presented and the cheering has faded away.

Best of Luck to Nenagh Eire Og in The County Final

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A modest YEAR

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



YOU HAVE often heard it said that losing a semi-final is worse than finishing second best in the decider. It all relates to the journey and the sense of achievement in qualifying for the shoot out and the dreams

that precede the big occasion. Following Tipperary's loss to Galway, in the best game of the 2015 hurling championship, there was a palpable sense of anti climax around the county and among its exiled supporters. This year had been all about finishing the job and sending Eamon O'Shea into retirement, with the All-Ireland title reclaimed. Paradise regained was the vision. Ultimately, it didn't materialise and various theories were offered as to the cause of failure. Losing big games by narrow margins has been an unfortunate trend in recent years – one which has seen us fail to achieve our potential. Kilkenny has been the biggest problem and only for their enduring presence, Tipperary may have enjoyed several high profile victories. We have been so close, so often, which compounds our frustration.

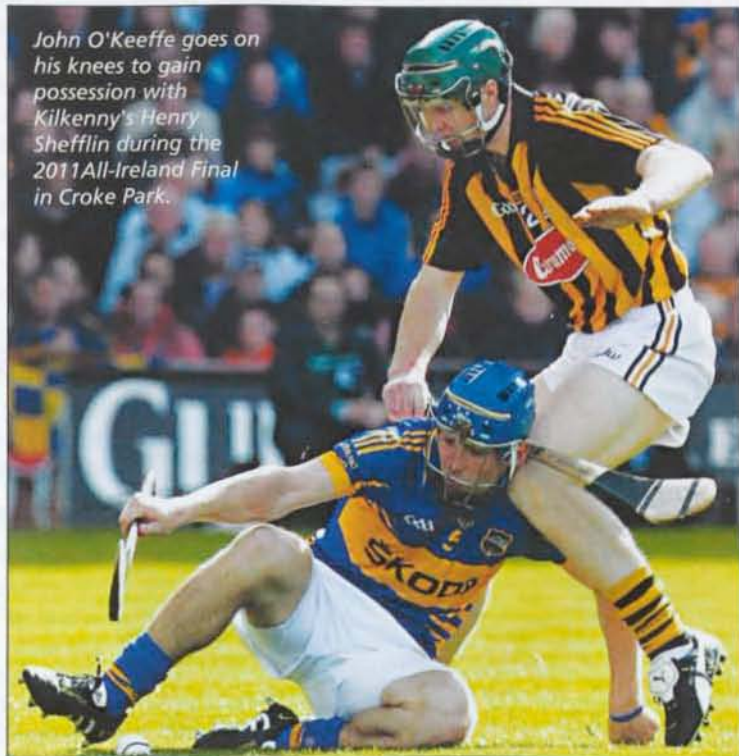
Let's go back a decade to 2005 for a starting point. Galway beat us in the All-Ireland quarter-final by two points, a year later Waterford beat us by a goal at the same stage, after Cork had done likewise in the Munster Final.

2007 saw Limerick win by three points in the 3rd instalment (two of which had extra time) of the Munster semi-final, before Wexford pipped us by two in the All-Ireland quarter-final. A year later the Munster title was claimed but Waterford beat us in the All-Ireland semi-final by two.

There was no respite in 2009, as Kilkenny came with a late scoring burst to win the All-Ireland by five.

Our success of 2010 was undermined quickly by a four point loss to Kilkenny in the 2011 All-Ireland Final. That defeat shattered the notion that Tipp were coming to power and Kilkenny were abdicating. The 2012 All-Ireland semi-final loss is best forgotten, but there were regrets in 2013, when we lost the Munster semi-final to Limerick by three and came back to Nowlan Park and lost the qualifier by another three. Our persistence with a high ball to a dominant home half back line was not the best tactical approach. A year later, following a qualifier recovery after a two point loss to Limerick, an All-Ireland classic gave great hope, but a three point replay defeat confirmed the glass ceiling was still in place. In all of the discussion

John O'Keeffe goes on his knees to gain possession with Kilkenny's Henry Shefflin during the 2011 All-Ireland Final in Croke Park.



about Tipp's 1-28 scoring return, the Kilkenny tally of 3-22 was glossed over. Perhaps our emphasis for the replay was on the wrong end of the pitch?

There were also the disappointing League Final losses to Kilkenny – 2009 by three points after extra time, 2013 by the same margin and 2014 by one point after extra time. This year Waterford pipped us by a point in the semi-final. That is a long list of results which went the wrong way from our perspective. Is it enduring carelessness, a vulnerable mindset, an inability to finish it off when in control? Whatever the cause, the answer needs to be found and the problem rectified as a matter of urgency.

The season just gone saw Munster reclaimed, but an All-Ireland final place missed, as Galway imposed themselves on the game and Tipp's response was inadequate. Galway scored 26 times and we scored 19 times. Result a one point defeat. As a team we didn't play well and accordingly complaints were few. It was more than a shattered dream – it marked the end of an era. The pity was that Kilkenny were not as potent as in other years and might well have been within Tipp's range if everyone had given the performance of their lives. In listing those regrets, we must acknowledge that Eamon O'Shea restored respectability to Tipperary hurling and saw his charges produce some impressive performances. A Munster title was

hardly the maximum reward he or the team deserved for their contributions and perseverance over the past three years. Michael Ryan has now assumed the role of Bainisteoir and knows that his inheritance needs a critical assessment and significant enhancement. There will be no easy choices for him and there won't be comfort zones for anyone else. Settled teams induce complacency – evolving selections chosen on the evidence of performances in games and training have more synergy.

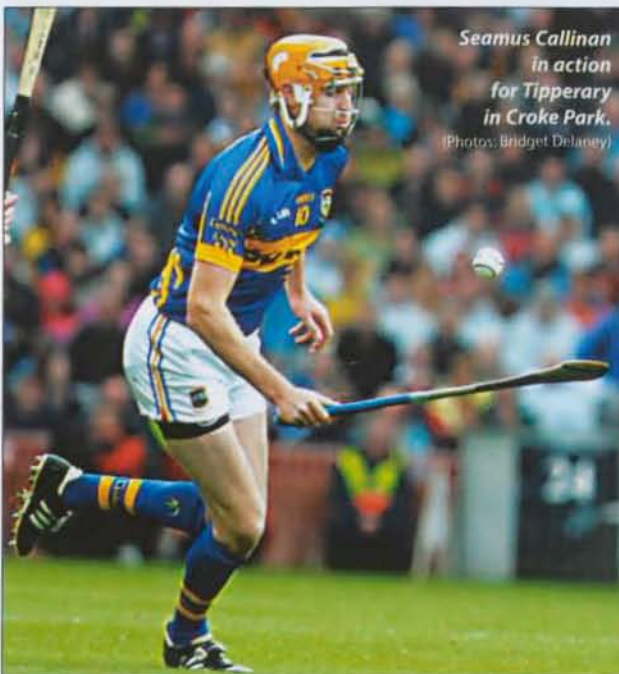
REPLICATED

The under-21 team – based on the All-Ireland winning Minor team of 2012 – made a great recovery against Limerick after a dreadful start, in the semi-final. A few mistakes in the closing minutes cost them victory and after Limerick's superb season, there are genuine regrets that we lost this one. Unfortunately, it seems that our Senior failings are being replicated at this level. For the fourth consecutive year, Tipperary have lost to the eventual All-Ireland winners and, apart from the Clare game in 2013, they could have won the other three.

There had been high hopes for this team and a successful season would have added some impetus to our future prospects of claiming top honours. The under-21 competition is unforgiving and you must get it right for the opening game, otherwise it is all over. When you see the progress that Clare, Limerick and Waterford have made with their structures and with Cork now showing great form at all levels below Minor, the challenge has certainly been set for the coming years. Tipperary need to make progress at this key developmental grade, if there is to be a supply of players for higher tests ahead. Whatever it takes must be guaranteed to the incoming team management, which I suspect might include more quality time with the squad before their first outing. The best of the 2010 team have already been harvested, so it is time for more apprentices to qualify!

MINOR ISSUES

The unheralded Minor hurling team impressed me all year as an honest, hard-working group who were prepared to compete from start to finish. They won three games in Munster by narrow margins, were determined and finished well against Dublin, but couldn't cope with a



*Seamus Callinan
in action
for Tipperary
in Croke Park.*

(Photos: Bridget Delaney)

Galway team, which became sharper with every game they played. One can only speculate about the difficulties the dual players faced as they prepared for an All-Ireland Minor football semi-final the week before the hurling final. Mentally and physically it must have been a heavy burden for these youngsters. Putting it into context, a Kilkenny friend asked me if we had no dual players would I have been confident of beating Galway? My momentary hesitation answered the question to his satisfaction.

If dual players are being written off at Senior inter-county level, is it logical to expect them to thrive at under age levels where study, exams, games and training converge at certain times of the year and the pressure can be unrelenting? When they emerge from that maze, they are needed by their clubs at under-21 and adult levels – in both codes – for the domestic championships.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2015 Senior Hurling Championship will end today (barring a draw) and our representatives for the Munster campaign will be known. We need to make progress in that competition to boost our self esteem and provide a launching pad for the Senior inter-county team. It has been 12 seasons (2004) since the All-Ireland title (Tommy Moore Cup) came to Munster, courtesy of Cork's Newtownshandrum.

It is a greater embarrassment to Tipperary that the title hasn't come here, since Borris-Illleigh's St Patrick's day victory in 1987. Our local championship this year had some good games, some heavy defeats, but there has been a sense of inevitability that Thurles Sarsfields would win and interest centred on which club might test them. Nenagh Éire Óg have the last chance on that one. It was a pity to see a few teams finished hurling and out of competition before June and odd to see one team from the North qualifying for the Preliminary quarter-finals because another club won the South title. More peculiar also for two clubs to receive a bye at that stage. The competition needs to be rationalised and the key to this ongoing process is to visualise the county as one unit, rather than as four Divisions.

THE CHALLENGE

The 2016 senior inter-county season will be



Tipperary Manager Liam Sheedy with team captain Eoin Kelly after the 2010 All-Ireland final in Croke Park.

another testing ground for would be All-Ireland champions. All five Munster teams have reason to fancy their chances of winning the province, notwithstanding the negativity surrounding the success rate of our provincial winners over the past 18 years. There has been so much nonsense spoken and written about the issue. As it stands, there are five calendar weeks between winning the Munster final and playing in the All-Ireland semi-final. The gap can be managed simply by giving players the first week off, playing a round of club games in week two and using the condensed three week time frame to focus totally and prepare effectively for the big game.

Tipperary obviously need to introduce some new players to their senior squad and mediocrity can have no place in that framework. There have been some players impressing us at under-21 level in recent years, but they will only be of value if their commitment to the task is total. Contrary to prevailing pessimism, I believe Tipp will be contenders for top honours next year and that the essential belief can be installed, using a more robust style of play, in a team which must aim for a consistently high standard of performance and an improved level of game intelligence. Hopefully today's game will produce some players who fit the specification for the next influx of Tipperary hurlers. The county waits in hope.

Mikey HEFFERNAN

NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

By: JACKIE CAHILL

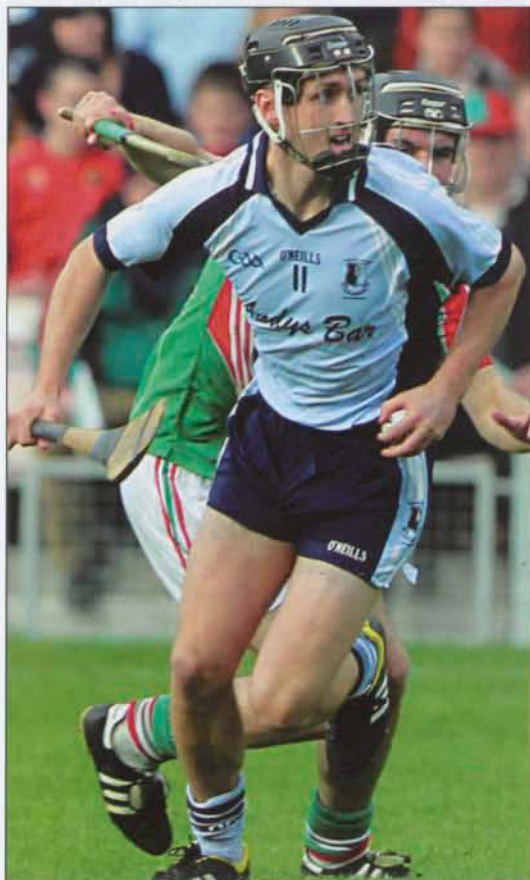


It's a fair statement to make but indicative of the huge desire within the Nenagh Éire Óg camp to end a 20-year wait for a Tipperary senior hurling title.

Key forward Mikey Heffernan swept the boards as a county player, winning All-Ireland medals in the minor, U21, intermediate and senior grades.

But the 25-year-old attacker freely admits that he'd swap the lot for victory against Thurles Sarsfields in Thurles this afternoon.

"I'd swap them all in the morning to win this," says Mikey. "It would mean everything.



It's been so long, 20 years since Nenagh won it.

"I would have been only 5 at the time, my father (Liam) was involved then as well.

