

Mid-Tipperary Senior Hurling Final  
Match Programme  
1991

**THE ROADSTONE  
PROVINCES  
MID-TIPPERARY  
SENIOR HURLING FINAL**



**29 Meán Fomhair 1991**

*Cluiche Ceannais Iomána  
Thiobrad Árann Meán*

**Stáid Sempie Dúrlas Éile**

**MINOR HURLING 'C' FINAL**

**THURLES KICKHAMS**

**v. RAHEALTY**

Réiteoir PHIL LOWRY

**INTERMEDIATE HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP**

**HOLYCROSS-**

**BALLYCAHILL**

**v. DROMBANE**

Réiteoir: WILLIE CLOHESSY

**SENIOR HURLING FINAL**

**HOLYCROSS-**

**BALLYCAHILL**

**v.**

**MOYCARKEY-BORRIS**

Réiteoir: MICHAEL GREENE



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# Fáilte on gCathaoirleach



*It is an honour and a privilege for me as Chairman to welcome our teams and patrons here today to partake in and savour Mid Tipperary Senior Hurling Final Day. After a very competitive and enjoyable*

*championship we have two clubs steeped in hurling tradition contesting what promises to be an intriguing battle. I wish them luck today and thereafter in their quest for county honours.*

*I also salute the other clubs in this year's Mid Championship for their contribution in making it one of the most keenly contested and sporting title races in recent years. Taking part is all important as the game of hurling is an integral part of Irish culture and is central to the tradition of our society.*

*The day's events commence with the Minor Hurling C Final. This is a new competition on our G.A.A. Calendar. It has been keenly contested all through, and it is pleasing to see two of our smaller clubs Rahealty and Thurles Kickhams contest the final.*

*The Intermediate game on today's programme between Upperchurch-Drombane and Holycross-Ballycahill is vitally important to both teams and so should be sternly contested.*

*Finally I wish to express my sincere thanks to you our patrons for your continued support for our games not just today but right through the year. I hope you are rewarded with an excellent day's hurling. On the day may the better team win, but overall let the game be the real winner.*

SEÁN Ó FÓGARTAIGH.

## Man of the Match

A Perpetual Trophy in memory of the late Tom O'Hara will be presented to today's Man of the Match. This trophy was presented to the Board by the Gortnahoe-Glengoolle Club.

## Acknowledgments:

To-days programme was compiled by Bob Stakelum (Holycross-Ballycahill); Jimmy Fogarty (Moycarkey-Borris); and John McCormack (Sarsfields).

*Photos supplied by Brendan O'Connor (Thurles)*

**Ken Ralph (Moycarkey-Borris)**



# **An Reiteoir**

## ***Senior Hurling Final Referee***

**MICHAEL GREENE**

Upperchurch-Dombane



TODAY Michael is refereeing his first senior hurling final. the current chairman of the Upperchurch-Drombane club, Michael has officiated at Mid games since the mid 70's and has had charge of Mid Finals at all other levels.

He is looking forward to the game and hopes that it will be played in the best tradition of Tipperary hurling, abounding in skill, endeavour and above all sportmanship. We wish him well in this his first senior final.

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today's champions  
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Cover Photo: TONY LANIGAN (Holycross-Ballycahill)

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# TOM O'HARA

*(An Appreciation)*

**C**ONVENTIONS 1991 had come and gone. The annual thought provoking report at Mid level had been accepted and acknowledged as his best ever.

An accident to Tom some time previously was only considered a minor physical drawback, and a small operation was not even spoken of as of any major significance.

As the days and weeks passed, those of us close to the situation were beginning to worry, but when the call came on April 13th, we were dumbfounded. A sincere friend, a true Gael was called to his maker.

In a crowded Gortnahoe graveyard we stood in silent tribute as Michael Lowry's oration revealed the life story of a man who had given a lifetime to our Association.

As club secretaries, we worked together from the early fifties, Tom cycling his 20 miles to and from the meetings. However he reaped a just reward when appointed Mid Board Chairman in 1969. From there he progressed to the prestigious office as Co. Chairman for three years.

In this very demanding job he worked for his county with great enthusiasm, carrying out his duties without fear or favour, at the same time gaining the respect of Gaeldom within and outside the county.

A few years later when the vacancy arose, he was appointed Mid Tipp. Runai and from that day to his untimely death he again displayed his talents as an administrator and his desire that our games, especially hurling would develop and progress within the county.

Tom O'Hara was a man apart, an exemplary christian, a devout Catholic, a



devoted husband and father. His service to our association cannot nor will ever be repaid in words, nor would he expect it either.

Few people show any appreciation of the voluntary input which very many people put into the G.A.A., their work is taken for granted. Tom was a shining example of those dedicated men. Tom O'Hara was of the very stuff on which our Association was founded and survived. A man of dignity and sincerity, of gentle nature and generous heart, born of the brown earth, of the Tipperary he loved.

As we watch these Mid Finals here in Semple Stadium, Tom is surely looking down from his heavenly seat, hoping that his efforts down through the years to raise the standards of our games will be seen in the performances of all the players, particularly here today.

Mid Tipperary owes a debt of gratitude to the man, but all he would ask for is Tipperary's continued success and most of all under the leadership of a Mid Tipperary captain.

