

North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
1990

COISTE TIOBRAID
ARANN THUAIDH

At MacDonagh Park,
Nenagh.

**Sunday, July 29th
1990**



Senior Hurling Final

Kilruane MacDonagh's



Toomevara

3.30 p.m.

Reitair: Gerry Long

2nd Round Junior Hurling

Shannon Rovers v Silvermines

2.00 p.m.

Clar Oifigiúil

Luach 50p

Mícheál Ó Briain (Runaí)

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from*

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TOOMEVARA**

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Game is our main topic*

Teachtaireacht an Chathaoirligh



Mar Chathaoirleach Bhoird Thiobraid Arann Thuaidh, cuirim fáilte roimh gach éinne chung Pairc Mhic Donnchadha inniu. Tá cluiche cheannais sa Iomáint Sinsearach ar siúl idir Cill Ruain Mhic Donnchadha agus Tuaim Uí Mhéara agus tá siúl agam go bheidh cluiche brea sportiúl againn. Chirim fáilte faoi leith roimh na fóirne go léir — na foirne sinseara agus na fóirne sóiseara.

It is my privilege as Chairman of the Board to extend a 'céad míle fáilte' to everybody to today's final and especially to the teams involved. In the senior final we have two clubs — Toomevara and Kilruane McDonagh — with a very proud tradition. They have been great rivals down the years and produced some of the most memorable games ever witnessed in the division. Toome, with a record 22 titles, won their last one in 1962 and will be anxious to bridge the gap. McDonaghs, All-Ireland club champions in 1987 will be anxious to regain the divisional title and proceed to the county quarter finals on a winning note. These same two teams met earlier in the year in our senior hurling league final and after a great sporting struggle Toome were victorious by three points.

I wish both teams the best of luck and look forward to a good game.

The curtain raiser is a junior hurling championship game between Silvermines who last won this title in 1979 and Shannon Rovers who were champions in 1952.

I would like to thank all who helped in the preparations for today — An Rúnai, Micheal O'Brien, an Cistéoir, Seamus O hOgain, McDonagh Park Committee, Bord na nOg who produced the programme and the press.

My thanks also to the clubs and officials in the division and the referees for their help and co-operation during the year.

Rath Dé oraibh go léir.

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(Cathaoirleach)

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Tom Ryan

- One of Toome's Greats



by LIAM DORAN

On March 17th., 1970, Toomevara was plunged into grief by the passing of one of its hurling heroes, Tom Ryan, Knockahunna, only 29 years old.

Tom was on the Toomevara team that brought the Conway Cup to the parish for the first time in 1953, when Shannon Rovers were beaten 3-3 to 3-1. The following year Borrisokane defeated Toome in the final by 7-3 to 4-1. He was still a juvenile in 1955 when Frankie Ryan led Toome to victory in the Conway Cup over Kilruane. He was on the team which lost to Lorrha the following year.

1958 saw Tom at corner forward on the Junior B team which defeated Kilruane in the final by 2-8 to 1-5. They then played off against Borrisokane winners of the A section. It was reported that Tom was in fine form and Toome were settling down after scoring 2-1 in the opening minutes, but were being met by stiff opposition. It was here that Tom Ryan, the 17 year old minor, came into the picture with his long strides and longer pucks he sent twice over the bar to lengthen Toome's lead, said the Guardian reporter of the day.

1959 saw Tom on the Tipp minor team and he scored a point against Cork in the semi-final. With his namesake from Killenale he formed a great midfield partnership. The Munster crown was won by beating Limerick 5-8 to 1-4 and an All-Ireland as Kilkenny were beaten 3-8 to 2-7. On the local scene, Toomevara were beaten by Roscrea 3-10 to 2-5 in the North Minor final. The Guardian reported that "Tom Ryan, the Tipperary minor put in a hard hour and had most of his sides scores".

He made his way onto the senior team in 1959 and played against Newport, Kildangan and Roscrea before Kilruane were faced in the final. Short John Hough and Dinny Cuddy, Toome went down 0-11 to 1-4. The following year Tom scored 0-7 for Toome in the quarter final against Eire Og, Roscrea were brushed aside in the semi-final, and once more Kilruane were opponents in the final. This time Kilruane were trounced by 4-12 to 1-

3. Tom scored 1-5 of Toome's 3-20 v Solohead in the County quarter-final.

Kilruane were opponents once more in the semi-final and were only beaten this time 3-9 to 4-2. Thurles Sarsfields had been County Champions since 1955, but it was Toome's hour of glory by 3-15 to 2-7. The Guardian reported: "Tom Ryan hit some great balls at midfield, and along with John Hough outplayed the Sarsfields pair of Mick Murphy and Tim Walsh. He was Toome's leading scorer with nine points - eight from frees - for not once did the ex-county minor miss a placed ball when within striking distance".

1961 brought another North title in the defeat of Borrisokane. Tom Ryan scored 0-4 of his sides 4-14. Sarsfields were again the County final opponents, and Toome' suffered a great loss before the game with the tragic death of Gerry Hough. Their momentum was further upset by the sending off of captain John Hough, twenty minutes into the game, along with Tim Walsh of Sarsfields. Sarsfields won 3-4 to 0-9. The Guardian reported that Tom Ryan had an un auspicious start, but then opened up his shoulders and sent ball after ball into the Sarsfields goalmouth".

The following year Tom Ryan made his senior debut in Croke Park when he replaced the injured Jimmy Doyle in the second half of the All-Ireland final. He was to pick up further All-Ireland medals in 1964 and 1965, as a substitute. A North medal came his way in 1962 with the defeat of Kilruane.

But Toome's era was fading, Roscrea dethroned them in the 1963 North Final, the following year they lost to Lorrha in the second round. Tom was vice-captain in 1965; his brother Roger was on the team with him since 1962. The following year Toome' reached the North Final again. To Roger and Tom fell the honour of scoring the vital goal and a point needed to oust Moneygall in the quarter final by 3-6 to 2-8. The final against Lorrha was Toome's swan song for the decade, and they went down 3-11 to 2-13.

1961 they failed in the first round to Newport and the following year had to give way to Borris-Ileigh in the semi-final. Tom's last game was against Kilsheelan in the County Championship (open draw) of 1969. Illness was beginning to take its toll, and he passed away on St. Patricks Day, 1970. Many GAA colleagues were on the Guard of Honour at Ballinree Church for the funeral.

From Kilruane to Toome'



Neil Williams

by LIAM DORAN

The presentation on August 15, 1987, of the Ciba-Geigy Clubman of the Year, to Niall Williams was recognition of his tremendous contribution to hurling over thirty years in Toomevara as player and mentor par excellence of youthful hurlers.

Niall comes of a Cloughjordan family with strong GAA connections, and it was with Kilruane that he did his early hurling. He was on the Kilruane team which was beaten in the North Final of 1952 by Borris-ileigh 3-8 to 0-4. Kilruane reached the North Final in 1953 also against Borris-ileigh but lost 3-12 to 1-5. He qualified as a teacher, and in 1957 came to the parish of Toomevara as principal of Ballinree N.S. He threw in his lot with the Greyhounds, and in 1958 found himself in the North Final, against his old club Kilruane. he was to collect his first senior medal as Kilruane was beaten 6-13 to 4-3. Unfortunately a County Medal eluded him as Thurles Sarsfields were victors in the County final by 4-11 to 3-3. Kilruane gained revenge in the North Final of 1959, but the third meeting of the sides in a final in 1960 and Toome won 4-11 to 1-3. The County medal came Niall's way as Sarsfields were swept aside 3-15 to 2-8. An anonymous balladeer wrote -

"Niall Williams shone at centre back,
No forward could get through".

North medals in 1961 and 1962, the latter year as captain, and Niall also led a Toome-Moneygall football combination "St. Flannans" to a County senior football title. Toome' began to decline as a senior hurling power, 1966 being their only other appearance in a final until 1986. Niall retired from the senior hurling scene in 1970.

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Niall became principal of Toomevara N.S. in 1974 and from then Juvenile hurling took off in a big way in the parish. His tremendous coaching skills were soon evident, as under 12 and under 14 North titles were brought to the parish in 1975. 1977 brought a Co. U/12 title when Pat King (a current senior) led Toome to victory over Moycarkey. Jody Grace, Brendan Spillane, Rory Brislane, John Ryan, Liam Flaherty were among his colleagues on the day. Since then there has been a glittering procession of juvenile titles to Toomevara, and the hard work of Niall Williams had borne fruit with County minor titles in 1986 and 1987, and the County under 21 titles of 1985 and 1986.

To have served with Niall in the under age groups has been a privilege. As a juvenile mentor he has no peer. He gets a tremendous response from young boys. I recall particularly the dressing room before the 1988 County under 12 final. The rapt attention as Niall spoke. The sense that they would gladly give their all for him on the field. That final was one of the greatest games at under age level, as Toome edged out St. Mary's by a solitary point. In his own quiet way Niall was very proud of them, and they were proud of him.

