

Mid-Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
1985

CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

TIOBRAID ÁRANN MÉAN



**CLUICHE CEANNAIS
IOMANA**

BOTHAR LEATHAN

8 MEAN FOMHAIR 1985

MAINISTIR NA CROISE – BEALACH ACHAILLE

V

NA SÁIRSEÁLAIGH, DÚRLAS

Réiteoir: Sean Ó Meachair

*Tomás Ó Leathna
Rúnaí*

CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL
LUACH 50p

CLÁR AN LAE

8 September 1985

At Boherlahan

2.00 p.m.

Junior Hurling 1985 Semi-Final

Thurles Fennellys

v

Drom and Inch

Referee: Conor Kennedy

3.30 p.m.

Senior Hurling Final

Holycross — Ballycahill

v

Thurles Sarsfields

Referee: John Maher (Boherlahan —Dualla)

Best Wishes to Mid Board for Senior Hurling Final

Tommy Long

The Steering Wheel



The Square, Cahir



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TEACHTAIREACHT ÓN CATHAOIRLEACH

Is é mo phribhleid failte a chur roimh gach einne go Bothar Leathan ar La Ceannaid Thiobrad Arann Meanach san iomaint. Taim ag suil le dochas go mbeidh clar an lae inniu ar aon dul leis na cluichi a bhi againn ceanna.

It is my pleasure and privilege as Chairman of Mid Tipperary Board G.A.A. to extend a sincere welcome to all of you players, officials, referees and especially spectators to Boherlahan for our Senior Hurling final. On this occasion it is only right to congratulate the Boherlahan – Dualla Club on their recent field developments, building of Sports Centre and new side line seating to compliment the magnificent playing field and also supplying to-days referee John Maher.

We look forward to a very exciting game to-day between two teams Holycross-Ballycahill and Thurles Sarsfields who have been out of the honours list for some time. Both teams have reached the final on merit with good victories on the way to the final. Holycross having defeated Upperchurch and last years County Champions Moycarkey – Borris. Sarsfields were also victorious over Moycarkey (after a replay) and last years Mid Championships, Drom & Inch.

Both of to-days teams will go forward to represent the division in the County Championship and they will take the best wishes of all in Mid to retain the County Championship. With favourable weather we look forward to a final worthy of the occasion played with skill, courage and true sportsmanship.

*Pat Cullen,
Cathaoirleach.*

FAILTE GO BOTHAR LEATHAN

As Chairman of the Boherlahan-Dualla G.A.A. Club, it is my privilege to extend a cead mile failte to all to-day. I extend a special welcome to the four teams taking part, and I hope this afternoons games will be played in the best tradition of our division, which has played such an important role in the success of our county down through the years.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow club members for their hard work in preparing our grounds for to-days games.

*Dan Ryan,
Cathaoirleach.*

BUIÓCHAS

This Official Programme is produced by the Boherlahan – Dualla G.A.A. Club and distributed by young members of the club. In thanking our advertisers we request that they be supported by our patrons. We are also deeply indebted to our writers and the excellent co-operation of all the clubs involved to-day is greatly appreciated.

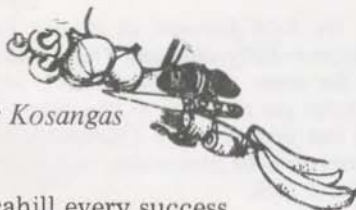
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in today's Final



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Best wishes to both teams in today's Final





Photo—S. Flanagan, Holycross.

The Holycross — Ballycahill team which defeated Moycarkey — Borris in the semi-final by 1-15 to 1-10

HOLYCROSS – BALLYCAHILL A BRIEF HISTORY

Holycross – Ballycahill G.A.A. Club, a name synonymous with gaelic games and in particular hurling, and with a tradition reaching back to the latter stages of the last century, this year celebrates its centenary. Over the years the Club has produced many household names both on and off the playing fields who have represented the green and white and the blue and gold with distinction.

Though the Club has had many "homes" in its century of activity, the ground at Glenreigh which was officially opened in May has been the centre of its activities for more than twenty five years. The ground is now known as St. Michaels G.A.A. Park and is as well equipped as any ground in the Country following tremendous work in developing its various facilities during the past eight months.