*Ní bheidh a leithéad ann arís. Ar dheis  
De ro raibh a anam dilis.*

**Tomás Baróid,  
Runai, An Chondae.**



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## MINOR

# RAHEALTY

*(Green and White)*

	(1) <b>R. CAREW</b>	
(2) <b>G. PURCELL</b>	(3) <b>R. ELY (Capt.)</b>	(4) <b>D. SHANAHAN</b>
(5) <b>T. GOONEY</b>	(6) <b>J. CALLANAN</b>	(7) <b>P. LAWLOR</b>
(8) <b>J. GLEESON</b>		(9) <b>W. O'DWYER</b>
(10) <b>M. MAHER</b>	(11) <b>R. O'DOWD</b>	(12) <b>T. JORDAN</b>
(13) <b>L. MOCKLER</b>	(14) <b>M. CAMPION</b>	(15) <b>P. GLEESON</b>

**FIR IONAD:** (16) A. Moloney; (17) P. Quinlan; (18) T. Larkin; (19) D. Manton; (20) J. Hayes; (21) S. Brophy; (22) G. Quinn; (23) D. Kinane; (24) P. Maher; (25) V. Kennedy; (26) F. O'Brien.  
**Roghnóirí:** P. J. Quinn, F. Burke, J. Breen, J. Ralph.

# THURLES KICKHAMS

*(Black and Amber)*

	(1) <b>K. HENNESSY</b>	
(2) <b>M. KENNEDY</b>	(3) <b>S. MAHER</b>	(4) <b>E. RYAN</b>
(5) <b>D. KENNEDY</b>	(6) <b>T. TIERNEY</b>	(7) <b>P. BARRY</b>
(8) <b>K. FITZGIBBON</b>		(9) <b>L. PHILLIPS</b>
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(13) <b>R. O'GORMAN</b>	(14) <b>T. O'CONNOR</b>	(15) <b>F. O'ROURKE</b>

**FIR IONAD:** (16) G. O'Meara; (17) F. Delaney; (18) B. Scully; (19) T. Cummins; (20) G. Nevins; (21) J. Ryan; (22) J. Harris; (23) M. Breen.  
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(2)

**MICHAEL DWYER**

(3)

**L. T. RYAN**

(4)

**AILBE QUINLAN**

(5)

**SEAMUS ARMSTRONG**

(6)

**MICHAEL RYAN**

(7)

**LIAM SHANAHAN**

(8)

**LIAM SHANAHAN**

(9)

**JIM RYAN**

(10)

**PADRAIG BURKE**

(11)

**GERRY RYAN**

(12)

**TOMÁS KEANE**

(13)

**SEAMUS BARRY**

(14)

**JOHN RYAN**

(15)

**RICHIE RYAN**

**FIR IONAD:** (16) Matt Shortt; (17) Tommy Tierney; (18) Eugene Shortt; (19) Frankle Shortt; (20) Colm Harrington; (21) Donal Hayes; (22) Jim Burke; (23) Pat Leamy; (24) Tom Kennedy (25) Edmund Quinlan.

# *Holycross/Ballycahill*

*(Green and White)*

(1)

**MICHAEL FERNCOMBE**

(2)

**TIM STAKELUM**

(3)

**TOM SKEHAN**

(4)

**JIM BUTLER**

(5)

**TIMMY GLEESON**

(6)

**JOHN O'BRIEN**

(7)

**CHRISTÓIR CROKE**

(8)

**WILLIAM RYAN**

(9)

**PAT CAHILL**

(10)

**TOMMY FLANAGAN**

(11)

**GERRY FENNESSY**

(12)

**DECLAN QUINLAN**

(13)

**DAVID BURKE**

(14)

**SEAMUS BROWNE**

(15)

**MICK McGRATH**

**FIR IONAD:** (16) Alan Quinlan; (17) Declan Ryan; (18) Tom O'Gorman; (19) Seamus Ryan; (20) Billy Dwan; (21) Liam McGrath; (22) Tom Dwan; (23) Richard Doyle; (24) James Ferncombe; (25) Andre Lynch; (26) Paul Ryan.

*Best Wishes to Mid Board for Today's Hurling Finals*

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between keen rivals Holycross  
and Moycarkey***

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# Jimmy Bergin

## Moycarkey-Borris captain



When Jimmy Bergin leads out Moycarkey-Borris today he will be trying to emulate brother Jack, who last led the club to divisional honours in 1982. Jack is still to the fore in the heart of the defence while another brother Liam lines out at midfield. Jimmy, a stylish wing back is a most experienced campaigner having won Mid medals at minor level in 1983 and intermediate at both Mid and County levels in 1985 and an U-21 medal in 1984. Jimmy was also a sub on the 1984 county championship winning team. He captained the Tipperary junior team beaten by Cork in the 1986 Munster championship.

Aged 25 years Jimmy is a butcher at Super Valu, Cashel and expects a great game against Holycross-Ballycahill on this historic occasion, the first time that those neighbouring parishes and old rivals have met in a Mid senior hurling final. Referring to his side's chances Jimmy says that they will not lose for the want of trying, dedication and commitment and is most pleased with the response to training by all members of the panel.

All followers of Moycarkey-Borris hope that this evening Jimmy will step forward to receive the Leahy Cup and bring the Mid senior crown to the parish for the twentieth time.

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## Moycarkey's last Mid title win

Moycarkey-Borris last won the Mid Title nine years ago in 1982 which saw the start of a great run which was to last for a few years. In the decider played at Holycross they defeated Loughmore-Castleiney by 4-10 to 2-9. The winning team on that occasion was:

Tom Doran; John Hackett, Willie Ryan, Robert Hayes; Jimmy Leahy, Jack Bergin, Tom Mullins, Eamonn Darmody, Liam Bergin, Tommy Quigley, John McCormack, David Fogarty, Jack Caesar, Dick Quigley, John Flanagan, while Billy Gooney and Matty Bourke came on as substitutes.



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## **Phil Dwyer** *(Holycross/Ballycahill)* **Captain**

Phil Dwyer comes from a well known Holycross hurling family – the Dwyers of Whitfort. His father, Philly and his uncle, Jack, were members of the squad that brought the first senior hurling championship to the parish in 1948.

Phil won his first Mid medal when he played on the under-12 hurling team that won the Mid title in 1976. In 1982 he played at right half back



when Midland County Minor hurling championships were won for the first time in the history of the club. When Tipperary, captained by P. J. Lanigan, won the Munster Minor hurling title in 1983 Phil and Michael Fleming were members of the panel.