"I'd have seen a few videos and in most of the hurling pubs in Nenagh, there's pictures of that night on the walls. It would be nice to

“I'd swap them all in the morning to win this, it would mean everything”

throw up a few new pictures.”

Today, Nenagh have the chance to make history but it won't be easy against a star-studded Sarsfields outfit.

But Nenagh carry huge credentials into this fixture, having seen off Seamus Callanan and Drom & Inch in the semi-finals, with Mikey himself nailing a late, late free to take the game into extra-time.

Heffernan's been well used to success with Tipp and in the colours of Nenagh College, the old vocational school, with whom he won Munster and All-Ireland honours.

He's a teacher there now, metal work and technical graphics his forte, and with such close and obvious connections to the local area, his hunger for victory today should come as no surprise.

Dad Liam is manager of the Nenagh team and Mikey will be joined on the starting line-up by brothers Tommy and Barry, while cousin Billy is also a member of the panel.

It's very much a family affair in the Nenagh ranks as brothers Daire and Donnacha, the latter unfortunately ruled out with a long-term injury, are club stalwarts.

Daire and Donnacha's father Liam is first aid man alongside Noreen Ryan while brothers Hugh and Noel Maloney will anchor the key defensive positions.

But Sars are a tight-knit bunch themselves and Heffernan is an admirer of today's opponents.

"They speak for themselves, with the players they have, some of the best players Tipp have ever produced," he says.

"We're in no way blind about the challenge in front of us.

"Drom was a huge challenge, we enjoyed that Sunday night but we were back down to business quickly, to get our heads around this and have a right go."

Win, lose or draw, Nenagh will give it their all and Heffernan suspects that there's a more steely mentality built into the minds of the current group.

"With this team, over the last few years, the one thing that nearly differs to older Nenagh teams that we would have been on ourselves is that we'll stay in the game right to the end," he says.

"Two years ago (county final) we lost to Loughmore by a point, same against Thurles last year (quarter-final).

"We were delighted with the Drom win but there's an old saying that there's nothing won yet.

"We got to the final two years ago and it's a great place to be but when you don't win it, it's not a nice place to be.

"Everybody is two years old now, the young lads there are 22/23, men at this stage. It's another game and we'll take it like that."

Interestingly, two North teams who didn't make much of an impact in the division came through to contest county semi-finals – Kilruane MacDonaghs and Nenagh.

But there were mitigating factors involved,



as Mikey explains.

"Our big focus was getting out of the (county championship) group – we had Clonoulty, Templederry and Ballina and we really put a lot of effort into that.

"With the North, I don't know whether the lads took their eye off it but Noel was missing for the North and I was missing myself.

"I had an operation on my ankle and for the Thurles game last year, I got an injection in it, which wasn't the smartest thing to do.

"I had an operation a few days before last Christmas and I was on the couch for four weeks, couldn't even walk.

"It was seven or eight months before it was right.

"Even getting back walking was huge for me and I'm not saying that lightly.

"Getting back running, I was sore again and had to stop for another few weeks but thankfully the lads got out of the group and had put a huge emphasis on that.

"For Noel and me, they did us a favour, gave us hope."

While he was out, Mikey took the opportunity to spend some time in the United States – in Boston and New York – and he returned with renewed freshness and vigour.

"It wasn't a bad thing," he admits. "I got to America for a few weeks, some down time."

But since he got home, it's been hell for leather ever since. And today, a topsy-turvy county championship campaign could have the perfect ending.



Michael Heffernan holds the Frank McGrath Cup (North SHC Cup) in 2014 in the presence of family members.

(Photos: Bridget Delaney)



Paddy Murphy of Nenagh shows a clean pair of heels to Drom's Johnny Ryan in the County Semi-Final at Semple Stadium..

(Photos: Eamonn McGee)

Nenagh Éire Óg



PLAYER PROFILES

John Brennan	32	Teacher
John Cahalan	18	Student
Andrew Coffey	19	Student
Michael Collins	20	Student
Brian Darcy	33	Garda
Mark Flannery	25	Back Office Advisor RSA
Kevin Flynn	22	Student
Killian Gleeson	19	Student
Adam Gratton	20	Student
Michael Hallinan	20	Student
Barry Heffernan	20	Student
Billy Heffernan	24	Microchip Manufacturer
Michael Heffernan	25	Teacher
Tommy Heffernan	23	Student
Shane Hennessy	18	Student
Philip Hickey	19	Student
Gary Howard	20	Student

Alan Kelly	32	Garda
James Mackey	20	Student
Niall Madden	25	Insurance Sales Administrator
Shane Maher	24	Carey's Glass
Hugh Maloney	32	Financial Advisor & Accountant
Noel Maloney	34	Accountant
Michael McNamara	34	Warehouse Technician
Pearse Morris	25	Student
Paddy Murphy	25	Trainee Solicitor
Dáire Quinn	23	Bank Official
Donnacha Quinn	20	Student
Conor Ryan	19	Student
Paul Ryan	36	Property Manager
Kevin Tucker	40	Bank Official

PATH TO THE FINAL

North:	Nenagh Éire Óg.....	0-17	Toomevara.....	1-16
	Nenagh Éire Óg.....	0-18	Templederry Kenyons.....	2-18
County:	Nenagh Éire Óg.....	0-20	Templederry Kenyons.....	1-19
	Nenagh Éire Óg.....	1-30	Ballina.....	0-7
	Nenagh Éire Óg.....	1-18	Clonoulty-Rossmore.....	2-14
Last 16:	Nenagh Éire Óg.....	1-21	Roscrea.....	0-10
Quarter-Final:	Nenagh Éire Óg.....	0-27	Portroe.....	1-12
Semi-Final:	Nenagh Éire Óg.....	1-20	Drom & Inc.....	2-16 (aet)



Nenagh Éire Óg Management (l-r): Donie O'Brien (Selector), Brian McDonnell (Selector), Liam Heffernan (Manager), John Fitzgerald (Coach) and Eddie Tucker (Selector).

(Photo: Bridget Delaney)



Nenagh Éire Óg

Dathanna: Gorm agus Dubhgorm

SENIOR

	1st LEAGUE	2nd LEAGUE	3rd LEAGUE
CUIL			
CUILIN			
SEACHAN			
5th			
6th			
POCAHNA			



- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 16. B. Ó Dorchaí
BRIAN DARCY | 20. C. Ó Glasáin
KILLIAN GLEESON | 24. P. Ó Riain
PAUL RYAN | 28. N. Ó Madáin
NIALL MADDEN |
| 17. C. Ó Tuachair
KEVIN TUCKER | 21. P. Ó hÍcí
PHILIP HICKEY | 25. S. Ó Meachair
SHANE MAHER | 29. C. Ó Floinn
KEVIN FLYNN |
| 18. B. Ó hÍfearnáin
BILLY HEFFERNAN | 22. D. Ó Coinn
DONNACHA QUINN | 26. M. Ó Colléain
MICHAEL COLLINS | 30. G. Ó hÍomhair
GARY HOWARD |
| 19. A. Mag Reachtain
ADAM GRATTAN | 23. S. Ó Cathaláin
JOHN CAHALAN | 27. A. Ó Ceallaigh
ALAN KELLY | |

Manager: Liam Heffernan
Physio: Paul Ryan

Coach/Trainer: John Fitzgerald
First Aid: Noreen Kelly, Liam Quinn

Selectors: Eddie Tucker, Donie O'Brien, Brian McDonnell
Doctor: Paul O'Farrell
Logistics: Matt Lillis

Thurles Sarsfields

Dathanna: Gorm agus Bán

SENIOR

	TAMH LEATH	SAIR LEATH	NOILAN
CUIL			
CUILINÍ			
SEACHAI			
BSM			
SABH			
POCAINNA			



16. C. Mac Gabhann
KEVIN SMITH

17. T. Ó Dúghaill
TOMMY DOYLE

18. D. Ó Meachair
DAVID MAHER

19. C. Ó Treasaigh
CIAN TREACY

20. R. Rút
RICHIE RUTH

21. S. Laighléis
STEPHEN LILLIS

22. M. Ó Ruiséil
MICHAEL RUSSELL

23. B. Ó Dubhuir
BARRY O'DWYER

24. P. Ó Doinn
PA DUNNE

25. R. Ó Duáin
RORY DWAN

26. C. Ó Doinn
KEVIN DUNNE

27. D. Ó Coirbín
DAVID CORBETT

28. P. Ó Meachair
PAUL MAHER

29. T. Ó Cionga
TOM KING

30. M. Ó Dubhuir
MICHAEL O'DWYER

Team Management: Tommy Maher, Paddy McCormack, Connie Maher, Jack Griffin

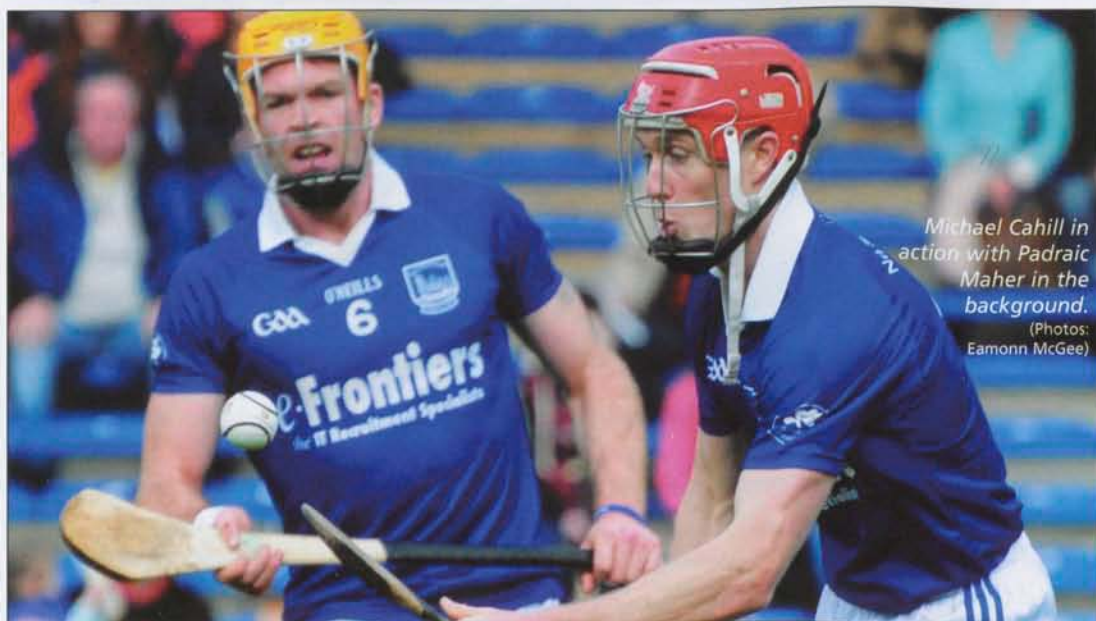
Medical: Mick Clohessy, Aoife Lonergan

Doctor: Dr Paul Ryan

Equipment: Eamonn and Brian Stakelum



Aidan McCormack turns away in celebration after he seals the win for Thurles Sarsfields.



Michael Cahill in action with Padraic Maher in the background.

(Photos: Eamonn McGee)

Also on the Thurles Sarsfields Senior Hurling Panel – Rory O'Shea, Seanie Butler, Willie Tierney, James Ryan, Aidan Doyle, Michael Gleeson, Pa Phelan, Dylan Burke, Aidan Ryan, Pa Crone, Cathal Moloney, Paul Sammon, John Lawlor and Ger O'Grady

Thurles Sarsfields



PLAYER PROFILES

Patrick McCormack	31	Teacher
Michael Cahill	26	Physiotherapy Student
Stephen Maher	23	Teacher
Kevin O'Gorman	25	Teacher
David Kennedy	31	Accountant
Padraic Maher (Capt)	26	Employee KN Networks
Ronan Maher	20	Student
Stephen Cahill	20	Student
Billy McCarthy	18	Student
John Maher	28	Student
Pa Bourke	27	Employee of Semple Stadium
Aidan McCormack	23	Defence Forces Recruit
Conor Lanigan	20	Employee Elys Centra
Lar Corbett	34	Publican
Denis Maher	24	Employee Bourke Sports

Kevin Smith	23	Employee Setanta College
Tommy Doyle	24	Student
David Maher	24	Trainee Accountant
Stephen Lillis	29	Employee Teva Pharmaceutical
Cian Treacy	24	Teacher
Richie Ruth	29	Teacher
Michael Russell	24	Teacher
Barry O'Dwyer	33	Medical Representative
Pa Dunne	23	Teacher
Rory Dwan	21	Student
Kevin Dunne	20	Student
David Corbett	22	Student
Paul Maher	22	Student
Tom King	29	Teacher
Michael O'Dwyer	22	Student

PATH TO THE FINAL

County Group:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	2-19	Moycarkey-Borris.....	1-14
	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-24	Upperchurch-Drombane	0-21
	Thurles Sarsfields.....	0-12	Kildangan.....	3-15
Mid Group:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	0-18	Drom & Inch.....	0-18
	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-15	Moyne-Templetuohy	0-10
Mid Semi-Final:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	3-17	Drom & Inch.....	1-18
Mid Final:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-17	Loughmore-Castleiney	2-13
County Last 16:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	3-25	Mullinahone.....	2-18
Quarter-Final:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	1-23	Clonoulty-Rossmore.....	1-14
Semi-Final:	Thurles Sarsfields.....	2-20	Kilruane MacDonaghs.....	1-17



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

David KENNEDY

THURLES SARSFIELDS

By: JACKIE CAHILL



HE dropped anchor in Thurles six years ago and it's been a pretty good time for David Kennedy ever since.

