

North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
1989

COISTE TIOBRAID
ARANN THUAIDH

At MacDonagh Park,
Nenagh



**Sunday, August 20th
1989**

Senior Hurling

Final

Lorrha

v

Toomevara

3.00 p.m.

Reiteoir: J. MacDonnell

Minor Hurling Final

Eire Óg v Roscrea

1.30 p.m.

Reiteoir: Ml. Lenihan

Clar Oifigiuil

Luach 50p

P. Ó Meachair (Rúnaí)

FÁILTE

Tá fáilte romhaibh go dtí Croabh Cluichí Tiobrad Árann Thuaidh. Tá súil agam go mbeidh sár cluichi againn innui agus go mbainfidhsibh taithneamh atas.

As chairman of the Board it is my pleasure once again to welcome you to our senior and minor finals. Today's senior final brings together two clubs steeped in the tradition of the game. Toomevara with 22 North titles and 11 county titles, have one of the proudest records in Tipperary hurling, but its all of 27 years since they last held the Frank McGrath Cup. Lorrha have spread their seven North titles more evenly over the decades, first winning in 1905 and most recently in 1984. Toomevara probably enter the game as slight favourites after their impressive win over Borrisoleigh in the semi-final but one would be very foolish to write off Lorrha particularly after their Lazarus like feat in overcoming Eire Og in the other semi-final.

At the end of the day I hope we can all say we witnessed only what is good in the game and that players and mentors act responsibly on the day and put us all in good fettle for the All-Ireland final in two weeks time.

The curtain-raiser promises a lively opening to our proceedings. When Roscrea and Eire Og met in the first round of the championship only a point separated the sides in a thrilling game. A repeat of the commitment, skill and endeavour shown on that occasion will suffice today.

On occasions such as today it is appropriate that I pay tribute to the many people who help to keep our games alive and well, club committees both juvenile and senior, park committees, gate checkers, referees, umpires, linesmen and so on. In particular I would like to pay tribute to board officials Paddy Maher and Seamus Hogan for their help and co-operation over the past twelve months.

Finally, I would like to compliment Bord na nOg on producing another excellent programme and I would urge patrons to purchase one, because not only will you have an enjoyable read, but you will also be contributing some much needed revenue to the Bord na nOg account.

Seán Ó Tiarnaí,
Cathaoirleach.

BEST WISHES TO TOOMEVARA
from

Eamonn & Teresa
Ryan

MacDonagh St., Nenagh

(and also from Oliver and Frank Ryan, Toomevara)

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Best wishes to all teams in the North Final from Gerry, Mike and Mike

Information on Finance

(1) Players Injury Scheme: In 1988 the total of the premiums paid by clubs in North Tipperary amounted to £5,875. In the same period the total paid out on injured players under the players injury scheme amounted to £9,101.

(2) In 1988 GAA clubs within the division raised £1,382.92 all of which went to charitable organisations.

(3) All ticket matches 1988 — total cost to Board was £51,787 — all of which is recouped from the clubs of North Tipperary.

(4) Public Liability Insurance amounts to £4,000 on clubs.

(5) Clubs benefitted to the tune of £4,200 in 1988 under Club Development Scheme.

(6) In 1988 Clubs received under Share of Gates Scheme plus Grants to semi-finalists and finalists, a total of £10,800.

(7) Park Committees and Clubs received a total of £6,353.68 under our Rent of Field Scheme during the year. Rent of Field is determined at £15 per single game, £20 for two games and £12½% of Gate where gate exceeds £120.

(8) Other major expense items are medals and trophies which cost £5,550 and Sliotars/Hurleys/Footballs £2,128.

(9) Finally North Tipperary GAA Board depends on its Gate receipts almost entirely for its income which in 1988 amounted to £39,394. In 1987 it amounted to £39,951. In reality it is the clubs' who will benefit or suffer from Gate receipt fluctuations.

*Hurrah! For Toomevara
Greyhounds*

**BEST WISHES TO THE TOOME'
LADS**

from

John and Lily
in
**The Greyhound
Bar**
Toomevara

*All Are Welcome Here —
Where The Atmosphere Is
Alive With Music and
Laughter.*

ACTION FOR YOUTH IN TIPPERARY

The G.A.A. prides itself in being one of the largest youth organisations in Ireland with a total youth involvement of almost 200,000. Such membership places a great onus on GAA officials at all levels to ensure that a positive programme of activities is provided and so guarantee a bright future. As youth is our greatest asset, it follows therefore that they are also our greatest responsibility — a responsibility that must be shared by county, division, club and school authorities.

GAMES: The youth of Tipperary are fortunate that a wide range of activities has and is being provided to promote hurling and football in the county. Bord na nOg at division and county level organises annually a programme of games on a graded basis to cater for all ages. Promotion of under 14 and 16 divisional and county teams has in recent years added a new dimension to Bord na nOg activities and serves as a valuable grounding for future wearers of the blue and old. The recent Camp Rockwell involving the top 80 under 16 hurlers in the county is another worthwhile step in that direction. Hurling summer camps have increased in popularity of late, a number of clubs in the county recognising the value of a week's intensive coaching, often with the added attraction of a prominent player helping to create a high profile for the venture. The club will always remain the nucleus of G.A.A. activity, even though the county will more often steal the limelight. Most of our clubs do trojan work in promoting hurling and football at local level. Running parish leagues, training and preparing teams and fielding teams in many competitions — all time consuming but necessary work for which club mentors must be highly commended.

CLUB-SCHOOL: The present FÁS Football Coaching Scheme under the auspices of the County Football Board and the supervision of Mick O'Connell has been well received by the clubs and schools of Tipperary. The primary schools of North Tipp have indicated that they will welcome the young coaches to impart the skills of football to the pupils when they resume in September. This is further evidence of the willingness of our teachers and school authorities to give every backing to the promotion of our national games, but the future strength of the GAA will depend on how the club is involved in

encouraging games in the schools of the parish and how it cultivates interest and good will through the parents and the teachers. It is important therefore that the link between club and school is strengthened. The onus rests with the club to ensure that such a liaison exists. The club must take initiative in assisting the school and teacher to promote the national games. The GAA over the years owes a tremendous amount to the teachers and schools, but with more difficulties to be overcome today, it is much more important that clubs provide the support, facilities and back-up service to ensure the promotion and functioning of the games in the schools. It is worth bearing in mind that the club has a greater obligation to the school, than the school has to the club.

NEW COACHING SCHEME: Munster Council has initiated a scheme whereby full-time coaches will be employed in the six counties of the province to coach hurling and football in the clubs and schools for the next three years. Tipp Co. Board has already taken steps to participate fully in the scheme and has agreed to appoint more than the stipulated one coach for each code. This is a revolutionary step in the promotion of our national games. It is a daunting task for the prospective coaches but with the co-operation of all units of the GAA in the county, the scheme should lay the foundations to ensure that Tipperary will remain the Premier County.

FELE NA nGAEL: 1990 and '91 will see Féile Na nGael return to the cradle where it first saw the light of day. This will be a unique festival of hurling, camogie and handball in the county involving all clubs. Events will be organised to cater for all ages. Representatives of all counties will visit Tipperary and clubs will be able to forge new friendships. Féile will be a busy time, but it should have a great impact on the county.

THE VOICE OF YOUTH: While it is obvious that there is no shortage of GAA activity for the youth of Tipperary, opportunities must also be provided to give young people a forum to voice their opinions. Divisional and county seminars and conventions will be held in the Autumn at which youth representatives from the clubs can discuss GAA activities and suggest improvements or changes in policy. It is also proposed to appoint Divisional Youth Officers to represent the voice of youth, to promote and monitor youth activities and to liaise with various bodies catering for young people.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: Clearly then, the GAA in Tipperary is not sitting on its laurels watching the world go by. New initiatives are continually being sought to ensure that hurling and football maintain the interest and high standards

they have traditionally enjoyed in the county . The success of the County Draw provides the ready finance to support these initiatives, some of which have been outlined above. Success does not come without hard work and planning. We must be far-seeing and visionary. J. F. Kennedy said: "We will put a man on the moon in ten years". Have we a vision of tthe GAA stating the next century? Only by careful planning and by setting achieveable objectives can that vision become a reality. The youth of today will be the backbone of the GAA in the 21st century. By moulding our young people now in a true Gaelic culture, we can create an Associaiton of which we will be proud.

Wishing Lorrha Every Success in the final

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Lorrha: Decade by Decade

the nines haven't been very successful for Lorrha. Ten years ago, when the championship was run on a league basis Lorrha secured one point out of a possible ten! They was beaten by Kilruane MacDonaghs, Moneygall, Borrisoleigh, Roscrea and drew with Silvermines. Des Hough was the captain and the selectors were Paddy Madden, Jim Lane and Mick Brophy. Team coach was Sean O'Meara and club chairman was Liam King.

1969: The open draw was in operation in 1969. Lorrha played seven matches in all, between the open draw and the divisional championship, winning four and losing three, all of them to Roscrea. The latter defeated Lorrha in the divisional final and county semi-final. The team for the county semi-final was as follows: N. Monteith, P. O'Meara, P. J. O'Donoghue, D. Corcoran, C. Molloy, N. Lane, P. Kennedy, W. Morris, and L. Moran, M. Gleeson, S. O'Meara, J. Lane, M. Kennedy, P. Madden, M. Liffey.