He holds three Mid senior medals – 1985, 1989 and 1990. His brother, Tom, played in the 1989 and 1990 finals and both played in last years county final win over Cashel.

Today the brothers are hoping for a victory that would bring the Leahy Cup to the parish for the third year in a row.

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# HOLYCROSS-BALLYCAHILL



BACK ROW (l-r) – Declan Carr, Tom Dwyer, Paddy Dwan, Pat Lanigan, Pat Slattery, Tony Lanigan, Rualrí Dwan, John Doyle. FRONT ROW (l-r) – Michael Doyle, Thomas Flanagan, Paul Maher, Phil Dwyer, Benji B-owne, Claran Carroll, Paul Slattery.

**I**T HAS come as a surprise to us to learn that until today Holycross/Ballycahill have never met Moycarkey/Borris in a Senior Mid Final. Probably the best remembered game is the 1948 Mid semi-final played in Gaile

when Holycross were very lucky to defeat Moycarkey on the score 4-1 to 1-7. Moycarkey followers have very unhappy memories of this game as they claim that the referee played an unprecedented amount of injury time.

Holycross followers are naturally very reticent on the subject but it must be admitted that the Holycross winning scores came well after the end of normal time. However, Holycross survived, went on to win the County Championship and, with Pat Stakelum as captain, brought All-Ireland honours to the county in 1949.

The teams that played in that tough, uncompromising game lined out as follows:

**Holycross/Ballycahill:** M. Ferncombe; Francis Bannon, Jimmy Kennedy, Mick Stakelum; John Doyle, Danny O'Gorman, John Stakelum; Pat Stakelum, Francis Maher (capt); Bob Stakelum, Philip Maher, John Byrne; Jack Dwyer, Ned O'Gorman, Jim Ryan (A).

**Moycarkey/Borris:** John O'Grady; Timmy Ryan, Tom Hayes, Jim Power; John Mockler, Johnny Ryan, Matty Bannon; Willie Ryan, Jimmy O'Grady; Matt Ryan, M. Hayes, Larry Ryan; Paddy Ryan (Sweeper), Tom O'Keeffe, B. Power.

Patsy Ryan came on as a sub. for Holycross and J. Hassett replaced Jimmy O'Grady on the Moycarkey side.

During the 'Thirties Holycross and Moycarkey often clashed in Junior Championship games. Moycarkey and Sarsfields were the kingpins of hurling in that era and between them won every county senior championship from 1932 until 1941. At that time it appeared that man would walk on the moon before Holycross won any kind of a title. In 1934 Holycross/Ballycahill had their only win of the decade when they defeated Moycarkey Juniors in a replay at Moyne on the score 4-1 to 2-3.

The Holycross fifteen on that occasion was: John Tynan, Pakie Tynan, Denis Tynan, Jimmy Slattery, Paddy McGlynn, Denis O'Gorman, Denis Dunne, Jimmy O'Meara (now Turtulla), Pakie Ryan (Dispensary), Tom McGrath, Mick McGrath, Pakie Hennes-

## **Holycross/ Ballycahill - a proud tradition**

sy, Willie Dwan, Tom Flanagan and Mick Ferncombe.

For the 1935 game with Moycarkey, Michael Tuohy, John Ryan (Clareen), Danny O'Gorman, Neddy O'Dwyer, William Connolly and Jack Dunne came on to the Holycross team

but Moycarkey had an easy win on the score 5-7 to 3-1.

In 1936 Moycarkey again won by 3-4 to 2-1 despite the presence of newcomers Patrick O'Dwyer, Bill Dunne and Jimmy Bannon.

The teams for the 1937 clash of the sides are not available but Moycarkey again triumphed by 3-3 to 0-3. Among the cynics Holycross-Ballycahill was called "the Duffy's Circus" team - one day and one day only!

By winning the County Junior title in 1941 Holycross/Ballycahill qualified for Senior status but did not reach a Mid Senior final until an all-star Sarsfields team had an easy win on the score 7-7 to 2-2.

Holycross/Ballycahill players that day were: Jack Gleeson (goal), Dinny O'Gorman, Danny O'Gorman, Ned O'Gorman, Patrick O'Dwyer (capt.), John Stakelum (P), Dan O'Dwyer, Mick Stakelum, Bob Stakelum (P), Jack Cormack, Patsy Ryan, Jim Duggan, Francis Maher, Philip Maher, Jack Dwyer.

Sarsfields lined out as follows: Gerry Doyle, John Maguire, Ger Cornally, Jack Ryan, Tommy Doyle, John Maher, Tom Mason, Mick Murphy, Micheál Maher, Micky Byrne, Jack Dwyer, Eddie Gleeson, Tommy Ryan, John Delahunty, Mickie Doyle.

The first Senior clash between Holycross/Ballycahill and Moycarkey took place in Thurles Sportsfield on June 15th, 1947, when Holycross surprised even their most hopeful supporters by defeating Moycarkey 7-5 to 1-4 and qualified for the Mid Final against Sarsfields. Sarsfields had been County Champions for the previous three years and had at least twelve players with inter-county experience in their side while Holycross had not a single inter-county player.

The result was a sensation as Holycross grimly held on to a one-point lead to win on the score 4-2 to 2-7. "Winter Green", who was the Star's equivalent of "Cúlbaire" at that time, went to report on the South final.

Holycross fell to Carrick Swans in the County Semi-final but as the first ever Mid winning team from the parish their names should be recorded: Jack Gleeson; Francis



Bannon, Jimmy Kennedy, John Stakelum; John Doyle, Danny O'Gorman, Patsy Ryan; Francis Maher, Pat Stakelum; Bob Stakelum, Philip Maher, John Byrne; Jack Dwyer, Ned O'Gorman, Jim Ryan (A.), Jack Pollard came on as a sub. when Francis Bannon was injured.