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BEST WISHES TO THE FINALISTS

Len Gaynor



The name of Len Gaynor and Kilruane MacDonaghs are synonymous. As a player and a coach he undoubtedly has been the club's greatest ambassador. He has served both club and county with distinction in his role as a player and coach. Len played his first juvenile game for MacDonagh's in 1955 and in a playing career that incredibly lasted 34 years he played his last game for the club at junior level in 1989.

In 1959 he captained the MacDonaghs' juvenile team to county final honours against Ballybacon/Grange. At that time Len was operating at centre-forward. In the decider a lad called Babs Keating was giving the Kilruane defence a torrid time. The Kilruane mentors switched Len to the defence and immediately the threat was curbed. For the major part of his career he displayed his talents in the defence. Len attended St. Flannan's Secondary School and in 1961 he led them to victory in the Dean Ryan Cup final against De La Salle, Waterford. Fellow club man Tony Heffernan and Jim Woods who later played intercounty for Clare, were also members of the side.

In 1962 he gained his place on the Tipperary minor team which lost the All-Ireland final to a Tom Walsh inspired Kilkenny. In the same year he made his senior debut for MacDonaghs against Thurles Sarsfields in a tournament final played on Easter Sunday. Toomevara thwarted his attempt to win a North medal when they had a two points victory. In 1964 he made his debut for the Tipperary team in the Oireachtas final against Kilkenny. The same year he was on the Tipperary team which won the All-Ireland U-21 title. His colleagues on that team included Francis Loughnane and Babs Keating. Len was a sub on the senior team which had a convincing victory over Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final.

As a juvenile and minor Len had admired and looked up to Tony Wall. In 1965 he had the honour of playing alongside Tony in the All-Ireland final as the Premier county easily dealt with the challenge of Wexford. To crown a great year he captained MacDonaghs to a North final victory over Lorrha. Len says that the great Lorrha side of the mid-sixties were always difficult opponents. In 1967 he was selected Tipperary player of the year. He gave a superb display on the losing side in the decider against Kilkenny.

Len collected his third Celtic Cross in 1971 when Tipperary defeated Kilkenny. This dashing half-back last wore the blue and gold in the 1974 league. In an eleven year intercounty career he numbers Eddie Keher and Jimmy O'Brien of Wexford as his most difficult opponents. While giving sterling service to Tipperary he made many appearances for Munster in the Railway Cup.

Having departed the intercounty scene Len devoted his energies and talents to his own club. In 1971 he had already coached the minor team to win the county final and he was the inspiration and driving force behind the U-21 sides which won 6 North and four county titles in the seventies. One of the proudest moments of his career came in 1977 in Semple Stadium when he played on and coached MacDonaghs to bring the first senior hurling title to the parish for 75 years. He guided that side to a hat-trick of county titles. In 1986 he brought the club to the pinnacle of success when they won the All-Ireland club title against Buffers Alley in what Paddy Downey of *The Irish Times* said was the best ever club final. While Len's first loyalty has always been to Kilruane MacDonaghs he has put his talents at the disposal of other clubs but in doing so he never compromised his passionate allegiance to MacDonaghs. He coached Moycarkey and Clonoulty to county honours and also guided Shannon Rovers and Newport to county honours in the intermediate grade. Indeed a number of neighbouring counties have sought his services.

Len, however, is not one to seek the limelight. Having coached the senior team for thirteen years he stepped down at last year's convention. He immediately took on the task of coaching this year's minor team knowing full well that with a young and weak team hopes for success were almost non-existent. Len, however, is more aware than most that it is thankless work like this helps to build a solid foundation for a club.

Len's achievements: 3 All-Ireland senior medals; 1 All-Ireland U-21 medal; 6 Munster senior medals; 1 Munster minor medal; 1 Munster U-21 medal; 2 National League medals; 4 Oireachtas medals; 3 Railway Cup medals; 3 county senior medals; 4 North senior medals; 1 county junior medal; 1 North junior medal.

Toomevara — 30 North

Final Appearances

To-day's game will mark the thirtieth occasion that Toomevara will contest the North Senior Hurling final. Having won 22 titles, their last in 1962, the people of Toomevara are looking to Brendan Spillane and his team to bridge this gap by coming home with the Frank McGrath Cup.

Like all clubs in North Tipperary, hurling holds a special place in the hearts of the people of Toomevara parish, and the members of to-days team are very conscious of the challenge that is before them when they face Kilruane for the 1990 Championship. Most of the present team tasted defeat in the North finals in 1986 against Kilruane and against Lorrha in last year's decider. But, the hope is that they will have gained the experience and confidence from those games to come through to-day's encounter in flying colours.

A lot has been said and written about the success of the club's underage teams in recent years, but none more than players realise that the club's supporters will not be happy until that special senior hurling title is achieved.

So the scene is set for what is considered by Toomevara people to be a most vital game if they are to make that eagerly awaited breakthrough. The team has prepared well and with the Senior hurling league for 1990 under their belt they will approach to-day's final with caution, but they do so in the knowledge that they can create their own bit of history with a victory over their great rivals Kilruane and add to the club's proud record of achievements.

Selectors: Fr. Michael Casey, C.C., Jim McDonnell, Frankie Ryan.

Trainer/Coach: Sean O'Meara.

Club Officials: Chairman, Fr. Michael Hogan, C.C.; Vice-Chairmen, Gerry Kelly, Fr. Michael Casey, C.C.; Secretary, Paddy O'Brien; Treasurer, Bernard O'Neill; P.R.O., Tommy Carroll; Registrar, Neil Williams.

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Roll of Honour

TOOMEVARA

North senior hurling: 1910, '11, '12, '13, '16, '17, '18, '19, '20, '21, '22, '23, '25, '26, '27, '28, '29, '30, '31, '46, '58, '60, '61, '62.

County senior hurling: 1890, 1910, '12, '13, '14, '19, '20, '23, '30, '60.

Hogan Cup, North SHL: 1990.

North junior hurling: 1913, '14, '20 (Ballymackey), 1925 (Garranafarna), 1928 (Monamore), 1938 (Ballymackey), 1958.

County junior hurling: 1913.

North junior hurling 'B': 1986.

North intermediate hurling: 1944, '55, '84.

County intermediate hurling: 1984.

North U-21 hurling: 1967, '85, '86.

County U-21 hurling: 1985, '86.

North minor hurling: 1932, '37, '54, '56, 1979 (B), '81, '82, '85, '86, '87.

County minor hurling: 1986, '87.

North U-21 hurling: 1975, '77, '80, '81, '82, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87, '88, '89.

County U-21 hurling: 1977, '86, '88.

North U-14 rural: 1953, '55, '75, '77, '79, '80, '81, '82, '83, '87, '88.

County U-14 rural: 1979, '81, '84, '88.

North U-14 urban-rural: 1977, '79, '83, '87, '89.

North U-16 hurling: 1981, '85, '86, '87, '89.

County U-16 hurling: 1981, '85.

Community Games All-Ireland: 1979.

Community Games, Munster: 1979, 1987.

Feile na nGael (Tipp champions): 1979, '83, '84.

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Greyhounds*

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Laughter.*

Statistics from Toome

Toome have made most final appearances, their first in 1903 and to-days game will be their thirtieth.

Toome had the distinction of scoring most in a final, when in 1958 they notched 6-13 to Kilruane's 4-3.

Toome had the greatest winning margin in a final when in 1912 they defeated Ballina 7-3 to 0-1.

Toome also have the honour of scoring most goals in a final. That was 1925 when they scored nine against Youghalarra.

The achievement of appearing in most finals goes to Martin Kennedy who played in 17 finals between 1919 and 1945. He won 10 titles with Toomevara, and for the remainder he assisted Kildangan, winning 4 medals and only losing on three occasions.

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Roll of Honour

KILRUANE MacDONAGHS

All-Ireland Club Champions: '86

Munster Club Champions: '85.

All-Ireland 7-a-Side Champions: '84.

All-Ireland Feile na nGael runners-up: '80 and '90.

North Tipp Club of the Year: '75, '77, '78 and '85.

COUNTY TITLES (26)

Senior Hurling: (5) 1902 (De Wets); '77, '78, '79, '85.

Senior football: (1) 1975.

Intermediate hurling: (2) '60 and '78.

Junior hurling: (1) 1985.

U-21 hurling: (4) '73, '74, '75, '76.

U-21 football: (1) 1978.

Minor hurling: (1) 1971.

U-17 hurling: (1) 1971

U-15 Hurling: (5) '44, '59, '62, '64 and '70

U-14 hurling: (5) '73, '78, '80 rural, '80 u-rural, '89.

NORTH TITLES (80)

Senior hurling: (17) 1901, '02, '03, '04, '06, '07, '08 (De Wets), '40, '44, '59, '65, '77, '78, '79, '85, '86, '87.

Senior football: (4) '72, '76, '77 and '81.

Intermediate hurling: (1) 1978.

Junior hurling: (7) 1950, '54, '56, '60, '64, '75, '85.