The Club was very active in the early years of the association and under the name of Clodiagh Rangers a combination of Holycross – Ballycahill – Drombane won a Mid Junior title in 1913. Holycross won the Mid Junior title in 1922 and went Senior the following year. County honours came the Club's way when the Junior title was won in 1941 and then the breakthrough came in 1947 when the Mid Senior title was captured. The following year Holycross – Ballycahill captained by Francis Maher (now the Club Treasurer) won the First Senior County championship and paved the way for Pat Stakelum to captain Tipperary to victory in the '49 All Ireland.

This perhaps was the greatest era in Holycross – Ballycahill hurling and this great team annexed further county honours in 1951 and '54, thus establishing the club as a hurling power in Tipperary. Since then Holycross has frequently figured in championship enclosures and 1982 was perhaps a special year when the Club captured three county titles minor hurling, junior football and at juvenile level U14 football. A county U21 title was won in 1978 so that it can be seen that most of the honours available have come Holycross's way.

While the Club may be best known for its exploits on the field and the great men it has given to Tipperary, such as eight All – Ireland medal winners John Doyle, Phil Cahill, Dinny Gorman, Michael Maher, Pat Stakelum, Roddy Dwan, Bob Stakelum to mention just a few, it also has a proud record as regards Club members who have contributed enormously to Tipperary at administrative level. The current Co. Chairman Michael Lowry is a prominent member of the Club following in the footsteps of illustrious predecessors, the late Canon Phil Fogarty, author of the Tipperary G.A.A. Story and Michael Maher. The late Phil Cahill and Fr. Liam Ryan now in Dublin were Mid Secretaries while Michael Ryan is a former Mid Treasurer. The Club

also boasts an All Ireland referee in Bob Stakelum, plus two former Co. Secretaries in Pat Stakelum and the late Matt Butler.

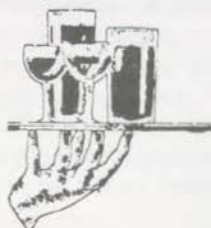
All of this illustrates how much a part of life in Holycross — Ballycahill G.A.A. affairs are, and the indications are that this will continue to be the case, with the Club's very active juvenile section bringing even further distinction to the parish by their exploits. Indeed when it is noted that most of the players who won the Dr. Harty Shield for the first time (U15 hurling) in 1949 went on to give great service to the Club. That trend has continued down through the years and today's team in the Mid final is comprised completely of that U21 Co. Championship winning team of 1978 plus a large sprinkling of the Minor Championship winning team of 1982, just three years ago.

One can easily accept Holycross — Ballycahill optimism as they face the future and of course today's game with a bountiful supply of young players coming on the scene and anxiously waiting to pull on the famous green jersey. The progress of the Club in recent times is attributable in no small way to the endeavours of its officers who lead by their example and effort in every sphere of the Club's activities. With such leadership Holycross — Ballycahill cannot but succeed from here on.

Congratulations and Best Wishes
to the Mid Tipperary G.A.A. Board
on the 1985 Senior Hurling Final



*Looking forward to a great game
between those age old rivals
Holycross and Sarsfields
which may herald a new era
for Tipperary Hurling*



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1978 MID SENIOR HURLING FINAL

Holycross — Ballycahill	2 — 12
Thurles Sarsfields	0 — 5

When these two teams last met in a Mid Final it was played in Littleton on July 9, 1978. This was the sixth divisional crown in this grade for Holycross as they swept to a most comprehensive victory. The conditions were perfect for hurling and the game was started by Johnny Maher who was home on vacation from America and who had played in the 1927 and 1928 County Finals with Boherlahan.

Sarsfields had wind advantage in the first half but they never showed the fight or spirit displayed against Moycarkey in the semi-final. At the interval the score was Holycross 0-6, Sarsfield 0-5. The turning point of the game came for Holycross eight minutes into the second half when Seamus Mackey was fouled in the 'square' and the resulting semi-penalty was shot to the Thurles net by Ml. McGrath. After this score, there was seldom any doubt about the destination of the Leahy Cup. One of the best scores of the game came in the 23rd minute of the second half when a move involving Ml. Doyle, John Ferncombe and Seamus Mackey resulted in Mackey scoring a goal. The contest was now over as Holycross went from strength to strength to emerge easiest of winners.

