

North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
1988

COISTE TIOBRAID
ARANN THUaidH

At MacDonagh Park,
Nenagh
Sunday, July 24th,
1988



Senior Hurling Final

Roscrea

v

Borris-Ileigh

Reiteoir: M. Cathail

Junior Hurling Final Toomevara v Lorrha

Reiteoir: Martin Darcy

Clar Oifigiúil

Luach 50p

P. Ó Meachair (Rúnaí)



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BEST WISHES TO BOTH TEAMS

FÁILTE

A Chairde Gael,

Tá fáilte romhaibh go dtí craobh cluiche Tiobraid árainn Thuaidh. Tá súil agam go mbeidh sár-cluiche againn inniu agus go mbainne sibh taitneamh asta.

North Senior Final day is the high point of the North Board calendar and it is my privilege as Chairman to welcome you to today's games.



The Senior Final features of the traditional strongholds of hurling in the division: Roscrea who already have 16 titles to their credit and Borris-Ileigh who have 11. Borris-Ileigh probably enter the game as favourites but the red jersey of Roscrea should never be taken lightly. Irrespective of the outcome I hope hurling is the real winner.

The curtain raiser is the eagerly awaited Junior League Final and I have no doubt that this game will prove a worthy opening to the day's proceedings.

Many people play a part in the promotion of our games: the players, the clubs, Park Committees, Officers of the Board — I thank them all for their help during the year, in particular An Rúnaí Pádraig Ó Meachair agus An Cisteoir Seamus Ó hÓgáin.

One man who deserves a special word of praise is Liam Hogan, Chairman, Bord na nÓg, who prepared this programme. I hope patrons will support it as all funds will go to Bord na nÓg.

Seán Ó Tiarnaí, Cathaoirleach

●Bord na nÓg, who have organised this programme, thank the advertisers and solicit patrons' support for them. The Bord also thank those who supplied articles, and draw attention to their weekly column appearing in "The Guardian".

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Connie Grace, Secretary

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North Tipperary S.H.C. Winners

TOOMEVARA: 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1922, 1923, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1946, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962 (22).
ROSCREA: 1936, 1937, 1939, 1942, 1945, 1949, 1954, 1963, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1980. (15).
BORRIS-ILEIGH: 1947, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1981, 1983 (11).
KILRUANE: 1940, 1944, 1959, 1965, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1985, 1986, 1987 (10).
LORRHA: 1905, 1914, 1934, 1948, 1956, 1966, 1978, 1984 (7).
LAHORNA De WETS: 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1906, 1907, 1908 (7).
KILDANGAN: 1934, 1938, 1943 (3).
NENAGH: 1915, 1957, 1964 (3).
NEWPORT: 1932, 1935. (2).
YOUGHALARRA: 1909 (1).
BORRISOKANE: 1933 (1).
SILVERMINES: 1974 (1).
MONEYGALL: 1975 (1).

Paths To Final

ROSCREA

May 15th:

Roscrea 1-17, Borrisokane 2-13. Scorers: M. Scully 1-8, G. O'Connor 0-3, J. Stone 0-2, L. Carson 0-1, P. Delaney 0-1, s. Nugent 0-1 and A. Shanahan 0-1.

July 3rd (Semi-Final):

Roscrea 0-15, Shannon Roves 0-10. Scorers: M. Scully 0-6, J. Stone 0-3, J. Pyne 0-1, J. Treacy 0-1, P. Delaney 0-1, G. O'Connor 0-1.

BORRIS-ILEIGH

May 22nd:

Lorrha 2-12, Borris-Ileigh 1-6. Scorers: P. Kenny 1-2, P. Delaney 0-1, J. McGrath 0-1, R. Stakelum 0-1, B. Kenny 0-1.

June 10th:

Borris-Ileigh 3-13, Borisokane 1-13. Scorers: P. Kenny 2-4, C. Stakelum 0-4, N. O'Dwyer 0-2, J. McGrath 1-0, A. Ryan 0-1, T. Ryan 0-1, P. Delaney 0-1.

June 19th:

Borris-Ileigh 1-16, Eire Og 1-12. Scorers: N. O'Dwyer 0-8, P. Kenny 1-3, J. McGrath 0-2, C. Stakelum 0-1, A. Ryan 0-1, J. J. Maher 0-1.

July 3rd (Semi-Final)

Borris-Ileigh 2-14, Kilruane MacDonagh 3-8. Scorers: N. O'Dwyer 0-8, P. Kenny 2-0, A. Ryan 0-2, B. Kenny 0-2, P. Ryan 0-1, J. McGrath 0-1.

Wishing Both Roscrea and Borris-Ileigh
the Best of Luck in Final

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ROSCREA HURLING CLUB

The Roscrea Hurling Club was first formed in 1895 and its first Chairman was Mr Ned Maher, father of J. J. Maher. Chris Fletcher became its first Secretary. "Mr Hurling" himself, J. J. Maher, was its longest serving Secretary, taking up the post in 1927 and continuing to 1974.

Roscrea contested their first County final, senior, in 1902 against the famous De Wets, which they won, but an objection followed and Roscrea were beaten in the board room. Nineteen thirty-six saw them again reach the County final, but were beaten by Thurles Sarsfields. In the County final of 1945 they drew with Thurles Sarsfields, after a classic encounter, which was played at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh, but lost the replay, this game being played at Thurles. In further bids to gain County honours, they were defeated by Holy Cross in 1954, by Sarsfields in 1963 and in 1967 they lost to Carrick Davins.

They won their first County title in 1968 when they defeated Thurles Sarsfields and they held the title for the following two years. In the 1971 final they lost to Moyne/Templetuohy, but in 1972 they regained the Dan Breen Trophy. In 1973 they defeated Kilruane in the final. Again in 1980 they accounted for Kilruane. They drew the 1982 final but Moycarkey won the replay 2-12 to 0-11.

WINNING COUNTY FINAL CAPTAINS

1968—John Dillon, 1969—Mick Hogan, 1970—Patsy Rowland, 1972—Jackie Hannon, 1973—Francis Loughnane, 1980—Kevin Brady.

Roscrea have won 15 North Tipperary senior hurling titles. They captured the first All-Ireland Hurling Club title in 1971, defeating St Rynagh's (Offaly) in the final, played at Birr.

