

North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
1991

COISTE TIOBRAID
ARANN THUaidH



MacDONAGH PARK, CLOUGHJORDAN
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1991

Senior Hurling Final

EIRE OG

V.

TOOMEVARA

3.30 p.m. Reitor: Michael Cahill (Kilruane)

Minor Hurling 'B' Final (Nealon Trophy)

KILDANGAN v SILVERMINES

2.00 p.m. Reitor: Martin Darcy (Borrisokane)

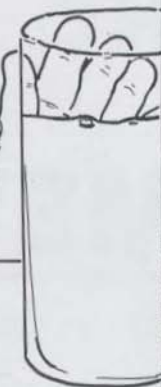


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Mar Chathaoirleach Bhoird Thiobraid Arann Thuaidh, cuirim fáilte roimh gach éinne chung Pairch Mhic Donnchadha inniu. Tá cluiche cheannais sa Iomáint Sinsearach ar siúl idir Aonach Urmhumhan dha agus Tuaim Ui Mhéara agus tá siúl agam go bheidh cluiche brea sportiúl againn. Chuirim fáilte faoi leith roimh na foirne go leir - na foirne sinseara agus na foirne sóiseara mionúir.

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 Eire Og 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. Eire Og League champions in 1991 will be anxious to regain the divisional title and proceed to the county quarter finals on a winning note.

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

The curtain raiser is M.H.B. (Nealon Trophy) championship game between Silvermines who last won this title in 1980 and Kildangan who were champions in 82.

I would like to thank all who helped in the preparations for today - An Runai, Michael O'Brien, an Cisteoir, Ml. Nolan and 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 leir.

LIAM O RIAIN
(Cathaoirleach).

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TOOME'S LAST NORTH FINAL GLORY:

1962 — Toome's Three-in-a-Row

It's twenty nine years since Toome last won a North Senior hurling title. 1962 saw them complete a three-in-a-row of titles and brought their total to 22. Since then Toome have known much success at under-age level but a North title has proved elusive.

Toome' began the defence of their title against Roscrea at Borrisoleigh on June 17th. They won by 2-7 to 1-5 but the five point margin is not a true reflection on the games closeness as it took a last minute goal to make the game safe for Toome. Having successfully got over their first hurdle Toomevara's next outing was against today's opponents Eire Og. This game was something of a let down to the large attendance with Toome' winning it by ten points 5-9 to 3-5.

And so for the "Greyhounds" it was onto yet another North Final. The decider pitted them against old rivals Kilruane McDonagh's and the crowd of 3,000 who turned up in McDonagh Park would not be disappointed with the fare served up. At the end of a pulsating sixty minutes Toome were crowned North Champions for the third successive time on a scoreline of Toomevara 4-9, Kilruane McDonagh 5-4.

"The Guardian" reporter at the match wrote that for Toomevara "this latest triumph must be one of the most cherished of all, for it was made safe only after the defending champions had over-come an eleven point deficit at the interval, repelled the challengers second half effort to get on top and then strode out in the final minutes for victory. Rarely in the past can the champions have been called upon to travel a harder more arduous road to success". For Toomevara Tom Ryan and Matt Hassett played strong roles and they were ably assisted by Jim McDonnell, John Hough, Roger Ryan, Frankie Ryan and Matt O'Gara. Toomevara scorers: P Shanahan 3-0; T Ryan 0-5, F Ryan 1-1, J Hough 0-1, P Cummins 0-1, M O'Gara 0-1.

Toomevara team: R Mounsey, M Hassett, W Donovan, J McDonnell, M O'Gara, N Williams, T Shanahan, T Ryan, S Randles, J Hough, D Cuddy, F Ryan, R Ryan, P Shanahan, J Donovan. Sub: P Cummins for S Randles.

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EIRE OG'S LAST NORTH FINAL GLORY:

Eire Óg's Third Divisional Crown — 1964

The North Title won by Eire Og in 1964 was their third such crown. However, the fourth title has proved difficult to come by and 27 years have passed since their last success. The 1964 campaign opened with a game against Borris-Ileigh on June 14th. In a tense and exciting clash the spoils were shared thanks to a last minute Eire Og point. The replay was much more clear cut with Eire og running out winners on a scoreline of 5-9 to 3-4.

