

North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
1979



CUMANN LUITH CLEAS GAEL
TIOBRAD ARANN THUAIDH

Craobh Cluiche Iomana Sinnsear

PAIRC MHIC DONNCHA, AONACH

19ú LUNASA 1979

Cill Ruain Mhic Donncadha

v

Muine Gall

3.30 p.m.

Reiteoir: Sean Ó Meára

IOMAINT NA MIONUIRI: MUINE GALL v TUAIM ÓI MHEARA

2.00 p.m.

Reiteoir: Pádraig Ó Duinslé

Clár Oifigiúil 20p



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PROP.: MARTIN RYAN

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Message from Board Chairman



Réamhrá

Ar son Cumann Lúthchleas Gael Tiobrad Arann Thuaidh, 'sé mo phriobh léid, fáilte a fheara roimh cách anseo go Paírch Mhic Donncha ar an lá áirithe seo. Gabhaim míle buíochas le gach duine a chuir lámh san obair inniu. Tá mé cinnte go mbeidh chaidéan aird sna cluichí.

The North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final is a very special occasion for many people. The effort put into the games during the year, now reaches the climax.

It is my privilege to extend on behalf of the North Tipperary Board a sincere welcome to everybody here today. It is earnestly hoped that this day will be a credit to the game of hurling, and that the traditional high standard of sportsmanship and splendour that other finals have set for us, will be maintained.

To pick a winner today is an invidious task — Moneygall will be striving to emulate their magnificent feats in 1975 and 1976, winning two county titles, while Kilruane MacDonagh will be looking for the magical three-in-a-row. Whatever the outcome, we are assured of a wonderful final, with each player striving with might and main, to bring this Division's premier title to their parish.

A special welcome to the Nealon Trophy finalists in minor hurling, who provide the curtain raiser today. These young men will go on to greater feats in the years to come and an intriguing tie is anticipated here.

I wish to pay a special tribute to all our teams who have participated in our championships this year. This commitment and dedication to our national games, is playing an important part in preserving our national identity.

To our patrons, clubs, officials, referees, park committees, gate checkers and ticket sellers, I express my sincere thanks on behalf of the Board, and to our Rúnaí, Pádraig O Meachair, who has made all the excellent arrangements for our finals.

My thanks also to the Toomevara Club for their work in producing an excellent souvenir programme.

We look forward to great hurling here today, on the excellent sod of MacDonagh Park. Whatever the outcome this Division will have worthy champions and fitting representatives in the County Championship, to provide our county with talent and leadership.

Tómas Ó Ciarba, Cathoirleach,
Coiste Tiobraid Árann Tuaidh,
Lunasa 1979.

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PATHS TO THE FINAL

KILRUANE MacDONAGH

Kilruane 6-8, Lorrha 1-1
Roscrea 4-8, Kilruane 2-10
Kilruane 1-14, Silvermines 2-11
Moneygall 1-13, Kilruane 1-11
Kilruane 3-8, Borris-Ileigh 1-5

Play-off Kilruane 2-6, Silvermines 1-8

Quarter-Finals Kilruane 2-12, Eire Og 1-9

Semi-Finals Kilruane 4-12, Roscrea 1-10

MONEYGALL

Moneygall 1-13, Borris-Ileigh 1-8
Moneygall 1-13, Lorrha 0-7
Roscrea 2-13, Moneygall 1-11
Moneygall 1-13, Kilruane 1-11
Silvermines 2-12, Moneygall 1-9

Semi-Finals Moneygall 2-13, Borris-Ileigh 3-7

Michael Cusack in The United Irishman

"When I reflect on the sublime simplicity of the game, the strength and swiftness of the players, their apparently angelic impetuosity, the apparent recklessness of life and limb, their magic skill, their marvellous escapes, and the outstanding pleasure they give their friends, I have no hesitation in saying that the game of hurling is in the front rank of the Fine Arts".

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TODAY'S REFEREES

SEAN O'MEARA: Refereeing since 1965, Sean O'Meara has refereed at every level in North Tipperary in football and hurling, including finals in all grades. Also refereed county senior football final, u-21 hurling final, minor final, Munster senior hurling and senior football, club championship games including Munster club senior hurling final. He has refereed in Mid Tipp championship games; also West Tipp—including finals; two all-Ireland minor hurling (special) finals, and u-21 all-Ireland hurling final in 1975.

Represented Tipperary on Munster Referees' Advisory Council in hurling until he retired from that position last year. Now Chairman of North Tipp Referees' Committee.

Trains at distance running twice weekly during the 'off' season, and at shorter distances—3 to 5 miles—twice weekly during regular season.