Scorers:

Holycross: S. Mackey 1-4; Ml. McGrath 1-0; J. Doyle and M. Butler 0-2; R. Stakelum 0-2; Ml. Doyle and J. Fitzpatrick 0-1 each.

Sarsfields: P. Byrne 0-2; J. Duggan, T. Cullagh and J. Burke 0-1 each.

Holycross: M. McGrath, M. Lowry, T.J. Ryan, J. Ryan, T. Flanagan, M. Butler, J. Doyle, P. Lowry, J. Fitzpatrick, M. Quinlan, M. Doyle, R. Stakelum, S. Mackey, J. Ferncombe, T. Stakelum. Subs: Tony Stakelum for Tim Stakelum, L. Mackey for P. Lowry..

Sarsfields: P. McCormack, M. Maher, P. Leane, P. Stakelum, J. Cahill, T. Barry, J. Doyle, M. Dundon, M. Gleeson, P. Byrne, J. Burke, P. McCormack, T. Cullagh, J. Duggan, T. Ryan, Subs K. Bannon for J. Duggan, S. Byrne for K. Bannon.

Referee: Martin O'Grady (Moyné/Templetuohy).

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THURLES FENNELLYS

(1)	
K. Kennedy	

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 2) P. Forrastal | 3) M. Lanigan | 4) J. Hayden |
| 5) L. O'Mahoney | 6) P. O'Mahoney | 7) J. Murphy |
| 8) J. Dorney | 9) M. O'Mahoney | |
| 10) P. Moore | 11) B. O'Dwyer (Capt) | 12) J. Carroll |
| 13) P. Coppinger | 14) M. Callannan | 15) J. Jordan |

Fir Ionaid: 16) J. O'Kelly, 17) M. Coen, 18) Jimmy Jordan, 19) C. O'Dwyer, 20) J. Kerwick, 21) E. Jordan, 22) J. Bourke, 23) P. Cleary, 24) J. O'Dwyer, 25) M. Coppinger.

DROM AND INCH

(1)	
J. Gleeson	

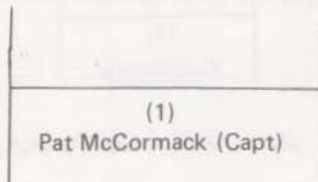
- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 2) P. Shannahan | 3) M. McGrath | 4) T. Harkin |
| 5) D. Fahey | 6) J. Comerford | 7) P. Halloran |
| 8) J. Ryan | 9) F. McGrath | |
| 10) Ml. Jordan | 11) G. O'Rourke | 12) S. Hayes |
| 13) L. Ryan | 14) T. Kennedy | 15) P. Harkin |

Fir Ionaid: 16) L. McLoughlin, 17) T. Kenneally, 18) J. Kennedy, 19) P. Dempsey, 20) L. Cleary, 21) T. Kennehan, 22) T. Hassett, 23) J. Kinane, 24) M. Ryan.

NA SAIRSEALAIGH, DURLAS

Gorm is Bán

Blue & White



2) Ml. Maher

3) Pat Stakelum

4) Paddy Maher

5) Jim Moloney

6) Connie Maher

7) Tom Barry

8) Frank Murphy

9) John Cahill

John Kennedy
10) Kevin Cummins

11) Liam Duggan

16 K Carroll
12) P.J. Kavanagh

12 P.J. Kavanagh
13) John Kennedy

14) Murty Bryan

15) Pat McCormack

Fir Ionaid: 16) K. Carroll, 17) S. Byrne, 18) A. Rossiter, 19) P. Leahy, 20) S. O'Shea, 21) E. Stakelum, 22) E. Walsh, 23) M. McCormack, 24) J. McCormack, 25) N. Byrne, 26) J. Woodlock, 27) L. Barrett, 28) J. Duggan, 29) G. Donnelly, 30) C. Carroll.

Selectors: Ml. McElgun, Martin Maher, Thomas Callanan, Jackie Cooke, Ml. Dundon.