OIFIGÍ 1988

Pátrún: Very Rev. Canon Cuddy, Dr Denis Hanly, Joseph Spooner; **Uachtarán:** Jack Moloney; **Leas Uachtaráin,** John Joe Maher, Christy maher; **Cathaoirleach:** Seán Hctor; **Leas Cathaoirleach:** Willie O'Reilly; **Rúnaí:** Kevin Brady; **Leas Rúnaí:** Liam Carson jun.; **Cisteóir:** Bertie Fitzpatrick; **Leas Cisteóir:** Ned Treacy; **Oifigeach Caldreamh Polplí:** Claran Mac Nioclais; **Senior Hurling Selectors:** Rev. Tom Seymour, Michael Phelan, Roger Ryan.

PATH TO FINAL: Roscrea 1-17, Borrisokane 2-13; Roscrea 0-15, Shannon Rovers 0-10.

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Success on North Final Day***

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2 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Knockshe GAA Club

Knockshe GAA Club was formed in 1934 under Dan Cunningham, T. Carroll and Jack Killeen. In the first years as junior the club was successful in winning the Junior Championship. The amazing thing about the team was that 11 of those players lived within 100 yards of each other, namely four Treacys, four Carrolls, three Waters, with Donoghues, Kings and Keane, Ryan and Brereton making up the team. In all the club have won eight championships between intermediate and junior.

In 1953 Tipperary won the All-Ireland Junior Final in Birr against Offaly. It created a lot of interest in the match to see players from the one parish playing against each other, three from Shinrone played with Offaly and two from Knockshe—Tom Kennedy and Michael Fogarty played with Tipp. The most successful year in the history of the club was winning the County Junior Title in 1969 by defeating Thurles. In 1974 it was also a very successful year. We defeated Kilruane in the Junior Final, Shannon Rovers in the play-off, Clonoulty/Rossmore in County Semi-Final, but we were defeated by Holycross in the final.

We contested two junior finals since, 1976 when defeated by Borris-Ileigh and 1984 when losing to Ballina. We also won the 1972 Junior Championship against today's opponents, Toomevara. Two players from 1972 are still involved in today's game, Liam McGrath (Toome) and S. Carroll (Knockshe). To reach today's final we defeated Burgess, Ballinahinch, Moneygall, lost to Silvermines, drew with Ballina. We were drawn against Shannon Rovers in the semi-final and emerged winners by 2-10 to 2-7. This present Knockshe team is very young as the average age of the players is 22, and we can look forward to seeing some very good players from u/12, u/14 and u/16 coming along.

Toomevara GAA Club

When the Toomevara junior hurling take the field against Knockshegowna for today's League final they will carry on a tradition that has been linked with the club since founding of the GAA. Hurling has always held a special place in the hearts of Toomevara people, and as the game is flourishing presently the club is enjoying tremendous support from the people of the parish. The members of today's panel have a blend of great experience and youth. The older members such as Liam McGrath, Dinny Haverty and Martin Ryan have all won honours in the past and in fact all three were members of the team that lost to Knockshegowna in the 1972 North Junior Final. The younger members, namely Paul Delaney, Kevin Delaney, Declan O'Meara, Joe Kennedy, Kevin Kennedy and Denis Galvin have all won underage honours. It is now 30 years since Toome won the junior championship, but they have contested many finals during that period, and on many occasions lost out to the eventual county champions.

It is not secret Toomevara are favourites to take this year's championship and add to the long list of club success of the 80s. But we all know too well that it is a bad year for favourites, and the local boys will approach today's game with caution. With the club's senior team now out of contention for 1988, focus is now centred on Tommy O'Meara and his men and with all the experience gained over recent years, we hope that with a win in MacDonagh Park today we will see a new era in the parish—and eventually form the basis of a team that will win a Senior Hurling Championship for Toomevara.

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from

Tony and Marie
and All at

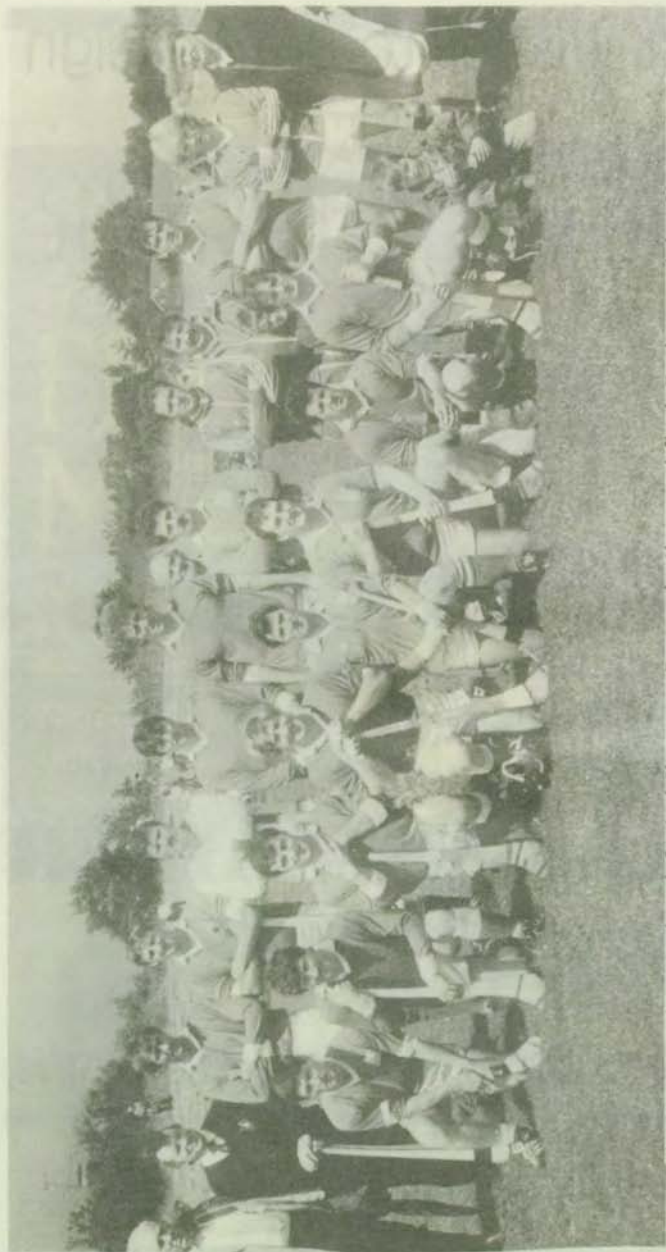
THE QUILL

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The Roscrea team who defeated Shannon Rovers in the semi-final. Back row: John Stone, Joe Treacy, Kevin Moloney, Franny Fletcher, Brendan Carey, Donie Kealy, Liam Carson, Sean McLoughney, John Pyne, John Fitzgerald. Front row: Aldan Shanahan, Joe Bergin, Ger O'Connor, Michael Scully, Tadhg O'Connor, Eamon Cunningham, Austin O'Meara, Paul Delaney

Roscrea Pen Pictures

K. MOLONEY: Played with winning under 14 County Championship team in 1976. Won under 16 championship in 1978. Won North minor in 1980. Winner of two under 21 Co. Championships as goalkeeper in 1983/84.