Motto: 'Keep fit and keep going as long as you can, while you can!'



PAT DUNLEA referees today's minor final.

Pat has established himself as one of our leading referees in a short time. He has been a prominent member of the Silvermines Club for many years, both as a stalwart half back and also as Club Secretary.

This year he was elected Vice-Chairman of the North Tipperary Board and he is the only batchelor on the Board.

Umpires: Paddy O'Meara, Michael O'Meara, Denis Floyd, Sean Hayes.

Linesmen: John McCarthy and Gerry Long.

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MONEYGALL CLUB REPORT

Gaelic games have a long and honoured tradition in our parish. The first team on an organised basis was the famous "Honeymounts" combination drawn from all corners of the parish with Thomas Corcoran as manager. One member of that team, James Nolan of Summerhill, was selected on the "American Invasion" team of 1888. The "Honeymounts" waned during the confused days of the Parnellite split.

The new century brought a revival. Membership rules were adopted, the fee being one shilling and a penny per month. Among the early rules were:

- * The club shall be Gaelic in word and spirit.
- * Any players striking another deliberately shall be suspended for one month.
- * No player to take intoxicating drink on the day of a match under penalty of expulsion.

The club has continued since then without a break as an active unit of the Association. This is the club's fifth time to contest the North Tipperary final, the only success being in 1975, but many players from the parish won divisional honours with Toomevara, especially during the record run of seven titles from 1925 to 1931. Darby Collison, a great centre field player, brought the first senior All-Ireland medal to the club and the division in 1916.

Chairman of the Club down the years included: Michael Kelly, John Meagher, Fr D. Murphy, Darby Collison, Jack Collison, Paddy Kennedy, Fr Cosgrave, Fr Gunning, Billy Jones, Fr P. Ryan, Tommy Murray, Fr P. Clune, Fr M. Greene, Fr J. Hogan, Seamus O Riain.

Club Secretaries included: Richard O'Brien, Major Collison, Matthew Gleeson, Paddy Kennedy, Stephen O'Meara, Dan Farrell, Billy Jones, Seamus O Riain, Sean Gleeson, Jimmy Boland, Jack Kennedy, Gerry Gleeson, Tim Gleeson, Noel Ryan, Padraig O Meachair.

The present club officers are: President: V. Rev. T. Cosgrave, P.P.; Vice-President: Fr P. O'Meara, Adm.; Chairman, Seamus O Riain; Vice-Chairmen: Mick Collison, Jerry Maher; Treasurer: Philip O'Meara; Secretary: Padraig O Meachair; Chairman, Development Committee: Tom Nolan; Secretary: Anne Ryan; Trainer: John Gleeson; Masseur: Paddy Cleary; Equipment: Paul Jones.

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The Moneygall team that defeated Borris-Ileigh in the semi-final

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Pat White, Blakefield, Toomevara, refereed the first All-Ireland between Tipperary and Galway, played in Birr.

○—○—○—○

Jack Ryan, Moneygall, is the only All-Ireland senior medal holder playing in today's final.

○—○—○—○

Stephen Hackett, Toomevara, holds 17 North Tipperary senior hurling championship medals.

○—○—○—○

William J. Spain, Nenagh, is the only Tipperary man to win senior All-Ireland medals in hurling and football. He won a football medal with Limerick in 1887 and hurling with Dublin in 1889.

○—○—○—○

Stephen and Martin Hackett played on opposite sides in the 1917 All-Ireland final. Stephen with Tipp and Martin with Dublin.

○—○—○—○

Len Gaynor, Kilruane, is the only player in today's panels to win a Railway Cup medal.

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A HURLER'S PRAYER

Grant me, O Lord, a hurler's skill
With strength of arm and speed of limb,
Unerring eye for the flying ball
And courage to match them what'er befall.
May my aim be steady, my stroke be true,
My actions manly, my misses few.
And no matter what way the game may go
May I part in friendship with every foe
When the final whistle for me is blown
And I stand at last at God's Judgement Throne,
May the great referee when he calls my name,
Say, "You hurled like a man; you played the game."

o—o—o—o

The Mission of the GAA is to make men Gaelic in heart and spirit, to work for the advancement of their country's welfare and to band Irishmen in one great brotherhood, actuated by a worthy and noble purpose.

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THE MINOR FINALISTS

The final of the Nealon Trophy will be contested today between near neighbours Toomevara and Moneygall. It is good to see those two clubs in the final as both have been out of the limelight as far as minor hurling is concerned for a long time.