Minor hurling: (5) '52, '64, '71, '72, '73.

Junior football: (2) '71 and '75.

Minor football: (3) '70, '72 and '84.

U-21 hurling: (6) '72, '73, '74, '75, '76 and '78.

U-21 football: (6) '70, '73, '74, '75, '76, '78.

U-17 hurling: (1) '71.

U-16 hurling: (2) '73 and '80.

U-15 hurling: (14) rural '44, '51, '59, '60, '61, '62, '64, '68, '70, '71 and urban rural '62, '64, '68 and '71.

U-15 football: (1) 1970.

U-14 hurling: (8) rural '73, '76, '78, '80, '85 and urban rural '80 and '81.

U-12 hurling: (2) '78 and '79.

U-12 football: (1) 1982.

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Kilruane MacDonaghs

The clash of Toomevara and Kilruane MacDonaghs in this year's North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final recalls memories of another North Tipperary Final nearly 80 years ago.

On an Autumn day in 1911 Toomevara met the De Wets for the North Tipperary crown. Excitement was high as the two teams parade round the pitch in Nenagh behind two ceili bands. Was the contest going to prove that the De Wets were a spent force that the Greyhounds, as the Toomevara boys were called, were on the way to the top.

Well, it is now history that Toomevara won the game by 7-0 to 3-0. It was the end of an era of dominance by the old De Wets who were champions of North Tipperary from 1901 (when the team was formed) to 1909 with the exception of 1905 when Lorrha took the title. It was also the beginning of another golden era for the Toomevara greyhounds. For the next 20 years there was only one great team in North Tipperary and that was Toomevara.

Could we be about to witness the same today? For the past 15 years, at underage level Toomevara have produced some great teams and individual players. Many observers say they are on the eve of a great breakthrough. Or, on the other hand is there a second glorious era beginning for Kilruane - only time will tell, perhaps I should have said earlier that the De Wets were the forerunners of the present Kilruane MacDonaghs.

Traditions says they were named the "Lahorna De Wets" in memory of the famous South African general De Wet who gave the English armies a tough time during the Boer War (1899 - 1902).

The chorus of a ballad of this period reads:

"Unconquered yet are you De Wet,

Oh may you never vary,

The magic name that gained such fame

For gallant Tipperary.

A Mr Mackey of Nenagh was the writer.

Just as the famous De Wets were founded with a war-like background, so the same can be said for Kilruane MacDonaghs. From 1911 to 1936 many junior hurling teams existed in Cloughjordan parish, Kilruane, Glenahilty, Crowle, Ballycapple, Knocknacree, Kyle Rovers, The Garry Rangers, St. Ruadhans, Loughane and Behamore.

Surely it was time to bring them all together to form one S.H. hurling team. However, for various reasons this was not done, until 1936, when the name of Tomás MacDonagh - the patriot poet, the soldier, the prose writer was used to unite the parish. The team was called "Kilruane MacDonaghs" and thus it remains today. Their colours, worn by all the teams are black and white, (previously green and gold) and they have been worn with great distinction for the past 50 years. The fearless spirit of MacDonagh, his determination, dedication and love of everything Irish has shown itself, in no small way, in the Kilruane MacDonaghs of the present day. Let us hope that today's final will be a memorable one. Perhaps a prayer should be said for all the deceased members of the famous greyhounds and the De Wets of the early years of the 1900's.

E. Whyte, P.P.

Kilruane MacDonaghs Club Officers

President: Very Rev. Canon Whyte, P.P.

Vice-presidents: Rev. Fr. Rodgers, C.C.; Paddy Quinlan, Michael O'Meara

Chairman: Tom Cleary

Vice-chairmen: Roche Williams, Michael Mulcahy.

Secretary/P.R.O.: Gilbert Williams

Treasurer: Mick Hennessy.

North Board delegates: Jim Casey, Paddy Quinlan.

County Board delegate: Michael Cahill.

Juvenile Club: Chairman, Jim McLoughney; secretary, Flan Dwan.

North Tipp's Top Scorers

Michael Cleary, Eire Og 0-27. 3 games

Conor Stakelum, Borrisileigh 0-22. 3 games

David Quinlan, Kilruane 1-19. 4 games.

Sean O'Meara, Shannon Rovers 1.15. 3 games.

Denis Ryan, Newport 1-14. 3 games

Michael Nolan, Toomevara 2-9. 2 games

Jim Williams, Kilruane 3-6. 4 games

Kieran Hough, Lorrha 0-12. 2 games

Ger Bradley, Newport 0-12. 3 games.

Michael Scully, Roscrea 0-10. 1 game.

Paul Mulcahy, Kilruane 0-10. 4 games.

John Keating, Newport 2-3. 3 games.

Padraig Madden, Borrisokane 0-8. 2 games.

KILRUANE SCORERS:

David Quinlan 1-19

Jim Williams 3-6

Paul Mulcahy 0-10.

Pat Quinlan 0-6.

Ger Williams 0-6

Philip Quinlan 1-2.

E. O'Shea 1-0.

T. Kilackey 0-1.

Martin Tooher 0-1.

TOOMEVARA SCORERS:

Michael Nolan 2-9

Jimmy Dunne 0-4.

Kevin Kennedy 1-0.

Tomas Carroll 0-2.

Declan O'Meara 0-2.

John Ryan 0-2.

Tony Delaney 0-1.

Kenneth McDonnell 0-1.



KILRUANE MacDONAGH'S — North Tipperary Champions 1959.

PEN PICTURES:

Kilruane MacDonaghs

TONY SHEPPARD: Age 34. Winner of numerous under age awards in hurling and football. Represented Tipperary in minor, U-21 and senior hurling. Holder of a Munster championship medal. Captained the team to All-Ireland club honours. The only club player to captain two North winning sides. Insurance rep.

JIM O'MEARA: Age 35. Captain of to-day's team. Represented Tipperary in minor, U-21 and senior hurling winning a Munster minor medal. Played his first senior game in 1973. Telecom employee.

JACK DARCY: Age 26. Jack has been a member of the senior panel since 1985. Grabbed his opportunity to claim a regular place on the team when Seamus Gibson was injured. Captained the 1978 U-14 team which won county honours.

GILBERT WILLIAMS: Age 36. This is his twentieth season playing senior hurling for the club. Represented Tipperary in minor and U-21 hurling winning a Munster U-21 medal. Captained the 1971 minor team which won county honours. Primary teacher.

JOHN CONROY: Age 21. His first season at senior level.

JOE BANAGHAN: Age 29. Joe has been a member of the senior panel since 1980. Usually plays wing back but has made a successful change to the centre. A member of the All-Ireland winning team of 1986 and the holder of three North and one county medals. Company rep.

MICHAEL CLEARY: A sub on last year's side. He has made the number seven shirt his own this year. Farmer.

DAVID QUINLAN: Age 22. Represented Tipperary in minor and U-21 hurling. The holder of a Fitzgibbon Cup medal. The youngest of three brothers in the side. Holder of two North u-12, three North U-14 and two county U-14 medals. Student.

ENDA HOGAN: Age 32. Holder of All-Ireland minor and U-21 medals. Played senior hurling for Tipperary. One of six members of the current panel who holds six North, four county, one Munster Club and one All-Ireland club medal. Farmer.

MARTIN TOOHER: Age 22. Holder of 2 North U-12 medals, 3 North U-14 medals and 2 county U-14 medals. A member of the senior panel since 1987. Winner of a North minor football medal. Factory employee.

GER WILLIAMS: Age 33. The youngest of three brothers on the side. Holder of All-Ireland club, Munster club, one county and three North medals. Won numerous medals at underage level. Made his senior debut in 1979. Stores assistant.

PAT QUINLAN: Age 26. Scored the crucial goal in the All-Ireland victory. First played senior hurling in 1982. Winner of three North, one county plus Munster Club and All-Ireland club medals. Farmer.

JIM WILLIAMS: Age 37. Lining out for the twenty second successive year for his club having made his senior debut in 1969 at the age of 16. Represented Tipperary in senior hurling and football. Captained the 1978 team to North and county honours. Holder of a National League medal. Council employee.

PHILIP QUINLAN: Age 32. One of five members of the panel who holds both county U-21 hurling and football medals. Clerical officer.

Joe Cahill: Age 22. The youngest of the three Cahill brothers. Holder of two North U-12, three North U-14 and one county U-14 medal. Winner of a North minor football medal. Played his first senior game in 1988. Farmer.

MICHAEL GAYNOR: Age 22. Son of Des Gaynor who won North medals in 1959 and 1965. Michael was a member of the all-conquering U-14 hurling team of 1980. Winner of an All-Ireland colleges' B medal with Nenagh CBS. Bricklayer.

DINNY CAHILL: Age 35. Made his senior debut in 1973. One of five members of the panel who holds both county senior hurling and football medals. Represented Tipperary in U-21 and senior hurling. Captained the 1977 team to county honours. Cabinet maker.