Bar some injury problems along the way, the former Clonoulty-Rossmore player has enjoyed

some big days in the blue shirt.

Four county senior hurling titles have been annexed and today, Kennedy will hope to lift Dan Breen for a fifth time.

"It's our fifth county final in seven years," says the 31-year-old wing back.

"We've been fairly successful in that period to be fair.

"Things have been moving along nicely, there's a good group of players there and a lot of the work from the underage structures at Durlas Óg have come to the fore.

"Padraic Maher's age group had a lot of talented players that hurled with Tipp as well. There was an experienced core already in addition to those youngsters."

For Sarsfields, it's a massive day in Thurles. Just like last year, their intermediates are also involved in the county final.

"Unfortunately the intermediates didn't win last year but the seniors did," Kennedy recalls.

"The intermediates and seniors have been training together as one all year.

"There's a tremendous spirit among everyone, great camaraderie among the group.

"We're always pushing each other and we refer to ourselves as one group all year.

"It's a fantastic achievement to get here again but that's down to the effort that's been put in from day one, with everyone there every night.

"The same management is over both teams, which probably adds a headache from their point of view!"

Monitoring events from afar will be David's brother Alan, now based in Abu Dhabi.

Alan himself is a veteran of county finals with Sars but has made a new



David Kennedy in action against Clonoulty/Rossmore in the County SHC semi-final.

(Photos: Bridget Delaney)

life for himself in the United Arab Emirates.

"Alan's always in touch," David smiles.

"He follows the games keenly beyond, between Twitter, Facebook and the lot.

"He's getting up to date action as well and he's on to me after every game.

"He'd call to find out who's played well, and how the game developed."

For David, life and hurling can be something of a juggling act.

He's an accountant based in Shannon but as the years slip by, he's learned to tailor his training requirements to suit his needs.

"I'm an accountant sitting down in an office all day so I'm placing more emphasis on flexibility, yoga and stuff like that, rather than running three or four nights a week.

"That's helped me a great deal and a couple of other lads on the panel have gone down that route.

“There's a tremendous spirit among everyone, great camaraderie among the group”

"Coming over and back from Shannon can be difficult, three or four nights a week, but there's an expectation that you're working away yourself in the gym.

"To be fair, there is an awful lot of responsibility on the player and trust from management, who know the players are working away themselves.

"We get tailored programmes to work on during the year and outside of the sessions we do as a group, all the players are very good lads, a committed bunch and the trust levels are there that they will do the work.

"We have both teams in county finals so we must be doing something right!"

Sars go into another county final in a good position, having been given a stern test of their credentials by Kilruane MacDonaghs at the semi-final stage.

"Yeah, the general consensus was that Kilruane were up against it facing the champions but they're a coming team," David reflects.

"I know a lot of those guys hurled at various levels for Tipp and I knew that it would be a tough challenge.

"They had nothing to lose and made one hell of a fight of it.



David Kennedy goes on a solo run for Thurles Sarsfields with St Mary's Ger Corcoran in close pursuit during last year's County IHC semi-final at Cashel.

"It was a good test to get, there's nothing like a good battle before Sunday, it would make you that bit more battle-hardened."

Today's final presents Sars with more North opposition in the form of Nenagh, who they beat after extra-time in last year's quarter-final.

"The North championship is very competitive," David notes.

"There's a huge amount of teams capable of beating each other on any given day.

"Nenagh come into that category and have been very strong as well.

"They're similar to us, very lively, and Thurles will suit them as much as us.

"In the last couple of meetings down the yers, it's sometimes turned into a shootout but as long as we're on the right side of it on Sunday, we don't mind how it turns out."

Hopefully from a Sars perspective, when David answers the call from Alan at full-time, he'll have good news to report.

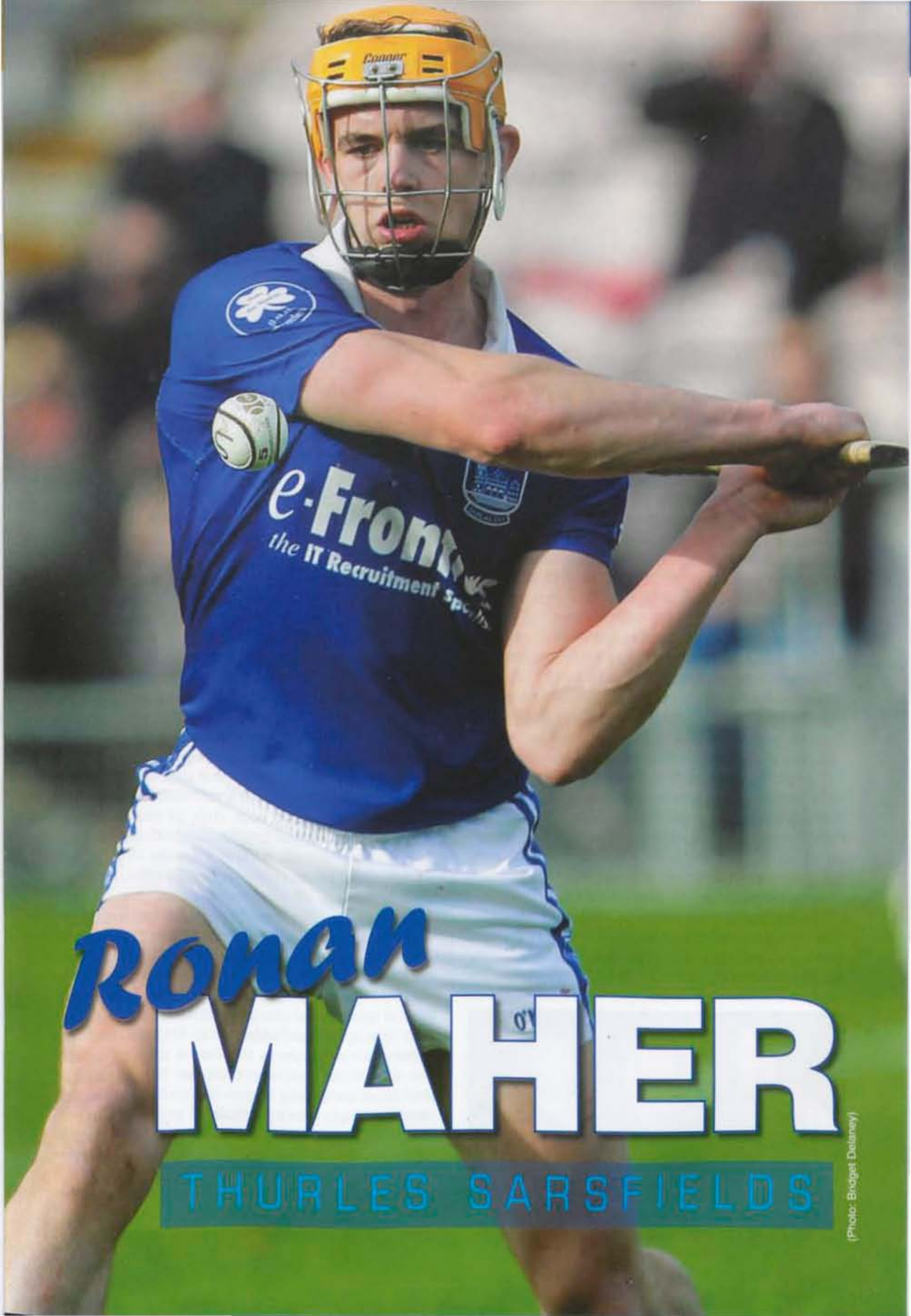




Guardians of the "Field of Legends"

Three generations of Semple Stadium groundsmen Jimmy Purcell, Philly Butler and Dave Hanley.

(Photo: Eamonn McGee)



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Ronan MAHER

THURLES SARSFIELDS

COUNTY FINAL DAY AN

By: MICHAEL DUNDON



FOR twenty years, from 1955 to 1974, during a period which yielded eleven senior titles to the Thurles club in fourteen appearances, the name of **Jimmy Doyle**, who passed to his eternal reward last June, was a virtual constant as the Thurles club racked up an unequalled ten titles in eleven years, 1955-'65. Jimmy's last hurrah was in 1974, when he captained the club to victory over Silvermines.

Defeats at the hands of Toomevara in 1960, who stopped Sarsfields' bid for a sixth consecutive title, and by Roscrea in '68 and '70, were the only blemishes in Jimmy's marvellous romance with the quest for the Dan Breen Cup over all those years. It was a journey that saw him grow from boy to man, in a period when Tipperary and Sarsfields hurling was at its pinnacle, and for much of these years, Jimmy was the star of the show.

His county final record is surpassed only by Mickey "The Rattler" Byrne, Jimmy's long-serving club and county colleague, who from 1944 to 1965 claimed fourteen senior medals, a collection unequalled by any other Tipperary player and unlikely to be equalled.

Jimmy was only sixteen years of age when he collected his first senior medal as Sarsfields began their extraordinary winning sequence in 1955 beating Borrisoleigh. Jimmy was starring with the minor and junior sides that year and the senior selectors did not use him as the club went on to make a clean sweep of the hurling titles in the county, winning senior, junior and minor.

The following year Jimmy again collected three county medals, as the club dominated the hurling scene in Tipperary, but this time, though Jimmy figured with the juniors in the earlier rounds, he made his senior debut going on as a sub against



Jimmy Doyle with his cousins Tommy and Martin Doyle at the 2009 club presentation night.



Jimmy Doyle receiving a presentation from Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh on the occasion of the jubilee celebrations of the 1974 county final victory.

arch-rivals of that time Holycross-Ballycahill, and despite his tender years gave an eye-catching performance, scoring one particular point from almost the corner flag in Sarsfields 2-13 to 1-8 win.

Sarsfields met Lorrha in the county final that year, but the club was also in the minor final. Jimmy was star of the show as Sarsfields claimed minor honours and went on as a sub in the senior final, his minor club colleague, Michael Craddock also featuring in both finals on the same day.

Though still a minor, Jimmy was now an established senior, and as the Sarsfields victory wagon trundled on, he starred in most games, and was a key figure in the defeat of the south junior combination, Na Píarsaigh in the 1957 county final. That combo included such stars of the future as Donie Nealon, Theo English, Liam Connolly and Tom Larkin, all of whom were to figure on Tipperary All-Ireland winning teams with Jimmy in later years.

Three-in-row became four in-a-row in 1958 when Toomevara could not contain the unique skills of the Sarsfields man, no more than Kilruane could a year later as the fifth consecutive crown was achieved. Toomevara did halt the run in 1960 with a marvellous win at Templemore but those who thought Sarsfields were finished had to revise their opinions as they came back to regain the title in an epic encounter at Templemore a year later, defeating Toome 3-4 to 0-9 Jimmy did not start that game because of injury, but went on in the second half to play his part in a memorable win for the Thurles club which set up another five-in-a-row.

He was also injured before the '62 final against Mid neighbours Moycarkey-Borris. His absence from the attack was felt as Sarsfields scraped home

JIMMY DOYLE

by 1-7 to 1-6, Jimmy coming on again in the second half to help the cause. "Roscrea had no answer to Jimmy Doyle" the newspaper headline declared after the '63 final as a young and emerging Roscrea side were put to the sword, and Jimmy was captain of the club in '64 when Holy-cross-Ballycahill suffered a heavy defeat at the hands of "The Blues". Jimmy bagged two goals in the opening twelve minutes of that game, demoralising Holycross who eventually fell by 5-13 to 1-4.

But all good things come to an end and Sarsfields seemingly invincibility was seriously tested in 65 when they were fortunate to survive a drawn final against a Mick Roche inspired Carrick Davins in Clonmel before finishing the job in Cachel in the replay with their second five-timer.

Defeats in the '68 and '70 finals at the hands of Roscrea followed before Jimmy made his last county final appearance in 1974 when he led Sarsfields to victory over Silvermines, giving a display that many said was as good as ever he gave.

Winner of six senior all-Irelands, three minor all-Irelands in four appearances, seven National Leagues, eight Railway Cups, chosen on the Team of the Century and the Team of the Millennium, leading championship scorer for Tipperary on seven occasions, and Hurler of the Year in 1965, Jimmy did it all, and carried his fame with a disarming modesty, but he always prioritised the club and never spared himself when it came to representing Sarsfields.

He tells in his book – "The Boy Wonder of Hurling", published a short time after his death, and which is proving extremely popular with sports fans all over the country, how he and Tony Wall were on holiday in England on one occasion when they learned of a Sarsfields game with Glen Rovers in a tournament. Both cut short the holiday to get home for the game, such was their loyalty and commitment to the club.