Since the beginning of the championship both teams have improved with every outing, so a thrilling final is anticipated for all early-comers to MacDonagh Park today.

On their way to the final Moneygall beat Shannon Rovers, Newport and Lorrha, whereas Toomevara accounted for Silvermines, Lorrha and and Kilruane.

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MINOR TEAMS

TOOMEVARA

(Green and Gold)

(1)

Brian Delaney

(2)

Thomas Farrell

(3)

Seamus Young

(4)

Thomas Shanahan

(5)

Jim Ryan

(6)

Martin O'Meara

(7)

Sean Nolan

(8)

Michael Maher

(9)

Owen Cuddy

(10)

Michael Spillane

(11)

Seamus O'Meara

(12)

Jimmy Dunne

(13)

Seamus Flaherty

(14)

John Kennedy

(15)

Diarmuid Grace

Subs.: (16) Frank McCormack, (17) John Gleeson, (18) Philip Hennessy, (18) Pat Haverty, (20) Larry Hickey, (21) Noel McDonnell, (22)—Declan Delaney; (23)—Michael Egan.

MONEYGALL

(Black and Red)

(1)

Kevin Collison

(2)

Rody Teehan

(3)

Pat Costello

(4)

John Fanning

(5)

Liam Quinlan

(6)

Eamon Touhy

(7)

Michael Meagher

(8)

Pat Deveroux

(9)

Joe Sutton

(10)

Joe Donovan

(11)

Tom Larkin

(12)

Eamon Fanning

(13)

Seamus Collison

(14)

Rody Spillane

(15)

Eamon Carroll

Subs.: (16) Thomas Madden, (17) Joe Deveroux, (18) Michael Kirwan, (19) Michael Bergin, (20) Gay Shaw, (21) Thomas Quigley, (22) Denis Newe, (23) Neilus Hourigan.

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The Kilruane MacDonagh team that defeated Roscrea in the semi-final

Cill Ruáin Mhic Donnchadha

(Ban agus Dubh)

(1)

Tony Sheppard
Antoin Mac Aoire

(2)

Sean Hyland
Sean O hAolain

(3)

Denis Meara
Donncha O Meara

(4)

Enda Hogan
Eanna O hOgain

(5)

Tim O'Meara
Seamus O Meara

(6)

Paddy Williams
Padraig Mac Uilliam

(7)

Denis Cahill
Donncha O Cathaill

(8)

Mackey Keogh
Seamus Mac Eochaigh

(9)

Seamus Hennessy
Seamus O hAonghusa

(10)

Eamonn Shea
Eamonn O Se

(11)

Liam Shea
Liam O Se (capt.)

(12)

Gilbert Williams
Gilbert Mac Uilliam

(13)

Jim Williams
Seamus Mac Uilliam

(14)

Sean Meara
Sean O Meara

(15)

Mackey Waters
Seamus O hUisce

Fir Ionaid: (16)—Donncha O Faolain, Denis Whelan; (17)—Leonard Mag Fhionnbhair, Len Gaynor; (18)—Sean O Caoinleain, John Quinlan; (19)—Pilib O Caoinleain, Philip Quinlan; (20)—Gearoid Mac Uilliam, Ger Williams; (21)—Sean O Cathall, John Cahill; (22)—Pilib O Rodain, Phil Reddan; (23)—Micheal O Cathaill, Michael Cahill; (24)—Micheal O hOgain, Michael Hogan; (25)—Seamus O Rodain, Jim Reddan.

Muine Gall

(Dubh agus Dearg)

(1)

Noel Whyte

Nol de Faoite

(2)

John J. Comerford

Sean Comavtuin

(3)

Mick Doherty

M. O. Dochartaigh

(4)

Sean Doughan

Sean O Duchain

(5)

Jim Guilfoyle, capt.

S. Mac Giolla Phoil

(6)

Donal Fanning

Donal O Fainin

(7)

Eugene Ryan

Eoin O Riain

(8)

Bobby Jones

Roibeard Mac Geoin

(9)

Jack Ryan

Sean O Riain

(10)

Donal Kennedy

Donal O Cinneide

(11)

Seamus Ryan

Seamus O Riain

(15)

Philip Fanning

Pilib O Fainin

(13)

Philip Ryan

Pilib O Riain

(14)

Dan Guilfoyle

D. Mac Giolla Phoil

(12)

Eddie Sutton

Eamon de Sutuin

Fir Ionaid: (16)—Liam Mac Giolla Iosa, Billy McLeish; (17)—Padraig O Sioda, Pat Sheedy; (18)—Micheal O Nuallain, Mick Nolan; (19)—Ciaran O Coisteala, Kieran Costello; (20)—Seamus O Ciarubhain, Jimmy Kirwan; (21)—Seamus O Treasaigh, Jimmy Treacy; (22)—Liam O Tuathaigh, Liam Toohey; (23)—Murt O Coisteala, Murt Costello; (24)—Caoimhin Mac Colla, Kevin Collison; (25)—Padraig O Ciaribhain, Pat Kirwan.