Holycross/Ballycahill retained the Mid title when they defeated Boherlahan in the 1948 final. Mikie Ferncombe and Mick Stakelum replaced Jack Gleeson and Patsy Ryan from the 1947 team.

Our next Mid final was against Sarsfields in 1950 when Sarsfields revenge the 1947 defeat on the score 3-8 to 0-8.

1951 saw Holycross and Sarsfields again in opposition. Holycross looked certain winners when they led by four points at the end of normal time but a goal and a point from frees by Flor Coffey levelled the scores. Sarsfields were on top for most of the replay and with a few minutes remaining led by 1-5 to 1-1. Pat Stakelum scored a goal and a point from play to send the game into extra time. Holycross dominated by adding 1-3 to their total while Sarsfields failed to score.

**Holycross/Ballycahill:** Francis Bannon; John Stakelum, Jimmy Kennedy, Michael Maher; John Doyle, Danny O'Gorman, Francis Maher; Pat Stakelum, Jim Ryan; Bob Stakelum, John Byrne, Claus de Bhiel; Jack Dwyer, E. O'Gorman, Philip Maher. It was to be the last time that Holycross defeated Sarsfields in a senior championship game until 1977.

Sarsfields won the 1952 Mid Final played on June 15 by defeating Holycross by 3-12 to 2-7. The 1954 Mid final was not played. Holycross proposed that the game be played in Templemore, Sarsfields objected as they claimed Holycross club had been offered money by the Templemore Sportsfield Committee if they agreed to that venue. After two stormy Mid Board meetings Sarsfields withdrew from the championship, giving Holycross a walk-over. It must be said that we never got the money from Templemore.

The 1955 Mid Final in Gaile remains a bitter memory. Sarsfields had three goals scored before Holycross had settled down but by half-time Holycross had reduced their lead to two points - 3-5 to 3-3. Ten minutes into the second half John Doyle was ordered off. It is admitted that he sinned but he received a lot of provocation. Sarsfields weathered a blitz by the fourteen Holycross men to run out winners on the score 3-10 to 3-5.

That defeat marked the end of a great era for Holycross/Ballycahill. Three county titles and four Mid Championships in an eight-year

period was not bad for a club that had often been regarded as the Cinderella of Mid Tipperary hurling.

We lost Mid Finals to Sarsfields in 1957, 1959, 1960 and 1964 and were decisively defeated in the 1964 County Final on the score 5-14 to 1-4. Is it any wonder that we were sick of the blue and white colours.

When Moyne-Templetuohy defeated Sarsfields in the 1966 Mid semi-final the result was greeted with joy in Holycross and Ballycahill especially as we had qualified for the Mid Final.

The game was played in Templemore with a young John Moloney as referee. Holycross led by 3-10 to 1-8 with eight minutes to go. Moyne scored two goals to reduce the lead to two, but Seamus Mackey got a vital goal to leave the final score 4-10 to 3-8 in favour of Holycross.

**Holycross/Ballycahill:** Rodgie Dwan; Noel Maher, Michael Maher, Mikie Ryan; Brendan Bannon, John Doyle, John Ryan (R); Liam Ryan, Philly Cahill; Roger Ryan, John Kennedy, Larry Mackey; Seamus Mackey, Jim Scott, Jim Hayes. *Subs:* Rody Dwan, Matt Quinlan.

**Moyne/Templetuohy:** A Cantwell; M. Costigan, G. Egan, D. O'Grady; M. Esmonde, D. Dunne, S. Ryan; B. O'Grady, D. Fogarty; P. Sweeney, M. O'Grady, T. Egan; T. O'Grady, A. Costigan, T. Quinlan.

Holycross defeated Lorrha in the County Semi-final but lost the game on an objection. Within three years Holycross/Ballycahill were back in Junior ranks and remained there until they qualified for Senior status by winning the 1974 County Junior Championship. The club has remained in Senior ranks since.

In 1978, after twelve years' absence, Holycross/Ballycahill again qualified for the Mid Final and by defeating Sarsfields 2-12 to 0-5 brought great joy to the many who had suffered at Sarsfields' hands in the 'fifties and 'Sixties.

The winning team was: Mick McGrath; Michael Lowry, T. J. Ryan, John Ryan; Tommy Flanagan, Martin Butler, Johnny Doyle; Phil Lowry, Jim Fitzpatrick; Matt Quinlan, Michael Doyle, Robert Stakelum; Tim Stakelum, John Ferncombe, Seamus Mackey. *Subs:* Tony Stakelum, Larry Mackey. Kilruane proved too good in the County Semi-final and won 3-13 to 2-6.

Since our 1978 win we have won three Mid titles: 1985, v. Sarsfields; 1989 and 1990, v. Loughmore. We lost out to Loughmore in the 1986 and 1988 finals. For the first time in the history of the club today's team has the chance to win a third consecutive Mid Final.



# HOLYCROSS/BALLYCAHILL

*(Green and White)*

(1)

**PAT SLATTERY**

(2)

**JOHNNY DOYLE**

(3)

**TOM DWYER**

(4)

**RUAIRI DWAN**

(5) (Capt.)

**PHIL DWYER**

(6)

**MICHAEL DOYLE**

(7)

**BENJY BROWNE**

(8)

**DECLAN CARR**

(9)

**PADDY DWAN**

(10)

**PAUL SLATTERY**

(11)

**P. J. LANIGAN**

(12)

**PAUL MAHER**

(13)

**TONY LANIGAN**

(14)

**TOMÁS FOGARTY**

(15)

**CIARAN CARROLL**

**FIR IONAD:** Michael Ferncombe (sub-goalie), (16) Robert Stakelum; (17) Donal Ryan; (18) Pat Cahill; (19) William Ryan; (20) Jim Butler; (21) Timmy Gleeson; (22) Paddy Browne; (23) Alan Quinlan.