LIAM GLEESON: Age 20. Reserve goalkeeper. Won an All-Ireland vocational schools' medal with Tipperary. Won an All-Ireland inter-firms' medal with Careys. Factory employee.

JOHN CAHILL: Age 33. Captained the 1978 U-21 hurling team which won the North final. Captained the 1987 senior side which completed the second three-in-row for the club. One of three members of the panel who holds both county senior and intermediate medals. Haulage contractor.

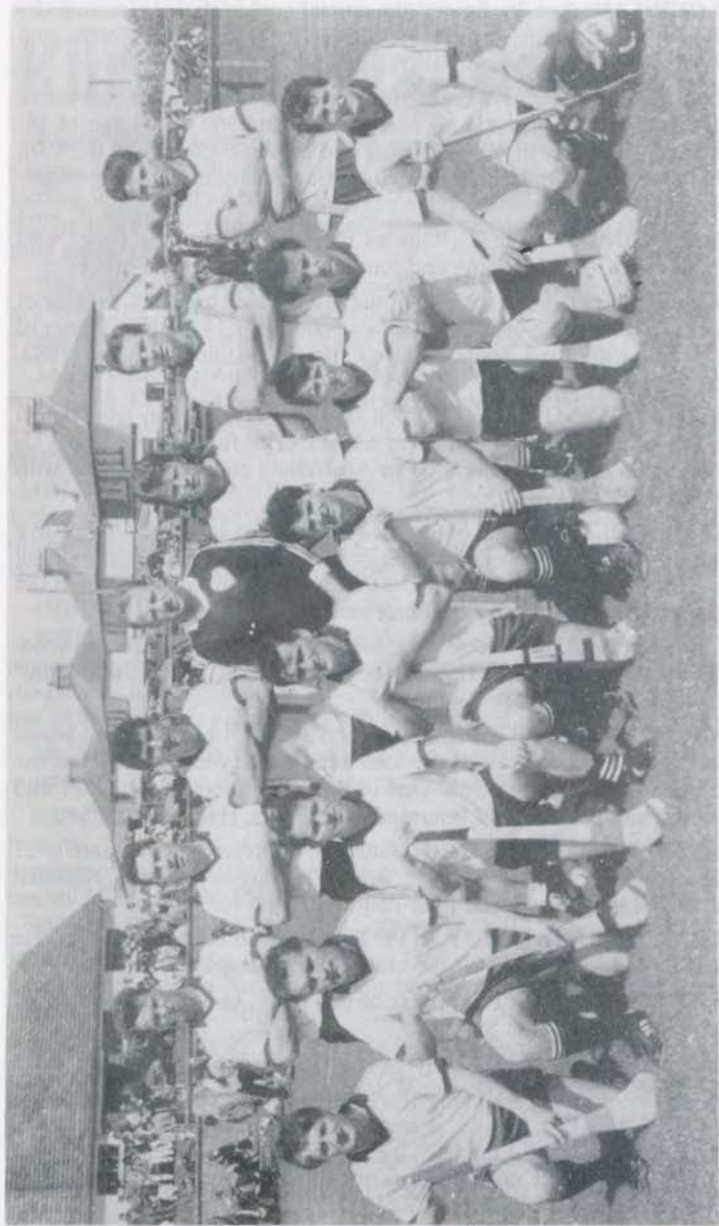
EAMONN O'SHEA: Age 32. Holder of All-Ireland minor and U-21 medals. Represented Tipperary in senior hurling winning a National League medal in 1979. Played inter-county hurling for Dublin.

BERNARD NAUGHNANE: Age 19. First year on the senior panel. He played all grades of hurling for the club. Factory employee.

JIMMY BRADY: Age 21. Another of this year's U-21 side. Won an U-12 football medal in 1982. Student.

BRIAN ENGLAND: Age 20. First year on the senior panel. Won several medals with Borrisokane Vocational School. Student.

TOM KILLACKEY: Age 23. A member of the senior panel since 1985. Holder of a county junior medal. One of five members of the panel who was on the 1980 U-14 team which was unbeaten in Tipperary and reached the All-Ireland final of Feile na nGael.



Kilruane MacDonagh, who defeated Eire Óg in the North semi-final at Cloughjordan.

Silvermines Junior Team

(1)

Pat Dunlea

(2)

John Kennedy

(3)

Michael Maher

(4)

Pierce Ryan

(5)

Tomas Cunneen

(6)

Michael Gleeson

(7)

Jas. Murphy

(8)

Eoin Ryan

(9)

Paudie Leamy

(10)

Jas. Kennedy

(11)

Sean Forde

(12)

Brian O'Brien

(13)

Maurice Leamy

(14)

John Ryan

(15)

Liam O'Grady

(16) Noel Clifford, (17) John Collins, (18) David O'Brien, (19) Sean Quigley, (20) John Quirke, (21) Martin Griffin, (22) Johnny Ryan, (23) Ger Darcy, (24) Michael Ryan, (25) Cathal Loughnane.

Selectors: Pat Sheehan, Michael Maher, Jim Keogh.

Shannon Rovers Junior Team

(1)

Declan Dunne

(2)

Brendan Tierney

(3)

Paddy Burke

(4)

Brian Whelan

(5)

Dermot Costello

(6)

Tom Burke

(7)

Donal Leenane

(8)

Tommy Hough

(9)

John Cahalan

(10)

Martin McLoughney

(11)

Mike Burke

(12)

Pakie Burke

(13)

Raymond Costello

(14)

Ger Hogan

(15)

Eoin Slattery

(16) Billy Hogan, (17) Tomas Costello, (18) Paul Tiernan, (19) Damien Burke, (20) Ciaran Whelan, (21) Donal Flannery, (22) Pat Quinlan.

KILRUANE

(1)

Tony Sheppard

(2)

Denis Cahill

(3)

Jack Darcy

(4)

Gilbert Williams

(5)

Jack Conroy

(6)

Joe Banaghan

(7)

Michael Cleary

(8)

David Quinlan

(9)

Enda Hogan

(10)

Martin Tooher

(11)

Ger Williams

(12)

Joe Cahill

(13)

Pat Quinlan

(14)

Jim Williams

(15)

Philip Quinlan

Subs.: (16) Eamonn O'Shea, (17) Tom Killackey, (18) Michael Gaynor, (19) Brian England, (20) Liam Gleeson, (21) Jimmy Brady, (22) Bernard Naughnane, (23) Jim O'Meara, (24) John Cahill, (25) George O'Leary.

Selectors: Billy O'Meara, Paddy Williams, Ml. Hogan.
Coach: Paddy Williams; Trainer: Liam Tierney; Masseur: Ned Fogarty.

Kilruane	Cuil	Cuilini	Seachai	65M.	Saor-pocanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlan					

TOOMEVARA

(1)

Jody Grace

(2)

George Frend

(3)

Rory Brislane

(4)

Brendan Spillane

(5)

Tony Delaney

(6)

Michael O'Meara

(7)

Pat King

(8)

Pat Maher

(9)

Ken McDonnell

(10)

Declan O'Meara

(11)

Jimmy Dunne

(12)

Liam Flaherty

(13)

Michael Nolan

(14)

Kevin McCormack

(15)

John Ryan

Subs.: (16) Tony Dunne, (17) Kevin Kennedy, (18) Sean Nolan, (19) Tom Carroll, (20) Joe Kennedy, (21) Kevin Delaney, (22) Tommy O'Meara, (23) Sean O'Meara, (24) John Ryan (Lough).

Toomevara	Cúil	Cúilini	Seachai	65M.	Saor-pocanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlan					

PEN PICTURES:

Toomevara

JOE KENNEDY: Age 20. Won U-12, 14, 16, minor county championships with Toomevara as well as many North Tipp medals. He was a member of Tipp minor panel in 1988. Plasterer.

KEVIN KENNEDY: Age 19. Won county championship medals at U-12, 14, 16, represented Tipperary on the minor hurling team in 1989. Factory employee.

PAT KING: Age 25. Won county championship medals with Toomevara at U-12, 14, 16, and 21, captained the U-21 team in '86 which won the county final also captained the senior team in 1989. Factory employee.

PAT MEAGHER: Age 24. Won county championships at U-12, 14, 16, and 21 with Toomevara, he has played with Tipperary U-21s. Office clerk.

KEVIN McCORMACK: Age 19. Won county championship medals at U-12, 14, 16, minor and U-21 with Toomevara. Won All-Ireland Vocational Schools medal with Tipp in 1988. Played with the Tipp minor team in 1989. Carpenter.

KENNETH McDONNELL: Age 23. Won divisional and county championship medals with Toomevara at under age level, captained the minor team in 1985 that won the North championship, was a member of the Tipp U-21 panel in 1988. Farmer.

MIKE NOLAN: Age 22. Won county championship medals at U-12, 14, 16, minor and U-21 with Toomevara. Played with Tipperary at minor, U-21, winning All-Ireland medal in '89, also played with Tipp senior team and won Div. II league medal in 1987. Welder.