1959: In preparation for the championship of 1959 the club, under the chairmanship of Fr. Neylon, run a parish league. Six full-strength teams turned out for Easter holiday hurling challenge matches. Rathcabbín beat the Pike, Redwood beat Derry and Lorrha drew with Abbeyville. The results, however, were secondary in importance to the achievement of fielding ninety players on the one day. The day, alas, was not to be an augury of greater achievements. In the first round of the championship Lorrha beat Ballyskenach-Knockshegowna by 2-6 to 3-2 but went down to Borrisokane in the next round.

1949: Everybody looked forward to the 1949 championship. Lorrha, inspired by brilliant Tony Reddin had qualified for the county final against Holycross the previous year. The team had the same personnel and further success was expected. The opposition was Nenagh, with Charlie Downes and Seamus Bannon. Lorrha showed no indication that they were a hurling force the previous year and were beaten by twelve points in a scoreline of 3-8 to 0-5. In his report to the next A.G.M. the secretary tried to find the cause for such a sudden and complete reversal of form and suggested that it was caused by a false sense of security among some players, "who did not seem to realise the shaky nature of the pedestal on which champions are perched". They felt, he continued, that as champions they had only to show themselves on the hurling pitch to win matches. Practice was unnecessary for them and tournaments were only a farce. The result was that although the personnel of the team was practically the same as that of 1948 the first real test found them a totally, unprepared team and they had to bend the knee to Nenagh, an enthusiastic, well-trained and very fit team.

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In 1984 the Lorrha Club History, written by Seamus J. King, was published by the club. The launching took place in Redwood Castle, where this photograph was taken. Back row, left to right: Brian Mannion, Pat Reddin, Fr. Seymour, C.C., Paddy O'Meara, Seamus J. King, John McIntyre. Front row, left to right: Jim O'Meara, Tom Duffy, Liam King.

of Roscrea the previous year, when they were defeated 11-3 to 1-0 in, possibly, their greatest championship defeat. Lorrha were drawn against Knockshegowna in the first round of the 1939 championship and were defeated by 3-3 to 1-2. The defeated side was as follows: M. Donohue, N. O'Meara, E. O'Meara, J. Lane, P. Burke, W. Rigney, T. Lambe, B. Young, G. Young, J. Ryan, G. Dillon, J. Abbott, M. Hoctor, M. O'Meara, T. Ryan.

1929: In the 1929 championship Lorrha lost to Toomevara in the first round but objected and a replay was allowed. Both games were played at Borrisokane and the replay was looked forward to with intense interest. For the contest Toomevara recalled some old stalwarts like Jack Meara in goal, Jack Harty and Stephen Hackett. Lorrha also made a careful selection for the occasion and their forwards were good but it was a day on which the backs let them down. Toomevara came out worthy winners by 5-4 to 2-1. The Lorrha team was: J. Whittaker, T. Duffy, J. Connors, J. Carroll, D. Meara, M. Cronin, R. Young, M. Meara, M. Hoctor, M. Kennedy, P. O'Brien, T. Smith, J. Gaynor, T. Burke, W. Carroll.

1919: Lorrha were one of six senior teams that affiliated for the championship but we have no report of a game. The only senior outing recorded that year was in a tournament game against Drumcullen at Birr on St. Patrick's Day. Lorrha won by 5-2 to 2-1. The captain was Felix Cronin and he had an outstanding game.

1909: Hurling was at a low ebb, not only in the division, but also in Lorrha in 1909. The divisional convention decided to run the championship on a knockout basis, that medals to the value of £2-10-0 be awarded to the winners and that there be a runners-up prize as well. Despite these entice-

ments Lorrha did not affiliate. This failure represented a big drop in interest from previous years and may have been part of the general decline. During the year one commentator on the development had this to say: "In several of the rural districts the pastimes of hurling and football are almost a thing of the past. Among these districts are Toomevara, Templederry and Silvermines". Lorrha may have been another.

1899: There was no north championship in 1899. Lorrha beat Borrisokane in the first round of the county championship at Roscrea by 1-5 to 1-2. Lorrha were captained by Tommy Rafter and the team included eight O'Mearaa, with Pat and Jim outstanding. These included, probably, Tommy of Lorrha, Jim and Pat of Roughan, John and Pat (Cooper). The team also included two Morans, Ned and Bill, one of whom was a shoemaker at the Pike, Dan Donoghue of Coorless, Mick Kennedy of Newtown, Pat Forde of Lordspark, John Walsh of Coorless, Tom Carroll, who had a great puck of a ball, and Paddy Kelly of Newtown, who worked at Wellingtons. There is no record of further progress.

Lorrha participated in the championship for the first time in 1889. They played Hollyford in a most exciting first round contest at Wakefield, Templederry on April 14th. A brake carried the Lorrha team all the way. On the team were a number of O'Mearas, including Paddy the Champion. Others included Tom Carroll of Newtown, who was a great full-back and could puck the ball from goal to goal, Dan Carroll, who was possibly from Ballea, and Dan Donoghue of Coorless. After a hard-fought game Lorrha won by two points to one. the victory was a cause of great celebration. The return of the Lorrha team to the parish was like the progress of a conquering army. They were cheered along the whole route from Nenagh. The Gaels of Borrisokane, headed by their band, turned out and gave the conquerors a warm greeting. The next round was against Toomevara at Borrisokane on May 12th and the result was a heavy defeat for Lorrha by 1-7 to 0-1. The weather was most favourable and an immense crowd of spectators turned up for the occasion.

That game was a hundred years ago this year and it is only fitting that Toomevara should be Lorrha's opponents a century later. Lorrha have an important task in hand today, to revenge that defeat and to make the nines of the second century more successful!

Bernard O'Neill

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Star of the Past:

MICK CRONIN



Five Lorrha players have won senior All-Ireland medals with Tipperary, Tom Duffy, Mick Cronin, Tony Reddin, Liam King and Noel Lane. One of the stalwarts of the victorious 1930 side was Mick Cronin, who died on January 11th, 1982, at the age of eighty years.

He first revealed his hurling prowess in De La Salle College, Waterford where he had his secondary schooling, after which he transferred to the Teacher Training College. In 1922 he was presented with a fine gold medal in recognition of his position as college hurling team captain. After completing his training he got a job in Lorrha N.S., where he continued to teach until his retirement in 1969.

After his achievements at De La Salle he didn't hit the hurling headlines until 1926, when his name appears on the selection for the All-Ireland junior hurling semi-final against Wexford at New Ross. Tipperary were successful and Mick went on to win an All-Ireland the following March when the county defeated Galway in the final.

His progress was rapid. He played with Tipperary in the 1927 league. (The league had begun the previous year and was played over the twelve months with the first games in the Spring and the remainder after the championship was completed). Tipperary lost their championship outing against Limerick with Cronin playing at centre-forward. But there was compensation when the League was captured as a result of a victory over Offaly and a draw with Dublin, the current All-Ireland champions. In a preview to the Dublin game the *Tipperary Star* had the following to say about Cronin:-

M. F. Cronin, Lorrha, plays on the 40 yard mark, a position which he filled with credit in all National League and other games during the past season. A fast and accurate striker he is always safe for a record when in possession.

His ability was recognised by the provincial selectors who picked him on the Munster team for the newly inaugurated Railway Cup series. Munster won the final when they beat Leinster by 2-2 to 1-2 and Cronin got his Railway Cup medal.

1930 was the high post of his hurling career when he won an All-Ireland medal. In the first round of the Munster championship Cronin was in fine fettle and continued to make a fine contribution in the Munster final against Clare. He scored a beautiful goal from an awkward angle in the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway and also made an impact in the final against Dub-

THE FIRST LORRHA TEAM TO WIN A NORTH CHAMPIONSHIP 1905



Back row, left to right: Jack Bourke, Dick Gardiner, Jack Carroll, Paddy O'Meara, Pat O'Meara, Jim Hogan, Major Sammon. Middle Row, left to right: Fr Scanlan, Michael O'Donoghue, Paddy Hogan, Tom O'Donoghue, Bill Bollard, John Lambe, John Walsh (trainer). Front row, left to right: Joe and Pat Sammon, T. F. O'Meara, Jim O'Meara, John Quirke, Fr. O'Connor.

lin, a game which was described as "a fiercely contested struggle, with grim and determined hurling, which was brilliant rather than a classic".

The reward for winning was a nine week trip to the U.S. All efforts to secure permission from the Department of Education to travel failed but Cronin went anyway. No less than thirty-five thousand people saw the first game in New York and his contribution to victory in that and the other games was significant.

Cronin continued to play for Tipperary until 1935, with the exception of 1932, when Toomevara had the selection and picked eleven of their own team, excluding the Lorrha man, among others. He continued to play for Lorrha until 1938.

In a preview of the championship game against Cork in 1931 the *Tipperary Star* had this to say about Cronin:-

"Michael's position is centre-forward behind Martin Kennedy. He is noted as a tough hurler and has probably broken more enemy hurleys than any other man on the Tipperary team".