The Rattler has the record for county senior medals won (14) but Jimmy has the record for most county medals won, four county minors, '54-'57, two county juniors, '55/'56, and a county senior football medal with Thurles Crokes in 1960, swelling his collection to eighteen. Is it any wonder that county final day was always a special day in Jimmy's calendar, but this year his usual seat, "out of the way" as he would say in the stand will be vacant. Jimmy was "called home" on June 22nd, slipping quietly away to bring down the curtain on the career of a man



Two legends – Jimmy Doyle and 1970 Brazilian World Cup hero Jairzinho.

who adorned hurling with his vast array of skills for over twenty years.

Jimmy's place in hurling history is special. Testimony to this was the unprecedented turnout for his funeral as thousands came to pay their respects as he reposed at Sarsfields Social Centre. Led by the President of the GAA, Aogan Ó Fearghaill, the greats of the game from former years and modern times, joined with the ordinary followers in an extraordinary and highly emotional tribute to a man who lit up the lives of so many through his artistry on the field. Thurles came to a halt for his funeral. Houses and businesses flew the Sarsfields and Tipperary flags in a final farewell to one of their own who had brought so much fame and renown to the town.

And it didn't end there. As the cortege moved off the motorway en route to Ringaskiddy crematorium, people in the towns and villages in Cork turned out in their hundreds waving flags and applauding – an expression of admiration and respect more striking than all the words that had been written and spoken in the days that followed he news of his passing. Jimmy loved Cork hurling and Cork people and it was very clear that he had a very special bond with them – one banner declaring him the Van Gogh of hurling.

And so today, county final day, it is fitting that we remember Jimmy Doyle. Only those who played with or against him, or who saw him in action, can fully appreciate the magic he brought to the game. He leaves behind a legacy that time will not diminish nor obscure, no more than the deeds of Ring or Mackey will ever be forgotten.

We extend the sympathy of hurling followers everywhere to his family, his brother Paddy, sisters Hanna and Breda, and the extended Doyle family on their sad loss. Truly – ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.

Matt LILLIS

By: JACKIE CAHILL



14 or 15 years he's been at it now, Matt Lillis reckons.

One of those guys that's indispensable to any club.

And so after first Mass this morning, Matt will load up his van with all of the necessary items for Nenagh Éire Óg's county final appearance.

Jerseys (including a spare set), bibs, hurling balls, spare hurleys, water bottles, cones. You name it, Matt will have it.

"I do all the training gear and the stuff for the day of the match," smiles 62-year-old Lillis.

"I'd like to wish Nenagh the very best of luck and hopefully they pull this one off.

"I have to say we have a very good management team there, they know all the players very well. The effort that goes in is huge and this would be a great reward."

“I'll nearly be worse than some of the players, I'd be so nervous”

Right there at the coalface, Lillis has charted the team's progress to a county final. At each and every training session, he watches them up close and personal and understands the sacrifice involved.

For Lillis, this is very much a labour of love. By his own admission, he wasn't the greatest of hurlers but soldiered in the junior ranks with Kilruane MacDonaghs back in the day.

Matt's sons, Derek and Paul, have played at various grades for Nenagh and Derek has been involved in junior B and minor management teams in recent times.

The old saying goes that behind every good man is a great woman and in Matt's case, that certainly applies.

His wife Nuala washes the jerseys and will have them in pristine condition for the players today.

"You'd have to be at all the training sessions," he says. "Bring in all the gear, any of the stuff that's needed for training, hurling balls, water, other drinks, bibs. Then the jerseys have to be



ready, washed, dried and aired for the day of the match.

"I'll be at Mass on Sunday morning and I'll nearly be worse than some of the players. I'd be so nervous but I'll make sure that everything is ready going over, with spare helmets and hurleys. I get great enjoyment out of it and that's the main thing."

On a Saturday night, you'll see Matt in town selling lotto tickets for the club and he's also heavily involved in promoting the county board draw in the area.

"People are very good, it's seldom that anyone refuses you the €2," he says.

He can't remember much about Nenagh's last county title win, back in 1995, he admits, but winning this one 20 years later would mean so much.

"It's too long for a town like Nenagh," Matt says. "It would be great for the town, for business people in the town as well, and great for the players.

"There are a lot of young players on that Nenagh team and good young players coming through who have been there or thereabouts every year at U14, U16, minor, junior A."

And Matt believes that the experience of playing in a senior final two years ago will stand to the current crop

"It should be a great help to them," he agrees. "The young lads could be a bit nervous on the day of a match but they're all after maturing a good bit in the last two years. One player out this year is Donnacha Quinn and he's a huge loss to us, but there are plenty of good, young fellas there."

And there's an elder statesman, too, ready to play his part on Sunday.

Matt Lillis, we salute you.

By: NOEL DUNDON

'T' is one of Sars' great Blues brothers

GO TO any Sarsfields game across the grades and one Blues brother you are sure to meet is **T.J. Lyons** – or simply 'T' as he is known to most.

He'll be there wearing his Sarsfields top cheering on the lads and helping out wherever he can, because, as he says himself, the club is part of his family.

T never played the game for Sarsfields, or anyone for that matter, and that is perhaps surprising given that his mother hailed from Kilkenny, his father from Tipperary, and they lived in the birthplace of the GAA. But, having left school early to work in his father Connie's welding yard, following the untimely death of his mother, T hadn't much time to enjoy the pleasures of the ancient game.

"There were eleven of us at home, aged from 21 to four, when my mother died and we all had to chip and get on with it. I went working in my father's yard, welding trailers and whatever work came our way. I worked then for a long time in Kelly's of Fantane and I knew all of north Tipperary as a result. I worked alongside Scholar O'Meara – the father of the Toomevara lads Michael and Declan, who broke our hearts for a good few years afterwards. I have great memories from my days working there and it's great to go to games now and meet a lot of those people again," T said.

It was only really in the early eighties that T started to go to the games, with a bit more spare time coming his way. He was bitten by the bug and rarely misses a game nowadays, confessing that he prefers the club games to the inter-county ones.

"Ah I prefer going to the club games because you have the chance to meet people and chat to them. You have the time and you can meet the

players afterwards and talk to them about the games or whatever. It's a lot more different to the inter-county games," he says.

With T's huge interest in all things military, it is perhaps not surprising that he has a thing about the great sharpshooters of today. He is a great admirer of the current game where high skill level, speed, fitness and preparation are the norm. He has tremendous respect for those who wielded the ash in by-gone eras, but as far as he is concerned, the modern game surpasses the past.

"I don't mean it in a bad way and I'm not being critical of the players of the past, but I just think the modern game is so fast and there is so much skill involved. I see the lads training and what goes into it – it's huge and I have huge respect for them. They are all nice lads too and would stand and chat to you – that's important as far as I am concerned," said T who added that the breakthrough year of 2005 was one of the most special he recalls from a Sarsfield's perspective.

"Having lost so many finals, including the four in a row, you wondered would we ever make a breakthrough. But when it happened it was fantastic and I was thrilled for everyone," he said.

For as long as Sarsfields hurl matches and the ash clashes with ash, T.J. Lyons will continue to attend the contests to witness the thrills and spills of the game. But also, to meet all those great Gaels from around the Premier County with whom he has come into contact down through the years. And sure, at the end of the day, isn't that what it's all about.

T thinks so anyway and given his military expertise, who would want to argue with him!!



Sarsfields' friends

*In 2015 Thurles Sarsfields lost a number of its greatest servants. **Jimmy Doyle** the greatest hurler the club has ever produced passed to his eternal reward two months ago a shock to us all. **Fr Ray Reidy**, a team mate of Jimmy's in the golden era of Thurles Sarsfields, **Tommy Barrett** a great player in his own right but best remembered for his administration, firstly with Thurles Sarsfields and subsequently with the County Board and Semple Stadium. **Andy Rossiter** was a loyal clubman who gave great service to the club over the past 30 years in many roles. We have had many more losses to the club this year who we also wish to acknowledge but who maybe didn't have as prominent a role within the club as the four we profile below. Solas na bhflaithis da n-anam agus do anamacha ar ndaoine go léir a chuaigh ar shlí na firinne i rith na bliana.*

FR RAY REIDY

Fr Ray Reidy was born in 1937 in Thurles and played centre back on Tipperary Minor hurling teams for three years, being captain the third year in 1955, when they won the All-Ireland title. He played on Tipperary Senior Hurling teams from 1956 to 1960 and won an All-Ireland Senior medal with the team of '58.



In 1963, Fr. Ray Reidy S.P.S., Kiltegan and Mill Road, Thurles, was ordained to the priesthood and went on the missions to Nigeria that year. Despite his commitment to his priestly studies, which curtailed his availability, Ray's contribution to that golden era for Thurles Sarsfields club was immense in the late '50s and early '60s. Simply, but aptly described by a contemporary as "a class player" and a stylish wing-back, Ray's reading of the game, and the quality of his striking, were of the highest order. He played with an elegance that was a delight to watch and was widely admired, but when the going got tough he was never found wanting. Had he not answered a higher calling, Ray would undoubtedly have amassed much more honours at both club and county level.

TOMMY BARRETT Snr

Mr. Barrett, a former Tipperary and Thurles Sarsfields hurler, was the longest serving secretary of the Tipperary GAA Board and will be remembered for playing an influential role in

the development of Semple Stadium and putting in place the countywide GAA structures that exist today in the county.

Tommy served as Secretary of Thurles Sarsfields for 12 years between 1951 and 1963 before his appointment to his county role. This was probably Thurles Sarsfields most successful period where they won one senior county football final and eight Senior, four Minor and three Junior County Hurling Titles, an achievement he was very proud of. He had been involved as secretary in the great era of the sixties.

He also lived through the long famine and he took particular pleasure in the '87 Munster breakthrough and subsequent All-Ireland victories in '89 and 91. He was a former recipient of the Tipperary Association Dublin 'Hall of Fame'.



JIMMY DOYLE

Jimmy was born in Bohernanave, Thurles, scarcely a long puck from Semple Stadium and it was in the 'Outside Field' of this stadium that he honed and perfected his hurling artistry that was to delight hurling lovers through the 1950s, '60s



s we lost in 2015

and early seventies. Jimmy Doyle blossomed into a bright hurling star with Thurles CBS and Thurles Sarsfields, lining out with Tipperary in four minor All-Ireland finals, winning three.

Jimmy, 'The Boy Wonder of Hurling', delivered handsomely on the promise of his youth, appearing in nine All-Ireland senior finals with Tipperary, winning six and captaining the team to victory in 1962 and '65 and also winning eleven senior county championships with Thurles Sarsfields.

Jimmy was hurling's supreme artist, with all the skills, temperament, courage and the determination necessary for success. Acknowledged throughout the hurling world as a rare and unique talent, he was selected on the Team of the Century, Team of the Millennium, Munster team of the Millennium and was the top scorer in seven All-Ireland hurling championships. It is right that here in this place on Munster Final Day that we remember Jimmy Doyle, whose skill, manliness and sportsmanship adorned our ancient craft of hurling.

Tá ár laoch ar lár. We extend our sympathy to the bereaved agus Guímid Solas na bhFlaitheas ar anam an sár-iománaí - Jimmy Doyle.

- LÓ D.

ANDY ROSSITER

Given the many honours amassed by the legendary figure that was Jimmy Doyle, if he were here today, Andy would probably wince at even being mentioned in the same breath as one of the greatest ever hurlers. Indeed Jimmy was one of Andy's great idols and many in and around Collins Park, Bohernanave and Thurles thought, at one stage, that perhaps The Cathedral Town had another Jimmy on their hands in the form of Andy.

Their styles might have been very different, their approach certainly so, but nobody could doubt the ability of Andy Rossiter as he came through the ranks in secondary school, Dúrlas Óg and eventually the Sarsfields minors. He was strong, aggressive, a great man to read the game and able to score freely. All of these elements meant that he was county material and his role with the Tipperary minors elevated him to the bigger stage where more and more spectators got to marvel at his range of skills and his potential.

His hurling career was to be disrupted by the curse of emigration, but when Andy returned a few years later, he was to once again feature in the Sarsfields senior set-up in attack for a few seasons, before seeing out his career with the intermediates and then the juniors.

Andy always longed for those lost years and perhaps it was for this reason that he continued playing for so long - one of his most cherished medals was the County Junior B title won in 2002 and he continued to tog out for a good few seasons afterwards as well - the banter of the dressing room and the camaraderie within was intoxicating for him and was to play such a major role in his all too short life.

A unique character alright was Andy. Any visitor to Arus na Sairsealaigh was likely to bump into Andy Rossiter at some stage. If they did, they remembered him.



www.thurlessarsfields.gaa.ie



Official **GAA** Website of

Thurles Sarsfields G.A.A. Club

Na Sáirséalaigh Dúrlas Éile



BOHERLAHAN – 1916 County Senior Hurling Champions

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

A century ago - 1915 revisited

THERE were three Divisions at the time, so only one semi-final was played. Toomevara (North) beat Boherlahan (Mid) at Thurles by 3-1 to 1-4, but an objection from the losers was upheld. The decider was played at Thurles and resulted in an easy win for Boherlahan who scored 4-4 to 1-2 for Thurles.