SEAN NOLAN: Age 27. Won U-12, 14, intermediate co championship medals as well as many divisional medals with Toomevara, played with Tipp minor team in 1981, Tipp U-21 team in 1984 and was a member of the Tipp junior panel in 1989. Butcher.

DECLAN O'MEARA: Age 20. Won county championship medals at U-12, 14, 16, and minor with Toomevara, played with Tipperary minor hurling teams in 1987 and 1988 when he captained the team. Carpenter.

MICHAEL O'MEARA: Age 21. Won county championship medals with Toomevara at U-12, 14, 16, minor and U-21. He has played on the Tipp minor team and is a member of the Tipp U-21 panel this year. Factory employee.

TOMMY O'MEARA: Age 35. Played under age hurling with Kilruane with which he won several medals, joined Toomevara in 1976 and has played at all grades for the club since, won junior league medals in 1988 and 1989. Machine operator.

RORY BRISLANE: Age 23. Won county championships with Toomevara at u-12, 14, 16, 21, intermediate. Won Munster and All-Ireland colleges medals with St. Flannan's. He has also played minor and U-21 with Tipperary. Factory employee.

TOMMY CARROLL: Age 19. Won county championships at U-12, 14, minor, as well as many divisional medals with Toomevara. He played minor with Tipperary in 1989. Student.

KEVIN DELANEY: Age 19. Won county championships with Toomevara at U-12, 14, minor as well as many North Tipp medals. Garage employee.

TONY DELANEY: Age 19. Won U-12, 14, 16, minor county championships with Toomevara. He played with Tipperary minor hurling team in 1989. Van driver.

JIMMY DUNNE: Age 28. He has played with Toomevara at every level, won divisional medals at U-12, 14, and minor also county intermediate medal in 1984. Carpenter.

TONY DUNNE: Age 40. He has played with Toomevara at all levels. Won North Tipp juvenile medals and in 1967 won North Tipp U-21 medal; also won intermediate county championship in 1984, he has represented Tipperary at junior and senior level. Farmer.

LIAM FLAHERTY: Age 25. Won county championship medals with Toomevara at U-12, 14, 16, 21 and also Munster U-16 medal with North Tipperary in 1981. Farmer.

GEORGE FREND: Age 20. Won county championships with Toomevara at U-12, 14, 16, minor, U-21. Won All-Ireland medal with Tipperary at U-21 in 1989 playing at corner back. He is also on this year's Tipperary U-21 team. Student.

JODY GRACE: Age 23. Won county championships at U-12, 14, 16, 21, intermediate with Toomevara, Munster U-16 medal with North Tipperary. He has represented Tipperary at minor and U-21 and in 1989 he won All-Ireland junior medal with Tipperary as goalkeeper. Farmer.

SEAMUS O'MEARA: Age 28. He has played at all levels for Toomevara, won medals at under age level and also junior league medals in 1988 and 1989. Electrician.

JOHN RYAN: Age 25. Won county championship medals at U-12, 14, 16 and 21 with Toomevara as well as many divisional medals. Farmer.

JOHN RYAN (L): Age 33. Played at all levels with Toomevara, won junior league medals with the club in 1988 and 1989. Farmer.

BRENDAN SPILLANE: Age 25. Won county championship medals at U-12, 14, 16 and 21; also at intermediate with Toomevara. Captain of the present senior team. Office clerk.

Selectors: Fr. Michael Casey, Jim McDonnell, Frankie Ryan.

Trainer: Sean O'Meara.

Good Luck to Toomevara in the North Final
from

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good company after the match
and at all times.
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Prop.: PADGE KIRWAN



Toomevara, who qualified for their second successive final.

Best of luck in the final to both teams from
from

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pleasant drink and
comfortable surroundings

Music Every Saturday and Sunday Night

The Best of Luck to All Teams
from

O'Connor's

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Kenyon Street Branch
and The Hyperstore**

S.H.C. Results for 1990

INCLUDING TOOMEVARA AND KILRUANE'S PATH TO THE FINAL

Compiled by LIAM HOGAN

FIRST ROUND

Eire Og 1-14 (Ml. Cleary 0-7, Kieran O'Brien 1-0, John Kennedy 0-3, Philip Kennedy 0-2, Ronan Burns 0-1, Barry O'Brien 0-1) — **Kilruane 1-8** (Jim Williams 1-0, David Quinlan 0-3, Pat Quinlan 0-2, Paul Mulcahy 0-2, Philip Quinlan 0-1).

Toomevara 2-11 (Ml. Nolan 1-5, Jimmy Dunne 0-3, Kevin Kennedy 1-0, Tommie Carroll 0-2, John Ryan 0-1,) — **Borrisokane 0-10** (Padraig Hogan 0-6, Brendan Hogan 0-2, Paul Corcoran 0-1, Paul Dooley 0-1).

Newport 2-11 (Denis Ryan 1-8, P. Coleman 1-0, Ger Carey 0-2, Ger Bradley 0-1) — **Borris-Ileigh 1-13** (Conor Stakelum 0-6, Seamus Devaney 1-1, Richard Stakelum 0-2, Aidan Ryan 0-2, M. Stapleton 0-1, John McGrath 0-1).

Lorrha 0-18 (Kieran Hough 0-6, John Guinan 0-3, John Madden 0-3, Ml. Young 0-3, Liam Raddish 0-2, Donal O'Donoghue 0-1) — **Shannon Rovers 2-8** (Gerry O'Meara 1-1, Pat Hogan 1-1, Joe Hannigan 0-3, Sean O'Meara 0-3).

Roscrea: bye.

LOSERS GROUP SEMI-FINALS

Borris-Ileigh 0-14 (Conor Stakelum 0-9, Aidan Ryan 0-2, Gerry Stapleton 0-1, Bobby Ryan 0-1, Ml. Stapleton 0-1) — **S. Rovers 1-11** (Sean O'Meara 0-7, John J Costello 1-0, Martin Hogan 0-2, Paddy Hogan 0-1, Tomas Hogan 0-1).

Replay: Borris-Ileigh 0-19 (Conor Stakelum 0-10, Brian Kenny 0-3, Aidan Ryan 0-3, John McGrath 0-2, M. Fahey 0-1.) — **Shannon Rovers 2-9** (Sean O'Meara 1-5, Paddy Hogan 1-0, Martin Hogan 0-2, Liam Hogan 0-1, Sean Darcy 0-1).

Kilruane 3-12 (Jim Williams 2-1, Philip Quinlan 1-1, Paul Mulcahy 0-4, David Quinlan 0-3, Gerry Williams 0-1, T Killackey 0-1, Pat Quinlan 0-1) — **Borrisokane 4-4** (Neil Kelly 1-1, V. McKenna 1-0, Paul Dooley 1-0, Jack Moran 1-0, Padraig Hogan 0-2, Declan Morris 0-1.)

QUARTER FINALS

Eire Og 1-14 (Ml. Cleary 0-9, Barry O'Brien 1-0, Philip Kennedy 0-1, Conor Donovan 0-1, Eddie Tucker 0-1, Ml. Kennedy 0-1, Kevin O'Brien 0-1.) **Roscrea 0-14** Ml. Scully 0-10, Paul Delaney 0-2, Brendan Carey 0-1, John Pyne 0-1).

Newport 2-12 (John Keating 2-3, Ger Bradley 0-4, Denis Ryan 0-3, Pat

Shinnors 0-2). — **Lorrha 1-12** (Kieran Hough 0-6, John Madden 1-0, Martin Young 0-2, Aidan McIntyre 0-1, John Guinan 0-1, Pat Kennedy 0-1).

LOSERS FINALS

Kilruane 0-18 (David Quinlan 0-6, Paul Mulcahy 0-4, Gerry Williams 0-4, Jim Williams 0-2, Pat Quinlan 0-2). — **Borris-ileigh 0-6** Conor Stakelum 0-3, John McGrath 0-2, Joe Loughnane 0-1.

Toomevara: A Bye.

SEMI-FINALS

Kilruane 2-13 (David Quinlan 1-7, Jim Williams 0-3, Eamon O'Shea 1-0, Pat Quinlan 0-1, Jim Williams 0-1, Martin Tooher 0-1.) — **Eire Og 0-13** (Ml. Cleary 0-11, Niall Corbett 0-1, John Kennedy 0-1).

Toomevara 1-10 (Declan Nolan 1-4, D O'Meara 0-2, Jimmy Dunne 0-1, Tony Delaney 0-1, John Ryan 0-1, Kenneth McDonald 0-1). — **Newport 0-11** (Ger Bradley 0-7, Denis Ryan 0-3, Pat Shinnors 0-1).