**Roghnóirí:** Mickey Ryan, Seamus Mackey, Phil Lowry; Francis Loughnane (Coach); Pat Flynn (Masseur).

HOLYCROSS/ BALLYCAHILL	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	65m	Saor Pocanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlán					

**MOYCARKEY-BORRIS***(Red and Yellow)*

(1)

**TOM DORAN**

(2)

**PATRICK MAHER**

(3)

**TOM MULLINS**

(4)

**ANDREW BOURKE**

(5)

**LIAM HACKETT**

(6)

**JACK BERGIN**

(7) (Capt.)

**JIMMY BERGIN**

(8)

**LIAM BERGIN**

(9)

**JOHN O'KEEFFE**

(10)

**EAMONN DONNELLY**

(11)

**JOHN CORCORAN**

(12)

**DECLAN KIRWAN**

(13)

**JACK CAESAR**

(14)

**DAVID FOGARTY**

(15)

**KEN RALPH**

**FIR IONAD:** Martin Cooney (sub-goalie); (16) John Commins; (17) Declan Hogan; (18) Billy Lanigan; (19) Robert Hayes; (20) Tom Ryan; (21) Jim Flanagan; (22) Brian Maher.

**Roghnóirí:** Liam Hennessy, Willie Ryan, John Flanagan, Larry Ryan, Tom Tobin (*Trainer*).

*Moycarkey Team sponsored by Clohessy's Garage and Bórd na Móna.*

MOYCARKEY-BORRIS	Cúil	Cúilíní	Seachái	65m	Saor Pocanna
1 adh Leath					
2 adh Leath					
Iomlán					

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# Moycarkey-Borris

**T**HE 1980's certainly proved balmy days on the playing fields for the Moycarkey-Borris club with Mid Tipperary championship wins in senior, junior, minor, intermediate and U-21 hurling and the intermediate and junior football and the icing on the cake with the county senior final wins in 1982 and '84, intermediate in 1985 and a first ever county football success with the 1980 intermediates. But the last few years saw a decline in fortunes which hopefully the hurlers of 1991 will rectify. The present season got off to a rather shaky start with a defeat by Boherlahan in the opening round. Yet this was the unlikely base to start from but that loss proved the spur for the players, mentors and trainer Tom Tobin to silence their critics. In the loser's group Drom-Inch and Gortnahoe-Glen-goole were accounted for which set up a semi final with Boherlahan again. This time Moycarkey-Borris turned the tables on their opponents and won by 2-13 to 1-10 to reach the decider. At the beginning of this season few hurling followers would consider Moycarkey-Borris as likely pretenders to the Mid crown yet they are just one hour away from achieving that ambition.

To-day's team is a mixture of experience and youth which hopefully will blend well in what promises to be a great finale to the divisional campaign. The experience comes through players like the Bergin brothers, Jack and Liam, the latter back in the colours after a sojourn in New York; goalie Tom Doran, Tom Mullins, Jack Caesar, David Fogarty, Robert Hayes and Jim Flanagan all survivors of the dual county winning teams.

They are supported by Patrick Maher, Liam Hackett, Declan Kirwan, John Commins and Martin Cooney and captain Jimmy Bergin from the 1985 county intermediate champion side. The youth element is supplied by Andrew Bourke, Eamonn Donnelly, John Corcoran, Ken Ralph, John O'Keeffe, Billy Lanigan, Declan Hogan and Tom Ryan.

This mixture has bonded together a team of great potential and formidable opponents for any side. This vast wealth of talent and experience should be just the right ingredients to regain glories from the recent past.

The club is also most fortunate in the calibre of the backroom team of Liam Hennessy, Willie Ryan, John Flanagan, Larry Ryan and trainer Tom Tobin from the Garda college, Templemore.

If they succeed today in annexing the title it will be the fourth time that the championship was won with a "1" in the year for successes came in 1931, 1971 and 1981. But records will mean little this afternoon and it will be how the players react for one hour. But nothing has been spared in preparation and it is hoped that the loyal supporters of Moycarkey-Borris hurling will be repaid for their support and the players and officials for their dedication.

## Club officers:

President: Paddy Ryan (S.); Chairman: Harry Ryan; Vice-Chairmen: Liam Hennessy, Jimmy Tobin; Treasurer: Jim Leahy; Secretary: Jimmy Fogarty; P.R.O. John Hackett; Development Officer: Conor Kennedy; Senior Selectors: Liam Hennessy, Willie Ryan, Larry Ryan, John Flanagan, Jack Bergin; Trainer: Tom Tobin.

# MOYCARKEY-BORRIS



Photo Includes: Liam Bergin, Jack Caesar, John Corcoran, Jimmy Bergin, Declan Kirwan, John Commins, Billy Lanigan, Jim Flanagan, Robert Hayes, Declan Hogan, David Fogarty, Ken Ralph, Patrick Mullins, Tom Mullins, Andrew Bourke, Liam Hackett, Jack Bergin, Eamon Donnelly, Tom Ryan, Brian Maher. Missing from photo are: Tom Doran, Martin Cooney and John O'Keefe.



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# BILL RYAN

(Laha)

## *An Appreciation*

**T**HE Mid division lost one of its greatest supporters last August with the death of Bill Ryan, Laha, Castleiney, the last survivor of the Tipperary Bloody Sunday team.

Though Bill was in his 97th year, he retained his enthusiasm for Gaelic games right to the end and was, at the time of his death, President of the Loughmore-Castleiney Club, and up to recently, when ill-health slowed him down, a staunch supporter of the club at their many games.

Bill's love of Gaelic games stemmed from a lifetime association with the games. He was an accomplished footballer and played with the county from 1914 to 1926. He won a senior All-Ireland medal playing at right half-back on the team which beat Dublin in the 1920 final, a game not decided until 1922.