Their next outing was against a strong Borrisokane side in Roscrea on August 9th. Eire Og surprised even some of their own fans to record a 3-12 to 4-7 win. This brought them on to a showdown with Lorrha on August 23rd for a place in the North decider.

The men from Lower Ormond proved to be stiff opposition for the Nenagh men but a late flourish that yielded two goals and a point saw them safely through. The attendance at the game was 1,600 and they payed gate receipts of £160. How times change.

The North Final was played on September 27th and Eire Og bridged a seven year gap in winning their third North Senior title. Their opponents were Roscrea who were defending champions and who entered the game as slight favourites. "The Guardian" report on the match states: "Eire Og's form was a revelation and must have astonished even the most optimistic of their own followers among the attendance of 3,800. From first to last they hurled with a daring, dashing will to win and made a mockery of those who doubted their ability". Outstanding for Eire Og were Phil Hennessy, Eddie O'Donnell (father of current squad member Donnadh), Johnny McGrath, Ml. Kearns, Mick Burns (father of current panel member Ronan) and Terry Moloney.

Eire Og scorers: T Moloney 2-5, A Ayres 1-2, P Kennedy 0-4, M Kearns 1-0, O Tucker 1-0, M Burns 0-1.

Team: Eire Og: C Cleare, C Morgan, J McGrath, E O'Donnell, M Burns (Capt), P Murray, P Kearns, P Hennessy, T Tierney, A Ayres, G Quinlan, P Kennedy, M Kearns, T Moloney, O Tucker.

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Finals by Ten

1981: Borris-Ileagh 1-8 — Roscrea 1-6.

In what was largely a disappointing final, Borris-Ileagh regained the title from reigning champions Roscrea in a sundrenched McDonagh Park, Nenagh.

As the score would suggest, it was a game in which both defences were the dominating sectors. Borris-Ileagh had Jimmy Stapleton, Gerry Stapleton and Timmy Ryan in fine form while Jody Spooner, Brendan Maher, Tadgh and Kevin O'Connor were excellent for Roscrea.

In fact Roscrea nearly won the game when Francis Loughnane tapped the ball to the net only to have referee, Donie Nealon disallow it as he said Loughnane had fouled Borris goalkeeper Owen Walsh - not too many more people saw it though.

1971: Roscrea 3-8 — Borris-Ileagh 3-5

Roscrea took their 5th title in a row when they defeated Borris-Ileagh in a thrilling and pulsating final.

Players before an enthralled crowd of 4,000, both teams served up an excellent hours hurling which was indeed a fitting end to the championship.

Roscrea, while giving a fine team performance, have one man they should specially thank and that is Francis Loughnane. He, more than any other, was the rock on which Borris-Ileagh's hopes perished. His personal tally for the hour came to 2-7, just one point short of the entire Borris-Ileagh total and when it is seen that just two other Roscrea forwards scored that day, it can be readily understood just how important the All-Ireland heroes' value was to the side.

1961: Toomevara 4-14 — Borrisokane 3-4

The good wine was served first at the beginning of this final because as the attendance of 4,000 sat back in anticipation of a battle royal, the bottom fell out of the game as Toomevara piled on score after score in the last quarter to win by 13 points. Borrisokane, it seemed, had burned themselves out by their earlier efforts as in the last 15 minutes they were never in the game at all.

The final margin was probably an accurate reflection of Toomevara's superiority, but it hardly did justice to the fighting qualities of the Lower Ormond side, who went down like the gladiators of old, with no thought of surrender until the final whistle sounded.

This was Toome's second successive title and their third in four years. They also became the first team to win the McGrath Cup and thus wrote another chapter in the history of North Tipp. GAA.

Best of luck to both
Toomevara and Eire Og
from the management and staff of the

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1951: Borris-Ileigh 2-10 — Roscrea 3-5.

Borris-Ileigh retained the Murphy Cup for the second year when they defeated Roscrea in the North Final. The champions were fully extended and at the close were battling in determined mood to withold a hectic challenge by the men in red, who were hurling with all their skill to land a much wanted goal that would have given them the Murphy Cup for the first time since 1949.