J. BERGIN: Played in all grades at under age level with club, both as a forward and a defender. Played in All-Ireland Vocational final with North Tipp. Has played at half back and in the forwards at senior level. Plays his best games at corner back.

T. O'CONNOR: Won minor, under 21 and senior medals with Roscrea. Represented Tipp at all grades. Carrolls and Bank of Ireland All Star. Captained Tipp to their last All Ireland in 1971.

B. CAREY: Played in all grades at under age. Played at full forward for a spell. Played minor and under 21 for his club. Was honoured this year on the Co. under 21 team at wing back. Plays football for Inane Rovers.

A. O'MEARA: Played under 21 hurling for Tipp. Has played schools league and in all grades juvenile level. Represented his club at minor, under 21, junior, intermediate level. Holds Co. Junior medal won in 1982.

D. KEALY: Outstanding juvenile in all grades. Played in goal for Roscrea Vocational School when team won All Ireland in 1980. Won Minor All Ireland at centre back in 1982. Has played Co. under 21 and senior. Plays football for Inane Rovers.

P. Delaney: Played all grades at juvenile level. Captain of minor county championship team in 1984. Won All Ireland u/21 in 1985. Present member of the Co. Tipp senior team. Holds Munster medal in 1987. Plays football for Inane Rovers.

J. PYNE: Outstanding juvenile. Has played in all grades for his club. Played County minor and 1984. Holds Co. junior medal won in 1986. Co. under 21 medal won in 1984. Holds County minor championship medal 1984. Plays football with Inane Rovers.

A. SHANAHAN: Played with winning under 14 Co. Championship team in 1976. Holds medals at all grades at juvenile level. Played all grades for his club. Holds Co. Championship medal (under 21) won in 1983 and Co. junior medal won in 1982. Plays football with Inane Rovers.

J. STONE: Has represented Tipp at minor, under 21 and senior level. Won All Irelands in minor and under 21. Holds North League medal won in 1987. That year he was captain of the Roscrea winning team.

FRANCIS FLETCHER: Played all grades with club. Has won All Ireland medals with the P. & T. Holds Co. junior medal won in 1986 and North League medal won in 1987. Can play back or forward. Plays football with Inane Rovers.

GER O'CONNOR: Has won All Ireland medals at minor and under 21 for Tipperary. Played in all grades for his club. Was captain of the Roscrea team in 1985. Holds North League medal won in 1987.

EAMONN CUNNINGHAM: Played in all grades for his club. Played with Tipp at minor and under 21 level. Holds North League Medal won in 1987 also Co. Junior medal won in 1986. Plays football with Inane Rovers.

Roscrea Pen Pictures Contd.

J. TREACY: Outstanding juvenile. Played minor for Tipperary in 1980. Holds County under 21 medal won in 1983. Played all grades for his club won North League medal in 1987. Plays football with Inane Rovers.

MICHAEL SCULLY: Played on winning Tipp team (minor) in 1982. Captain of All Ireland winning team (under 21) in 1985. Holder of two Co. under 21 titles. Played in all grades for his club and county. Played with winning U/14 county championship team in 1976. Plays football for Inane Rovers. Holds Co. Junior medal won in 1982.

K. O'CONNOR: Came on to the senior team in 1976. Has played in six county finals. Played all grades in juvenile hurling and football with his club. Has played minor and under 21 football with the County. Was wing back on the Tipp team that won the League in 1979.

TONY HOCTOR: Played Schools League and at all grades in Juvenile hurling. Co. Championship minor medal in 1984. Co. Junior medal 1986 and North League medal in 1987. Plays football for Inane Rovers.

LIAM CARSON: Played all grades at juvenile level and minor, under 21, junior, intermediate and senior for his club. Holds county minor championship medal in 1984 and under 21 county medal in 1984, county junior medal in 1986. Plays football for Inane Rovers.

SEAN MOLOUGHNEY: Very versatile juvenile. Has played all grades for his club. Has played in the backs and in the forwards.

PHILIP BERGIN: Has played in all grades for his club. Holds county junior medal won in 1982. Plays football for Inane Rovers. Holds Vocational Schools medal won in 1978.

COLM PHELAN: Played in all grades for his club. Still a minor. Was sub goalkeeper on Tipp minor football team 1988.

B. JONES: Played in all grades at under age. Still a minor. Plays football for Inane Rovers.

Fairbrothers' Inn ROSCREA

North Tipp Headquarters
Up Ros Every Time

Borris-Ileigh GAA Club '88

Officers: Chairman—Tom Tierney; Secretary—T. F. Stapleton; Treasurer—Pat Stapleton.

BORRIS HISTORY

Borris-Ileigh celebrated the Centenary of the club's foundation two years ago with the launching of its history—"A Century of GAA in Borris-Ileigh.

To highlight this milestone in the club's lifetime the senior hurlers brought the highest honours in the county back to Borris by winning the All-Ireland Club final on St Patrick's Day, 1987.

Many felt this to be appropriate reward for the many great games and players that the club provided down the years. Indeed it was an occasion when the trainloads of supporters from all over Tipperary followed the team that day to Croke Park and paid tribute not merely to the team on the day but in fact to Borris for its contribution to Tipperary hurling down the years.

In its early days Borris had success at football, but it soon became apparent that more favour was given to the smaller ball; and as the years progressed Borris became firmly established as one of the foremost strongholds of Tipperary hurling.

Because of its geographical location, and indeed because of internal splits and petty rivalries, Borris had a foot in both the Mid and North Divisions at various stages. This dilemma proved an extremely difficult obstacle to overcome within the parish and many and various attempts were unsuccessfully made to bring the club together. It was felt by many that especially during the 30s and 40s that if the parish had been "united" some extremely good teams would have left Borris.