He was on the losing Tipperary team to Wexford in the 1918 All-Ireland final and he won a third Munster senior medal in 1922 when Tipp beat Limerick.

At club level Bill played football with his native Castleiney, and also with Templetuohy and Templemore, winning championships with all of them, and county honours with Castleiney in 1914 and Templemore in 1925. He was no mean hurler either, and won championships with Castleiney in 1923, '25 and '28.

On his retirement, Bill continued to follow the games with an avid interest and was particularly delighted at the success of Loughmore-Castleiney hurlers in the 'Eighties. He is well remembered as a member of the Tipperary team that was playing Dublin in Croke Park on November 20th, 1920, when Black and Tans opened fire on the attendance as a reprisal, killing among 14 people, Bill's team-mate, Mick Hogan of Grangemockler.

In a tribute at his funeral, Tommy Barrett, county secretary, said that Bill epitomised the real spirit that is synonymous with Tipperary. He was proud of his parish, his club and his county. Bill's pride in them reflected itself in his delight in recalling games, people and events, and his facility in this regard made him a delightful companion.

A gentle, kindly man, Bill richly deserved the many tributes paid by followers of the games not only in Tipperary, but much further afield. His passing leaves a void in the Mid division that will not easily be filled.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anan.



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# MID TIPPERARY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS

1907	Thurles
1908	Thurles
1909	Thurles
1910	Two-Mile-Borris
1911	Thurles
1912	Sarsfields
1913	Boherlahan
1915	Thurles Sarsfields
1916	Boherlahan
1917	Boherlahan
1918	Boherlahan
1919	Boherlahan
1920	Thurles/Moycarkey
1921	No Championship
1922	Moycarkey/Two-Mile-Borris
1923	Moycarkey
1924	Moycarkey
1925	Thurles Sarsfields
1926	Moycarkey/Borris
1927	Clonoulty
1928	Castleiney/Killea
1929	Thurles Sarsfields
1930	Moycarkey/Borris
1931	Moycarkey/Borris
1932	Moycarkey/Borris
1933	Moycarkey/Borris
1934	Moycarkey/Borris
1935	Thurles Sarsfields
1936	Thurles Sarsfields
1937	Moycarkey
1938	Thurles Sarsfields
1939	Thurles Sarsfields
1940	Moycarkey

1941	Boherlahan
1942	Thurles Sarsfields
1943	Moycarkey
1944	Thurles Sarsfields
1945	Thurles Sarsfields
1946	Thurles Sarsfields
1947	Holycross
1948	Holycross
1949	Borrisoleigh
1950	Thurles Sarsfields
1951	Holycross
1952	Thurles Sarsfields
1953	Boherlahan
1954	Holycross
1955-64	Thurles Sarsfields
1965	Moycarkey
1968-69	Thurles Sarsfields
1970	Moyne
1971	Moycarkey
1972	Moyrie
1973	Thurles Sarsfields
1974	Drom/Inch
1975	Thurles Sarsfields
1976-77	Moyne
1978	Holycross
1979-80	Thurles Sarsfields
1981-82	Moycarkey
1983	Loughmore/Castleiney
1984	Drom/Inch
1985	Holycross-Ballycahill
1986-88	Loughmore-Castleiney
1989-90	Holycross-Ballycahill

## Mid Board Chairmen

1907	John Cahill, Cashel
1908	Tim Condon, Moycarkey
1912	Tom Semple, Thurles
1916	E. D. Ryan, Cashel
1919	Tom Kerwick, Thurles
1924	Tim Gleeson, Drombane
1927	Rev. John Meagher C.C., Thurles
1929	Rev. Phil Fogarty, C.C., Moycarkey
1948	Rev. Patrick Lee C.C., Templemore
1956	Rev. Mick Russell, St. Patrick's
1961	Rev. D. O'Meara, C.C., Moycarkey
1969	Tom O'Hara, Gortnahoe
1973	Michael Small, Sarsfields

1976	Tom O'Hara, Gortnahoe
1979	Tim Maher, Boherlahan
1982	Michael Lowry, Holycross
1985	Pat Cullen, Loughmore
1988	Liam Hennessy, Moycarkey
1991	Sean Fogarty, Moyne-Templetuohy

## Mid Board Secretaries

1907	Andy Mason, Drombane
1930	Phil Cahill, Holycross
1937	Phil Purcell, Moycarkey
1948	Paddy Ryan, Moycarkey
1966	Seán Ryan, Loughmore
1974	Liam Ryan, Holycross
1979	Tom O'Hara, Gortnahoe
1991	Mattie Connolly, Boherlahan

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Mid Chairman Sean Fogarty (fourth from left) being presented with a cheque by John Kelly, representing Roadstone, main sponsors of the Mid Tipperary senior hurling final at Semple Stadium on Sunday next. Also included in photo are: (left to right) Noel Murphy (Mid Treasurer), Liam Byrne (Roadstone), Sonny Felle (Roadstone) and Matty Connolly (Mid Secretary).

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## Mid Senior Hurling Final

**Thurles Sarsfields 4-4  
Moycarkey-Borris 1-7**

**A**LTHOUGH they led by two points at half-time, Moycarkey-Borris failed to dethrone Thurles Sarsfields in the Mid Tipperary senior hurling final at Templemore on Sunday and lost to a depleted Thurles team by a two goal margin. In winning the championship for the seventh successive year, Sarsfields maintained a great winning sequence that is unlikely to be equalled by any other club for many years to come.

The final, which attracted a fair attendance, was poor. Interest was maintained until near the end due to the closeness of the scoring and the possibility of an upset. Otherwise, however, the game had little to offer. Forwards on both sides were unimpressive, and in the first half there was only one point from play, Moycarkey's Billy Ryan being the scorer.