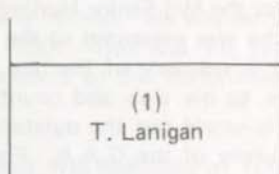
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Secretary	Michael Maher
Assistant	Margaret O'Dwyer
Treasurer	Tom Barry
Assistant	Sean Maher
Registrar	Thomas Callanan
P.R.O.	Ml. Dundon

MAINSTIR NA CROISE – BEALACH ACHAILLE

Glas is Bán

Green & White



2) J. Butler

3) T. Skehan

4) R. Dwan

5) P. Dwyer

6) M. Doyle (Capt)

7) J. Ryan

8) P. Lowry

9) P.J. Lanigan

10) D. Carr

11) J. Doyle

12) T. Lanigan

13) M. McGrath

14) S. Dwan

15) M. Fleming

Fir Ionaid: 16) P. Dwan, 17) R. Stakelum, 18) L. O'Gorman, 19) T. Stakelum, 20) T. Walsh, 21) J. O'Brien, 22) F. Maher, 23) T. Dwyer, 24) C. Crowe, 25) E. Dwyer, 26) J. Ryan

Selectors: Rodge Dwan, John Ryan (G), Seamus Mackey, Bernie Bannon, Brendan Bannon.

Trainer/Coach: Jimmy Delaney

OFFICERS 1985

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Vice—Pres.	Rev. D. Cunningham, Rev. M. McGrath
	Bob Stakelum
Chairman	John Ryan (Rathcannon)
V. Chairman	Michael Ryan
Secretary	Jackie Lanigan
Assistant	Paddy Dwan
Treasurer	Francis Maher
Assistant	Tim Stakelum
P.R.O.	Tommy Lanigan

CORN UÍ LAOCHA

There was no trophy for the Mid Senior Hurling winners until 1955 when the present Corn Uí Laocha was presented to the Mid Board by the Leahy Family. It was presented in memory of the late Johnny Leahy, who had brought so many honours to his club and county. Johnny was not just a great figure in the Gaelic world but the outstanding member of a family that was unique in the history of the G.A.A. Four of the Leahy brothers has won All-Ireland senior hurling championship medals — a record unequalled.

Johnny, the eldest of the family, began his hurling career with the Cashel Racecourse team in 1908. Johnny and a number of other Boherlahan players continued to play with this team until it folded up in 1911. In February 1912, the Boherlahan Club was founded after a gathering of gaelis in O'Dwyer's barn in Nodstown. Johnny Leahy was elected captain and a senior team was affiliated in Mid Tipperary. Johnny continued to captain his club until 1928. He retired in 1930 when Boherlahan lost to Toomevara (after a replay) in the County Final. Before he retired he had led his county to five Munster Championship successes, two All-Ireland and one National League. He also captained the Tipperary team which travelled the United States from coast to coast in 1926 and he led his club to no less than twelve county championship finals, of which nine were won. Such were his qualities of leadership and so long was he captain of Tipperary and Boherlahan teams that for the remainder of his life he was known by the title of Captain.

His association with the G.A.A. did not end, however, with his playing days. He held a number of administrative positions and was for many years secretary of the Tipperary County Board, during which time his personal influence with the Land Commission was responsible for acquiring numerous playing pitches in the county.

Paddy came next to Johnny in the family. Paddy Leahy played with all the great Tipperary teams of his time and shared Johnny's successes. But it was when he became a hurling selector in 1949 that his greatest services to the county began. From then until his death in 1966 he was widely regarded as one of the principal architects of Tipperary's successes at that time. His ability to make crucial switches and his command of players' respect and allegiance were recognised by hurling followers not only in Tipperary but throughout Ireland.

The third member of the family, Mick, though he won an All-Ireland with Tipperary in 1916, enjoyed his greatest successes with Cork. He played for years with the famous Blackrock team and won All-Irelands with Cork in 1928 and 1931. A dynamic corner-forward, old timers still recall matches

between Tipperary and Cork in which he was pitted against his brother Johnny, who moved out from his full-back position to mark him.

Tommy was the youngest of the family and he succeeded to the captaincy of Boherlahan when Johnny retired. He was on the Tipperary team which won the All-Ireland in 1930. This was the year of the famous "Triple Crown", when twelve members of the Boherlahan-Dualla Club won All-Ireland medals.