Best Wishes to Kilruane and
Toomevara
from

the management and staff

**Nenagh Lodge
Hotel**

TODAY'S REFEREES

GERRY LONG (Knockshegowna)

This is Gerry's first senior final although he was appointed to referee the 1987 final between Lorrha and Kilruane, but had to retire after ten minutes of the game due to injury. Gerry has officiated at finals at all ages and grades. Only recently he refereed the Feile Na Gael Div. 3 final at Thurles between Loughmore and Loughiel Shamrocks. Gerry's two biggest finals were the All-Ireland junior final in 1984 and the All-Ireland under 21 final in 1986. Nearer



home he refereed the County Senior Final of 1987 between Loughmore-Castleiney and Cappawhite. Other finals include Senior All Ireland B, All Ireland Vocational Schools, Fitzgibbon & University competitions. Gerry has also refereed a number of Div. I National Hurling League Games. His umpires for today are Paddy Hodgins, David Enright, Martin Healy and Martin Darcy. His linesmen are Johnny McDonald, Roscrea and Gerry Hayes, Moneygall. Gerry is married to Mary and has one child. He is an active member with his club Knockshegowna.

PAT SHEEDY (Moneygall)

Pat Sheedy referees the 2nd round junior hurling championship game today between Shannon Rovers and Silvermines. He has refereed in North finals of every grade except senior. In 1985 he took charge of u/21 hurling final between Toomevara and Kilruane, 1986 the minor hurling final again between Kilruane and Toome', in 1987 it was his second u/21 final this time Borris-Ileigh and Roscrea. In 1988 Pat refereed the junior hurling final



between Knockshegowna and Lorrha. Finally last year Pat refereed his biggest final to-date when Newport defeated Portroe in the Intermediate final. Pat captained Moneygall to North and County senior honours in 1975. He is 39 years of age and is married and works as a teacher.

Tom McLoughney

When Tom McLoughney played his first juvenile game for Kilruane MacDonaghs in 1951 against Shannon Rovers his ambition was to win a North Medal with the Senior team. At that time had had no aspirations to wear the blue and gold. In his first year in juvenile ranks MacDonaghs won the North Final. There was no Co. championship that year. His colleagues on that team included Gerry McCarthy, Des Gaynor and Ger Hogan. In 1951 Borris-Ileigh senior team were at the height of their powers. Tom's idol as a juvenile was one of the stars of that team Paddy Kenny.

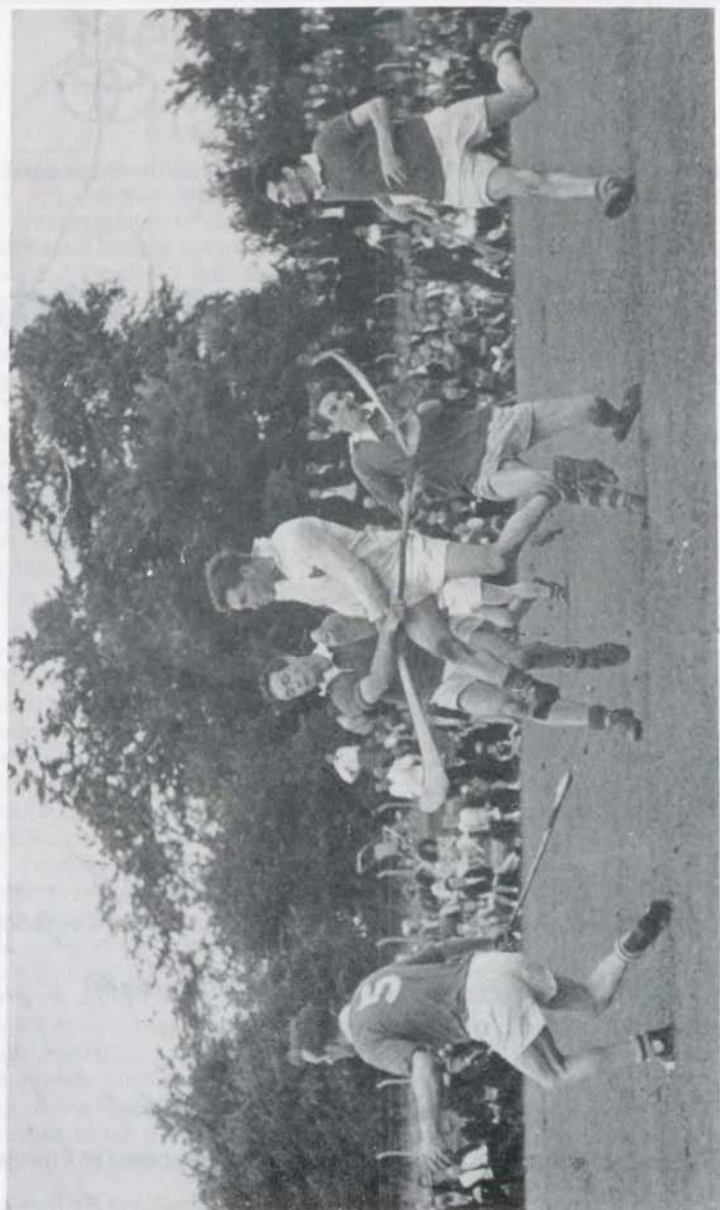
Tom graduated to the minor team but failed to add to his juvenile medal. He made his debut for the Kilruane senior team in 1959 against Borris-Ileigh. His direct opponent was Timmy Ryan, father of Bobby and Tom admits that he got a right hiding from the great Timmy. The North Final of 1959 saw MacDonaghs end a fifteen year barren spell by defeating Toomevara in the decider on an 0-11 to 1-4 scoreline thus avenging the defeat in 1958 by the Greyhounds. The County Final against Thurles was played in Roscrea. Tom had a superb game on Mikey "Rattler" Burns. However, despite a great display by the entire MacDonaghs team they failed to break the dominance of Sarsfields.

Tom's displays in the championship attracted the attention of the county selectors and he made his league debut for Tipperary against Galway in Pearse Stadium. In 1960 he won the first of his three Munster medals. In the All-Ireland final the Premier County were red hot favourites but failed sensationally to Wexford. Tom was marked that day by Nick O'Donnell who was later chosen on the team of the century. Without hesitation Tom says that he was the greatest player he ever marked. In the 1960 North Final Toomevara reversed the '59 result in a convincing fashion. Tom was well policed in that match by Matt Hassett whom Tom considers was the most difficult opponent he faced in club hurling.

In 1961 Tom won his second National League medal. In the All-Ireland final of that year he achieved every hurlers ambition when he won his first Celtic Cross as Tipperary had a narrow victory over Dublin. In 1962 he collected his second All-Ireland medal when Tipperary defeated Wexford in the first televised hurling final. On the club front MacDonaghs failed in a titanic struggle to stop Toomevara from taking a hat-trick of North titles. A crowd of 3,000 witnessed an epic match as the Greyhounds emerged victorious on a 4-9 to 5-4 scoreline.

Tom made his last appearance for the county side against Waterford in the 1963 league final. 1963 and 1964 were unproductive years for the Kilruane senior team. The following year MacDonaghs had a dramatic victory over Lorrha when a late Sean Williams goal snatched victory in the North Final. Defeat by Lorrha in the '66 semi-final and '67 losers group final saw the break up of the team. Tom continued playing with MacDonagh's until 1971 finishing his career as a reluctant goalkeeper.

His greatest disappointment in his career was that a County medal eluded him. However he was a selector on the Kilruane MacDonaghs team that won a hat-trick of County titles in the late seventies. He also had a spell as a County selector. Tom is still actively involved with the club as a committee member.



Tom McLoughney in action against Borrisokane.



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Memories of Féile na nGael 1990

Féile na nGael '90 has come and gone and is now no more than a memory, but a memory that should last for many years to come. Many months of preparation were finally condensed into a hectic week-end in June. Forty nine hurling teams, 16 camogie clubs and four handball clubs represented Tipperary with distinction and showed pride in their parish and county. Never before have so many players and so many teams come together in the cradle of the GAA. Never have so many games been run within the county in such a short period of time. And for the first time a Tipperary club won the premier Division in Féile.

What will be the memories that will stand out as Féile '90 fades into the past; the Parade with its colour, pageantry and impressive array of sound and movement; the new friendships made; the excitement of the busy schedule of games; the anticipation and build-up to the whole occasion; the field throughout the county looking resplendent; for the captains-meeting with President Hillery; for the ultimate victors - the thrill of receiving their medals.

Since its inception in 1971, Feile na nGael has grown from a tiny seedling to being the GAA's greatest promotion vehicle for youth. What began as a modest venture as the brainchild of "three wise men", when Tipperary was at the zenith of hurling power, as now, with the Premier County again restored to premier status, a massive feat of organisation, support and co-operation. Féile reaches into every corner of Ireland as each County organises competitions to go forward as its representative. But it is in the host County that Féile has its greatest impact. Having visited ten other counties since its foundation, Féile returned to Tipperary in 1990. The immediate problem posed was the unusually large number of juvenile clubs in the County and the relatively high standard of hurling in most of them. This was overcome by placing a majority of Tipp Clubs in Divisions 2 and 3, thus adding a new dimension whereby some Tipp clubs hosted Tipp clubs. When one considers that 33 clubs from the county played in Divisions 1, 2 and 3, that 2 of these won out their respective divisions that a further 2 narrowly lost finals and that 5 others went out at the semi-final stage, one can readily see the strength of our top clubs. In addition Tipp clubs dominated Division 5 - giving a bright overall picture of the status of the ancient game of hurling among our young people. Obviously the success of our County senior hurlers has a big bearing on this. It will be interesting to see if their temporary (?) exclusion from the top bracket will have any adverse effects.