True Gaels – Tom Maher (Assistant County Secretary) and Joe Moloney (Thurles) watching the County SHC quarter-final together at Semple Stadium. (Photo: Bridget Delaney)

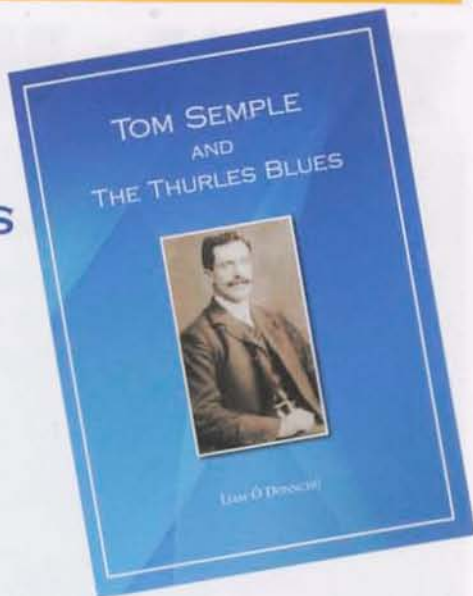
TOM SEMPLE AND THE THURLES BLUES

By LIAM Ó DONNCHÚ

SEMPLE STADIUM, Thurles, has for decades been the 'mecca' for GAA supporters, particularly hurling. Thousands throng to this heartland of hurling to witness the intense inter-county rivalries contested in the birthplace of the GAA. But what of the man whose name the stadium honours. This long-awaited biography of Tom Semple and his legendary Thurles Blues, was launched recently.

Tom Semple, the GAA icon, is synonymous with the game of hurling, since he led the Thurles Blues to All-Ireland glory in 1906 and 1908. Read about these earlier heroes of the camán and of Tom Semple's training regime and tactics. Follow the Blues on their amazing tour to Brussels and historic Fontenoy in 1910.

Find out about the fascinating story of the early years of Thurles Sportsfield, renamed Semple Stadium in Tom's memory, and how it developed into today's 'Field of Legends'.



The role Semple and others played in the War of Independence is also detailed in this hardback publication, which contains more than 400 pages. The book is illustrated throughout and offers new insights into the life and times of yesteryear.

Books costing €30 are available from local bookshops or online from www.bookworm.ie. Books may also be ordered by post (€35) from: Liam Ó Donnchú, Lár na Páirce, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

Words of praise

EIGHTY ONE years ago, Mr. Seamus Gardiner (GAA President 1943-1946) was re-elected Chairman of the North Tipperary GAA Board. In his Convention address at Nenagh on January 21st, 1934 he said: "Our national games are now up on a pedestal from which they cannot be dethroned. Keep them going. To our youth they are beyond the power of words to measure".

The Convention decided to honour Tomás MacDonagh by placing his bust on the championship medals for the year. The Cloughjordan native was born in 1878, was executed in Dublin on May 3rd 1916. Two North Tipperary GAA pitches are named after him (Nenagh and Cloughjordan), his local hurling club (Kilruane) honoured him, while Kilkenny's Railway Station also bears his name.

Top scorers by ten

THE leading marksmen in Tipperary County Senior Hurling finals were:

- 1935 – Patrick Maher (Thurles Sarsfields) 2-3
- 1945 – Michael Doyle (Thurles Sarsfields) 1-4 (Draw)
- 1945 – Tommy Ryan (Thurles Sarsfields) 0-3, Eddie Gleeson (Thurles Sarsfields) 1-0 & Mick Maher (Roscrea) 1-0 (Replay)
- 1955 – Michael Butler (Thurles Sarsfields) 1-4
- 1965 – Jimmy Doyle (Thurles Sarsfields) 1-4 (Draw)
- 1965 – Jimmy Doyle (Thurles Sarsfields) 1-6 (Replay)
- 1975 – Philip Ryan (Moneygall) 1-6 (Draw)
- 1975 – Philip Ryan (Moneygall) 1-4 (Replay)
- 1985 – Eamon O'Shea (Kilruane MacDonaghs) 1-4
- 1995 – Michael Cleary (Nenagh Éire Óg) 0-9
- 2005 – Seamus Butler (Drom & Inch) 0-11.

Youth Media Team



Joe Bracken, Acting County Board PRO, pictured with members of the Youth Media Team Chris Fennelly, Roisin Donnelly and Finn Briody at the Clean Ireland County Senior Hurling Press Night held in the Dome, Semple Stadium.

THE Youth Media Team (YMT) is a group of teenagers who attend and report on various events and conferences. They first came together in May 2013 to add a young student voice to the annual ICT in Education conference on the Thurles campus of Limerick Institute of Technology.

Since then, collectively and individually, the 'red shirts' have brought their unique blend of interviewing, blogging and tweeting to a number of events up and down the country. This includes the Excited Digital Learning Festival in Dublin Castle, the Teaching Council's Feilte festival in the RDS, the Irish Technology Leadership Group's Young Innovators event in Shannon Airport, the Computers in Education Society annual conference and the CoderDojo Coolest Projects and MegaDojo events.

The team is primarily made up of students from schools in Thurles, Nenagh and Templemore, with mentors Pam O'Brien and Bernie Goldbach from LIT, and Dr. Conor Galvin from UCD, guiding them through the process. Since

its inception membership of the team has changed but many of the original members are still involved.

The YMT attended the launch of the Clean Ireland Recycling Senior Hurling Final in Semple Stadium on 15th October. They interviewed Paddy McCormack and Padraic Maher from Thurles Sarsfields and Liam Heffernan and Noel Maloney from Nenagh Éire Óg to get the managers and captains perspectives on leading their teams into a county final. Both teams referred to the importance of family involvement at club level and how this makes club hurling so special. Both Padraic and Noel shared their memories of coming to county finals in the past, and their hunger to win the title today. The team also spoke to Fergal Horgan, referee for today's decider and Joe Bracken, Acting County Board PRO.

You can check out the YMT interviews at <http://lymt.fm/tag/tippgaal> and you follow the team on Twitter at @YMTfm.

DIVISIONAL MATTERS

THIS YEAR'S decider will be the first North v Mid final since 2013, when Loughmore-Castleiney (captained by Claran McGrath) beat Nenagh Éire Óg by 1-17 to 1-16. The last ten finals have produced six wins for the North (Toomevara 5 and Nenagh Éire Óg 1) and four for the Mid (Loughmore-Castleiney 2, Moycarkey-Borris and Boherlahan-Dualla 1 each).

Scoláireachtaí 2016

CONGRATULATIONS to the 50 students from the clubs of County Tipperary who received Scholarships to the Gaeltacht this year. Amongst these young club members were Patrick Stakelum, Frank McKevitt and Cathal Hayes of Dúrlas Óg and they wish Sarsfields the very best of luck in today's match. "Sars Abú" a deir siad.

Alicia Hallinan and Anna Dillon of Nenagh, who also won scholarships to Coláiste Na Mumhan when they were in 2nd Year, would like to extend best wishes to Nenagh Éire Óg sa Chraobh. "Éire Óg Abú" a deir na cailíní. Go mbeidh sárchluiche againn.

D'éirigh le níos mó ná caoga dalta ó Chontae Thiobraid Árann scoláireachtaí a bhaint amach i mbliana agus bhaineadar idir taitneamh agus tairbhe as an tréimhse a chaitheadar sa Ghaeltacht



Cathal Hayes



Alicia Hallinan and Anna Dillon received GAA scholarships to the Gaeltacht in 2012 from Nenagh Éire Óg

All clubs will be circulated with application forms for the Gaeltacht scholarships 2016 in January and the form will also be available for download on the Tipperary GAA website. Bigí cinnte go bhfuil na foirmeacha i gceart agaibh agus go bhfuil cláruimhir an chlub breactha síos agaibh. Cuirfear na hiarrthóirí go léir faoi agallamh arís i mbliana. Beidh litir ag teastáil ó rúnaí an chlub chun tacú leis an iarratas

Bí ag faire amach ar na fógraí sna nuachtáin agus ar an suíomh.

Look out for the advertisements in the local newspapers and Tipperary GAA website.

Téann na daltaí go

Gaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne go Coláiste Na Rinne agus go Gaeltacht Chorcaí chomh maith.



Patrick Stakelum

Holycross-Ballycahill

COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1990

By: SEAMUS J. KING

WE STAND in an historic place on an historic evening', said Holycross-Ballycahill chairman, John Ryan, to a huge roar of approval from an enthusiastic crowd gathered in the village green of Holycross on the evening of October 14, after the club's success against Cashel in the County senior hurling final. It was the realisation of a thirty-six year dream and it brought them their fourth county final in six appearances. For Cashel it was the end of a dream of winning their first senior hurling title and they now find themselves sharing the unenviable top spot in the league of losing finalists: with Lorrha they have appeared in and lost five county senior hurling finals!

In the beginning of the year the conversation was about Clonoulty-Rossmore's chances of retaining their title. They had the talent and the experience and the assistance of Len Gaynor and a reasonably easy first round encounter in the west championship against Eire Og. Victory put them through to a semi-

final against Cappawhite at the revamped Sean Treacy Park, which they won without impressing. In the meantime Kilruane-MacDonaghs had qualified in the north and Len Gaynor terminated his contract with them. So, they went into the west final at Golden on August 12 without his guidance or any other replacement. Their opponents were Cashel, who had a new purpose and direction as a result of securing the services of Justin McCarthy as coach. The game was a close and enthralling contest which was clinched in Cashel's favour by a Cormac Bonnar goal five minutes from time. The final score was Cashel 2-11, Clonoulty-Rossmore 0-15.

The north final was played at Nenagh on July 29 and Toomevara were Kilruane-MacDonagh's opponents. The game was one of the worst finals for years, filled with fouls, low scoring and frequent stoppages. At the end of the hour Kilruane MacDonaghs were ahead by 2-7 to 0-5. Three weeks later the south final was played at Clonmel between Carrick Swans and



The Tipperary County G.A.A. Board, in association with the 'Tipperary Star' and O'Gorman's Pub/Restaurant, Bohernacrusha will honour the Holycross-Ballycahill team that won the County Senior Hurling Championship of 1990 at Semple Stadium today. Left to right: John Costigan (Organising Committee), Anne O'Grady (Tipperary Star), John Devane (Chairman, Mid G.A.A. Board), Eamon O'Gorman (Proprietor, O'Gorman's Restaurant), Donal Ryan (Secretary, Holycross/Ballycahill Club), Phil O'Dwyer (Holycross/Ballycahill 1990 Team), Seamus King (Organising Committee).



HOLYCROSS-BALLYCAHILL – County Senior Hurling Champions 1990

Back row (l.-r.): Jonathan Lowry, Criostóir Croke, Tony Lanigan, Tom Dwyer, Tim Stakelum, Johnny Doyle, Stephen Dwan, Pat Slattery, Declan Carr (Capt.), Phil Dwyer, Mick McGrath, Ciaran Carroll, Benjy Browne, Tommy Lanigan, Jim Ryan, Gerry Fennessy. Front row (l.-r.): Donal Ryan, Pat Cahill, Paul Maher, Paul Slattery, Paddy Dwan, Phil Cahill, Michael Doyle, P.J. Lanigan, Robert Stakelum, Michael Fleming.

Killenaule. It was a game of two halves with Killenaule dominating the first and leading by eight points at half-time before Carrick switched it on after the interval and were in front by 3-7 to 2-7 at the final whistle.

The last of the four divisional finals to be played was the mid. This did not take place until August 26 when Holycross-Ballycahill and Loughmore-Castleiney faced each other at Boherlahan. John Cormack got a point thirty seconds into injury time to snatch a draw for Loughmore-Castleiney in a score of 1-10 all. The replay was at Semple Stadium on September 8 and it lasted 90 minutes. At half-time the sides were level at 1-5 to 0-8. In the opening exchanges Holycross were well on top and had 1-4 on the score-board to a mere point for Loughmore after ten minutes. However, the latter made a few switches and scored five points in the next eleven minutes. In the second half Loughmore took the initiative and were five points up with five minutes of ordinary time remaining. Holycross came back with a string of four points, Loughmore went ahead again and, in the fifth minute of injury time Tony Lanigan got the equaliser for Holycross to leave the full-time score 1-11 each. In the extra time the game remained extremely even but Holycross had the edge in the final minutes and a goal in the last minute by Stephen Dwan clinched the issue at 2-19 to 1-18 in their favour. It was a great win for Holycross and one which tested their resolve to the last.

COUNTY QUARTER FINALS

The county quarter-finals were played on the weekend of the football All-Ireland. Not a very satisfactory situation but one that arises yearly with a glut of fixtures for too few dates. Two of the games were played at Leahy Park, Cashel on September 15 and 16 and the remaining two at Semple Stadium on the 16th.

The mid and south divisions met at Cashel. On Saturday evening the south champions, Carrick Swans, played the mid runners-up, Loughmore-Castleiney. The Swans went into the game as outsiders in most people's reckoning but they carried the game to Loughmore and for a time in the first half appeared capable of causing an upset. They led by 1-5 to 0-7 at half-time as a result of a Tom Waters goal in the 24th minute. In fact Waters had a second chance shortly before half-time but it was stopped by Eamon Sweeney. Swans stayed with the mid men for a short time after the interval but then Loughmore pulled away and were ahead by 0-17 to 1-8 when Johnny McDonnell blew the final whistle.