The game was played at tip-top speed and it held the spectators on a high note of excitement right up to the final whistle. A feature of the game was Ned Ryan's markmanship from centre-forward and he contributed 0-8 out of Borrisoleigh's total score. This was the second of a four-in-a-row of titles between 1950 and 1953 for Borris-Ileigh.

1941: Roscrea 6-3 — Kilruane MacDonagh's 2-7.

Roscrea won their 4th title in 6 years when they defeated McDonagh's at Borrisokane in the final that year at Borrisokane, in front of 4,000 spectators.

The game was hard fought and keenly contested and operators were treated to an exhibition of fast, clean and at times, spectacular hurling.

Kilruane made an impressive start to the game and had 2-3 scored before Roscrea had raised a flag, after about 20 minutes. Kilruane turned over at half time leading by 2-4 to 1-2 but their opponents were not beaten yet, they appeared for the second-half determined to bridge the gap and soon were storming the Kilruane citadel. 4 goals in a non-stop action packed second half saw Roscrea move into a ten points lead and although McDonagh's rallied at the very end, all they could manage was 2 late points.

1931: Toomevara 7-1 — Borris-Ileigh 1-3.

Toomevara again won the final and thus maintained their unbroken record as holders of the North title for the previous 6 years.

It was Borris-Ileigh's flaw of conceding soft goals that eventually proved their downfall and at half-time, they went in trailing by 4 goals to 1-1, even though they were having as much of the play as their illustrious opponents.

Borris' started the second half piling on the pressure but when they failed to score and Toomevara went down the field to score 2 goals, it really took the heart out of the Borris challenge and Toome ran out comfortable winners.

1921: No championship played due to Black and Tan War.



Thoughts on Feile na nGael

by Seamus O Riain

The twenty-first presentation of Feile na nGael was hosted by Tipperary this year. It was fitting that the festival of hurling should come of age in the county where it was initiated in 1971.

The county committee headed by Donie Shanahan are to be praised for the energy and enthusiasm they brought to the organisation of the celebrations which were efficiently and effectively carried out in every detail. One's thoughts went back to the first Feile, in fact the first two Feile both held successfully in the county. The example had been given but what was the next step? Would some county, or some group or some individual be prepared to follow up the example and as it were give wings to the festival and set it on a national circuit? This was a worry, because to achieve its overall purpose Feile needed to be hosted by other counties.

Happily a man was found or rather presented himself. Pat Guthrie, a teacher in Sexton Street C.B.S. in Limerick, fired with enthusiasm by what he witnessed in Tipperary for two years was ready to take on responsibility and having gained the approval of the Limerick County Board he hand-picked a working committee and under his chairmanship the next two Feile were a huge success in Limerick. This set off a chain of festivals in the strong hurling counties, each giving its own special character to the events, with the main emphasis on hurling and youth, with handball and camogie being eventually introduced and adding an extra attraction.

I have pleasant memories of each Feile but nothing can surpass the memories that flash across my mind of that first Feile, and the colour and excitement of hundreds of young boys from all counties proudly and skilfully wielding their hurleys with such obvious delight.

The advantage gained by the host counties have been acknowledged by them but each participating county can get most benefit by organising their

own Feile and this is being done every year by some counties but not by all.

Now and again one hears criticism of the Feile. It is costing too much it is said. Money spent on youth and hurling is money well spent. County boards, whether they are classed as strong or not in hurling terms cannot begrudge giving a fair subvention for this promotion and most counties are generous in their assistance.

There is too much glamour and publicity, it is said. This is an age when whatever you wish to promote in the market place must be attractively presented. Colour and pageantry appeal to young people and when hurling, camogie and handball are given a fresh, colourful and might I say, modern presentation youth will be attracted to them and they will feel good in taking part in them. Fortunately the continued sponsorship by Coca-Cola has taken charge of the main costs involved in this area.

The Feile having come of age the time has come to consider extending the scope of its activities to what are called the less-strong hurling counties. Could it not be possible for one of the strong countries to take in a weaker one in hosting the festival. For instance Limerick taking Kerry; Galway taking Roscommon; Kilkenny bringing in Carlow; Wexford with Wicklow; Laois with Kildare; Offaly with Westmeath; Dublin with Meath; Antrim with Down. There are but suggestions and there must be others worth considering.