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AFTER THE FINAL

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CALL AFTER THE MATCH

KILRUANE MacDONAGHS

KILRUANE MacDONAGHS have won the North Division Senior Hurling title on six occasions in all. Their first victory was in 1940 and their latest last year when they defeated Roscrea in the final to retain the title they won in 1977. They have contested the County final six times. Beaten by Sarsfields in 1944 and 1959, by Roscrea in 1973, by Moneygall in a replay after a drawn game in 1975, they achieved their greatest triumph in 1977 when they overcame Borrisoleigh in another replay after they had finished level the first day. Last year they continued their rise as they retained their title with a last minute goal against Roscrea.

It was a fitting reward for a Club that has contributed so much to the game at Division and County level over the years. Their record in under-age competitions is outstanding and a tribute to the devotion and dedication of officials and players over many years. The present team is reaping a rich harvest from the seed that was so sedulously sown and tended amongst the juveniles in the parish.

MacDonaghs are unique in that they have won County Senior titles in both hurling (1977/'78) and football (1975). Marcus Bourke has pointed out in an article in the Tipperary Year Book of 1973 that football flourished in Kilruane in the 1870s, over a decade before the GAA was established. But hurling subsequently took over in the area and the Nenagh-Lahorna De Wets won the County Senior title in 1902, defeating Carrick in the final. The team on that occasion was:

Jack Dwan, Jim and Martin D'Arcy, Dan and Tom Ryan, Rody Nolan, Con Brewer, Din Whelan, Pat Williams, Mick Conway, Mick Moloughney, Jim Connors, Jack Meara, Mick and Paddy Kennedy, Mick Maher, Tim Carr, Mick Cleary, Paddy Behan.

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 1910 to '11—John McGrath
 1912 to '14—Tim Ryan
 1915 to '21—William Flannery
 1922 to '23—Frank McGrath
 1924 to '25—Rody Nealon
 1926—Patrick McDonnell
 1927 to '31—Frank McGrath
 1931 to '38—Seamus Gardiner
 1939 to '44—Tomas Malone
 1944 to '56—Fr Eamonn Murphy
 1956 to '57—Fr Niall O'Meara
 1957 to '66—Seamus Ryan
 1966 to '69—Fr William O'Donoghue
 1969 to '76—Hubie Hogan
 1976 to '79—Martin O'Connor
 1979—Tom Kirby

SECRETARIES

1901—John Spain
 1902 to '03—James O'Meara
 1904—Michael Kennedy
 1905 to '09—John McGrath
 1910 to '13—Michael O'Flanagan
 1914 to '20—"Wedger" Meagher
 1921 to '63—Michael Moylan
 1963 to '69—Matt Hassett
 1969 to '78—Donie Nealon
 1978 Paddy Maher

North Tipperary SHC Winners

TOOMEVARA: 1910 to 1913, 1916 to 1919, 1922, 1923, 1925 to 1931, 1946, 1958, 1960 to 1962—(22).
 ROSCREA: 1936, 1937, 1939, 1941, 1942, 1945, 1949, 1954, 1963, 1967 to 1971—(14).
 BORRIS-ILEIGH: 1947, 1950 to 1953, 1955, 1972, 1973, 1976—(9).
 LAHORN DE WETS: 1901 to 1904, 1906 to 1908—(7).
 LORRHA: 1905, 1914, 1934, 1948, 1956, 1966—(6).
 KILRUANE: 1940, 1944, 1959, 1965, 1977, 1978—(6).
 KILDANGAN: 1934, 1938, 1943—(3).
 NENAGH: 1915, 1957, 1964—(3).
 NEWPORT: 1932, 1935—(2).
 YOUGHALLARRA: 1909—(1).
 SILVERMINES: 1974—(1).
 BORRISOKANE: 1933—(1).
 MONEYGALL: 1975—(1).

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COME IN — LOOK AROUND

THE LAST OF THE GREYHOUNDS

WE WENT TO VISIT one of the great hurlers of the past, Bill Kelly, who lives on his farm in Busherstown. Bill played with the famous Toomevara Greyhounds and he is the last survivor of that renowned team.