As well as hurling Michael had a keen interest in handball and played in fierce contests in the local alley before large crowds. He was a delegate from Lorrha for many years in the 'twenties and 'thirties to divisional and county conventions.

Mick Cronin was a man who was highly respected in a parish and beyond. He was an outspoken man, who feared neither friend nor foe. He was also a well informed man, whose opinion was cherished not only on the subject of

hurling but on a wide variety of subjects. Whenever Lorrha were in trouble with G.A.A. officialdom or had an objection to make he was called in to present the case. Everyone was aware that it would be presented well because he was a very able man. It was also agreed that he could hold his own with anyone and that, if anything was to be gained, Mick Cronin was the man to get it. He was a man who brought honour and distinction to the parish.

***Kelly's, Rathcabbin
Bar and Grocery***

Best of luck to the Lorrha team

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*Wishing Toomevara the very best of luck in
the North Final*



Toomevara — steeped in hurling tradition

Toomevara are 104 years old, one of the oldest clubs in the county. They were formed in 1885 with Fr. John Moloney, C.C., as President. They took part in their first county championship in 1888, losing to Silvermines in the first round. They beat Lorrha in the 1889 championship, had to play Holycross in the semi-final — played in Dublin of all places! In the county final they were beaten by Moycarkey with a disputed goal. 1890 saw them take their first county title.

1903 saw the club in its first North divisional final losing to Lahorna De Wets 3-8 to 1-0. 1910 saw the great breakthrough, ushering in an era when Toomevara would become a household word.

The match of the year was the county semi-final at Borrisoleigh, as Toome beat Two-Mile-Borris 4-5 to 3-1. The team was "Wedge" Meagher, Jack O'Meara, Stephen Hackett, Jack Harty, Paddy Hennessy, Mick Guilmartin, Ned Guilmartin, Jack Kennedy, Paddy Kennedy, Bill Kelly, Jim Feehan, Stephen Kenny, Dick Casey, Dan Fitzpatrick, John Boland, Bill Collins. Racecourse won the county final but Toome got the title because of illegal players on the opposition.

1911 North champions, county finalists, 1912 North champions and county champions; Toomevara's selection won the Thomond Feis Shield, the Croke Cup, and the Croke Memorial Tournament that year. The latter inspired the Toome' anthem "Hurrah to Toomevara." Wedgers men were at the peak of their glory.

North titles followed in 1916, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 — a remarkable record. County titles were taken in 1914, 19, 23, 30 and 31. These years saw the great Martin Kennedy at his best. Mart was born at Kilnafinch and began his career with Toome' in 1919, and for fourteen years was a regular on Tipperary teams. Garret Howard too excelled with Toomevaa between 1930 and 1933. Six Toome men — Martin Kennedy, Tom O'Meara, Jack Donovan, Garret Howard, and John Gleeson — were on the Tipperary team that beat Cork in 1931.

Not until 1946 did Toome take another North senior title when they beat Roscea, and lost to Carrick Swans in the county semi final. They had to wait until 1958 for another title, and did three in a row between 1960 and 1962. 1960 was a glorious year in which the famous Sarsfields were dethroned. The following year Matt Hassett led Tipperary to victory in an All Ireland final. Alas since 1962 the club has been out of the senior limelight, with only beaten finalists of 1966 and 1986.

County intermediate titles were won in 1944, 1955, and 1984. The under 21 county title came Toome's way in 1985 and 1986 — the late Brien Delaney captained the 1985 team.

The club has enjoyed great success in Bord Na nOg. The Conway cup for

rural hurling had been won in 1953 and 1955, but the juvenile era began in 1975 with the winning of North under 12 and u/14 titles. The great inspiration behind the juvenile success has been Neil Williams, N.T. — a stalwart of the great Toome success of 1958 - 62. The first county under 12 title was one in 1977, under the captaincy of Pat King of today's team. 1986 and 1988 saw titles won in the county at this grade also. It is a remarkable fact that Toome' have won every North u-12 title since 1980, except 1984. The first county under 14 title was won in 1979, and under 16 in 1981. The great successes of the 1980's provided the basis for county minor success in 1986 - 87, and it was a proud moment in September 1987 when Michael O'Meara led Tipperary in the All Ireland minor final. This year has seen Kevin McCormack play in goal for Tipp minors, Jody Grace won an All Ireland junior medal, and George Frend and Michael Nolan taking Munster u/21 medals — all products of the Toomevara juvenile system.

Toomevara Club Officers

Life President: Jack Donovan; President: Canon John Mulqueen, P.P.; Vice Presidents: Matt Hassett, Tom Shanahan; Chairman: Rev. Ml. Hogan, C.C.; Vice Chairmen: Rev. Ml. Casey, C.C., Donal Shanahan; Secretary: Pat McGrath; Treasurer: Bernard O'Neill; Registrar: Neil Williams. Committee: Pat Hennessy, Ger Kinnane, Gerry Kelly, John Ryan, Matt Ryan, J. J. Ryan, Billy Delaney. Senior Selectors: Fr. Casey, Jim McDonnell, Tom Shanahan.

TOOME'S PATH TO FINAL

May 14th — Toomevara 1-4, Moneygall 1-5

June 18th — Toomevara 4-12, Borrisokane 0-14.

July 16th — Toomevara 1-11, Borris-Ileigh 0-10.



Pat King receives the County Under 21 Cup from Co. Chairman, Michael Lowry after Toome's victory in 1986.

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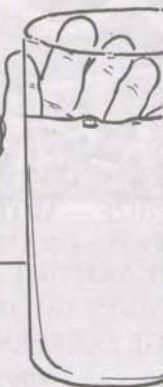
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ROGER MOUNSEY

— One of the great goalkeepers

BY LIAM DORAN

Toomevara's great run between 1957 and 1963 which saw them in seven successive North finals, winning four of them, was in no small way due to the brilliant goalkeeping of Roger Mounsey.

Roger first came to notice in 1953 with the Toomevara juvenile team that won the Conway Cup, beating Moneygall, Kiladangan and Templederry before sweeping Shannon Rovers aside 3-3 to 1-0 in the final. *The Guardian* of August 15 1953 said best for Toomevara were "Young, O'Gara and Mounsey in attack, and Cummins, Delaney, Cuddihy and Ryan".

The following year Roger was corner forward on the Toome' minors, who beat Eire Óg 4-9 to 1-0 and Kildangan 3-7 to 1-0 en route to the North final. In the final they had a hard game before beating Kilruane 3-11 to 4-5, and so the young Roger got his first North minor medal. Toome' lost to St. Mary's in the county semi-final 3-5 to 2-3 and *The Guardian* noted that Roger Mounsey was playing with an injured ankle.

1955 saw the teenager in goal for Toome' in Intermediate ranks. *The Guardian* noted in the draw with Kilruane 3-5 each, that he 'made some very good saves'. In the replay Toome' emerged easy winners 6-4 to 1-2 and *The Guardian* noted this time that Mounsey had "probably the easiest hour of his career". He won a North Intermediate medal when Youghalarra were beaten 4-6 to 1-4, and a county medal when Solohead were beaten in a replay 6-11 to 4-8 — a game that curiously enough wasn't played until the Autumn of 1956.

Roger was out of luck in the 1955 minor final as Eire Og won by a point 4-6 to 3-8. *The Guardian* in its match report said that the goalkeeping of Kieran McDonnell and Roger Mounsey was one of the features of a thrilling game. He was still young enough for the minors in 1956, and played at full forward in the 5-6 to 2-2 win over Kildangan in the North final. In the county semi-final against Carrick Swans Toome' won 2-8 to 3-2 and "Mounsey was the outstanding forward, with his goal before the interval giving Toome' the lead". However, there was no joy in the county final as a Jimmy Doyle inspired Thurles Sarsfields ran out winners 8-4 to 1-6. He was also at corner forward in the Toome' senior team beaten by Lorrha in the North semi-final 5-1 to 1-10.

1957 saw him replace Phil Hennessy in goal for the seniors and Toome opened impressively with victories in the Nenagh Church Tournament over Lorrha, and Eire og in the Convent Tournament. But a North senior medal was to elude him as Eire Og got their first North title since 1915, winning 5-5

to 4-5.

1958 was the year of Toome's breakthrough. Victories over Borris-Ileigh 3-7 to 1-3, and Eire Og 6-7 to 2-4 took them to a final date with Borris-Ileigh. Toome took their first title since 1946 on a 6-13 to 4-3 margin. However, there was disappointment in the Co. Final as Sarsfields beat them 4-11 to 3-3. "Mounsey made some timely saves especially in the second half when under pressure he scooped away the ball when a scored seemed imminent", reported *The Guardian*. Roger was also in goal for a Toomevara junior football team beaten 0-4 to 0-3 by Inane Rovers in the North Final.

1959 proved a disappointing year as Kilruane won the North Final 0-11 to 0-4, though Mounsey "showed all his old acumen in goal and made many fine saves in the course of keeping his net intact". Roger was called into the Tipperary senior panel as sub to Terry Moloney, but that was the year Tipp were annihilated by Waterford 9-3 to 3-4.