What I have in mind is a coming together of people with ideas to work out a plan for the future of the Feile. There are plenty of enthusiastic and forward-thinking young men and women who have experienced the value of Feile and who have ideas about its potential for making an inestimable contribution towards the future welfare of our games. If a few such people could be brought together with the national steering committee of Feile and given the task of drawing up proposals for the future, their deliberations would usher in a new dawn for the festival while maintaining the basic principles on which it has proved its worth. I must emphasize that the group suggested above would be classed as young, a category to which I no longer can lay claim.

NORTH FINAL SNIPPET

TOOMEVARA HURLERS 188 - 1889.

William Whelehan, Clash; John Kennedy, Bunacum; Edward Maher, Coole; Timothy Hackett, do; John Hackett, do; Thomas Doughan, do; Patrick Harty, Grenanstown; James Cawley, do; James Peters, Ballymackey; Terence O'Brien, Fortwilliam; Jeremiah O'Connell, Ballybeg; John Brien, do; Timothy Feehan, Stuick; Thomas Galvin, Blakefield; Jeremiah Larkin, do; Patrick Brophy, Borrisfarney; James Looby, Toomevara; Patrick Maher, do; Patrick Guilfoyle, do; Jeremiah Dwyer, Gurtagarry; John Maher, Carrowey; John Donohue, Toomevara.

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SHC results and scorers for 1991

by Liam Hogan

FIRST ROUND

Shannon Rovers 0-5: S. O'Meara 0-3, J. Hannigan 0-2; **Eire Og 0-9:** Michael Cleary 0-5, E. Tucker 0-2, Ml. Kennedy 0-2, John Kennedy 0-1.

Borrisokane 0-15: Adrian Hogan 0-7, Brendan Hogan 0-4, Declan Morris 0-2, Vivien Dooley 0-1, Owen Cleary 0-1. **Newport 3-6:** Ger Bradley 1-3, Pat Shinnors 1-0, J. Healy 1-0, Con McGrath 0-1, Dinny Ryan 0-1, Peter Coleman 0-1.

Toomevara 1-19: M. Nolan 0-7, Tony Delaney 0-5, Ml. Murphy 1-0, Ml. O'Meara 0-2, Pat King 0-2, Tony Dunne 0-1, Tomas Carroll 0-1, John Ryan 0-1. **Portroe 1-10:** B. O'Driscoll 0-7, L. Sheedy 1-2, Jimmy Sheedy 0-1.

Borris-iliagh 0-11: C. Stakelum 0-10, A. Ryan 0-1. **Kilruane MacDonaghs:** Ger Williams 0-6, Jim Williams 0-2, D. Quinlan 0-1.

FIRST ROUND REPLAY

Borrisokane 1-11: Adrian Hogan 0-4, Padraig Hogan 0-4, Brendan Hogan 0-2, Declan Morris 1-0, Vivian Dooley 0-1. **Newport 2-11:** Ger Bradley 1-8, John Keating 1-0, D. Ryan 0-3.

LOSERS' GROUP

Kilruane 1-14: Ger Williams 0-5, Joe Cahill 1-0, Joe Banaghan 0-3, Sean Williams 0-2, Paul Mulcahy 0-2, Pat Quinlan 0-1. **Portroe 2-10:** Liam Sheedy 0-7, John Sheedy 1-0, James Seymour 1-0, A. O'Driscoll 0-1, Gerry O'Brien 0-1, Tom Keating 0-1.

Shannon Rovers 1-10: S. O'Meara 1-8, L. Hogan 0-1, T. Hogan 0-1. **Borrisokane 1-14:** A. Hogan 0-6, Brendan Hogan 0-4, Vivien Dooley 1-1, Paul Dooley 0-1, Padraig Hogan 0-1, Sean Morris 0-1.

LOSERS' GROUP FINAL

Kilruane 1-10: T. Killackey 0-4, Gerry Williams 0-3, Pat Quinlan 1-0, Paul Mulcahy 0-1, David Quinlan 0-1, Eamon Kirby 0-1. **Borrisokane 1-10:** Adrian Hogan 0-5, John McKenna 1-0, Paul Dooley 0-1, Keith Slevin 0-1, Vivian Dooley 0-1, Vincent McKenna 0-1, Declan Morris 0-1.