However it was on 21st January, 1948, under the guidance of the late Rev. J. C. Ryan (then a curate in Borris-Ileigh) that the "split" was finally healed. This marked an occasion of greatly appreciated achievement, and the Borrisoleigh Band played through the streets the following evening to celebrate the unity and goodwill that had been generated.

It was proudly proclaimed that the new club would henceforth be known as Borris-Ileigh (i.e. Borris and Ileigh united). The team as per agreement played in the North championship in 1948, and the '49 championship in the Mid, to return permanently to the North in 1950. Thus began what has been often referred to as the

golden era of Borris hurling. County titles in '49 and '50 not alone brought Borris hurling into the limelight, but they heralded the great Tipperary resurgence of that period. Borris again won in 1953, but all good things come to an end, and the club had to wait twenty-eight agonising years before the County title rested in the parish once more in 1981. The 70s, though unkind to Borris in terms of County honours, provided the followers of North Tipperary hurling with some memorable games. Borris won North finals in '72, '73, '76, and of course more recently in '81 and '83. The great rivalries between Kilruane and Borris were features of many games of this decade.

Admired and endorsed by their followers, respected and feared by their rivals, but above all appreciated by all of North Tipperary for the skill, flambuoyance, colour and sportsmanship that they bring to the game—their presence in today's North final will recall for many great days now gone.



PURE, FRESH AND FIRST.

BEST WISHES TO BORRIS-ILEIGH from M. & J. GLEESON,
BORRISOLEIGH

Paddy Doyle

During the '70s and early '80s Borris had some great teams. Occasionally the produced hurling of the highest order. Then they could "flop" and bely the confidence they had generated in their followers. During this time various trainers had sought to correct this failing or inconsistency. It was not until Paddy Doyle was persuaded to undertake this task, that any appreciable level of consistency became apparent.

The records speak for themselves. He transformed Borris from the humiliation of a 14 points drubbing by Kilruane in '86 to All-Ireland Club champions. No other trainer could have done this with a Borris fifteen.

A player of great distinction, class and fitness in his day, Paddy gave many years unstinting service to Thurles Sarsfields. His many displays in the Sarsfields halfback line will be recalled with admiration by many. To have been part of the great hurling experience that was Sarsfields of those days equipped him with an in-depth knowledge of hurling's finer points.

Paddy brings this knowledge to bear on those fortunate enough to be favoured with his guidance. He can motivate and "fine hone" individual players and then blend these individuals into a delicately balanced and smooth running outfit. He has the uncanny ability to read the weaknesses in oppositions and to exploit these to optimum effect. Above all he embodies fair play; skill, and sportsmanship of the highest order in his team. He also brings with him that vital though little recognised element of hurling — "luck". Without this final factor no team will achieve what it might.

STAPLETON'S BAR

BORRISOLEIGH

BEST WISHES TO OUR HURLERS AND BRING HOME
THE McGRATH CUP

Borris-Ileigh Pen Pictures

NOEL MAHER: Age 36. Played many years as wing back; also in all positions of the forward line.

SEAMUS DEVANEY: Age 21. Played centre back in under 21 team that won County final in 1987. Son of Liam Devanney. Has also played in attack.

TIMMY STAPLETON: Began his senior career at wing forward. Powerful defender, sure and strong in front of goals.

MICK RYAN: Established corner back. Renowned for his tenacious and dependable performances.

RICHARD STAKELUM: Also plays effectively at centre field. Excels on the high balls and has long raking clearances.

GERRY STAPLETON: Outstanding ballplayer who can lift his game with the quality of the opposition.

BOBBY RYAN: Natural left wing back. Playing at his best presently and considered by many to be unbeatable on his day.

TIMMY RYAN: Age 38. One of the longest serving club hurlers in the county. Renowned for his overhead hurling. Has served Borris for over twenty years as a senior hurler.

AIDAN RYAN: Most tireless worker in present day hurling. Ferocious tackler and skilful scoretaker. Never seems to tire.

JOHN MCGRATH: Very strong and fast. Can take scores and create openings in a defence. Very high work rate.

CONOR STAKELUM: Age 21. Very promising hurler. Has a great swerve and can take scores from far out. Very fast and can also open up a backline very effectively.

BRIAN KENNY: Has also played in defence. He is becoming an established member of the senior team.

PHILIP KENNY: Arguably the most effective member of the forward line. Great ability to run through a defence and finish his scores.

NOEL O'DWYER: Age 39. Veteran of many games with Borris. Contributed greatly to the 1986 campaign with the accuracy of his free taking.

PHILIP DELANEY: Age 20. His first North senior final. Promising young player.

PAT (FLOWERY) RYAN: Former minor star. Does not have the same opportunity to play hurling because he is out of the country for some years.

JOE LOUGHNANE: Former Tipp minor.

JOHN JOE MAHER: Very promising young hurler.

BARRY RYAN: Under 21 who won County final last year.

FRANCIS DOOLIN: Under 21 who won County final last year.

WISHING BORRIS-ILEIGH THE BEST OF LUCK IN NORTH FINAL
from

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The Borris-Ileigh team who defeated Kilruane MacDonagh in the semi-final. Back row: John McGrath, Aidan Ryan, Noel O'Dwyer, Timmy Stapleton, Seamus Devaney, Timmy Ryan, Brian Kenny, Bobby Ryan. Front row: Noel Maher, Michael Ryan, Conor Stakelum, Gerry Stapleton, Richard Stakelum, Philip Delaney, Philip Kenny

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ON FINAL DAY**

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BEST OF LUCK TO ROSCREA

KNOCKSHEGOWNA

(1) L. Mounsey

(2) J. Rafferty

(3) L. Brennan

(4) J. Mooney

(5) H. Reid

(6) E. Cleary

(7) B. Bond

(8) J. Fogarty

(9) G. Brennan

(10) E. Conroy

(11) P. Ryan

(12) P. Murphy

(13) J. Murphy

(14) A. Fogarty

(15) B. Kennedy

Fir Ionaid: J. Cleary (16); S. Carroll (17); T. Madden (18); D. Costello (19); M. Murphy (20); J. Noonan (21); A. Carroll (22); D. Enright (23).

TOOMEVARA

(1) Jody Grace

(2) John Ryan

(3) Denis Haverty

(4) Paul Delaney

(5) Kevin Delaney

(6) Seamus O'Meara

(7) Tommy O'Meara

(8) Martin Whelan

(9) Noel Cahill

(10) Kevin Kennedy

(11) Liam McGrath

(12) Joe Kennedy

(13) George Haverty

(14) Mick McCormack

(15) Denis Galvin

Fir Ionaid: Johnny Galvin (16); Declan O'Meara (17); Martin Ryan (18); Seamus Flaherty (19); Seamus Brislane (20); Seamus Hayes (21).