1960 saw Kilruane brushed aside in the North final 4-12 to 1-3. The county final was played in Templemore before 10,000 spectators and Toomevara, led by Billy Donovan, defeated Sarsfields 3-15 to 2-9. The North title was regained in 1961 with Borrisokane beaten 4-4 to 3-4. Holycross were outed 2-11 to 2-6. However, the loss of Gerry Hough so tragically killed in an accident, did not help Toome in the Co. Final as they went down 3-4 to 0-9 to Sarsfields. Roger won an All Ireland medal as sub goalkeeper, with Matt Hassett as team captain in the victory over Dublin in 1962.

1962 saw the North title retained as Kilruane were beaten 4-9 to 5-4 but Moycarkey proved too strong in the county semi-final 2-5 to 1-7. 1963 saw Toome face Roscrea in the North final. Roscrea, despite brilliant work by Roger between the posts won 2-12 to 1-8, and the decline continued in the county semi final as they lost 4-8 to 2-6 to Sarsfields.

1963 saw Roger in goal for Tipperary in the Munster final against Waterford. Though Tipperary lost 0-11 to 0-8 he didn't concede a goal, so it is difficult to understand why he didn't keep the No. 1 jersey.

Toome lost Lorrha in the second round of the North championship in 1964 2-15 to 4-7. "Mounsey was brilliant between the posts and rescued the side on many occasions". Lorrha were again victors the following year 3-4 to 0-10.

1966 gave hopes of revival as Kilruane were beaten 3-12 to 5-4, and Moneygall beaten 3-6 to 1-8, then Roscrea 1-11 to 2-2 in the semi-final. Lorrha and Toome clashed in the final and it was Lorrha 3-11 to 2-13 who were winners. 1967 proved disappointing also with Newport beating the team early on 3-9 to 4-3.

1968 saw Kilruane beaten 3-13 to 5-3 in the first round, and tempestuous game with Moneygall saw Toome win 4-12 to 2-6. The North semi-final was a disappointment with Borris-Ileigh winning 3-13 to 4-7. Roger didn't play in the opening 1969 tie with Nenagh but came back for the second round with Borris, in which Toome made their exit.

1970 saw them reach the quarter final of the open draw county championship, losing 5-16 to 3-9 to Thurles. That was to be Roger's swan song.

Nowadays Roger is very much engaged in promoting camogie, and his dedication is paying great dividends as Toomevara are becoming a force at under age level.

Best of luck to Lorrha in the final from

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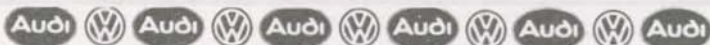
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EIRE ÓG MINOR TEAM

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | (1) Geróid Cleary | |
| (2) Frank McGrath | (3) Derek Conroy | (4) Cor Malone |
| (5) Brian Connolly | (6) Declan Nolan | (7) Joe O'Donoghue |
| | (8) Mark Sheehan | (9) John Kennedy |
| (10) Brian Shanahan | (11) Ronan Burns | (12) Robert Tomlinson |
| (13) Con Howard | (14) Joe Mulqueen | (15) Cyril Bailey |
- Substitutes:** (16) Fergal Hynes; (17) Robert Foley; (18) John Collison;
 (19) John Moylan; (20) Tom Moylan; (21) David Callanan; (22)
 (David McAulif; (23) E. O'Kennedy.

ROSCREA MINOR TEAM

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| | (1) Richard O'Brien | |
| (2) Rody Ryan | (3) Ciaran Carey | (4) Eric Kelly |
| (5) Brendan Keeshan | (6) Liam Fallon | (7) Ciaran Fletcher |
| | (8) Damien Hogan | (9) Donal Hogan |
| (10) Michael Deane | (11) Muiris Loughnane | (12) Daragh Maher |
| (13) Joe Murphy | (14) Paddy Neville | (15) Conor Egan |
- Substitute:** (16) David Dooley; (17) Owen O'Connor; (18) Niall
 Cunningham; (19) John Leamy; (20) Muiris Hickey; (21) Declan
 Duford; (22) David Pyne.

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Q. 2: Name Tipperary's goalkeeper in their All-Ireland 3-in-a-row
 success 1949, '50, and '51?

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Name

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Please answer the above questions and send your entry not later than Friday,
 25th August. Draw for two Hogan Stand tickets will take place on Monday, 28th
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Entries to be sent to: Séamus Ó hÓgain, Ballycraggan, Puckane, Nenagh.

LORRHA

(1)

Ken Hogan (capt.)

(2)

(3)

(4)

Eamonn Sherlock Donal Donoghue Michael Brophy

(5)

(6)

(7)

Aidan McIntyre John McIntyre Cathal McIntyre

(8)

(9)

John Madden

Declan O'Meara

(10)

(11)

(12)

Pat Kelly Seamus Mannion Martin Young

(13)

(14)

(15)

Pat Kennedy Gerry Sullivan Kieran Hough

Substitutes: (16) James O'Meara; (17) John Harding; (18) Willie Fogarty; (19) Tom Madden; (20) Kieran Molloy; (21) John Sherlock; (22) Pat Houlihan.

Lorrha	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	65M.	Saor-pocanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
lomlán					

TOOMEVARA

(1)

Kevin McCormack

(2)

Pat Maher

(3)

Rory Brislane

(4)

Brendan Spillane

(5)

George Frend

(6)

Pat King

(7)

Noel McDonnell

(8)

Kenneth McDonnell

(9)

Michael O'Meara

(10)

Eddie Frend

(11)

Liam Flaherty

(12)

Michael Nolan

(13)

Jimmy Dunne

(14)

Tony Dunne

(15)

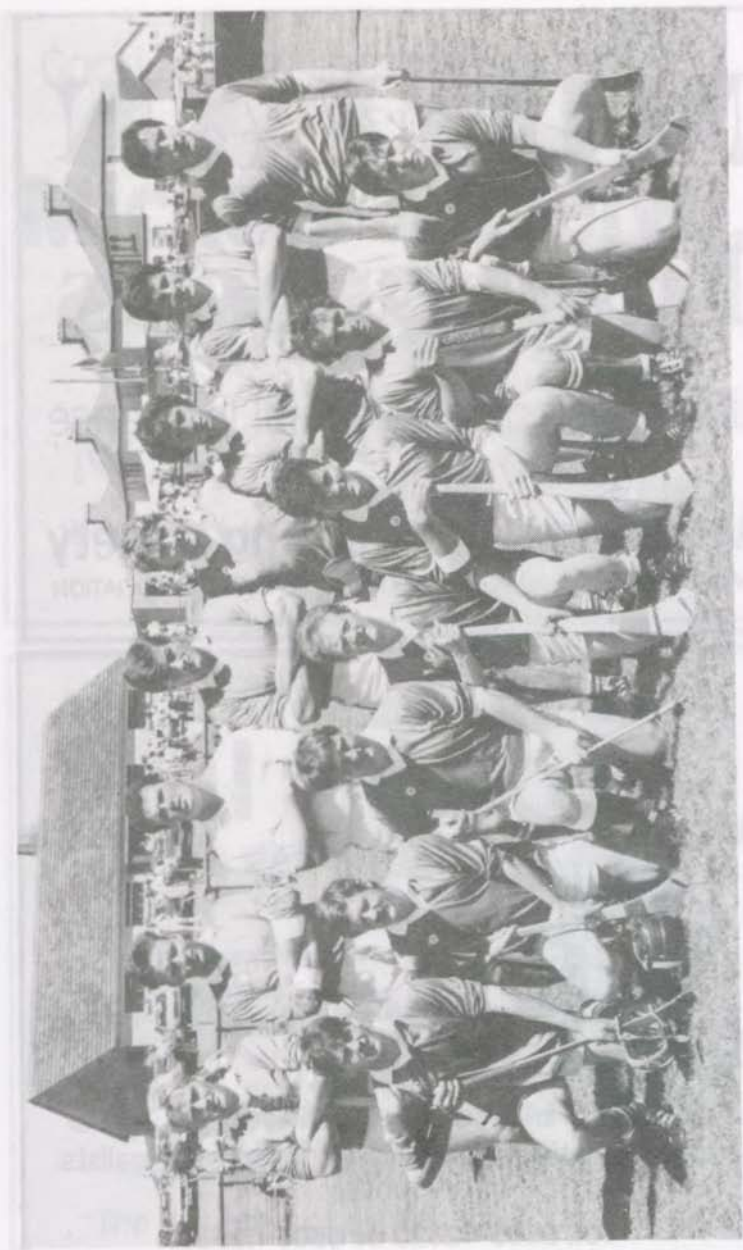
John Ryan

Substitutes: (16) Dan Brislane; (17) Joe McGrath; (18) Sean Nolan; (19) Kevin Kennedy; (20) Joe Kennedy; (21) Micilin Delaney; (22) John Ryan

Toomevara	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachai	65M.	Saor-pocanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlán					



TOOMEVARA — semi final victors over Borris-Ileigh.