### **SARSFIELDS MINUS FIVE**

On Sunday, Sarsfields looked far from being world-beaters. In fact they seemed a very ordinary team for the greater part of the hour, but there was considerably more merit attached to their victory than the scoreline indicates for the champions had to line out without five regulars.

Two of these, Tony Wall and Jimmy Doyle, both on the injured list, were an immense loss, but the absence of

Larry Keane (ill), Bobby Mockler (injured) and Michael McElgunn (unfit) was felt too. There can be no doubt but that Doyle and Keane were sorely missed from the attack and had they been available Sarsfields would probably have won by a bigger margin. As it was the forwards never seemed to settle down without them.

### **MOYCARKEY WEAK IN FORWARDS**

It is difficult to assess the merits of Moycarkey's performance. Some people considered that they would not be a match even for a weakened Sarsfield's team, and were surprised that they ran the champions so close. Moycarkey supporters, however, were disappointed. This was a game which Moycarkey went out to win, and they might have succeeded too had they but one forward to offer county minor Billy Ryan some worthwhile assistance. Ryan gave Moycarkey an early lead when he pointed a free, but Sarsfields replied when Paddy Doyle, also from a free, smacked the ball past a crowded goal-line for a shock goal. The champions went on to lead 1-2 to 0-3 after 22 minutes, but shortly afterwards Ryan goaled from a free to regain the lead for Moycarkey. before half-time the same player added a point.

On resuming Sarsfields had the wind in their favour, but it was Moycarkey who scored first with a point from midfielder Donal Ryan. Changes were made on both teams. Billy Nolan replaced M. Shanahan on the Moycarkey line-out, and Sarsfields brought on Kevin Houlihan for Michael Dorney, moving Tim Walsh from centreforward to midfield.

### **SARSFIELDS SCORING SPREE**

At this stage Moycarkey, playing into the breeze, were three points ahead, and when they had a further point by Billy Ryan after eight minutes to go still further ahead, one wondered were Sarsfields going to give up their title quietly. However, a scoring spree,



which yielded 2-2 inside three minutes, rocketed the champs into the lead and they stayed in front to the end.

The first goal was from a long-range free taken by half-back Michael Murphy. The score came as a surprise, but goalkeeper John O'Grady, who made many fine saves, appeared to be blinded by the sun. Almost immediately Kevin Houlihan had another from play, and Moycarkey's lead had been wiped out. Two points from "Blackie" Keane and "Musha" Maher put Sarsfields four points ahead.

This spate of scoring was a big blow to Moycarkey's aspiring hopes, and the odds were now very much in favour of the champions. However, a point from a free by Billy Ryan left only a goal between the teams, and there were some hopes that Moycarkey might yet make it a close finish.

#### **THE "CLINCHING" GOAL**

A seven minute scoreless period followed before "Blackie" and Sean McLoughlin shared the honours in notching the goal that clinched the issue. This score came after 25 minutes, and with the result no longer in doubt some of the attendance started to move away before referee W. Sweeney sounded the final whistle.

#### **SARSFIELDS' BEST**

For Sarsfields, county intermediate player Ned Maher kept a good goal, and was not beaten once from play. In the half-back line, Michael Murphy hurled a grand hour on the right wing, and was very sound. Ray Reidy also played well, and was a most competent centre-half, but Noel Murphy, who completed the line, found Billy Ryan quite a handful.

At midfield it was more or less left to county minor Conor O'Dwyer to keep Sarsfields in the picture, until Tim Walsh was moved back from the attack to partner him during the second half. From then on Sarsfields

fared well in the centre of the field, and it was surprising that Walsh, a Cork senior, was not moved back to partner the hard-working O'Dwyer at an earlier stage of the game.

In attack, the champions had no forward of note, and by this display it would seem that the presence of Jimmy Doyle and Larry Keane is essential to add punch up front.

Paddy Doyle, who had a sparkling game against Holycross, scored 1-2 from frees, but was held scoreless from play by John Carroll. Former goalkeeper "Blackie" Keane operated at full-forward in the first half where he met with little success. He fared much better when switched to the right corner, and had a hand in some vital scores, sharing a goal with Sean McLoughlin, who deserves credit for this effort. Substitute Kevin Houlihan was responsible for a goal.

#### **PROMINENT FOR MOYCARKEY**

Goalkeeper John O'Grady brought off some spectacular saves in the Moycarkey goal, while centre-half Pat Ryan, right-winger John Carroll and full-back John Ryan were about the pick of a defence that almost man for man had the better of matters with the opposing forwards.

W. Shanahan and Donal Ryan performed some useful work at midfield, but Billy Ryan was the only Moycarkey forward to score, and had all but one point of his team's total. Most of his scores came from frees, two points being from play. The full-forward line of Tom Bourke, Jim Scott and M. Shanahan made little headway against Benny Maher, Dick Callinan and Mickey Byrne. Apart from Billy Ryan, Moycarkey's only marksman was midfielded Donal Ryan. Substitutes Billy Nolan and G. Ryan did not get much chance to prove their worth.

By virtue of last Sunday's victory, Sarsfields have qualified to compete in the county championship. The rather



complicated draw, gives Sarsfields a bye in the first round. In the county semi-final they are drawn against the winners of the game between South champions and North runners-up.

Moycarkey are out of the Mid Tipperary championship, but may yet qualify for the county championship, as Mid Tipperary's second representative. However, Holycross-Ballycahill have a say in this, and the two teams must play off to decide who will be Sarsfields running-mates in the county championship. The winners of the Moycarkey v Holycross game will play the West champions, St. Vincent's.

Scorers for Thurles Sarsfields were: P. Doyle (1-2), M. Murphy (1-0), K. Houlihan (1-0), S. McLoughlin (1-0), M. Keane and M. Maher 0-1 each. Moycarkey-Borris had their scores from: W. Ryan (1-6) and D. Ryan (0-1).