The fifth brother, Jimmy, was described by Tom Semple as 'The handiest of all the Leahys' but the loss of sight of one eye as a result of a wound received during the Anglo-Irish war put an end to his hurling days. Before his injury, nevertheless, he had played once for Tipperary in a National Aid tournament at Croke Park.

It is of particular interest that the family's connection with the G.A.A. began with the foundation of the Association. Their father, Mike Leahy played in the first great Cork-Tipperary clash in August, 1886, and their uncle, Thomas Leahy, was President of the famous Tubberadora club which won All-Irelands in 1895, 1896 and 1898.

All-Ireland medals won by the Leahys

	Senior	Junior
Johnny Leahy	1916, 1925	—
Paddy Leahy	1916, 1925	1913, 1915
Mick Leahy	1916, 1928, 1931	—
Tommy Leahy	1930	1926

One who knew Johnny Leahy well was John D. Hickey and in 1956 he wrote:

"For all that some knew of the 'Captain' they cannot decide in what sphere he was greatest. Some will say that his hurling excelled all his rich gifts, others will say that his leadership was his outstanding attribute and still others will claim that his stature was greatest as an administrator.

Neither can I quite make up my mind on the score of deciding an order of merit but I content myself by saying that I would have considered him a man apart were it for even only one of his great qualities."

THURLES SARSFIELDS – A CENTURY OF DEDICATION

Thurles Sarsfields is almost as old as the association itself. Hurling was played in the locality before the G.A.A. was formed, and when the association was formed, Thurles was among its first clubs, with Hugh Ryan, James Butler and Denis Maher the Club's first President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Since those far off days of the Club's contribution to the association has been enormous, and in Mid Tipperary terms it enjoys the distinction of having won the first three senior hurling championships following the formation of the division, 1907 to 09, a team led by the legendary Tom Semple.

Thirty four divisional senior hurling titles have come the club's way since then, an achievement which places them well ahead in the division's honours list. Further distinctions to be claimed by the club are the winning of the first Tipperary senior hurling championship, and then, representing Tipperary and led by Jim Stapleton, the winning of the first All-Ireland in 1887.

Sarsfields have given more All-Ireland winning captains to Tipperary than any other club – Jim Stapleton (1887); Tom Semple (06/08); John Joe Callanan ('30); Jim Lanigan ('37); John Maher ('45); Tony Wall ('58); Jimmy Doyle ('62 & '65) and Michael Murphy ('64).

The club has also played its part at administrative level in the division with such as Tom Semple (1912–16), Tom Kerwick (1919–24) and Michael Small (1973 to '76) serving as chairmen of the board, while Fr. John Meagher was also chairman from 1927 to '29 during his term in Thurles. The current treasurer of the Mid board is Gerry McEntee a long-serving member of Sarsfield club, while the current county secretary is Tommy Barrett, a former secretary and Sarsfields club.

In 1977 Sarsfields added another chapter to its history by becoming the first club in the Mid division to open its own Social Centre, a venue for Mid and county board meetings since as well as being the hub of club activities.

While the club has boasted many great players and great teams, the group which represented it in the '55 to '65 period, winning ten out of eleven county senior hurling titles is worthy of special mention and it can safely be said that their achievement will never be equalled in Tipperary. They set a standard for all other clubs and for Sarsfields which will be very difficult to attain.

Such was the standard of hurling in the club at this time that in addition to the county senior championships, four county minor and three county junior titles also came our way.

And what about this for a record — Jimmy Doyle, winner of six senior All-Ireland medals with Tipperary won four championship medals in the space of one week in 1956 — Sunday, Sept. 23rd, All-Ireland minor medal; Wed, Sept. 26th, Mid minor medal; Sunday Sept. 30th, county senior and minor medals.

A further record held by a club member is the achievement of Mickey Byrne, winner of five senior All-Ireland medals, who in a playing career with Sarsfields that spanned twenty three years, holds a record number of county senior hurling championship medals — fourteen.

These are but some of the distinctions which have gone towards making Thurles Sarsfields one of the best known clubs in the Country. The club is shortly to publish its history, being compiled by Donal O'Gorman, and while Donal records the happenings of the past century, it is safe to say that the next century of gaelic games activities in Mid and County Tipperary, will also provide an abundance of material in terms of achievement by Thurles Sarsfields.