He is eighty eight years of age, but he is hale and hearty and still cycles to Moneygall. He is a wiry, middle-sized man, very quiet and very active. Of the Tipperary team that played in the All-Ireland final of 1913 he is the only one still living. That was the first All-Ireland with only fifteen a-side, but he had often played in previous years when teams were seventeen a side.

We went to visit him on May 16th. We spent about an hour with him, and he was very helpful in answering our questions. We think that he enjoyed the chat as well as we did.

He played at corner forward for club and county. With his club he won seven County Championships between 1910 and 1930. Stephen Hackett and Mick Ryan were two teammates that he rated very highly. Wedger Meagher was a great captain. He played in two Munster finals and was on the winning team in 1913. In the All-Ireland final of that year he sustained a head injury and had to retire. Tipperary lost that game although they had been favourites before the game.

The hurls in use in his playing days were much the same shape as the ones used today but they were much heavier, having a thicker poll. Tom Nolan, grandfather of Tom and Mick Nolan (Spike) made the hurls for him and for other members of the team. He remarked that he had not seen a decent hurl in years. The ball was heavier too, he said, and the usual price of a new sliotar was half a crown. Boherlahan were the toughest opposition they used to meet in the county and they had many hard matches against them. In Munster Cork was the team they feared most; they were always hard to beat.

For local matches they walked to the venue or if it was too far for walking they went on bicycles. Sometimes they travelled on brakes drawn by two horses. For inter-county games it was customary to travel by train. He thinks that the game has disimproved since his day and that now there is less ground hurling and too much fouling.

He believes that Jamesie Kelleher of Dungourney in Cork was the greatest hurler of all.

Interview by Sean Kenny and Sean Delaney (aged 12)

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GURTAGARRY

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Front: Bill Kelly, Jimmy Murphy, Hugh Skelly, Bud O'Keeffe.
 First row: Ned Guilmartin, Jack Harty, Frank McGrath, Wedger Meagher
 (capt.), Stephen Hackett.
 Back: John Kennedy, Jack O'Meara, Ned Cawley, Jack Raleigh, Mick Ryan,
 Jim O'Meara, Paddy Kennedy.

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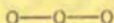
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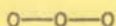
THE BAND

A big welcome is extended to the Nenagh Brass Band who play today in their home town.



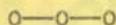
PORK ON BACON

Killeen and Moneygall played a challenge game in Dunkerrin in 1887. Fr McGuire, the local curate, killed a pig for the occasion and victors and vanquished were fed in a princely fashion.



MEDALS

At the North Convention in 1934 it was decided on the motion of the late Frank McGrath to place the bust of Thomas MacDonagh on the championship medals.



Let the ash sing on—it must not die and cannot be allowed to die in the traditional strongholds

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TOOMEVARA—THE SPONSORING CLUB

TOOMEVARA has been more noted for its hurlers than anything else and were playing the game before the Association was founded in 1884. The first club was formed in the parish under the Presidency of Father John Moloney and the names of O'Meara, Looby and Harty were involved. Their first recorded success was as county senior hurling champions of 1890.

Twenty years passed before Toome again surfaced under the leadership of "Wedger" Meagher, and because of their fleetness of foot became known as "The Greyhounds". This band of hurlers which included the O'Mearas, Guilmartins, Kennedys, Kellys, Ryans, Hackett and Harty, established Toome as one of the leading clubs in the county over the next twenty odd years. They won seventeen north seven Senior hurling titles during that period. Their great opponents during this time were Boherlahan powered by the Leahys. Of the ten championships played between 1912 and 1923 (there were no championships in 1920-21) Toomevara won six and Boherlahan six, but two of Boherlahan's successes were in the Board room. Their greatest success of the period must have been over Kilkenny in the Croke Memorial of 1913 and then followed disaster with defeat by the same opposition in the All-Ireland. Their County Final win over the up and coming Moycarkey in 1931 marked the end of the era of Toome's greatness.

Junior teams from Ballymackey, Gurtagarry, Monanore and Grenanstown also had their successes during this period and Kilerue Rovers in football.

The club continued as an active unit in the Association and with a revival in the under age and junior competitions in the fifties they again put together a useful senior team to win the 1960 county title and lead Tipperary to success in the All-Ireland win over Dublin in 1961. It is of interest to note that "Wedger" Meagher who captained Tipperary in the 1913 defeat and Matt Hassett, who captained the 1961 team, were both Club Secretaries, North Board Secretaries and cousins.

The struggle continues to preserve the game in the parish and with the success of the present juveniles it is hoped this will be carried on to higher grades.

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