The second contest at Cashel was played on Sunday evening. The final result might give the impression that the mid champions, Holycross-Ballycahill had it all their own way against the south runners-up, Killenaule, but it wouldn't be a complete picture of what happened. Slow to get going Holycross had three goals scored before Killenaule got going their first point coming in the fourteenth minute. However,

they clawed their way back and gave a fine display especially in the third quarter when they reduced the lead to a mere three points. Even then they could have been better positioned but for many missed opportunities. In the end the mid men were comfortable winners by 4-17 to 3-9 with impressive scoring performances by Declan Carr, 0-7 and Stephen Dwan, 2-5.

Earlier in the day the other two quarter-finals were played at Semple Stadium. Cashel King Cormac's and Toomevara were first on the field with a one o'clock start. The north runners-up fielded a completely reshuffled line out from their north championship campaign whereas the west champions had to play without an injured Pa Fitzell, who did, however make his appearance before the game was over. On the run of play there was little or nothing between the sides and had Toomevara been more disciplined in their approach the result might well have been different. In the event Toomevara had more scores from play than Cashel but they paid the price for committing needless fouls by being punished by unerring accuracy of Tommy Grogan, who found his mark ten times out of ten and gave Cashel victory by 0-16 to 1-5.

The second game turned out to be a great disappointment. County champions, Clonoulty Rossmore, surrendered their title in a most disappointing fashion to north title holders, Kilruane MacDonaghs. Much was expected of the champions but they failed to lift themselves to any great heights and several members of the side played well below form. Kilruane were hungrier and sharper and their centreback, Joe Banaghan, gave a fine display. The north champions led by 2-5 to 0-6 at the interval and were ahead by 3-8 to 0-9 at the final whistle.

COUNTY SEMI-FINALS

The two mid teams were guarded for the semi-final pairings and the draw pitted Cashel against Loughmore-Castleiney and Holycross-Ballycahill against Kilruane MacDonaghs. Both games were played at Semple Stadium on October September 23 with Cashel and Loughmore providing the curtain-raiser. The west champions bridged a fifty-year gap when the qualified for their first county final since 1940 by beating the mid men 1-8 to 0-8. Playing with the wind in the first half Loughmore squandered many chances by going for goals when points were going abegging. Then John Grogan got a vital goal for Cashel five minutes before the interval to leave the half-time score



Action from the 1990 Tipperary Senior Hurling Final between Holycross-Ballycahill and Loughmore-Castleiney.

0-5 to 1-1. With the strong wind in their favour after the interval it appeared that Cashel should have the whip hand. But the defences continued to reign supreme and it was only in the final quarter that Cashel pulled away to win by three points.

The second game ended in a draw. Far from being a classic it reached an exciting climax as Holycross-Ballycahill came from behind to level and then missed two great chances of outright victory in a hectic last five minutes. The sides were deadlocked six points each at the interval. In the second half Holycross went into a three point lead before Philip Quinlan levelled with a goal in the twelfth minute and then Jerry Williams got two points to put Kilruane into a match-winning position. However, the mid men came back to achieve an exciting draw.

The replay took place at the same venue a week later. Kilruane were eight points ahead after twenty minutes and seemed set for victory. But Holycross gradually came into the game and had cut the deficit, back to four points, 2-5 to 0-7 at the interval. They had the wind in their favour in the second half and a fine Stephen Dwan goal, nineteen minutes into the second half, put them in front for the first time. They stayed in that position and were three points ahead, 1-16 to 2-10, when referee, John Moloney, blew the final whistle.

THE COUNTY FINAL

Holycross-Ballycahill had now played four Sundays in a row and sought a postponement of the county final, fixed for October 7. A special meeting of the Fixtures and Finance Committee was called and, as a result of a two-thirds majority, re-fixed the game for Saturday, October 13 - Sunday was out because Tipperary were scheduled to play their first league game against Limerick on that day. There was uproar

at the news in Cashel and a decision taken not to play on Saturday. A further meeting of the Fixtures and Finance Committee was held and unanimously agreed to play the game at four o'clock on Sunday. In the meantime the league game was postponed and the late start was to accommodate patrons who wished to attend the senior football final at Cashel on the same day.

It was a most interesting pairing for a final. Holycross-Ballycahill, with three senior hurling titles to their credit were seeking their first victory since 1954. They were also striving to compensate for their defeat by Clonoulty-Rossmore in 1989. Cashel were going for their first ever senior hurling title and were appearing in a county final for the first time in fifty years.

A fine crowd of 12,000 turned up for the occasion and were warmed up by a great display of hurling in the minor final in which north champions, Erin's Hope, defeated Holycross-Ballycahill. All was in preparation for an epic encounter in the senior game when, about ten minutes before the throw-in, the heavens opened and the rain came down unrelentingly for the hour. With a strong swirling wind as well conditions were well nigh impossible and yet the players served up a remarkable display of hurling.

The game was a closely contested affair in which defences dominated and the greater experience and maturity of Holycross won out in the end. The mid men seemed able to make better use of their opportunities and were more economical in their use of the ball while Cashel had to work extremely hard for all their scores.

There were two points between the sides at half-time with Holycross ahead by 0-6 to 0-4 and,

when Cashel drew level with eight minutes to go, it seemed as though they had the initiative. But Holycross threw in a sparkling finish with three brilliant points by Tony Lanigan and gave them victory by 0-13 to 0-10.

It was a well-deserved success by Holycross-Ballycahill. Great credit is due to a team that came back from last year's defeat and got through two draws on the way to achieving this victory. For Cashel it was a story of what might have been. Particularly galling was the disallowed goal in the twenty-second minute of the game, when a grand forward movement was finished to the net by Tommy Grogan, only to

have play called back for a free.

Also a talking point was the rain which slowed the game down and deprived the Cashel forwards of the fast breaking ball in which they revelled. But, when these considerations are trotted out they have to be balanced against the fact that Cashel scored only four points in the course of the hour and were it not for Tommy Grogan's excellent free-taking, a wider margin might have separated the sides at the end.

TEAMS

Holycross-Ballycahill: Pat Slattery, Johnny Doyle, Tom Dwyer, Ruari Dwan, Phil Cahill, Michael Doyle, Phil Dwyer, Declan Carr (Capt.), Pat Lanigan, Paddy Dwan, Stephen Dwan, Tony Lanigan, Paul Slattery, Robert Stakelum, Paul Maher. *Subs:* Gerry Fennessy for Phil Cahill.

Cashel King Cormacs: John Ryan, T.J. Connolly, Pat O'Donoghue, Joe Minogue, Conal Bonnar, Pat Fitzell, Tony Slattery, Colm Bonnar, Willie Fitzell, Ramie Ryan, Cormac Bonnar (Capt.), James O'Donoghue, Ailbe Bonnar, John Grogan, Tommy Grogan. *Subs:* Michael Perdue for Joe Minogue; Sean Slattery for John Grogan.

Referee: Willie Barrett (Ardfinnan).

Man of the Match Award: Stephen Dwan.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Sept. 15: County Quarter-Final (Leahy Park, Cashel):
Loughmore-Castleiney 0-17, Carrick Swans 1-8.
Referee: Johnny McDonnell (Roscrea).

Sept. 16: County Quarter-Final (Semple Stadium, Thurles):
Cashel King Cormac's 0-16, Toomevara 1-9.
Referee: Phil Cahill (Holycross-Ballycahill).

Kilruane-MacDonaghs 3-8, Clonoulty-Rossmore 0-9.
Referee: Willie Barrett (Ardfinnan).

County Quarter-Final (Leahy Park, Cashel):
Holycross-Ballycahill 4-17, Killenaule 3-9.
Referee: Paddy Lonergan (Galtee Rovers).

Sept. 23: County Semi-Finals (Semple Stadium, Thurles):
Cashel King Cormac's 1-8, Loughmore-Castleiney 0-8.
Referee: Willie Barrett (Ardfinnan).

Holycross-Ballycahill 0-12, Kilruane MacDonaghs 1-9.
Referee: John Moloney (Galtee Rovers).

Sept. 30: County Semi-Final Replay (Semple Stadium, Thurles):
Holycross-Ballycahill 1-16, Kilruane MacDonaghs 2-10.
Referee: John Moloney (Galtee Rovers).

Oct. 14: County Final (Semple Stadium, Thurles):
Holycross-Ballycahill 0-13, Cashel King Cormacs 0-10.
Referee: Willie Barrett (Ardfinnan).

Holycross-Ballycahill

PLAYER PROFILES 1990

DECLAN CARR

Outstanding team captain and midfielder, his clash with county colleague Colm Bonnar was a highlight of the 1990 final, and his brilliant crossfield ball to Tonto Lanigan in the dying minutes of the game was a crucial turning point. Having lifted the Dan Breen Cup for Holycross Ballycahill in 1990, he went on to captain Tipperary to All-Ireland senior success in 1991 when they beat Kilkenny.

PAT SLATTERY

Highly skillful hurler and footballer right up through club juvenile ranks and with Thurles CBS, Pat won a county U-14 A football title in 1982. Senior club goalie from 1990-1993, he kept a clean sheet on County Final day despite the atrocious handling conditions.

JOHNNY DOYLE

Represented club and county at all levels of hurling including a tremendous display as an early substitute in the famous 1984 Munster senior hurling final in Thurles. Subsequently served for many years as club Chairman and elected as Mid Board Chairman in 2003. He is the current club rep on Mid and County Board.

TOM DWYER

Rock solid full back, Tom played minor for Tipperary in 1985 and was a Tipp senior panelist in 1993. Having enjoyed several hefty jousts with the Cashel full forward line in the 1990 final, Tom survived and is the current club chairman.

RUAIRÍ DWAN

Tenacious, tight marking corner back, Ruairí was Man of the Match in the '91 Mid senior final. He won several Fitzgibbon Cup medals with the renowned UCC team of the mid '80's and played at U-21 and senior level for Tipperary.

PHIL DWYER

Brother of full back Tom, a teak tough defender who captained Holycross Ballycahill to the Mid senior hurling title in 1991 from wing back, and again in 1997 from full back. Phil was a Tipperary senior hurling panelist for the National Hurling League in 1993 having won a Munster minor hurling medal ten years earlier.

MICHAEL DOYLE

Represented club and county at all levels from minor to senior as well as having a distinguished career as a referee. Michael won an All-Ireland hurling medal in 1976, and U-21 as Captain in 1979 and



Noel Morris, Chairman Tipperary GAA County Board, presents the Dan Breen Cup to Holycross-Ballycahill winning captain Declan Carr.

scored two extra time goals which ended the senior 'Famine' in Killarney in 1987. Michael was Man of the Match in the 1989 County senior hurling final against Clonoulty Rossmore.

PHIL CAHILL

Grandson of the late Phil Cahill who won All-Ireland senior medals in 1925 and 1930, Phil himself played minor for Tipperary in 1984 and 1985, and U-21 in '87 and '88. Wing back in the 1990 senior championship winning side, Phil also won County Intermediate hurling titles in 1985 with Moycarkey Borris and in 1997 with Arravale Rovers.

P.J. LANIGAN

Known as Pa Joe, he formed a great midfield partnership with Declan Carr. He captained Tipperary hurlers to minor Munster honours in 1983. Brother of wing forward Tony, both were sons of long serving Secretary, the late Jackie Lanigan, who we also remember this afternoon.

TONY LANIGAN

Known as Tonto, the mercurial wing forward played club and county at all levels. An All-Ireland senior hurling panelist in 1991, Tony exploded into life in the last five minutes of the 1990 county final, scoring three successive points from play to secure the title for Holycross Ballycahill.

STEPHEN DWAN

One of several members of the 1982 county minor final winning team to backbone the senior team, Stephen won the Man of the Match award in the 1985 mid senior final against Sarsfields, and again in the County Final of 1990 when he scored 0-4. He was the top scorer for the Tipperary senior hurlers in the 1993 National Hurling League campaign.

PADDY DWAN

Brother of Stephen, Paddy recovered from serious injury early in his career to reclaim his place at wing forward and get two points in the county senior hurling final of 1990 - scores which proved so vital in so tight a clash.

PAUL SLATTERY

Brother of goalkeeper Pat, Paul came straight from club U-16's into the senior team in 1987 as a sweet striking corner forward. Scored 0-10 of our 0-11 in the 1988 county junior final win over Cappawhite and got a crucial point in the 1990 decider against Cashel on senior final day.

ROBERT STAKELUM

Crucial team member and leader of the forward line, Roberts ability to break play, score vital goals and win frees, stood to the club time and again. Captained Holycross Ballycahill to the county junior A football title in 1982 and captained the Tipperary junior football team the following year.

PAUL MAHER

Son of Francis, who lifted the Dan Breen Cup for Holycross Ballycahill in 1948, '51 and '54, Paul carried on the family tradition at corner forward in 1990 before winning further mid senior hurling titles in 1991 at wing forward and 1997 at wing back. He was a county u-21 panelist in 1992.

GERRY FENNESSY

Great club stalwart, Gerry holds a unique record of association with almost every significant success for the club in recent decades. A member of the 1982 minor winning team, and of the 1990 senior hurling championship team, Gerry was a selector with the '96 u-21 winning team and the 2013 All-Ireland junior B winning side. He is currently an U-21 selector with the club.

BENJY BROWN

Tight marking wing back with an exceptional knack of hooking and blocking, Benjy was centre back in the 1988 County junior A hurling winning side and played in the '89 and '91 county senior finals as well as throughout the 1990 Munster senior club campaign.