LORRHA — edged out Eire Og in the semi final

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Good Luck to Lorrha in today's final
from

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“Wedger” Meagher

— Toome’s finest

LIAM DORAN

Ask anyone of an older generation what Toomevara means to them, and invariably one gets the reply “it” Wedger Meagher’s place.” Few men have been so deeply synonymous with a place as Wedger Meagher and Toomevara.

Patrick “Wedger” Meagher was born at Coole Lane, Toomevara, just off the main Dublin Road, in 1890. He attended Clash’s N.S. under Peter Larkin N.T. which was his only formal education. Like so many of his generation he became self taught. He went to work with a farmer John Lewis, who kept horses, and it is said his nickname “Wedger” dates from this period. Later he worked with North Tipp Co. Council and with the Creamery in Toomevara.

Hurling was the love of this youth, and in 1910 he led Toomevara to their first title. They defeated Lorrha, and Nenagh, before conquering Roscrea “by a large margin” (according to *The Nenagh News* of October 22). Two-Mile-Borris were conquered in the semi-final by 4-5 to 3-1. Racecourse from Cashel were the county finalists, and they won 3-6 to 2-2, but a series of objections ensued, the game went to a replay, which Racecourse won but Toome’ got the title, as Racecourse team were alleged to come from “everywhere from Clonmel to Holycross”.

Wedger was a North delegate to County Board in 1911. He won his second North medal with the Greyhounds in that year, as they beat De Wets 7-0 to 3-0. There was disappointment Thurles Blues took the county final by 4-5 to 1-0. 1912 brought a North medal again as Ballina were beaten in the final at Templederry 7-3 to 0-1. Thurles were beaten in the county semi-final at Nenagh and Tipperary Town in the county final at Cashel 6-4 to 0-1.

1913 saw North and county titles annexed with victories over Borrisokane in the North final, and Cashel in the county final. The same year the Croke Cup was inaugurated by the Central Council and Tipperary powered by “Wedger” and the Greyhounds, swept Kilkenny aside in the final at Dungarvan. Michael Burke N.T. Newport, could extol —

On the first June Nineteen Thirteen,

In Dungarvan town so fair,

Our bold Tipperary hurlers went with hearts
as light as air

To meet Moondarrig as champions — it

was the first time they did meet.
 But bold Wedger Meagher's greyhounds soon
 ran them off their feet.
 Then Hurrah for Toomevara, may your banners
 never fail!,
 You beat Galway and Queens County, you've
 the boys can play the ball.
 But I never will forget the day Kilkenny's
 pride went down
 Before the skill of Wedger's men in old
 Dungarvan town.

Cork were beaten in the Munster final 8-2 to 5-3, but Kilkenny proved too strong in the All Ireland winning 2-4 to 1-2. Wedger's men were not helped by a dispute between Tipperary County Board and Central Council which saw the team lack support.

Wedger became secretary of the North Board in 1914. They didn't win the North, due to an objection from Borris, but they took the county with victory over Boherlahan 5-2 to 3-1. 1915 saw them defeat Boherlahan again 3-1 to 1-4, but lost on an objection. Toome' won the Wolf Tone hurling tournament defeating All Ireland champions Laois 5-5 to 2-3.

1916 saw Wedger lead Tipperary to victory over Limerick in the Thomond Feis Shield by 5-0 to 2-2. The beat Borrisokane 5-1 to 0-1 in the North final, but in the county final Toome lost to Boherlahan 2-2 to nil. Though Tipperary won the All Ireland in 1916 no Toomevara player liend out, as there was bitterness inthe club over the 1915 objections. 1918 saw Wedger six months in Wormswood Scrubbs for illegal drilling. He was 22 days on hunger strike. He won North and county medals with Toome' in 1919.

1926 saw Wedger as County GAA Secretary, and he went on tour to the US with Tipperary's 1925 All Ireland team. In August 1927 he moved to the US for good. He was GAA columnist for the Irish Echo. With his wife Ellen (nee Whelehan) he set up home at 94-08 40th Drive, Elmhurst, Long Island. He only made a couple of visits home after that; his last was in 1956. He planned to come in 1958, but illness intervened. He died in February 1959 and was laid to rest in St. Charales Cemetery, Farmingdale, far away from his beloved Toomevara. His friends in New Your GAA donated a baptistery to his memory in St. Joseph's Church, Toomevara.

Best Wishes to North Finalists

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U-16 H. Munster Inter-Divisional Championship

Last July when North Tipp u-16 hurling team achieved their third title they had continued their winning sequence of never losing an inter-divisional final. 1981, 1984 were the previous years with West Waterford losing by 2-10 to 1-2 in 1981 and Cork City South losing by 3-13 to 2-7 in 1984. Imokilly were this year's victims losing by 3-21 to 5-8 in Pairc Ui Caoimh.

It might be safe to assume on that fine summer's day last July many of the thousands there to witness the event may not have remembered the two previous championship wins. Even if they did they may not remember the players who wore the blue and gold on both occasions.

1981 was the first year against West Waterford when the final score was 2-10 to 1-2. The team lined out as follows:

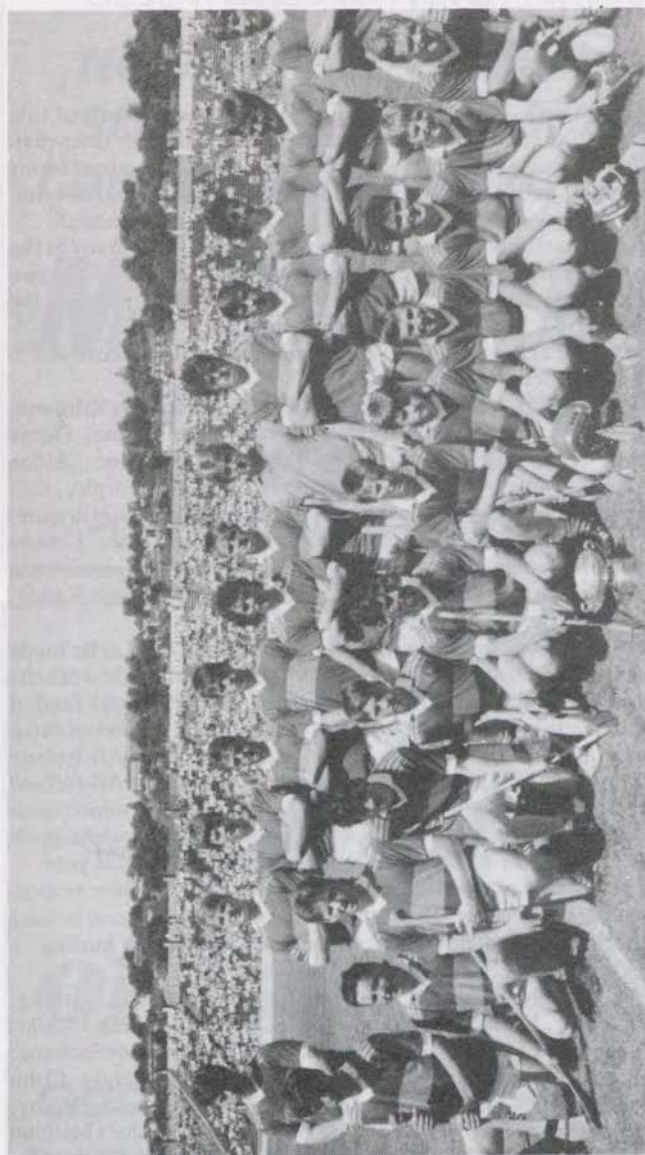
James Seymour, Portroe; Donal O'Brien, Eire Og; Joe Burns, Kilruane, capt.; John Delaney, Toomevara; Declan Morris, Borrisokane; Donie Kealy, Roscrea; Paul Mulcahy, Kilruane; Tom Hill, Kilruane; Aidan Ryan, Borrisoleigh; James Connolly, Toomevara; Michael Murphy, do.; Dan O'Donnell, Roscrea; Liam Nolan, Toomevara; Noel Darcy, Kilruane; John Prior, Borrisoligh. Subs: Paul Corcoran, Borrisokane; Connie McGrath, Newport; Noel Coffey, Eire Og; Liam Flaherty, Toomevara; Hubert Hogan, Lorrha; John Donovan, Moneygall; Michael Reddy, Burgess; Jody Grace (goalie), Toomevara.

As you can see James Seymour is now the Clare goalkeeper as he made his championship debut against Waterford this year. Donal Kealy wore the Tipp senior jersey with distinction when he played in the Munster final of '85. Aidan Ryan is still a member of the Tipp senior panel, winner of three Munster medals and a N.H.L. Both Kealy and Ryan have All-Ireland minor and u-21 medals in '82 and '85 and Seymour won a u-21 All-Ireland also in 1985. Other players who progressed to winning Munster minor medals were Declan Morris, Michael Murphy and Liam Nolan while goalkeeper Jody Grace won an All-Ireland junior medal as late as this year.

Most of the remaining players are still playing hurling with their respective clubs at senior, intermediate or whatever. As you can see that u/16 team of that year has richly paid dividends for the cause of Tipperary hurling.