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BORRIS-ILEIGH

(1)
Noel Maher

(2)
Seamus Devaney

(3)
Timmy Stapleton

(4)
Michael Ryan

(5)
Richard Stakelum

(6)
Gerry Stapleton

(7)
Bobby Ryan

(8)
Aidan Ryan

(9)
Timmy Ryan

(10)
Brian Kenny

(11)
Conor Stakelum

(12)
John McGrath

(13)
Philip Delaney

(14)
Noel O'Dwyer

(15)
Philip Kenny

Fir Ionad: Joseph Maher (16); Pat Ryan (17); John McGrath (18); Tom Stapleton (19); Michael Stapleton (20); Barry Ryan (21); Joe Loughnane (22); Francis Doolin (23); Christy Reid (24).



Aidan Ryan



Bobby Ryan



Paul Deane

ROSCREA

(1)

Kevin Moloney

(2)

Brendan Carey

(3)

Tadhg O'Connor

(4)

Joe Bergin

(5)

Austin O'Meara

(6)

Donal Kealy

(7)

Paul Delaney

(8)

John Pyne

(9)

Aidan Shanahan

(10)

Ger O'Connor

(11)

Francis Fletcher

(12)

John Stone

(13)

Liam Carson

(14)

Joe Treacy

(15)

Michael Scully

Fir Ionad: Colm Phelan (16); Tony Hctor (17); Kevin O'Connor (18); Eamon Cunningham (19); Liam Spooner (20); Owen Maher (21); Philip Bergin (22); John Fitzgerald (23); Brian Jones (24); Sean McLoughney (25); Stephen Nugent (26).



aney



Conor Stakelum



Richard Stakelum

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NORTH FINAL SNIPPETS

(Compiled by Declan Kelly)

The last time these two sides met in a North senior hurling final was as far back as 1981. On that occasion, Borris-Ileagh came out on top, defeating the men in red by two points. The half time score was: Roscrea 1-4, Borris-Ileagh 1-3; but at the final whistle the tables had turned and the scoreline read: Borris-Ileagh 1-8, Roscrea 1-6. The teams on that day were as follows.:

Roscrea: Joe Roland, Kevin Brady, Brendan Maher, Jody Spooner, Kevin O'Connor, Tadhg O'Connor, Joe Bergin, Liam Spooner, Joe Hogan, Ger O'Connor, Peadar Queally, John Stone, Joe Tynan, Roger Ryan, Francis Loughnane.

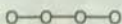
Borris-Ileagh: O. Walshe, M. Ryan, T. F. Stapleton, Timmy Stapleton, T. Delaney, Gerry Stapleton, E. Spillane, Pat Ryan, Tim Ryan, B. Kenny, Noel O'Dwyer, Bobby Ryan, M. Cowan, T. O'Dwyer, P. Kavanagh.

Isn't it interesting to note that a number of those same players will grace the field again this afternoon, seven years later?

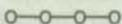


The first time Borris-Ileagh won the North senior title was in 1947, when they defeated Kilruane. Since then they have won it on no less than eleven occasions, their last success being 1983. Borris won three North titles in the 1970s. In 1972, they beat Lorrha 2-9 to 0-4. In 1973, Kilruane were the victims to the tune of 3-6 to 2-8. Nineteen seventy-six was the team's final North title of the decade when, they defeated Lorrha, 4-11 to 3-5.

Roscrea's first North title success was in 1936, and they have won it on fourteen occasions in all, including the controversial 1982 decider against Eire Og which was never completed. Roscrea also won the North title five times in a row from 1967 to 1971, beating Borris-Ileagh in two of those finals (1968 and 1971).



As everybody knows only too well, Tipperary's last All-Ireland success was in 1971. Only two members of that team are still playing senior hurling at present, Tadhg O'Connor and Noel O'Dwyer. Seventeen years ago, O'Connor played at left wing back and O'Dwyer operated at centre half forward, scoring Tipp's first goal of the game in the 19th minute. Ironically, this afternoon, these two outstanding hurlers will probably be marking one another, and the memories of '71 will, no doubt, come flowing back to both of them.



In many respects, today's final is very much a family affair. Roscrea have Tadhg and Ger O'Connor in their line-up, but that's nothing when you look at Borris-Ileagh, with Aidan and Bobby Ryan, Gerry and Timmy Stapleton, and Philip and Brian Kenny.

Great North Finals (1954)

Roscrea 3-4, Borris-Ileigh 0-11

Meeting famed Borris-Ileigh in the North Tipperary championship final for the Murphy Cup and the right to meet Killenaule, the Mid divisional champions in a tussle for the honour of competing against Holycross in the County final, Roscrea put up a performance that reminded many veteran supporters and hurlers of halcyon days in Roscrea when the local team were top of the wave in the hurling world of Tipperary.

Not for years did North Tipperary followers see a game to even touch it for thrills, excitement and revelry in the clash of ash and flying ball; but while this is applicable to the game as a whole, it appeals with even more force to the second half, when with both teams abandoning all thought other than that of coming out victorious, spectators were kept at a pitch of excitement as tense as ever experienced at the most exciting Munster final. The brilliant goalkeeping of Roscrea's Michael Butler was one of the real highlights of the game. Not even the county men who were shooting for goals for Borris-Ileigh succeeded in beating him.

THE GAME

Borris-Ileigh, playing into the wind in the first half, opened the scoring with a clever point by Paddy Kenny, and continued to dominate the exchanges in all departments up to the 16th minute. Then Roscrea made a positional change, switching ace forward Martin Loughnane to the corner and Billy Brussels to the mark. Loughnane opened up the game and the champions' four point lead was reduced to half by two spectacular points by Rody Ryan. In the 20th minute Roscrea flashed into the lead when Loughnane gathered a pass and beat three men to send a sizzler past Delaney for a great goal. Keeping up the pressure Roscrea had hard luck when Brussels receiving from G. Butler first timed a mighty drive, which took the paint off the wrong side of the posts. Borris-Ileigh swept downfield and Hammond scored a point and Paddy Kenny soon had Borris-Ileigh's sixth point.

Mick Butler's goal puck travelled to Rody Ryan and the latter's shot was saved cleverly by Delaney whose clearance went to Brussels, who was fouled. From the resulting free Loughnane crashed a great ball past a forest of Borris-Ileigh hurleys to chalk up Roscrea's second goal.