DONAL RYAN

Goalscorer in the 1989 county senior final and in the 1990 Munster senior club campaign, Donal won further mid senior titles at centrefield in 1997 and 1999. He is the current club secretary.

PAT CAHILL

Brother of wing back Phil, Pat was a goalscorer in the 1991 county senior hurling final and a member of

the 1990 mid intermediate winning side. Scored five goals for Moycarkey Borris against Toomevara in the 1981 County U-14 final.

MICHAEL FLEMING

Another member of the county minor winning team of 1982, Michael was a Munster minor hurling medalist in 1983. He played corner forward in the Munster minor final of 1984 and in the same position the following year when Holycross Ballycahill beat Sarsfields in the mid senior hurling final

JIM RYAN

Played at midfield in the 1989 county senior final against Clonoulty Rossmore and held a half back position in both the '82 minor and '88 junior A winning teams. Reverted to centrefield for the mid intermediate title winning team of 1990.

CIARAN CARROLL

Transferred from Holycross Ballycahill to Thurles Sarsfields at the start of the 1990 season and quickly established himself as a valuable panelist, scoring 0-2 in the Munster club semi-final against Patrickswell.

CRISTEÓIR CROKE

Wing back on the county minor hurling championship winning side of 1982, Cristeoir won a mid intermediate hurling medal in the same position. His sons David and John were both on the Holycross National School team which won the Cumann na mBunscoil Roinn A hurling title in 2009.

TOMMY LANIGAN

Great club goalkeeper for many years, including the 1973 county U-16 A hurling winning team and the 1985 mid senior hurling championship winning outfit. Tommy won a mid intermediate hurling medal at wing forward in 1990 on a day when he stood back in goal to stop a late penalty.

MICK McGRATH

Long serving club player, both as a forward and as a goalkeeper. Played in goals in the 1989 county senior final and also in the 1978 mid senior hurling final when he trotted up the length of the field to net a vital penalty goal. Also had a great handball career winning several county and Munster championships.

TIM STAKELUM

Brother of full back Robert, both sons of the late Bob Stakelum, Grange, Tim lined out at corner forward in the 1978 mid senior hurling final and at centre forward twelve years later on the 1990 mid intermediate winning side. In between, he represented the club senior team in almost every outfield position.



Annual Memorabilia Fair

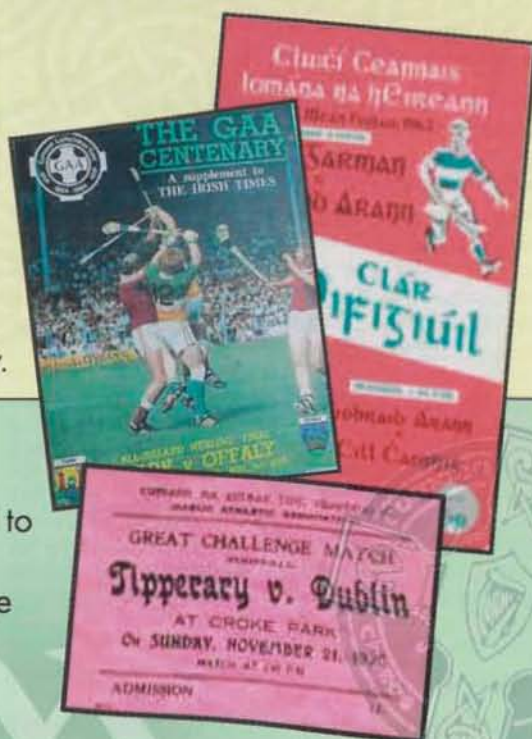
Sunday, December 6th, 2015, 12-4pm
Thurles Sarsfields Social Centre
(beside Sempie Stadium)

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

Collectors and sellers are cordially invited to attend this event, where it is hoped they will find plenty of material to interest them.

Sales positions, free of charge, may be booked in advance by contacting the organisers before December 3rd.

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



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Nenagh Éire Óg Juvenile Club

By: Catherine McTiernan (PRO Nenagh Éire Óg Juvenile Club)

NENAGH Éire Óg Juvenile Club enjoyed a busy and productive 2015 season thanks to the more than 200 juveniles who regularly fill our fields. Éire Óg facilitates schools hurling training in the town's primary schools from junior infants upwards, providing coaches and any other support required and this has significantly increased numbers. The support of the schools and teachers is greatly appreciated.



Tommy Mulcahy (centre) with Éire Óg chairman Jim Nagle and North chairman Dan Kennedy, has been a juvenile coach of the youngest hurlers for over fifty years. Not only did he train most of today's senior hurlers when they first joined the club, he also trained their fathers!

Emphasis in the club is not placed on winning at a young age and all players get field time. This could not be done without hard working mentors and few have been harder working than Tommy Mulcahy who has coached under-6 to under 16 for over 50 years. 'You trained my daddy' is commonly heard! Tommy's contribution to the club was recognised with an award in 2015.

The North under-16 championship was very competitive this year with eight teams playing



First senior club hurler home in The Blues 10K Run, Christopher Ryan with senior chairman Jim Nagle, juvenile chairman Michael Geaney and Gerri Cantwell and Kay O'Donoghue from the North Tipperary Hospice movement.

at A grade. Winning this title for the fifteenth time was a great achievement for all involved and the senior club can look forward to some talented hurlers joining their ranks next year. Éire Óg last won the north Tipperary under-16A hurling final in 2012, having previously won this coveted title on fourteen occasions: 1972, 1975, 1979, 1982, 1988, 1990, 1992, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 & 2012.

The juvenile club also runs an annual 5k/10k run in aid of a local charity. This year was in support of The North Tipperary Hospice Movement and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved with this great charity.



A brave boy! Fun and games during Saturday training before the Munster final.



Nenagh Éire Óg – Under-16 A North Champions 2015

Memorable year for

By: JOHN SMITH

DÚRLAS ÓG

2015 was a memorable year for Dúrlas Óg's Under-14's who recorded a magnificent county football and hurling double. The team commenced training in January and the year concluded on Saturday, 12th September when they defeated Roscrea in the county hurling final at Boherlahan.

Dúrlas Óg's first competitive outing of the year was the Peil na nÓg competition and following a Mid final win over Moycakey-Borris this was followed by wins over Knockavilla Kickhams in the county semi-final and Moyle Rover in the county final. They represented Tipperary in the All-Ireland finals and after a great weekend of football they lost to Ferbane (Offaly) by two points in the quarter-final.

The Mid football championship commenced in early April and after impressive displays in the earlier rounds, Dúrlas Óg faced Moycarkey-Borris in the final. The Thurles boys who were behind by a point at the interval finished the second half strongly to win on a final score of Dúrlas Óg 1-9, Moycarkey-Borris 1-6.

Galtee-Golden were defeated by five points (4-9 to 3-7) in the county semi-final to set up a county final against Clonmel Óg. The team

gave their best display of the year, to record a convincing win in Templetuohy and bring home the County Cup to Thurles for the first time since 2003. Dúrlas Óg got off to the perfect start with a Paddy Creedon goal after 15 seconds. Another Creedon goal in the 10th minute followed by a Cian Stakelum goal gave Dúrlas Óg a 3-2 to 0-4 lead at half-time. Clonmel Óg staged a comeback in the second half and five points separated the teams with 15 minutes remaining. Dúrlas Óg responded and produced the best passage of play of the match. Paddy Creedon won a kick out and the ball was worked up the field to Jack Lanigan who expertly finished to the Clonmel net. Dúrlas Óg added further points to seal victory and win their fifth county Under-14 'A' football title. Final score Dúrlas Óg 4-10, Clonmel Óg 1-8.

Team and scorers: Darragh Stakelum; Conor Stapleton, Patrick Stakelum, Henry Fogarty; James Armstrong, Ciaran Costello, Jordan Fahy; Paddy Creedon (2-1), Joe Dwan (0-2); Cian Stakelum (1-0), Cathal Hayes, Eoin Purcell (0-1); Jack Kelly (0-1), Jack Lanigan (1-5), Sean Collins. *Subs:* Luke Fogarty, Oisín O'Brien, Stephen Donovan, Cian McDonald, Dean Fanning, Dean O'Halloran, David Mawe, Conor Fogarty, Luke Beresford, Aaron Mulcaire, Peter Wall, Sean Madden, Conor Whitehead, Eoghan Ryan.



DÚRLAS ÓG – Under-14 'A' Hurling County Champions 2015

Back row: Aidan Ryan, Henry Fogarty, Conor Lanigan, Declan Costello, Dean Fanning, Dean O'Halloran, David Mawe, Cian Stakelum (Capt.), Joe Dwan, Paddy Creedon, Paddy Stakelum, Conor Stapleton, Cathal Hayes, Paul Ryan, Sean Collins, Kieran Costello, Paddy Kenny, Sean Madden, Jim Dwyer, Stephen Donovan, Darragh Purcell. Front row: Luke Beresford, Jack Kelly, Luke Fogarty, Conor Fogarty, Jack Lanigan, Jordan Fahy, Darragh Stakelum, Eoin Purcell, Eoin Ryan, James Armstrong, Oisín O'Brien, Aaron Mulcaire.

July saw the start of the hurling championship and like the Mid football championship it was a Dúrlas Óg and Moycarkey-Borris pairing in the final. This was one of the games of the year. Dúrlas Óg staged a great second half comeback after having being six points in arrears at the interval they led by seven points with five minutes remaining but had to withstand a Moycarkey fight back in the final minutes to hold on for a one point win (1-20 to 4-10).

A feature of the match was the unerring accuracy of Jack Lanigan, who finished with a personal tally of 14 points. Dúrlas Óg scored a hard earned 3-7 to 1-10 win over Knockavilla Kickhams in the county semi-final. Roscrea were their final opponents and a large crowd was present in Boherlahan for the eagerly awaited final.

The final score of 3-11 to 0-7 doesn't do justice to a gallant Roscrea team and Dúrlas Óg's victory was not as easy as the scoreline would suggest. The first half was very close and Roscrea held a one point interval lead. Midway through the second half Dúrlas Óg held a three points advantage. Dúrlas Óg finished very strongly, outscoring their opponents by 2-4 to nil in the final twelve minutes of the second half. Jack Lanigan

finished as top scorer with 2-5 while Eoin Purcell scored four points from play. This was Dúrlas Óg's first county Under-14 hurling title since 2006.

Team and scorers: Darragh Stakelum; David Mawe, Patrick Stakelum, Conor Stapleton; Jordan Fahy, Ciaran Costello, Cathal Hayes; Paddy Creedon, Eoin Purcell (0-4); Oisín O'Brien, Cian Stakelum (0-1), Joe Dwan (0-1); James Armstrong (1-0), Jack Lanigan (2-5), Dean Fanning. *Subs used:* Sean Collins, Aaron Mulcaire, Jack Kelly, Luke Fogarty.

The other panel members were Henry Fogarty, Conor Fogarty, Sean Madden, Dean O'Halloran, Stephen Donovan, Eoghan Ryan, Luke Beresford.

Dúrlas Óg previously recorded county Under 14 football and hurling doubles in 1989, 1990 and 1991.

The mentors, who can be very proud of their players and their achievements this year, were Paddy Kenny, Aidan Ryan, Conor Lanigan, Jim Dwyer, Paul Ryan, Richie Stapleton, Declan Costello and Dara Purcell.

This magnificent double was achieved by a group of skilful and dedicated players. They have given their supporters many memorable moments throughout the season and winning county titles in both football and hurling was a tremendous achievement. Congratulations and well done.

FINAL GOALS

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY

TODAY we review goal scoring trends through the decades to establish the average number scored per county final:

1880s	3 goals scored in 3 games.	Average 1 goal
1890s	36 goals scored in 7 games (refixture 1899).	Average 5.14 goals
1900s	48 goals scored in 6 games.	Average 8 goals
1910s	54 goals scored in 11 games (refixture 1910).	Average 4.91 goals
1920s	47 goals scored in 7 games (No finals 1920, 21, 25).	Average 6.71 goals
1930s	79 goals scored in 11 games (replay 1930).	Average 7.18 goals
1940s	63 goals scored in 11 games (replay 1945).	Average 5.73 goals
1950s	61 goals scored in 10 games.	Average 6.1 goals
1960s	48 goals scored in 11 games (replay 1965.)	Average 4.36 goals
1970s	50 goals scored in 12 games (replays 1975 & 1977).	Average 4.17 goals
1980s	26 goals scored in 12 games (replays 1982 & 1988).	Average 2.17 goals
1990s	21 goals scored in 11 games (replay 1992).	Average 1.91 goals
2000s	25 goals scored in 11 games (replay 2002).	Average 2.27 goals
2010-2014	15 goals scored in 5 games.	Average 3 goals

Overall tallies – 576 goals were scored in the 128 games for an average of 4.5 goals per county final.

Scór 2015/2016

YOUR COUNTY NEEDS YOU!

ALL CLUB members – young and old – are urged yet again to take part in Scór activities as the Scór season starts up for the coming year. Scór is your opportunity to shine off the hurling, football, camogie field and take to the stage for the winter months.