REPLAY

Kilruane 1-9: Thomas Kilackey 0-5, Jim Williams 1-1, Ger Williams 0-2,

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Paul Mulcahy 0-1. **Borrisokane 0-9**; Adrian Hogan 0-3, Padraig Hogan 0-2, Brendan Hogan 0-2, Vince McKenna 0-2.

QUARTER FINALS

Roscrea 0-11: M. Scully 0-8, Paul Delaney 0-1, Eamonn Maher 0-1, Conor Egan 0-1. **Toomevara 0-16**: Ml. Nolan 0-5, Ml. Murphy 0-3, Tomas Dunne 0-3, Ml. O'Meara 0-2, T. Delaney 0-2, Tony Dunne 0-1.

Eire Og 2-12: Ml. Cleary 0-7, E. Tucker 1-3, Kieran O'Brien 1-0, Jim Nagle 0-1, John Kennedy 0-1. **Borrisoleigh 2-7**: C. Stakelum 0-6, J. McGrath 1-0, P. Kenny 1-0, Aidan Ryan 0-1.

Lorrha 1-15: Kieran Hough 0-9, Tom Madden 1-2, John McIntyre 0-2, Aidan McIntyre 0-1, M. O'Meara 0-1. **Newport 1-7**: Ger Bradley 1-6, P. Coleman 0-1.

SEMI-FINALS

Eire Og 0-15: Ml. Cleary 0-9, E. Tucker 0-2, N. Corbett 0-1, J. Nagle 0-1, M. Kennedy 0-1, R. Tomlinson 0-1. **Kilruane MacDonaghs**: T. Killackey 0-5, J. Williams 1-1, Dave Quinlan 1-0, Jack Darcy 0-1.

Toomevara 2-8: Tony Dunne 1-2, Thomas Dunne 1-1, Ml. Nolan 0-3, Ml. O'Meara 0-2. **Lorrha 1-10**: K. Hough 0-5, Ken Hogan 1-1, A. McIntyre 0-2, J. Madden 0-1, Cathal McIntyre 0-1.

TOP TEN SCORERS

Ger Bradley, Newport 3-17 (3 games)
Adrian Hogan, Borrisokane 0-25 (5 games).
Michael Cleary, Eire Og 0-21 (3 games).
Conor Stakelum, Borrisoleigh 0-16 (2 games).
Ger Williams, Kilruane 0-16 (4 games).
Michael Nolan, Toomevara 0-15 (3 games).
T. Killackey, Kilruane 0-14 (4 games).
Kieran Hough, Lorrha 0-14 (2 games).
Sean O'Meara, Shannon Rovers, 1-11 (2 games).
Brendan Hogan, Borrisokane 0-12 (5 games).
Liam Sheedy, Portroe 1-9 (2 games).

NORTH FINAL SNIPPET

Toomevara have been North Champions on twenty two occasions - 1910, '11, '12, '13, 1916, '17, '18, '19, 1922, '23, '25, '26, '27, '28, '29, '30, '31, 1946, 1958, 1960, '61, '62.

Their last final appearance was last year when they lost to Kilruane by 2-7 to 0-5.

Tipp prove themselves kingpins of Waterford

by Mark Rabbitte

Every year, in the last weekend of August, teams from every corner of Ireland converge on the city of Waterford to do battle for what has now become a very prestigious competition — the Tony Forristal tournament.

Tony Forristal was a great Waterford gael and he died tragically when the bus in which he was travelling, along with the Waterford under-21 team of whom he was coach and trainer, crashed. His fellow workers at Waterford Glass Co. could think of no better way of keeping his memory alive than to associate it with all that was good, skilful and honest in the game that he loved, and thus the tournament was formed.

Up until that weekend, Tipperary had won the title on three occasions with their nearest rivals being Clare on two titles. This year, selectors Tom Gleeson (Portroe), Jim Lynch (Cahir), Paudie Butler (Drom-Inch) and Tom Fogarty (Golden), chose their panel, after trials and challenge matches and when it was finalised, Tom Gleeson believed it to be "the strongest panel since those all conquering sides of 1987 and 1988".