**Thurles Sarsfields:** E. Maher, M. Byrne, R. Callinan, B. Maher, M.



Murphy, R. Reidy. N. Murphy, C. O'Dwyer, M. Dorney, P. Dorney, T. Walsh, P. Doyle, M. Maher (captain), M. Keane, S. McLoughlin. Sub: K. Houlihan for M. Dorney.

**Moycarkey-Two-Mile-Borris:** J. O'Grady, P. Bourke, J. Ryan, M. Lonergan, J. Carroll, P. Ryan, T. Lonergan, D. Ryan, W. Shanahan, W. Ryan, T. Wright, L. Ryan, T. Bourke, J. Scott, M. Shanahan. Subs: W. Nolan for M. Shanahan; G. Ryan for L. Ryan.

**Referee;** William Sweeney (Moyné).

#### THURLES SARSFIELDS COUNTY S.H. HURLING CHAMPIONS 1961



*Back Row: Noel Murphy, Tony Wall, Tim Walsh, Larry Keane, Sean McLoughlin, Michael McElgunn, Benny Maher, Gerry Doyle. Front Row: Patsy Dorney, Paddy Doyle, Michael Keane, 'Musha' Maher, Mickey Byrne, Michael Murphy, Bobby Mockler, Kevin Houlihan.*

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**D**URING our early years we heard about the hurling skills of Phil Cahill. There are many alive today who saw him hurl and all maintain that he was a better hurler than Christy Ring or Mick Mackey. He may not have had their strength, but for pure hurling skill, he was supreme.

## *Player Of The Past...*

# PHIL CAHILL

*(Holycross/Ballycahill)*

Those who saw him play tell of his bursts of speed down the wing, his ability to lift the ball when travelling at full speed and strike it over the bar without handling. It is related that on one occasion the angle was so narrow that the ball clipped both uprights on its way over the bar.

Unfortunately in that era, good hurlers were tightly marked and often received severe punishment. Phil Cahill suffered many serious injuries and unfortunately it must be said that many of them were received in club games. Greatness was not appreciated by lesser lights. Still he never flinched and came back after every injury to play magnificently for club and county.

He made his first appearance for the county when Clare was defeated in the first round of the 1923 Senior Championship, but surprisingly was not selected for the Munster Final when Tipperary lost to Limerick. He regained



his place for the 1924 championship and played in all championship games until the end of 1931. His final appearance was in 1933 when Waterford defeated Tipperary in a first round tie in Carrick-On-Suir.

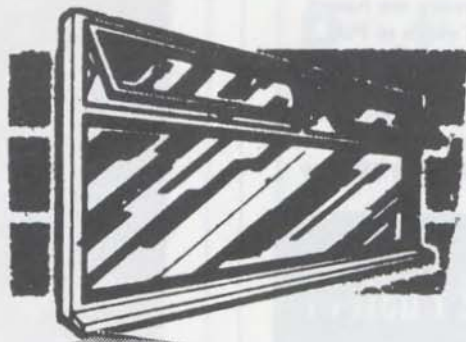
During his career, he won two All-Ireland and three Munster Senior Championship medals, one National League award and four Railway Cup medals. In 1928 he was selected on the Ireland team that played in the Tailteann Games. County championships were won with a Mid (Boherlahan) selection in 1922, with a South Selection (Boherlahan) in 1924 and with Moycarkey-Borris in 1932, and 1933.

Many compliments were paid to him by sportswriters. Carbery said of him "that for a decade or more he charmed us with his speed and artistry". Green Flag of the Irish Press described him as one of the greatest stylists hurling has ever produced.

"The Tipperary Star" has this to say: "his artistry with the caman was superb, and he can certainly be classed as one of the truest and sweetest hitting hurlers Tipperary ever produced. When he struck the ball, a score was almost a certainty and he had an uncanny gift of knowing where the posts were without ever having to look".

Dinny O'Gorman claims that Phil Cahill and Paddy Phelan were the greatest hurlers he saw and he has seen a lot.





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# Phil Purcell, A Pillar Of Tipperary Hurling

**T**HE above title was given by national journalist, John D. Hickey to describe one of the greatest backmen Tipperary hurling has produced.

John Purcell was born in Littleton in the early years of the present century into a family steeped in hurling tradition. His father's uncle, Tom Stapleton was on the county team which won the first All-Ireland and his uncle Mick Purcell and cousin Matt Ryan were on the Two Mile Borris side which won the 1900 All-Ireland.

His own career started as a hurler during the *Troubles* and when senior championship games were restored in 1922, Phil was one of six Moycarkey-Borris players who won county championship medals with Boherlahan. This was probably a group team of junior players as only four Boherlahan players were on the team! The following year, he was a member of the Mid team which won county junior honours.

In 1924 he was captain of the Tipperary County Junior team which beat Galway in the All-Ireland final.



When Tipperary won the All-Ireland senior final of 1925, Phil was among the subs, and he travelled to America in 1926 with the county team.

When Moycarkey-Borris won the county final of 1926, Phil won his second county medal and he captained the parish team in the club's great run of county titles in 1932/3/4 as well as the Mid Final of 1931. He was an ever present member of the county team from 1926 until a serious leg injury ended his career in 1936.

He was a member of the 1930 team which won Tipperary's first National League title in 1928. He won five Railway Cup medals with Munster, played for Ireland against the U.S.A. in the 1928 Tailtean Games.

Phil Purcell visited America four times. In 1926 and 1931 as a player and in 1950 and 1957 as team manager. He was a very popular and capable referee, officiating at all levels from rural schools to the 1946 All-Ireland final between Cork and Kilkenny.

He was club secretary in the 1920's, and was appointed Mid Tipp. Secretary in 1937. In 1948 he was elected County Secretary, a position he held until his sudden death in February, 1961.

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