In 1984 the following team lined out:

James Collins, Templederry; Ger Brennan, Knockshe'; David Harding, Lorrha; Eamon Kelly, Kildangan; John Madden, Lorrha; Declan Fitzpatrick, Roscrea; Seamus Feehan, Roscrea; Pdraig Hogan, Borrisokane; Michael O'Meara, Toomevara; Conor Stakelum, Borrisoleigh; Colm Egan, Kiladangan; Michael Nolan, Mark Landy, Roscrea; Eamon Kirby, Kilruane; Michael Burns, Eire Og. Subs: Joe Murphy, Knockshe'; Michael Kearns, Burgess; Robbie Cleere, Eire Og; P. J. Delaney, Moneygall; Tom Stapleton, Borrisoleigh; Denis Ryan, Newport; Kieran Ryan, Kildangan,



U/16 North Tipp Munster Champions. Front L. to R.: T. Dunne, Sean Kelly, Phil Shanahan, Paul Mullins, Liam Murray, Fegal Hynes (capt.), Sean Doughtan, Darrell Tucker, Seamus Troy, Seamus Keogh, Ml. Kinsella, Adrian Hogan. Back L. to R.: Mark Rabbitt, Brian Flannery, Patrick Quinlan, Declan Ryan, Terry Dunne, James Slattery, John Kennedy, Shay Killeen, Denis Hogan, Brian Gaynor, Frank McGrath, Frank Shanahan, Rory Flannery.



Fergal Hynes receives the Munster U/16 Cup from Brendan Vaughan, Vice Chairman, Munster Council

Liam Sheedy, Portroe.

From that panel nine players have won Munster medals this year in senior, U-21 and junior for the county. Michael Nolan, Eamon Kelly, John Madden, Pdraig Hogan, Conor Stakelum, Colm Egan, Dinny Ryan (Newport) and Liam Sheedy were each playing members of this year's victorious u-21 Munster winning side while Joe Murphy, Liam Sheedy, Eamon Kelly, Colm Egan and Dinny Ryan have All-Ireland junior medals arising out of the previously mentioned All-Ireland junior v Galway last month. To add to that John Madden is now a member of this year's senior panel. Other players such as Michael O'Meara, Toomevara have a Munster minor medal in '87 along with Liam Sheedy and Colm Egan. Again most of the remaining players still play for their respective clubs.

Of course many players that have represented their division at U-16 in the intervening years are still hurling for club and county. One player who comes to mind is Michael Cleary of Eire Og who is of course on the Tipp senior team.

Any argument against this competition may not last too long, judging from the two teamd mentioned. One has to wait and see what will become of this year's team. Anyone at Pairc Ui Caoimh could see what talent is available. The full panel have plenty of talent. Names such as Tommy Dunne, Brian Gaynor, Phil Shanahan, Fergal Hynes to mention but a few are players of the future. Time will tell.

North Tipp won each of their games very convincingly. Each forward scored each game plus our two centrefield players. In four games including the final they scored 11-62 while conceding 8-21. The following is a breakdown of each game scoresheet:

1st round v South Clare 3-14 to 1-8; 2nd round v South Limerick 3-14 to 1-3; semi-final v South Tipperary 2-13 to 1-2; final v Imokilly 3-21 to 5-8.

Captain Fergal Hynes led the scoring list with 5-2 to this credit. Tommy Dunne and Sean Doughan scored 0-13 to 2-7 respectively. Adrian Hogan scored 0-10 points, Denis Hogan 0-3, James Slattery 1-1, S. McKeogh 0-4 and Paul Mullins 0-1 were the remaining scorers.

Roll on 1990 and 1991 when Tipperary will hopefully regain the Irish Press Cup and who knows the names like Killeen, Rabbitte, Kelly, Doughnan and Hogan will firmly be on the lips of hurling supporters around the country by 1999.

Toomevara Roll of Honour — North

Senior hurling: (22) 1910, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 46, 58, 60, 61, 60, 62.

Intermediate hurling: (3) 1944, 1955, 1984.

Junior hurling: (3) 1913, 1914, 1958.

Junior (B): 1986.

Under 21 hurling: (3) 1967, 1985, 1986.

Minor hurling: (9) 1932, 1937, 1954, 1956, 1981, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987.

Nealon Trophy: 1979.

Club of the Year: 1986.

Guardian Player of the Year: 1986 (Noel McDonnell).

Note: Junior titles were won by parish teams from Ballymackey (1920, 1938), Garranafarna (1925), Monamore (1928), Gurgagarry (1955).

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Recalling the 1966 North Final

by **Liam Doran**

Twenty three years ago Toomevara and Lorrha clashed in the North senior hurling final. A huge crowd turned up at McDonagh Park on August 28th in anticipation of a fine game.

Lorrha had lost to Kilruane in the final the previous year, but had turned the tables in the semi-final by 3-6 to 2-7. Toomevara had beaten Roscrea in the other semi-final by 1-11 to 2-2. Appetites were whetted by a meeting of the sides in the 1964 championship when Lorrha came from behind to win 2-15 to 4-7.

The teams lined out:

Lorrha: G. Moylan, M. Liffey, P. O'Meara, S. O'Meara, L. King, Sean O'Meara, M. Gleeson, W. Morris, J. Lane, N. Lane, F. Ryan, P. Hogan, P. Madden, M. Doyle, M. O'Meara.

Toomevara: R. Mounsey, L. Hackett, J. J. McCormack, J. McDonnell, T. Shanahan, R. Williams, S. Maxwell, T. Ryan, M. Delaney, T. Hassett, R. Ryan, P. McGrath, P. Ryan, P. Cummins, J. Hough. Philly Ryan Borisoleigh was referee.

Tom Ryan put Toome in the lead with a point from a 50 metres free after a minute. In the third minute Peter Hogan equalised from a free. From the puck out Roger Ryan got possession and sent a low shot to the net for Toome. Jim Lane and Tom Ryan exchanged points. Peter Hogan sent over the bar for Lorrha for a free. Paddy Cummins picked up a pass from Tom Shanahan to shoot over the bar and keep Toome ahead 1-3 to 0-3 at the quarter hour.

Roger Ryan and Frank Ryan put on points for Toome, to which Jim Lane and Mick Glesson responded. Roger Ryan then had a great chance of a goal but palmed the ball over the bar. Tom Ryan sent over the the bar from 70 yards. Four minutes from the interval Noel Lane scored a brilliant goal for Lorrha but the Toome response was equal, Tom Ryan finding the net just on the half time whistle, leaving Toome ahead 2-7 to 1-5.

It was tit for tat, as the second half got under way, Tom Ryan and Peter Hogan having points. Lorrha then made a great burst, with Mick Doyle scoring a goal, and substitute J. J. Kennedy a point. Phil Shanahan came on for Toome instead of Paddy Cummins and immediately won a free which Tom Ryan pointed. Sean O'Meara pointed a 70 for Lorrha. Then Tom Ryan had two points for Toome, one from a free and the other from 80 yards out.

With a quarter of an hour left Peter Hogan brought Lorrha level when he shot a 21 yard free to the net. Phil Shanahan got Toome ahead with a point

but Peter Hogan brought Lorrha level again. Neck and neck again as Frank Ryan pointed for Toome, only for Lorrha to get a point from a 70 by Sean O'Meara. Lorrha went ahead with a point from Hogan. In the last minutes Toome missed two chances, Tom Ryan with a low free, and Sean O'Gara — a sub — sending wide from close in. So Lorrha were winners by 3-11 to 2-13, their first title since 1956.

Best of luck in the final to both teams from

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Lorrha's Divisional Roll of Honour

Senior Hurling: 1905, 1914, 1924, 1948, 1956, 1966, 1984.

Senior Football: 1983, 1984.

Intermediate Hurling: 1946.

Junior Hurling: 1961, 1966, 1987.

Junior Football: 1966, 1968, 1975, 1983, 1984.

Under-21 Hurling: 1965, 1966.

Under-21 Hurling 'B': 1983.

Guardian Player of the Year, Hurling:

1972: Liam King.

1980: Ken Hogan.

1984: Brian Mannion.

Club of the Year:

1984: Lorrha.

PATH TO FINAL

First Round: Cloughjordan, May 21: Shannon Rovers 2-9, Lorrha 0-15.

Replay: Cloughjordan, May 28: Shannon Rovers 1-16, Lorrha 1-14.

Losers' Group: Borrisokane, June 18: Lorrha 1-13, Kilruane 1-5.

Nenagh, July 9: Lorrha 3-5, Roscrea 1-8.

Cloughjordan, July 16: Lorrha 3-8, Nenagh 2-10.

OFFICERS

President: Very Rev. J. Donnelly, P.P.

Vice-Presidents: Billie Hogan and Patsy Carroll.

Chairman: Paddy Darmody.

Vice-Chairman: Michael O'Meara and Pat Reddin.

Secretary: Tony Coen.

Treasurer: Mary Lane.

P.R.O.: Aidan McIntyre.

County Board Delegate: Michael Liffey.

Selectors: Eamon Maher (Coach), Des Hough, Fr. J. Slattery.