The panel was: Kevin O'Brien (Kilruane), Ray Hackett (Toomevara), Philip Rabbitte (Borris-ileigh), Sean Maher (Borris-ileigh), Jason Nugent (Arravale Rovers), David Fogarty (Golden), David O'Riordan (Durlas Og), Liam Cahill (Ballingarry), Liam Nolan (Sean Treacys), Pa McEvoy (Arravale Rovers), Mark O'Shea (Aherlow), Darragh Quinn (Eire Og), Johnny Enright (Durlas Og, capt.), Colin Allen (Fethard), Niall Stevin (Borrisokane), Declan Browne (Moyle Rovers), Mark Keeshan (Moneygall), Ger Looby (Golden), Ollie Geoghegan (Durlas Og), Declan Crowe (Arravale Rovers), P. J. Sweeney (Moyne-Templetuohy).

Tipperary were grouped with Cork, Limerick and Clare while the other group consisted of Galway, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford. The groups were run on a league basis with the top two teams in each group qualifying for the final on Sunday.

Tipperary's first match was against Clare at the De La Salle grounds. The Banner men were physically much bigger and stronger than our lads but we had more hurling ability right through the team, although in fact Tipp. were a point down at half time, 1-2 to 1-3. The second half saw a much greater urgency and commitment about the Tipp side and a greater scoring ability saw them starting off on the right foot with a 3-6 to 2-5 victory.

We now had a break of an hour before the next match which was very welcome as it gave the team a chance to get in out of the sweltering conditions for a while.

When play resumed it was Limerick who provided the opposition. These boys, as per usual, were also big and strong but they were not very good hurlers. The Tipp boys had seen Limerick play poorly against Cork earlier on and maybe they were a bit complacent, but whatever the reason they

played very lethargically and lifeless in the opening half and with the concession of a soft early goal, looked in serious trouble. The second half saw a slight improvement but the side still made very hard work in earning a four points victory on the scoreline of 3-6 to 2-5.

So it was on to the Cork game and the die was now cast. Cork had won both their games also and it meant that the winners of this game would proceed to Sunday's final.

The Tipp. lads were really fired up for this one and from start to finish, it turned out to be a battle royal with the Leesiders. This game was almost as exciting as the Munster final this year — certainly there was the same amount of commitment, dedication and pride in evidence.

The Tipperary lads received a tonic start and they went 1-1 to no score up after four minutes. The concession of two quick goals saw Cork right back in the hunt. Tipp added on three more points to leave the half time score at 1-5 to 2-1. The team were a little disappointed at half time as they now had to face into a fresh breeze but the pep-talk soon got them going again and they began the second half as they did the first — piling on the pressure. Coming up to the end Tipp were two points ahead when Cork struck for a goal. We now had to score either a goal or two points in the last four minutes to secure victory — a tall order against any team but more so against Cork, but the Tipp lads stuck to their task and got the two points necessary for victory and a place in the final.

Word had filtered through that Galway had qualified for the final but Tipp had more immediate things on their mind like going for a good meal and getting a good night's sleep. Tom Gleeson and Jim Lynch would ensure that all were in bed at a reasonable hour before they themselves returned to their beds. The teams were guests of the Sacred Heart Club and were extremely well entertained all weekend.

Final day came and the match was eagerly awaited by all. A fine crowd had gathered in Walsh Park and by time the parade and the National Anthem was complete, a super atmosphere had built up around the stadium.

Straight from the throw-in the Tipperary players never let the Galway boys settle down. They chased in packs, hassled their forwards and worried their backs with strong and forceful running. Half time came and the foundation for victory had been laid for we turned around enjoying a 1-7 to 0-1 lead and had the wind at our backs for the second half. The Galway lads never posed any threat and in fact the game proved to be a bit of an anticlimax as Tipp were in a class of their own winning on a scoreline 2-13 to 1-3.

To mention any individual names would be grossly unfair as the whole panel of 21 played their part at some stage of the tournament. They proudly represented their county and with this victory firmly embellished Tipperary as specialists when it comes to Tony Forrestral tournaments.

Well done also to the four selectors as with men like these in charge, you could not go too far wrong.