SECOND HALF

At the interval Roscrea's two point lead seemed far from sufficient as they now faced the wind and sun when play was resumed. Rody Ryan was taken to the halfback line to mark W. Devaney. Joseph Maher took over at corner forward, while Gerry Butler moved to the wing. Borris-Ileigh raced into the attack, but were repulsed by Dinny Ryan, Kineally and Whelan. The Roscrea halfback line of Bergein, Rowland and Ryan, with centrefield of Dyer and Carson, launched a series of attacks. Gerry Butler sent high between the posts and then the every elusive Kenny sent over Borris' seventh point. Borris again added two more points, scored by Devaney. Loughnane drew Prior, and slipped a perfect pass to Joseph Maher. Maher's dummy brought Delaney to the wrong post and then a neat flick was heralded by a might roar as green flag was raised for Roscrea. Borris rallied and Kenny had a point from a free followed with another from play. Butler saved point

blank from Kenny, but retired injured. His brother now took over between the posts with E. Maher coming on at wing forward.

With three minutes to go, Borris-Ileigh strove with all their might to break through Roscrea's cast iron defence and Rowland's positional sense was a vital factor in stemming this last terrific onslaught. The danger gradually lessened, then vanished, and Roscrea raced to their eight North Tipperary title.

THE STARS

Outstanding for Roscrea were M. Butler (goal), T. Bergin and Rowland (halfbacks), Dyer and Carson (centrefield). Loughnane played an inspired game, while the rest of the forwards stepped up considerably on previous displays. The crash tackling and the first time pulling of D. Ryan, Kenneally and Whelan forced Borris-Ileigh to make a number of vital misses.

Borris-Ileigh's outstanding players were Jimmy Finn who played the game of his life; the two Ryans at centrefield; ace forward Paddy Kenny together with Devaney pulled every trick out of the bag to avert defeat.

Roscrea: M. Butler, E. Whelan, D. Kenneally, D. Ryan, T. Bergin, F. Rowland, J. Maher, F. Dyer, L. Carson, H. Gorman, D. Ryan, R. Ryan, W. Brussels, M. Loughnane, G. Butler. Sub.: Maher for Butler.

Borris-Ileigh: W. Delaney, J. Prior, W. Stapleton, P. Kenny, J. Callanan, J. Finn, T. Ryan, P. Ryan, T. Ryan, W. Devaney, E. Ryan, P. Hammond, P. Kenny, J. Quinn, P. Maher.

Ref.; Hubie Hogan (Lorrha)

(By C. MCN.

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Last North Final Meeting (1981)

Borris-Ileigh 1-8, Roscrea 1-6

(By Jimmy Conroy)

Borris-Ileigh and Roscrea last clashed in the North final on September 27th, 1981, at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh. Whilst the standard of hurling never reached great heights, nevertheless it turned out to be a close, hard fought encounter, and the closeness of the scoring kept interest alive all through.

The turning point of the game came midway through the second half when the Borris goalie Owen Walsh came off his line to clear. As he was challenged he fell to the ground along with Francis Loughnane and T. F. Stapleton. Loughnane regained his composure quickly and flicked the ball to the net. However referee Donie Nealon disallowed the score and awarded a free out to Borris-Ileigh. The incident proved decisive as it seemed to inspire the Borris men and in the end they held out for a narrow win.

A difficult and fitful breeze affected the players efforts and it helped Roscrea in the first half, but they failed to take advantage of it. A 14th minute goal by Michael Coen put Borris ahead by 1-2 to 0-3, but two minutes later Roscrea regained the lead. Ger O'Connor sent in a shot which appeared to be going wide but Roger Ryan turned the sliotar back into play. Owen Walsh came racing out but lost possession and Jackie Shanahan was on hand to knock the loose ball into the net. An exchange of points between Joe Tynan and Noel O'Dwyer left the half time score, Roscrea 1-4, Borris-Ileigh 1-3.

When Roscrea took the field for the second half, they had Ger O'Connor at midfield, and immediately went on the offensive, forcing Owen Walsh to make two timely saves. Gerry Stapleton lofted a 75 yards free over the bar for the equaliser, but a Francis Loughnane point shortly afterwards edged Roscrea in front. At this stage both sides had chances of gaining the initiative, but after the disallowing of the Francis Loughnane score Borris appeared to take heart from let off and went on to record a narrow victory.

Scorers: Borris-Ileigh — M. Coen 1-1, N. O'Dwyer 0-4, P. Ryan 0-2, G. Stapleton 0-1. Roscrea — F. Loughnane 0-3, J. Shanahan 1-0, P. Queally 0-2, J. Tynan 0-1.

Borris-Ileigh: O. Walsh, M. Coen, T. F. Stapleton, Timmy Stapleton (capt.), T. Delaney, G. Stapleton, F. Spillane, P. Ryan, T. Ryan, B. Kenny, B. Ryan, N. O'Dwyer, M. Coen, T. O'Dwyer, P. Kavanagh. Sub.: P. Kenny for T. Ryan.

Roscrea: J. Rowland, E. Hogan, B. Maher, J. Spooner, K. O'Connor, T. O'Connor, J. Bergin, L. Spooner, R. Dunne, G. O'Connor, J. Shanahan, P. Queally, J. Tynan, R. Ryan (capt.), F. Loughnane. Subs.: K. Brady for Hogan, J. Stone for Bergin.

Ref.: D. Nealon (Burgess).

LEN GAYNOR'S VIEW

Today's pairing of Roscrea and Borris-Ileigh gives us the chance to see two great famed clubs in action. Those whose memories go back far enough will recall great clashes between these sides. Names that leap to the mind are numerous. For Roscrea there were men like Martin Loughnane, Fanny Roland, Liam Carson, Kieran Carey and Francis Loughnane. Borris-Ileigh had men like the Kenny brothers, Philly Ryan, Jimmy Finn and Liam Devaney. They filled our youth with awe and inspiration.

Today's teams are not lacking in stars either. Paul Delaney, Donal Kealy, Micéal Scully and the O'Connor brothers give Roscrea the experienced luck. While Borris-Ileigh can call on Noel O'Dwyer, Bobby Ryan, Richard Stakelum and Aidan Ryan to give a lead. Special mention must be made of Tadhg O'Connor and Noel O'Dwyer. Both men have given tremendous service to club and county and still retain the urge for success.