Handball and Camogie also had a prominent role to play in the recent Féile. Camogie in Tipperary is making great strides in endeavouring to

achieve the high standards of some of the top counties. The juvenile clubs prepared well for Féile and should benefit greatly from the experience gained. Toomevara kept the Tipp flag flying by taking the Division 4 title. Handball suffered because of a clash with hurling and most of the top players opted to assist their clubs with the camán. However the county played host to young handballers from all over the country and alleys from Clonmel to Silvermines resounded to the thud of the 'cracker'.

Many ancillary activities thanks to the co-operation of many people and various committees, added to the Festival. But it was the games which were the central theme of Féile. Credit is due to all clubs for the manner in which they prepared their teams and for the work undertaken to ensure that club facilities looked their best. Compliments to all the officials for the work put in behind the scenes and to the referees who ensured that the games went off smoothly.

Sunday 24th June was the climax of Féile na nGael '90. Uncertainty in regard to the weather led to a last minute decision to abandon plans for an Outdoor Mass and move into Ardan O Riain in Semple Stadium. This upset many plans, but on reflection perhaps the stand would be more practical if considered originally for the Mass. Certainly Mass was celebrated in a unique setting, with participation by clergy and laity along with the assembled teams from every County of Ireland. The parade through the town was probably the highlight of the day. Twenty bands and 112 team provided a magnificent spectacle as they filed through Liberty Square and perhaps the greatest sight was when the teams had re-assembled on the green sward of Semple Stadium to be addressed by President Hillery. Here the vast array of flags, banners and colour was a sight to behold and even the sun smiled on the occasion to dispel the early morning clouds.

The evening was given over to the hurling and camogie finals. Boys and girls enthralled the appreciative attendance with their skill and endeavour. For some there was elation when the final whistle proclaimed them victors. For others there was the disappointment of losing but the satisfaction of being second best in a national competition. For all, there was the great sense of being part of a unique Gaelic event which continues to grow and involve more people of all ages. And so the Féile flag was lowered to signify the end of a great day and a great event. 1991 approaches and plans for the 21st anniversary of Feile na nGael are already underway. Tipperary will again be the hub of activity next June as the young people of Ireland display their Irishness, their enthusiasm and the skill and fervour of our national games.

"We spring from the hillside and valley

The games of our fathers to play,

And all loving Ireland shall rally

Beneath our choice standard today,

And here in our forces assembling,

In many a storied green vale,

We shout - not in fear or trembling

On, on with the games of the Gael".



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Silvermines G.A.A. Club

When Michael Cusack founded the G.A.A. in November 1884, Silvermines was among the first to answer the call. The availability of so many hurlers from the many hurling pockets in the parish, and the presence of the 'hurling curate', Fr. Cunningham, C.C., were the reasons why Silvermines was one of the very first clubs to be organised and affiliated to the new Association. This would have been in late December 1884 or the first weeks of 1885.

New rules governing the game of hurling were drawn up by the infant Association in January 1885 and Silvermines has the distinction of playing in, and winning the first hurling game in Tipperary played under the Association's new rules. That game was against Nenagh Mitchells.

Tipperary's first ever inter-county game was in February 1886. The opposition was South Galway and the venue was the Phoenix Park. Victory went to Tipperary by one goal to nil. Silvermines provided five players on that first ever Tipperary panel, one of whom, Martin Gleeson from Cranahurt was the goal scorer, and so became the first Tipperary hurler to score a goal for this county. Four thousand people greeted the Tipperary champions home and viewed the "Silver Cup" the first to be presented in the G.A.A.'s history.

The men from the Mines earned further distinction by travelling to Dublin in June of 1886 to participate in a tournament organised by the gael of Dublin. They won the competition by defeating Athenry, but most notable about that same event is the fact the new famous Artane Boys' Band opened their association with the G.A.A. on that same weekend.

The silver cup won by North Tipperary in February 1886 was put up for competition and after many a hard struggle was eventually won by Silvermines on St. Patrick's Day 1887. The famous cup remains in the parish to this day and is now in the safe-keeping of parish priest, Fr. Manus Rodgers, P.P.

*St. Patrick's Day, those heroes gay
They were not at a loss,
They met that day without delay
A club from Holycross.
Holycross men hurled manfully
But still they did give in
Long well 'twill be remembered
By many a broken shin.*

So much for the early history. The club went then through barren times and had to wait until 1926 to win a North Tipp title. In that year Dolla won the junior hurling title and in 1927 and 1928 won two successive intermediate titles.

Ballinaclough won a junior title in the late thirties while Silvermines won two intermediate titles in the forties.

Once again there were bleak and barren times for the men from the mining area. However in 1970, things improved considerably. The club was reorganised early in 1970 with its own bye-laws. In the twenty years since then the club has won one North senior, two North intermediate, one North junior, and minor hurling titles in Division I, 2 and 3. A county intermediate hurling title came to the parish in 1974 while the juniors won county hurling honours in 1979. A junior football title came the way in 1971 and 4 North senior football championships were won in '73, '74, '75 and '80. All-Ireland minor medals were won by Tom Kinsella and Noel Sheehy. Under-21 medals were won by Alan Kinsella and Noel Sheehy. Jack Dunlea, Pat Quinlan, Jim Keogh, Michael Fitzgibbon and John Kennedy won All-Ireland intermediate medals with Tipperary while Noel Sheehy did the parish proud last year bringing the senior celtic cross to the Mines. Noel becomes one of the select few to win All-Ireland medals at minor, under-21 and senior.

Dolla hurling field came into the possession of the club in 1932. The dressing rooms were built in 1977 and the modern handball alley was opened in 1980.

The handball section of the club has made great strides in the past few years. Jim Ryan has won an All-Ireland title in the masters grade. Finbarr Ryan and Joseph Ryan won an All-Ireland under-15 title this year. This year Michael O'Brien was selected national Handball Clubman of the Year.

THE CLUB OFFICERS

Presidents: Canon Mullally, Very Rev. Fr. Rodgers, P.P.

Chairman: Jack Dunlea.

Vice-Chairman: Paddy Collins.

Secretary/treasurer: John Kennedy.

Assistant Secretary: Noreen Maher.

P.R.O.: John Sherlock.

Registrar: Liam Gleeson.

Oifigeach na Gaeilge: Eamonn O Dioluin.

Shannon Rovers

Shannon Rovers G.A.A. Club was founded in 1898 by Peter Carroll, who four years later was a founder member of the North Tipperary G.A.A. Board and was elected chairman. Eighty six years later a youthful John Tierney became our second chairman.

Rovers are the present North Tipp junior league champions and their role of honour reads:

Co. Junior champions: 1939, 1968.

North Tipp champions 1940, 1952.

North Tipp B. champions: 1987.

North Tipp junior league champions: 1990.

So far this season they have had success over Roscrea, Ballina, Newport, Lorrha, Eire Og and Ballinahinch.

Chairman: Tommy Slattery.

Secretary: Liam Hogan.

Treasurer: Frank Moran.

U/16 Hurling Championship Fixtures SECTION I

This year's championship will start in the first week in August. This is how the teams are paired:

Round I Group A: Roscrea v Kilruane, Borrisokane v Kildangan. **Group B:** Moneygall v Toomevara, Eire Og Bye.

Round II A: Roscrea v Borrisokane, Kilruane v Kildangan. **B:** Moneygall v Eire Og, Toomevara Bye.

Round III A: Roscrea v Kildangan, Kilruane v Borrisokane. **B:** Eire Og v Toomevara, Moneygall Bye.

SECTION II

The first round has been completed since last Monday with the second round on Monday, 30th July. Let's have a look at how the teams are paired:

Round I Group A: Templederry v Silvermines, Borris-Ileigh v Portroe, Newport Bye.

Round II Group A: Templederry v Borris-Ileigh, Silvermines v Newport, Portroe Bye.

Group B: Ballina/Ballinahinch v Lorrha, Burgess v Shannon Rovers.

Round III Group A: Templederry v Newport, Silvermines v Portroe, Borris-Ileigh Bye.
B: Ballina/B'hinch v Burgess, Shannon Rovers v Lorrha.

Round IV Group A: Templederry v Portroe, Newport v Borrisoleigh, Silvermines Bye. **B:** Ballina/B'hinch v Shannon Rovers, Burgess v Lorrha.

Round V: Silvermines v Borris-Ileigh, Portroe v Newport, Templederry Bye.

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Memories of Feile 1971

As I sit to write a short account of the first Feile na nGael, held in Tipperary in 1971 some very fond memories come flooding back to me. The weeks preceding the big event with all the preparations, accommodation had to be arranged for our visiting club, our hurling field had to be in tip top shape, a club banner had to be made for the parade and most importantly our U/15 hurling team had to be prepared to take part in this great Festival of Juvenile hurling.