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The Lorrha and Dorrha (Davin) Club

A Brief History by Seamus J. King

Not many people know that the Lorrha and Dorrha (Davin) Club is the full title of what is more generally known as the Lorrha G.A.A. Club. Lorrhs is included in a list of thirty-four clubs founded in County Tipperary in 1885. There is no record of the foundation meeting of the people who founded it. Within a short time there were a number of teams in the parish and during 1886, a meeting was held to decide which team should represent the parish. There was a chance of a split and Frank Maloney and J. K. Bracken visited the parish on two occasions to sort matters out. It was decided to amalgamate the clubs and to call the parish club the Lorrha and Dorrha (Davin) Club. Mr. G. O'Brien and Rev. P. Kennedy of the parish are recorded as having attending the meeting.

There were two Lorrha players, Messrs P. Meara, snr., and P. Meara jnr., on the North Tipperary team that played South Galway, for nothing less than the "Championship of Ireland", in Dublin, on February 9th. Lorrha played in the county championship for the first time in 1889 and defeated Hollyford in a most exciting contest at Wakefield, Templederry. On the victorious team were Paddy "The Champion" O'Meara, Tom Carroll of Newtown, Dan Carroll and Dan Donoghue. During the nineties, football was organised and there are reports of games in which Carrigahorig figured prominently. In 1889, there was a big dispute in the correspondence columns of the *Nenagh News* as to whether the Lorrha or the Toomevara clubs produced the better hurlers.

When the North Board was formed in 1900, Lorrha were one of seven senior hurling teams to affiliate for the first championship in 1901 and they made their first breakthrough when they won the North championship in 1905. There is a record from these years, which was kept by the club treasurer, Tommy O'Meara, and shows the total income of the club in 1902 as £6 8s 2d. There were about seventy paid-up members, at one shilling each, and they included one woman, Miss M. Nevin. The hire of brakes for team transport was one of the biggest items of expenditure.

Lorrha's next championship victory came in 1914 and the team included the late Tom Duffy. The first Lorrha man to win an All-Ireland was Felix Cronin, who played with the victorious county junior hurling team in that year. The club won another championship in 1924 when they defeated an understrength Nenagh team by 7-3 to 0-3. Jim "The Private" O'Meara played with Nenagh that day and his brother Bill, played for Lorrha. Two

other players on the team were Tom Duffy and Mick Cronin. Both were to win All-Ireland senior hurling medals with the county and travel to the U.S. on the American tours of 1926 and 1931. Another All-Ireland medal winner from that period was Hugh Burke, who won with Dublin in 1917.

There is a long break to the next senior championship win in 1948 when the great hero of the hour was Tony Reddin. During the thirties there was little success recorded. The period saw the growth of junior teams like Redwood and the regarding of Lorrha to intermediate status. The greatest hurler of the period was Christy Forde, who played in goals for Dublin in three All-Ireland and three National League finals. He won one All-Ireland and one league medal. The period culminated in Lorrha's first county championship victory, when they defeated Moycarkey in the 1946 final by 4-4 to 3-3. The match was played at Gaile, on November 22nd, 1947. Admission was one shilling and the sideline was sixpence extra. This team was the basis of the victorious 1948 team.

The 'fifties saw another senior championship victory, in 1956, but the high point of the decade must surely be the success of the juveniles, who won three divisional and two county championships between 1956 and 1958. These players formed the core of the teams of the 'sixties and saw the club win four divisional championships in 1966, in senior, junior and u-21 hurling and in junior football. The junior hurlers also won a championship in 1961 and the footballers were to go one better in 1971 and win the county final. The u-21 team which won the divisional championship in 1965, went on to win county honours the following year. Noel Lane and Michael O'Meara figured prominently on the county u-21 team that won the inaugural All-Ireland on that grade in 1964. There was a great lot of hurling talent in the parish during this period and it may not have got the success it deserved.

The seventies saw two Lorrha men, Liam King and Noel Lane, contribute to the county's last senior hurling championship win. The seventies were marked by many near misses. A number of players achieved county status and won All-Ireland honours: Seamus Kennedy in minor in 1976, Brian Mannion in u-21 in 1979, Joe Kennedy in 1980, John McIntyre in 1981 and Ken Hogan in minor 1981. At present this talent is coming into its own in the shape of a senior team that is attempting to prove today that it is the best in the division.

One of the present team, Michael Brophy, whose father before him gave sterling service to the parish, won a National League medal with the county in 1979. Another Lorrha man, Mick Cronin, was on the team that won the first National League for Tipperary in 1927. In between Tony Reddin won six finals, 1949, 1950, 1952, 1954, 1955 and 1957. Sharing that success with him in 1950 was his clubmate Billy Hogan and another Lorrha man, Sean O'Meara, was on the successful 1957 team.

Finally, a short account of the history of Lorrha club would be incomplete without a mention of Hubie Hogan, who was North chairman for seven years and never missed a meeting and went on to guide the affairs of the county from 1976 to 1979. He was associated with G.A.A. affairs in the parish for over forty years.

Great Minor Finals of the Past

Roscrea v Lorrha — Sunday, 21st August 1960.

After being led by Lorrha for most of the hour, Roscrea minor hurlers put in a storming finish in the North Tipp final played at the Nenagh venue, and emerged victorious by two points, on the score, 4-2 to 3-3. It was the third year in succession for Roscrea to win the title. They had qualified for this year's decider, at the expense of Moneygall, and Toomevara, while Lorrha (aided by Knockshegowna players), had outsted Kilruane, Portroe and Borrisokane.

The enjoyment of the game was marred to a considerable extent, by non-stop rain, but despite the adverse conditions, the pace was a "cracker", with a high standard of hurling throughout the hour.

Team captain Liam "Barlow" Bourke was easily the outstanding player on the Roscrea team. A Lorrha positional switch which brought him into opposition with F. Doorley in the second half, cramped his style a little, but he continued to dominate his sector. P. Rowland and F. Loughnane were others to do well in a fast and energetic forward division.

Roscrea team mentors seemed to be doing a strange thing when they took off the more effective of their midfielders, B. Hogan, in the second half. But there was method in their madness, for Hogan came back with renewed vigor, to play a prominent part in Roscrea's final onslaught. P. Delaney, in goal, had a fine game as did the backs Dillon and Killoran, with perhaps Rourke doing best in holding Kennedy scoreless.

The Lane brothers were Lorrha's leading lights. Centreback Noel was the rock upon which perished countless Roscrea attacks. Jim, at midfield was mainly responsible for the dominance which Lorrha exercised in that sector. P. Hogan's marksmanship from frees was a valuable asset. Ryan impressed at corner forward and W. Carroll gave a wholehearted performance on the wing. P. Doherty, 'tho' out of luck with his shooting, was an always threatening centre-forward. Liffey did a fine first half and Gleeson and O'Meara were effective throughout.

The Play: Lorrha's P. Hogan opened the scoring with a point from a free. B. Hogan equalised with a similar score and scarcely 30 seconds had elapsed when Roscrea took the lead with a point from L. Bourke. P. Hogan drove a 21 yards free to the net. J. Dillon had the ill-luck to deflect a Jim Lane shot to the net, leaving the half time score, Lorrha 2-1, Roscrea 0-2.

Second Half: Liffey saved from Rowland but in a goal-mouth melee, Loughnane found the net, and again it was Loughnane who got the equaliser. P. Hogan put Lorrha back in the lead with a point from a free, but in another goalmouth melee Burke crashed the ball to the net. A third goal from Loughnane followed. Lorrha's hopes were revived briefly when Hogan goaled from a 21 yards free. The final whistle saluted Roscrea as worthy champions 4-2 to 3-3.

Roscrea scorers: F. Loughnane 3-0, L. Bourke 1-1, B. Hogan 0-1.
Lorrha: P. Hogan 2-2, J. Lane 1-0, M. Ryan 0-1.

Roscrea: P. Delaney, J. Dillon, P. O'Rourke, T. O'Meara, O. Killoran, J. Cummins, N. Heffernan, B. Hogan, D. O'Meara, P. Rowland, D. Fitzpatrick, L. Bourke (capt), V. Dooley, F. Loughnane, A. Fayard. Subs: F. O'Brien for Hogan, and Hogan replaced Fitzpatrick.

Lorrha: M. Liffey, L. Gleeson, M. Hough, M. O'Meara, D. Hanley, N. Lane, S. Tuohy, F. Doorley, J. Lane, W. Carroll, P. Doherty, P. Hogan, M. Ryan, M. Kennedy, L. King. Subs: W. Morris for J. Lane, B. O'Hara for D. Hanley and S. Dowd for L. King.

Cup Presented: In a briefly informal sideline ceremony, the Right Rev. Monsignor Hamilton, P.P., V.F., presented the cup to the Roscrea captain, Liam Bourke. Congratulating his team and himself on their fine victory. Liam Burke replied suitable in Irish.

Roscrea's Minor North Hurling Titles — 28:

Roll of Honour: 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1934, 1935, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1950, 1950, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1980, 1983, 1984, 1988.

(C. McN.)

ROSCREA CLUB OFFICERS

Patrúin: Very Rev. Canon Cuddy, Dr. Denis Hanly, Joseph Spooner

Uachtarán: Jack Moloney.