Borris-Ileigh are hotly fancied to win today, but who can dare go against Roscrea's flair for the big occasion?

As we anticipate the crack of ash and the thud of shoulders, let us wish each team the best of luck and hope that today's North Final will inspire the young for many a year.

Physical Training

Do some of us overdo it?

Train don't strain is a cliché well worth remembering for those of us who believe in reaching top physical condition for hurling, or indeed for any sport. Some of us are so highly motivated that we train too much and don't take enough rest.

Several experts in this field have pointed this out in lectures given to large audiences and they have delivered theories, tried and tested, to back up their arguments.

It is a recognised fact that many athletes have made the mistake of overtraining and don't discover this fact until the actual game or event, for which all the training is for. The athlete then experiences the resultant fatigue from overtraining and will find himself stale, weak and labouring. If at this point we are lucky and recognise that the bad performance was not the result of not enough training but of overdoing it, and spend a few days resting, everything will come right in a short time.

The mistake, of course is that many athletes will train away in the days after the poor performance and make the body even more tired. You cannot train harder and harder in the belief that you will improve fitness. Train don't strain should be every athlete's motto.

Kilruane's Glory Years

When Kilruane lined out against Borris-Ileigh in the senior hurling championship on 3rd July 1988 in MacDonagh Park, Nenagh, it was the club's sixteenth successive appearance at this stage of the championship. From 1973 to 1988, without a break, they reached the semi-final stages.

On two occasions they won the North Tipp final in three successive years, i.e. 1977, 1978, 1979, and again 1985, 1986 and 1987. Being County champions in 1978 and 1979, Kilruane's Paddy Williams (Bowler) had the honour of leading Tipperary to victory in the 1979 NHL final against Galway.

Added to these achievements they won County honours in '77, '78, '79 and '85, with a County football final in 1975. In that same year they almost won the coveted double as they were beaten in the replay of the SHC by Moneygall. There were also many notable successes in other grades from 1970 to 1987, including four under 21 County hurling titles from 1973 to 1976, under 21 football in 1978, junior hurling in 1975, '78 and '85, and a junior championship in hurling in 1985, and All-Ireland 7-a-side champions in 1984. Only three Tipperary clubs have won All-Ireland honours in hurling—Roscrea, Borris-Ileigh and Kilruane. This honour Kilruane won in 1985-86. This great win, I think, gave confidence back to Tipperary hurling. What a small club could do, surely the county could—thus our great county team at the present time. Congratulations also to Borris-Ileigh for repeating the dose in 1986-87.

There are many clubs in Tipperary who envy Kilruane's many successes. How can a small parish of less than 1,800 produce such great teams? In Cloughjordan parish hurling is our second religion. There is a love of hurling in the parish—men, women and children attend the matches, they know all the players and look up to them in many ways. Perhaps we were lucky for the past fifteen years, by that I mean that a number of talented players just appeared all together.

Above and beyond all this we have in the parish Len Gaynor, a noted Tipperary and Munster hurler of the recent past. Len lives for hurling and all it entails. He has no time for a player who will not give 100% in every match. To be successful in the game you must be a dedicated person—dedicated to training, you must avoid excessive drinking, and as Len himself says "you must mind yourself".

Len leads by example. At training sessions he is first in the field, fully toggled out. His talks and chats with players cover more than hurling and training. He is the players' friend and adviser in the ways of the world.

Kilruane MacDonagh GAA Club owes a lot to another man, perhaps now nearly forgotten—Tom Kirby. However Tom is with us still and we never forget all the time and energy he expended on club affairs in the county at local level.

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Francis Loughnane —A Hurling Legend



Mention Roscrea hurling over the past twenty years, and two names spring to everyone's mind—Tadhg O'Connor and Francis Loughnane. Tadhg, Tipperary All-Ireland captain in 1971, is still hurling with great skill and dash though he will be 40 in October. Many still think him good enough for the county. Sadly the silken skills of Francis Loughnane are no longer to be seen on the field. More's the pity.

Francis' scoring feats made him a legend, a constant thorn in opposing defences. He started off with the schools leagues of the late 1950s, and came onto the county minor as capt. in 1963. He led Tipp to victory over a Cork side which included Justin McCarthy, Charlie McCarthy, and Gerald McCarthy, on a 6-6 to 3-9 scoreline, of which he contributed 2-3. He also scored 2-3 in the final against Limerick which Tipperary lost 4-11 to 5-4. He made his senior championship debut for Roscrea the same year, at Borrisokane, and scored a point in Roscrea's 3-12 to 1-7 win over Toomevara in the North final.

Nineteen sixty-four saw him lead Tipperary to victory in the first All-Ireland under 21. In 1967 he was captain of Roscrea seniors, leading them to victory over Moneygall in the North final. He played a major role in Roscrea's drive to County success for the first time in 1968. Nine points against Borris-Ileigh in the North final was followed by eight against Sarsfields in the county final as Roscrea won 2-13 to 3-4. He was a sub on the Tipperary team which played Wexford in 1968 All-Ireland, coming on in the last few minutes; 1969 saw him score no less than 6-52 in eight championship outings with Roscrea, with 1-5 coming in the county final against Carrick Swans.

He won his first Oireachtas medal in 1970 when Tipperary beat Cork, and he picked up his third County medal as Roscrea beat Sarsfields 3-11 to 2-12. In 1982 he won his All-Ireland SHC against Kilkenny in 1971. Allstar awards came in 1971, '72 and '73. He won his first Railway Cup medal in 1976. His experience proved invaluable as Tipp won their League title in 1979, scoring 1-4. His last game with the county was on March 16, 1979. It was a strange, and maybe a costly decision to let him depart. His scoring in 1980 was still excellent at 35.

In 1981 he scored 1-5 against Lorrha, 1-6 against 'Mines, 1-10 v Moneygall, 1-4 v Lorrha in the semi-final, and 0-3 in North final loss to Borris-Ileigh. In 1982 he retired for two seasons and Roscrea didn't win a single game in '83 and '84. He returned in April 1985 and hit 1-2 as Roscrea beat Toomevara 1-14 to 0-8. He followed this with 2-3 in the defeat of Eire Og and a goal in the loss to Borris-Ileigh. He hit 1-1 in the drawn semi-final against Lorrha, and a goal in the losing North final. His swan song was the county final against Kilruane. At 40 he called it a day.

Francis Loughnane was one of the most skilful players to grace the hurling scene. It was a privilege to have seen him in action at his best.