Our visiting team for the week-end came from Enniskillen in co. Fermanagh and it was amid great excitement they arrived in our little village on the Friday evening. As young boys it was strange to hear their accents but we weren't long getting used to their voices. Our visitors were then dispatched to their homes for the week-end and some very strong friendships were forged.

We played our first game of the competition against our visiting team on Saturday morning and after a hard hours hurling we emerged victorious. The Northern boys level of skill and fitness were complimented by our mentors after the game and a return visit to Fermanagh was to be arranged.

On Sat. evening we lined out against Loughmore in the semi-final in Nenagh, this was a game I will never forget, trailing by 8 points at half time we staged a great second half revival to win by two points. We had now reached the final, as we drove home the excitement was mounting as we learnt we were to play in Semple Stadium. On the Saturday night our local club organised a bar-b-que by the lake for our visitors who received a memento to remind them of their visit to Portroe. We wish the night could go on forever, but our mentors reminded us of our big day tomorrow, so it was home to bed for a good nights sleep.

Sunday finally arrived and as we gathered to travel to Thurles, everyone was looking forward to a good day. First there was the parade through Thurles to the field, all the colour and crowds with banners from the four corners of Ireland. As we were in Group D we were the first final to be played with our opponents being Knockavilla Kickhams. As the game entered its final minutes the teams were level but a great point from Gerry O'Brien brought us victory. Our friends from Fermanagh whose vocal support during our matches was unbelievable and our own mentors and supporters rushed onto the field to congratulate us. After the game our captain Pat Hickey received the trophy from the then President of the GAA, Pat Fanning. After the game we watched the other finals and one of my best memories was the display of one Tom Cashman playing in goals for Blackrock in the A. Final.

After the days activities we travelled home to a hero's welcome. The celebrations lasted well into the night. Our visitors did not depart until the Monday and there was a very emotional farewell as some very strong bonds had been forged. I cannot let this opportunity pass without thanking our mentors, Jim Madden, Fr. Brendan Moloney, John Cliford, Jim Donnellan (R.I.P.), and Matt Shinnors who gave of their time so freely in preparing the team. Many of the players they coached and guided gave service to Tipperary and Portroe for many years. Also, Feile is a great incentive to young hurlers and its founder members are to be congratulated. Feile returned to Tipperary this year and it was pleasing to see it was as popular as ever, long may it continue to survive and prosper.

Sean O Sioda, Port Rua.



Bernard O'Neill

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*Best of Luck to Toomevara in the North
Final*

Youth and the G.A.A.

by FERGAL HYNES

The distraction of the World Cup has now been swept aside. The frenzy which surrounded it has died. the World Cup served to pose a serious question about the status of the GAA among the youth of this country. It was feared that the glamour of such an international event would have an adverse effect on young people's participation in our native games, this fear was not realised.

The success of this years Feile na nGael epitomises the loyalty of the youth toward Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. In the midst of World Cup euphoria, it was a delight to witness the atmosphere of festivity which surrounded the games, the excitement provided by the youth who took part in the competition will long be remembered by the patrons of Tipperary. It was encouraging to see two local teams contest the final of the competition and this would seem to augur well for the future of hurling in the county. Congratulations to all those who participated in the competition.

The continuous improvement of standards in Bord na nÓg competitions is not incidental. Due to the efforts of our Bord na nÓg here in Tipperary, numerous projects have been undertaken which serve to improve the standard of underage competition.

Last July there took place a weekends training for the promising hurlers of Tipperary. I myself was lucky enough to participate and I must extend my congratulations to all those who were involved with the project. The venture was well worthwhile, as there were hurlers involved who have since represented Tipperary at County Minor level.

The much talked about coaching scheme came to fruition this year. Many schools throughout the county have benefitted from coaching sessions given by experienced instructors. We in Nenagh were fortunate enough to have Ken Hogan as our coach. His expertise proved invaluable to the local teams in their quest for All-Ireland honours. On behalf of all those who benefitted from the scheme, I would like to thank both the Munster Council and the tipperary County Board for providing the initiative needed to promote such a scheme. Your efforts are appreciated, and I hope that the scheme will be continued in the season to come.

The relationship between the youth of Ireland the GAA is as healthy as ever. Thanks to endless effort by the Bord na nÓg officials, the youth are afforded the opportunity to grow and develop within a healthy and exciting environment. Despite stiff opposition from foreign games, the young people of this country find themselves attracted to the vigour and energy of our native games.

Centrefield Lár na Páirce

BACKGROUND

Thurles is a town which has been steeped in the tradition of Gaelic Games since the Gaelic Athletic Association was founded there in 1884. As such, it is the ideal location in which to recreate and interpret the proud history of Ireland's premier sporting association. It is estimated that at least 750,000 are actively involved with Gaelic Games and a much larger number are interested as supporters. As no national interpretive centre for Gaelic games exists such a centre located in Thurles, the very birthplace of the GAA, has potential to become a visitor attraction of national and indeed international significance.

A project team has been set up consisting of representatives of Thurles Development Association, Shannon Development Company and Tipperary County Board GAA, with the objective of establishing a visitor attraction based on the history and games of the GAA. A feasibility study which was carried out concluded that the project was viable and would attract 50,000 visitors annually to Thurles.

LOCATION

The committee has now purchased the town's old National Bank building which is one of the finest non-ecclesiastic buildings in Thurles. Built in 1863, it is a large building with a fine cut-stone facade and located 60 metres from Liberty Square, it is an ideal home for the project. An adjacent half acre site provides adequate space for landscaping, coach and car parking, and any future extension of the existing building which may be necessary.

With the generous support of FÁS, renovation of the building began in July 1989, with the major job of replacing the roof and securing the building. Those working on the project are all young people under 30. When complete, the project will be titled Lár na Páirce or Centrefield.

THE NEED FOR LÁR NA PÁIRCE

Sporting organisations throughout the world are now recreating and reliving their historic past. Basketball, baseball, golf and soccer, are all in-



This building, beside Liberty Square in Thurles, will house an interpretive centre for Gaelic Games, called Centrefield - Lár na Páirce.

terpreted within several exciting and imaginative visitor centres. Gaelic games do not yet benefit from the heightened awareness and prestige which a first rate interpretive centre can impart.

This need to preserve and foster the rich heritage which the games have bestowed, presents an opportunity for Thurles, a town presently without a visitor attraction. Since Interpretive Centres are really successful, only when located where the event being interpreted actually occurred, the Centrefield concept is uniquely suited to Thurles and for this reason will be

developed exclusively as an interpretation of the heritage transmitted to us from Gaelic Games.

THE PROJECT TEAM

Chairman, J Finn (TDA); Secretary, T Casey (TDA), Treasurer, L O'Donnchu (GAA), E. De Stafford (Shannon Development), S King (GAA), N Morris (GAA), S O'Callaghan (TDA), T O'Domhnaill (Shannon Development), J O'Dwyer (Development Officer).

Centrefield is being supported by Shannon Development, Tipperary County Board, the Munster Council and the Central Council, GAA.

What will Lár na Páirce have to offer?

An interpretive centre for Gaelic Games.

The National GAA archive and library.

Audio Visual Theatre.

Tourist Information Office.

GAA/Souvenir Shop.

Restaurant.

Tipperary GAA Office.

Administration and storage space.

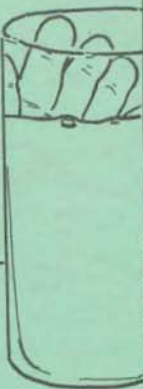
HOW WILL THE GAMES BE INTERPRETED?

The plans for Centrefield envisage that the ground floor area will consist of interactive display where light, sound, graphics and video are used to bring alive the history of the GAA and its enormous effect on Ireland's historic and cultural development. A small cinema will be included showing highlights of classic games from the past, using all-round sound to pull visitors directly into the atmosphere of the games.

The first floor area will incorporate a standard museum display of artefacts, but with modern technology used to demonstrate the historic context and importance of the exhibits. Here cups, medals, hurleys and programmes will be displayed along with models of how famous grounds would have looked in the past at an early stage of development. As a basis for this display the famous Sam Melbourne collection, which is now owned by the Tipperary County Board, is being made available. Finally, in the dramatic concluding exhibit, a large wrap-ground screen and special effects will allow visitors to directly experience the unique atmosphere and intensity of All-Ireland Final Day.

It is also proposed that the National Archive of Gaelic Games will be located within the building. With the support of FÁS, research has been carried out to provide a centralised data-base of statistical information covering all Gaelic Games. When operational, visitors to the centre can be provided with pen pictures of each player to win an All-Ireland title, along with other statistical and historic information.

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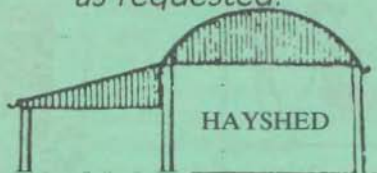
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Best of Luck to Toomevara in the Final