Leas-Uachtarán: John Joe Maher, Christy Maher

Cathaoirleach: Rev. Tom Seymour.

Leas-Cathaoirligh: Willie O'Reilly, Tadhg O'Connor, Dan Kennedy, Sean Hctor.

Rúnaí: Jim Bergin.

Leas-Rúnaí: Hugh McDonnell.

Cisteoir: Sean Mulrooney.

Leas-Cisteoir: Bertie Fitzpatrick

Oifigeach Caidreamh Poiblí: Ciaran Mac Niocláis

Minor Hurling Selectors: Kevin Brady (manager), Joe Tynan,

Francis Loughnane.

Eire Óg Minor Hurling

After a lapse of 10 years Eire Og contest the Hamilton Cup final on Sunday bidding for the 14th title to come to Nenagh.

Early Days: With the minor hurling championship commencing in 1928 Eire Og had to wait until 1938 to capture their first title. Nenagh managed to win three-in-a-row titles from 1940-'42 with St. Mary's bringing another three-in-a-row from 1947-49. St. Mary's once again took the title in 1951 while by 1953 Eire Og had been formed and the title came to Nenagh again. The 1955 team had many of the 1957 team which won the senior title for the first time and included some famous names such as Mick Burns, Paddy Kearns (R.I.P.), Tony Tierney, Paudie O'Kennedy, Michael Gilmartin, Gerry Irvine, Kieran McDonald, Noel O'Meara, Eddie O'Donnell, Seamus Murray.

There was a huge gap to the next success which was in 1969. This was the first time the club won the Hamilton Cup. The Hamilton Cup was presented in 1957 by Nenagh P.P. Monsignor Hamilton for minor hurling. Ironically he died in 1969 the year Eire Og won the cup. The 1969 team went on to bring county honours to the club for the first time ever and included such names as Robert Ashman, Willie Condon, Liam Heffernan (Minnie), Martin Hogan, John Grace, P. J. Cooney, Denis O'Connor, Matt Sheary (now Fr. Matt), Martin Moroney, Joe Rice, and Martin O'Meara. Eight years passed before the Hamilton Cup returned to Nenagh but when it did a second county title was won in 1977 by a team including Eugene Hackett, John O'Gorman, Michael Kennedy, Ger Grace, Chris O'Halloran, Sean Minogue, Michael Griffin, Roger Coffey. In 1978 both the North and county titles were retained by a wide including Philip Kennedy, Brian Heffernan, Jim O'Sullivan, Michael McGrath, Paul Whelan, and Conor Ryan. This was the club's last success to date at county level. The Hamilton Cup was retained however, in 1979, with a team including Denis Finnerty, Pat Lee, John Flannery, Seamus Kennedy, Jim Nagle, Liam Flannery, Martin O'Connor, Paul Kennedy, John Heffernan, Michael Ryan. This was Eire Og's last appearance in the minor final until this year.

Up to Date: In the mid-eighties the club attempted to address the lack of success at juvenile affairs. With such men as Jimmy Conroy, John Martin, Pat Hynes leading to today's juvenile committee under chairman Rory Flannery, the seeds which has brought this team to the final were sown. Last year was the club's most successful even at juvenile level. Most of today's team were on the team which won county under-16 honours last year. Indeed 13 of the semi-final team which defeated Toomevara are under age again next year. Under the astute guidance of the selectors, Jimmy Minogue, Billy Flannery and Michael Kearns the team has improved with each game. Already the minors have a North minor final under their belt this year defeating Sean Treacy's in the minor football final.

Eire Of Officers

Presidents: Mick Brien, Michael Ryan, Tommy Stanley.

Chairman: Ger Gavin.

Secretary: Jimmy Minogue.

Treasurer: Jimmy Morris.

P.R.O.: Sean Minogue

Vice-Chairman: Michael Geaney.

Juvenile Club

Chairman: Rory Flannery.

Secretary: Eddie Scanlon

Treasurer: Christ Middleton.

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Window on the Past

* Brian Mannion won an All-Ireland under-21 medal in 1979 when Tipperary defeated Galway in the All-Ireland final at Portlaoise by 2-12 to 1-9. In winning the Munster final that year for the second year in a row Tipperary were completing their second provincial double in the competition. The previous occasion was in 1964-1965 and another Lorrha man, Michael O'Meara, featured in the successive winning teams.

* Paddy O'Meara was a selector on the Tipperary under 21 team for 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981 and on the under 21 and senior team for 1982. He is a selector again in 1989 on the successful under 21 team.



The Late Hubie Hogan

* Ken Hogan is captain of the Lorrha team today. His father, Hubie, had a distinguished career as a player and an administrator. In 1979 he bowed out after three years as county chairman. Previous to that he had spent seven years as North chairman. During those ten years he had impressed many people and made many fine speeches and his closing address to County Convention lived up to his usual high standard. In the course of it he said: "Nowhere is pride of parish and pride of county more evident than in Tipperary, and nowhere, even if we say it ourselves, is it more entitled to be. On that memorable day in 1887 the name of Tipperary was proudly recorded as winners of the first All-Ireland and ever since, with the exception of one or two brief intervals, the same name has headed the roll of honour. Apart from being winners of the first All-Ireland, we can claim an impressive list of firsts, which it is doubtful if any other county can equal. In addition to being the cradle of the Association, Tipperary provided its first Pres-

ident. We were first to win a senior double in 1895 and first to win the hurling Triple Crown in 1930. the American trail, which today has become a recognised feature of the playing year, was first blazed by Tipperary in 1926. Fittingly, in 1937, we captured the Golden Jubilee All-Ireland. Is it any wonder that the very blood that flows in the veins of a Tipperary man should tell him: this is your right from the ages — the right to be on top? But it is foolish to live on the capital of past achievements or to be complacent because of the present healthy state of the Association. In this age of bewildering advances in the sphere of communications we are becoming ever more exposed to the influences of alien cultures and the danger is that unless our national culture is firmly established in the lifestyle and, more importantly, in the estimation and affection of our people, we may find ourselves adrift in the drab monotony of a cosmopolitan world from which the colour and excitement of national distinctiveness has disappeared. If we squander our national identity in favour of something alien and inferior we shall stand condemned by the verdict of posterity. We are the guardians of our Gaelic culture, the custodians of our ancient heritage and the caretakers of our children's future. This is both a responsibility and a privilege — a responsibility to be shouldered manfully, a privilege to be cherished jealously”.

* The death of Tom Duffy at the end of February brought to a close the career of one of the most colourful personalities of Lorrha and Tipperary hurling. In the course of an oration at his graveside, Liam King had the following to say of him: “His great service to Lorrha as a hurler lasted over 25 years, during which time he won two North Tipperary championships in 1914 and 1924. He was one of the most highly regarded forwards of Johnny Leahy's great time, which won the All-Ireland crown in the year 1925. These were the days when the All-Ireland trophy changed hands six times in six years and in Kilkenny, Cork, Limerick, Dublin, Galway and Tipperary were hurling men, whose names will be remembered as long as hurling is played. Tom Duffy was the equal of the greatest of these and when Tipperary demolished Galway in the 1925 final he contributed 2-3 to Tipperary's total of 5-6”.

* In 1934 Lorrha defeated Nenagh in the championship and the latter objected. Mr. L. Flynn, the secretary of the Nenagh club, presented the case for the objection: (1) Because no registered list of players, or duplicate was submitted with affiliation to the board; (2) Because the list of players handed to the referee before the commencement of the game by Lorrha did not contain the full christian names of all the players, i.e. ‘Son’ Ryan, ‘Son’ Tuohy; (3) Because a player named Forde, who played with the Lorrha team on that date, was not included in the list of players handed to the referee before the commencement of the game; (4) Because the goalkeeper, who played with Lorrha on that day, was not wearing proper togs. When the objections were heard the chairman refused to rule and asked the board to decide, which voted out the objection.

* One All-Ireland medal came to Lorrha in 1976 when Seamus Kennedy

was on the panel of the county minor team, which defeated Kilkenny in the final on September 5th.

* Deirdre Lane, present club treasurer, played on the Tipperary team that defeated Wexford by 4-2 to 1-3 in the final of the first national camogie league, in a replay at Thurles on March 20th, 1977.

* Lorrha were badly beaten by Thurles Sarsfields in the 1976 county championship. The blamed the defeat partially on the unfamiliar red Roscrea jerseys they wore on that occasion. Because of the clash of colours they had to change as a result of a toss. In order to prevent a recurrence they had a motion — "In the event of a clash of colours both teams will change their original colours" — passed at the next North convention.

* Frank Shelly, who was a student in the Vocational School at Borrisokane, was on the Tipperary Vocational Schools team that won the All-Ireland for the fifth year in a row in 1968. They beat Antrim at Croke Park on May 12th.

* Davy O'Sullivan won a divisional championship medal in 1956. In the following year he emigrated to Wales, where his son, Neil, became a hockey international.

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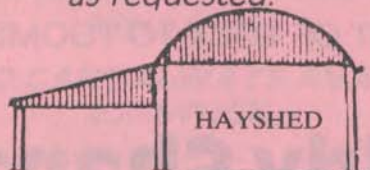
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