L. Doran

1971 NORTH FINAL

Roscrea 3-8, Borris-Ileigh 3-5

When Roscrea and Borris met in the 1971 North final at Nenagh on October 3, Roscrea were at height of their supremacy. Champions since 1967, Roscrea had their eyes on the record of seven North titles which was set by Toomevara from 1925 to 1931. *"Loughnane Wrecks Borris Hopes"* ran *"The Guardian"* of October 9. "Loughnane was more than anything the rock that Borris-Ileigh perished on. His personal tally for the hour was 2-7, just a point short of the entire Borris total . . . but for Loughnane's peerless performance Roscrea might well have been bereft of the title".

At the other end of the field, a great save by Tadhg Murphy denied Borris at least a draw. But the 4,000 crowd must have gone home happy, having seen the match of the year.

Roscrea took an early lead with points from Francis Loughnane and Liam Spooner, but Borris were level after 14 minutes thanks to a Matt Stapleton free and a lovely score by Liam Devaney. Loughnane brought Roscrea ahead again with a point but Liam Carroll equalised. Noel Maher goaled for Roscrea in the 22nd minute. Francis Loughnane failed with a free, then Noel Maher pointed a free for Borris to increase the lead. Noel O'Dwyer tried hard for a goal but his shot was tipped over for a point. Roscrea tried hard and were rewarded when Loughnane set up Joe Cunningham for a goal to leave the half time tally at 1-5 to 1-3 in Borris' favour.

Roscrea started the second half on the attack and were rewarded with a Loughnane point. It was all Roscrea in the opening minutes, and a long ball from Tadhg O'Connor found Joe Tynan, who set up Francis Loughnane for a goal to put Roscrea ahead 2-4 to 1-5. Loughnane added on three more points, and after failing with a free, he had another point to stretch the lead. Back came Borris and a 21 yard free was sent to the net by Noel O'Dwyer. Ten minutes left, and the game was thrown open as Tommy O'Dwyer sent home Borris' third goal. Could Roscrea recover? With three minutes remaining Joe Cunningham's shot was blocked down, but Loughnane was there to avail of the chance and shot home the vital goal.

Roscrea: Tadhg Murphy, Michael Hogan, Kieran Carey, Brendan Maher, Patsy Rowland, Tadhg O'Connor, Jimmy Crampton, Donie Moloney, Michael Minogue, Francis Loughnane, Jody Spooner, Liam Spooner, Joe Tynan, Liam Brussels, Joe Cunningham. Sub.: Michael Nolan for L. Spooner, Jack Hannon for Nolan.

Borris-Ileigh: Owen Walsh, Pat Maher, T. F. Stapleton, Eddie Loughnane, Pat Fanning, Matt Stapleton, Francis Spillane, Michael Stapleton, Tim Delaney, Noel Maher, Noel O'Dwyer, Liam Carroll, Liam Devaney, Tommy O'Dwyer, P. J. Burke. Subs.: Tim Ryan, John Loughnane.

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JIMMY FINN

(By Billy Ryan)

JIMMY FINN, BORRIS-ILEIGH. Roll of Honour:

Member of Team of the Century 1984 at right half back.

Holder of 3 All-Ireland Medals.

Holder of 5 Railway Cup Medals and Member of Rest of Ireland Team.

Holder of 5 National League Medals.

Holder of 1 Minor All-Ireland.

Holder of 3 County Senior Hurling Medals.

Holder of 1 Mid Medal.

Holder of 4 North Medals.

Captain of Tipperary team to win All-Ireland in 1951.

Jimmy Finn began senior club hurling at the tender age of 16 in 1948 against Lorrha in the famous Reddan Final. The following year he lined out with Tipp minor and also in 1950 when Tipperary defeated Kilkenny in the All-Ireland. His first senior inter-county game was against Kilkenny in the 1949/50 League. His first Championship game was in the 1950 All-Ireland against Kilkenny. He made history in 1951 when he became the youngest ever captain to receive the McCarthy Cup after Tipp defeated Wexford. More success came his way when he won a County medal in 1953. His next All-Ireland came in 1958 when Tipp defeated Galway. Finn was part of the famous halfback trio of Finn, Wall and Doyle. His career came to an abrupt end when he received an eye injury against Roscrea in Nenagh in the North semi-final of 1959.

LIAM DEVANEY

ROLL OF HONOUR:

Holder of 5 All-Ireland Medals

Holder of 8 National Hurling League Medals

Holder of 8 Munster Hurling League Medals

Holder of 5 Oireachtas Medals

Holder of 3 Railway Cup Medals.

Holder of 1 County Medal

Holder of 4 North Medals

Winner of Caltex Award for Hurler of the Year in 1961

Speaking to Liam Devaney after a Borris-Ileigh training stint on Thursday evening last, Liam spoke about the tradition of Roscrea/Borris-Ileigh finals. Many questions would be answered after Roscrea's disappointing semi-final victory over Shannon Rovers. Liam played in fourteen positions for the Tipperary team and his county career spanned from 1955-68; while lining out in the maroon jersey from the age of 18 in 1952 until he retired in 1973. His most noted year was 1961 when he was switched from centre-forward to the number six position against Dublin.

(Billy Ryan is Vice-Chairman of North Tipperary Board; Borris-Ileigh's Representative on the County Board, and former Chairman of the Club. He is a company representative with M. & J. Gleeson, Borrisoleigh and also Tipperary Spring Water).

THE REFEREES

Michael Cahill is the senior referee. Aged 35, he is a member of the Kilruane club and a carpenter by trade.

He is the holder of Under 21 North and County medals (both 1973). He also won Intermediate North and County medals in 1978, and two Junior North and County in 1985. He has Senior medals for North and County for 1979 when he was sub goalie.

He has been refereeing since 1974. His finals to date include the North Junior Final in 1975; Under 21 North Final in 1979; Under 21 North Final in 1981; North Junior Final in 1986; SHL Final between Lorrha and Shannon Rovers in 1981, and a number of Juvenile matches in 1988 including the Under 14 Urban/Rural Final.

Martin Darcy is the junior referee. He is a Garda an a member of Borrisokane club. This is the first final of his career, but he has refereed a number of Juvenile finals since 1986.

He was won Intermediate North medal in 1973 and an Intermediate North Football Medal in 1981.

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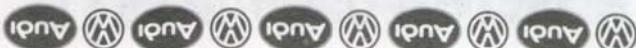
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NOEL O'DWYER



TADGH O'CONNOR