Following a very successful year in 2015, we hope that more clubs will consider taking part in the many competitions that are part of Scór. The requirement to have more than one act has been abolished and clubs can now enter in one discipline whether it be Solo Singing, Ballad Group, Recitation, Dancing (Set or Figure), Drama (Léiriú), Instrumental music, or Question Time.

Competitions will shortly be under way and dates will be posted on The Tipperary GAA website so Carpe Diem and take to the stage.

If you are imaginative and have a flair for writing, the Léiriú and the Recitation might be your forte! If you are not made for the stage, you might consider being a mentor and helping with the training or giving your time to encourage participants and prepare them for the stage. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Scór na n-Óg is the first of our competitions so bígí ag smaoineamh ar páirt a ghlacadh sa chomórtas. Is leatsa agus is linne í ár gcultúr ársa.

Follow us on Tipperary GAA Website and Facebook at Tipperary Scór

Pictured are some of our recent success stories in Scór competitions.



Noel Joyce, JK Brackens, winner of the Recitation in the Co. Final of Senior Scór with Josephine Cahill (Co. Chairperson Scór).



Ciaran Byrne, JK Brackens, winner of the Recitation in the Co. Final of Scór na nÓg with Josephine Cahill (Co. Chairperson Scór) and Tipperary Captain Brendan Maher.



Shannon Rovers – winners of the Instrumental Music in the Co. Final of Scór na nÓg (l.-r.): Manus Heenan, Josephine Cahill (Co. Chairperson Scór), Clíodhna Heenan, Brendan Maher, Cíalan McGrath.



Loughmore – All-Ireland Finalists in Tráth na gCeist.



Newport Ceol Uirlise celebrate in City West.

FOUR GREAT TIPP BOOKS LAUNCHED RECENTLY



THE GAA library in County Tipperary has been significantly enhanced in the last twelve months with four quality publications telling various stories about famed wielders of the ash.

Standing My Ground – Brendan Cummins

THE most recent is the excellent *Standing My Ground* – the Brendan Cummins autobiography penned in association with local journalist Jackie Cahill. The book was launched last week in The Dome by former Tipperary Manager Liam Sheedy and has gone down very well in Tipperary and further afield.

Brendan tells it as it is in a very open, honest and frank manner. He gives unique insights into his relationship with his former colleagues, mentors and the various management teams under whom he trained. And his thought provoking comments are well worth a read.

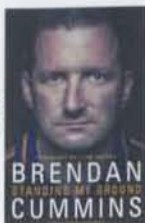
The Boy Wonder of Hurling – Jimmy Doyle

PRIOR to this, the long awaited Jimmy Doyle book – *The Boy Wonder of Hurling* – was launched in Thurles Sarsfields GAA clubhouse by Aogan Ó Fearghaill, Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. Written with former *Irish Examiner* journalist Diarmuid O'Flynn and Edited by Jimmy's former club colleague, Michael Dundon, *The Boy Wonder of Hurling* features Jimmy speaking directly to the reader. On each page, you can literally hear the hurling legend speak and his many great stories, tales and thoughts have maintained the readers interest from front cover to back.

Sadly, Jimmy passed away a few weeks before the launch, but his book had been completed. He had given it his approval and had chosen each photo, contributor, design etc prior to his sudden and unexpected passing.

Tom Semple and the Thurles Blues

THE service author Liam Ó Donnchú has done for the GAA fraternity with the production



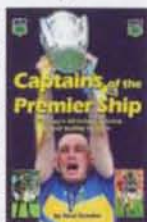
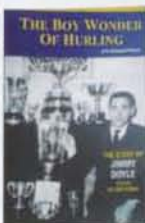
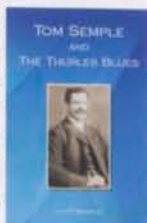
of Tom Semple and the Thurles Blues is quite significant. The man who gave his name to Semple Stadium was a legendary Tipperary figure, a magnificent leader, and a revered hurler in his day for the Thurles Blues and for The Premier County. A double All-Ireland winning captain, Tom Semple inspired Tipperary to great things when he had finished playing the game as well and his influence was huge.

The book is a fabulous insight into, not just Semple himself, but many of the men who played with him, supported him and worked with him. Indeed, Tom Semple and the Thurles Blues, which was launched in Thurles Sarsfields Clubhouse, is a treasure trove of local historical information which is a must for all enthusiasts of the past.

Captains of the Premier Ship

LAUNCHED very successfully in St Patrick's College, Thurles prior to Christmas last year and sold out within five weeks, *Captains of the Premier Ship* is back on the shelves again, having been re-printed by author Noel Dundon. The book features the life and times of Tipperary's twenty one All-Ireland winning senior hurling captains, commencing with Jim Stapleton and moving right up to our last for now, Eoin Kelly. It tells their story in great detail and features many comments from their contemporaries on their achievements, their influences and what drove them to be captains of Tipperary. There are also some unique photographs included, many of which had never been published before. A real book for the hurling enthusiast within and outside of Tipperary, all proceeds from this go the Aware mental health charity.

- All four publications are on sale in local bookshops and in the GAA shop in Lár na Páirce. Please support our local authors.



Coaching & Games in the Premier County

KELLOGG'S GAA CÚL CAMPS 2015

Success nationally and locally

2015 was the most successful year for attendance at GAA Cúl Camps since their inception. Overall figures were up 15% to a staggering 102,384. Across the 32 counties there were 1100 camp venues. Tipperary figured among the highest with 51 camps in the county and 4568 participants. This figure reflects the national increase of 15%. This rise in attendance brought its own logistical problems with gear delivery and size allocation. Talks are ongoing to alleviate the problem for 2016.

I would like to sincerely thank all the clubs, the camp coordinators and all units who assisted in any way during the course of the camp season. Sincere apologies to clubs who had issues with gear delivery; we are earnestly pursuing answers to the problem. I would also like to thank County Board, Adult and Juvenile, all the coaches and tutors who were involved in the running of the cap programme.

Each year at the camps we run a "U-Can Skills Competition" for each age group. The finals of the skills competition were held in Dr Morris Park on Saturday, 10th October. The winners of each age group are listed here. Today at half-time of the Senior Hurling County Final the children will be presented with their prize. We congratulate them all on their success.

Prize winners

Under-8 Hurling: Tony Maher, Holycross Ballycahill; Charlie Walsh, Fethard; Oran Gahan, St Patrick's.

Under-8 Camogie: Danielle Butler, Sean Treacys; Sophie Lee, Holycross-Ballycahill; Lucy Heffernan, Eire Óg Anacarty.

Under-10 Hurling: Cathal English, Fr Sheehys; Darragh McCarthy, Toomevara; Conor Martin, Cappawhite Gaels.

Under-10 Camogie: Ciara Ryan, Templeberry; Caoimhe Doughan, Moneygall; Elizabeth Corbett, Ballingarry.

Under-12 Hurling: Conor McElvie, Silvermine; Joe Bourke, JK Brackens; Michael Hayes, Templeberry.

Under-12 Camogie: Lisa O'Connor, Boherlahan-Dualla; Enya Hogan, Moneygall; Teresa Maher, Roscrea.

Under-8 Football: Tadhg O'Brien, Ballingarry; John Cronin, Moyle Rovers; Billy Collier, JK Brackens.

Under-8 Ladies Football: Ciara Fitzpatrick, Rockwell Rovers; Isabelle O'Donnell, Ballylooby; Ciara Daniel, Fethard.

Under-10 Football: Jim Ryan, Holycross-Ballycahill; Chris O'Donnell, Ballylooby; Caoimhin Doody, Cappawhite.

Under-10 Ladies Football: Ciara O'Hara, Solohead; Millie Cussen, Ardinnan; Ellie Franklin, Moyle Rovers.

Under-12 Football: Neil Clancy, Cappawhite; James Carroll, Moneygall; Oisín Forestall, Clonmel Commercial.

Under-12 Ladies Football: Ella Ryan, Moyle Rovers; Frances Bugler, Lorrha Dorrha; Robin Carey, Ballylooby.



Prize winners at the Kellogg's Cúl Camps 2015.



COACH EDUCATION

Building for the future

Education and up-skilling of coaches is a major factor in the development of any sporting organisation. The GAA has a top class coach education programme for all levels of coaching. This programme revolves around courses, workshops and online resources which are open to all people intending on getting involved with club, school, division or county. The minimum requirement for involvement with underage or adult teams is the "Introductory Foundation Course".

As and from 2016 requirement will be for a minimum of at least one "Award One Coach" with each age group. Also for 2016 each county squad has to have an Award 2 coach on its management team. Courses are organised through the divisional Games Development Administrator. The GDAs are currently recruiting for Foundation, Award 1 and Award 2 courses. Clubs are advised to contact their local GDA for clarification on dates etc. An Award One Adult course will commence Monday 2nd November in Dr Morris Park, Thurles.

The format is as follows;

Monday 2nd November: Introduction/Communication/Roll of the coach

Monday 9th November: Physical Fitness

Monday 16th November: Technical proficiency – Hurling

Monday 23rd November: Tactical Prowess/Team Play

Monday 30th November: Psychological Focus/Playing Facts.

Monday 7th November: Technical proficiency incorporating Tactical prowess and Team play for Football.

Comóradh an Chéid

By Séamus Ó Dubhagáin

FAOIN AM a tharla Éirí Amach 1916, bhí borradh agus fás tagtha ar Chumann Lúithchleas Gael i dTiobraid Árann. Bunaíodh go leor cumainn sa chontae i ndiaidh an chomórtais i nDúrlas i 1886 agus bhí ocht gcinn de chraobhacha buaite faoin am gur léadh Forfhógra na Poblachta i 1916. B'ábhar buartha, áfach, nach raibh sé buaite le hocht mbliana anuas nuair a shocraigh Johnny Leahy as Tubberadora an beart a dhéanamh athuair. Mar stócach, shiúil Johnny le hais Mikey Maher agus d'éist go géar leis na scéalta agus na hamhráin a chumadh faoina chuid éachta ag druidim le deireadh na naoú haoise déag.

“But we were the better men”

Ba chluiche le cúigear déag an taobh é ó 1913 i Leith agus d'éirigh leo i gcoinne foireann Luimní i dtús báire. Bhain an captain an-shásamh as an lámh in uachtar a fháil ar Chorcaigh. Sháraigh said Gaillimh sa leathchraobh agus b'iad Cill Chainnigh a sheas sa bhearna orthu sa chluiche ceannais nár imríodh go tús na bliana 1917. Faoin am seo bhí ceannairí an Éirí Amach curtha chun báis agus ba léir ó na sluaite móra a bhí i láthair ag na cluichí go raibh meon an náisiúnachais

agus cluichí na nGael fite fuaite lena chéile.

Ar an lá cinniúnach, 21 Eanáir 1917, bhí Cill Chainnigh chun tosaigh le deich nóiméad fágtha ach le gríosú ó Johnny Leahy agus mórtas an bhaile fearainn, rug said an báire leo. Nuair a luaigh captaen Cill Chainnigh go raibh na hiománaithe ba fhearr acu siúd, d'fhreagair Leahy "but we had the better men". Sna blianta i ndiaidh Cogadh na Saoirse rinne Johnny Leahy deimhin de go bhfuair gach cumann áitiúil nach mór páirc imeartha dá gcuid féin as roinnt na n-eastát móra.

Is iomaí cor agus casadh a bhain le scéal na hiománaíochta ó shoin i Leith. Bhíomar thuas seal agus thíos seal ach fós is i an iománaíocht an comhartha mórtais cine is cumhachtaí atá againn. Inniu fiú, fillfidh lucht leanúna an Aonaigh agus na Sairséalach ó cheann ceann na tíre ar Stáid Semple chun a ndúchas agus a n-oidhreacht a léiriú.

Ag breathnú siar ar an ré réabhlóideach thart fá 1916, is é an iománaíocht an comhartha sóirt is láidre dar ndúchas atá go foirleathan sa phobal fós. Bhí troid fada ag an gceol agus ag an damhsa agus ní féidir a shéanadh gur dúshlán millteanach fós é caomhnú na teangan. Feicim scamail ag bun na spéire-na meáin cumarsáide teicniúla i lár an aonaigh, luachanna ghnó is tráchtála ag teacht chun tosaigh, cluiche pobail ag sú isteach cur chuige gairmiúil, bearnaí le feiceáil idir an cosmhuintir agus an lucht riaracháin iril.

Ta a fhios againn mar lucht féachana gur seod do-chreidte é an cluiche pobail seo againne. Ach bí san airdeall-na ligigí na maidi le sruth agus os rud é nach bhfanfaidh aon dream in uachtar go deo na ndeor, go bhfana an iománaíocht go smior i bpobal Thiobraid Árann mar a bhí, cothrom an ama seo céad bliain ó shoin agus an náisiún á bhunú.



TIPPERARY – All-Ireland Champions 1916

Back row: T. Leahy, D. O'Brien, P. Fogarty, N. Croke, A. Carew (Sec Co Board), W. Dwyer, T. Dwan, A. O'Donnell, J. Doherty, T. Shanahan, R. Walsh, J. Collison, M. Myers (President), W. Dwyer. Front row: J. Nagle, M. Leahy, J. Murphy, W. Dwyer, H. Shelly, J. Fitzpatrick, J. Leahy (Capt), D. Walsh, P. Leahy, J. Power.

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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