AN BHFUIL FHIOS AGAT ?

There was a side bet of one thousand guineas on the first recorded hurling game. It was played at Banagher in September 1733, where over ten thousand spectators gathered to see Tipperary beat Galway.

It is doubtful if any player can better the record of Johnny Walsh of Tubberadora who, at the age of twenty three won his fifth All-Ireland senior hurling medal.

There were two senior All-Ireland finals played in Thurles. The first was the football decider of 1905 in which Kildare beat Kerry 0-7 to 0-5. The second was the Centenary hurling final of 1984 when Cork beat Offaly.

At Thurles Petty Session in June, 1909, a boy of ten years charged by an R.I.C. man with hurling in a back street was fined 10/6 or fourteen days in jail.

Dinny O'Gorman of Holycross won All-Ireland medals in senior, junior and minor grades.

Mickey Byrne of Thurles Sarsfields won fourteen county senior championship medals. He was captain on three of these occasions.

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Photo: N. O'Shea, Thurles

The Thurles Sarsfields team which defeated Drom-Inch in the semi-final by 0-10 to 1-6.

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AN BHFUIL FHIOS AGAT ?

In 1889 Holycross and Toomevara were due to meet in the county semi-final. They could not agree on a Tipperary venue, so they hired a train and went to Dublin to play the game. Toomevara scored a goal in the last quarter to win by 1-1 to 0-2.

In the early years of the G.A.A. it was the custom among some hurlers to exchange hurleys with their opponents after a final.

When Tipperary beat Kilkenny by 7-13 to 3-10 in 1898, Mikey Maher of Boherlahan became the first player to captain three All-Ireland winning hurling sides (1895, 1896 and 1898). Dick Walsh of Kilkenny (1907, 1909, 1913) and Christy Ring of Cork (1946, 1953, 1954) subsequently equalled this record.

The Ulster Convention of the G.A.A. on November 27, 1904 introduced a rule 'that any player drinking during matches should be suspended for two months'.

Tom Semple, of Thurles won the Hurling Long Puck Championship of Ireland in 1906 with a lift and hit measuring 96 yards, using a 9 oz. ball (twice the weight of today's ball). The stadium at Thurles is now dedicated to his memory.

In the 1955 Railway Cup semi-final between Munster and Leinster, Holycross had three players on the Munster team — P. Stakelum, J. Doyle, and J. Hough. The referee for this game was Bob Stakelum also a member of the Holycross — Ballycahill club.

Thurles Sarsfields (1955) were the first winners of the Leahy Cup, after a hectic final played in Gaile against Holycross before a crowd of 8,000. Mickey Byrne was Captain.

Jimmy Doyle of Thurles Sarsfields made 190 appearances as a forward on the Tipperary senior team. He scored in these games the tremendous total of 116 goals and 904 points or 6.59 points per match on average.

John Doyle of Holycross — Ballycahill holds the record for National Hurling League medals with a total of eleven, won between 1949 and 1965.

Today people talk about the size of some goal-keeper's hurleys but in 1888 the Tipperary County Board passed a rule: 'The hurley may be of any pattern fancied by the player'.

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## AN RÉITEOIR

### To-days Senior Final Referee

**John Maher**

John Maher, from the Boherlahan—Dualla Club, will to-day be refereeing his second Mid Senior Final. John has been refereeing since 1975 and has officiated at games of all levels in Mid Tipperary. Based in Dublin, John has also refereed many Dublin and Leinster Colleges' games.

John comes from a family with a long association with the G.A.A. His father Martin, better known as Sonny, played at full-forward for Tipperary when they won All—Ireland honours in 1949-50-51. Both of John's grandfathers achieved All—Ireland honours, Jack Maher in 1898 and William O'Dwyer (first Chairman of the West Board) in 1916. This Jack Maher was a brother of the Tubberadora captain Mikey.

John is looking forward to to-days game and hopes that it will be played in the best tradition of Tipperary hurling abounding in skill, endeavour and sportsmanship.

*Best Wishes to Mid Board for Senior Hurling Final*

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