BEST WISHES TO ALL TEAMS IN TODAY'S
FINAL

from

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Today's Nealon Trophy Final

by COLM KINSELLA

The Nealon Trophy was presented to the North Board by the Nealon family in 1974. It has been awarded to the winners of the Minor (B) Championship ever since and it seemed fitting that Burgess were its first holders seventeen years ago. The Nealon family have been synonymous with the GAA for many years. Donie of course is a current Tipp selector as well as full-time Secretary of the Munster Council. He has also been a player, an administrator, a referee and a trainer in local and not so local GAA circles. His father Roddy won an All-Ireland junior medal with Tipp in '24 and followed it up with a senior title a year later. He was also chairman of the North Board in 1924/25 and gave sterling service to his club as a player. It is very fitting that the Nealon family be associated with this North Final day. A total of 10 different clubs have held the trophy.

NEALON TROPHY ROLL OF HONOUR

1974 Burgess.	1980 Silvermines.	1986 Burgess
1975 Kilruane.	1981 Borris-Ileigh.	1987 Portroe.
1976 Silvermines.	1982 Kildangan.	1988 Undecided.
1977 Silvermines.	1983 Erin's Hope.	1989 Moneygall.
1978 Burgess.	1984 Shannon Rovers.	1990 Burgess.
1979 Toomevara.	1985 Borris-Ileigh.	

Of today's participants Silvermines have been more successful winning the trophy on three occasions. Kildangan have only won it once. Silvermines last win came in 1980 when they outplayed Shannon Rovers in the final. Current Tipp full back Noel Sheehy gave an outstanding display in goals on that day & all 6 Silvermines forwards got on the score sheet. Current Tipp junior star Joe Harrington was also on the side. Team: N Sheehy, M Ryan, G Ryan, A Burke, Ml. O'Brien (0-1), J Harrington, T O'Brien, J Quinlan, J Ryan, J Gleeson (0-1), T Kinsella (0-5), Ml. Murphy (0-1), G Clifford (0-1), E Ryan (1-0), T Barrett (1-0).

Sub: J Grace for T Barrett.

Kildangan last held the Nealon trophy in 1982 when they beat Lorrha in an exciting final. They tailed by 1-4 to 0-1 at half-time but rallied strongly in second half to win by one point on a scoreline of Kildangan 1-5 - Lorrha 1-4. Kildangan were best served by C. Hayes, P Gleeson, E Darcy and T Power in the final.

Team: J Foley, W Gleeson, P Seymour, G Cronin, A Daly, C Hayes (0-4), J Kelly, T Kelly, J Holland, G O'Meara, T Power, E Grace, E Darcy (0-1), P Gleeson (1-0), J Teehan.

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Eire Og Club Officers

Presidents: Ml. Ryan, Ml. O'Brien, T. Stanley.

Chairman: G. Gavin.

Vice-chairman: J. Kennedy.

Secretary: J. Minogue.

Treasurer: J. Morris.

P.R.O.: S. Minogue.

Eire Og History

Hurling has a long history in Nenagh, being played there long before the founding of the GAA, and it is on record that the first game played under the new rules after the founding of the GAA in Thurles in 1884 was between a Nenagh team called 'John Mitchels' and a Lorrha selection.

However we have to wait until 1915 for Nenagh to win its first senior title (North Tipp) when they defeated a very fancied Moneygall team in the final. Some of the names from that team were Frank McGrath, Bill Flannery, Bill Coonan, Mick Egan, Martin Ayres.

Before 1915 many Nenagh hurlers played with two other very famous local teams viz: Lahorna De Witts and the Toomevara Greyhounds.

After 1915 however, we had a trouble period in Irish history and hurling was forced to take a 'back seat' and it was not until the emergence of a new team in 1926 called the Red Rovers (they wore red jerseys) that hurling again came to the forefront. This Red Rovers team was drawn from a small area of the town around the Birr Road and the Turnpike. The team was drawn from a small number of families, with very many brothers being involved. They subsequently changed their name to Eire Og. Some of the prominent Eire og players of that period were Bobby and Tucker Morgan, Chris Kennedy, Dick Hogan, Paddy Rohan and of course the late Johnny 'Hyder' Ryan.

The old Nenagh club was still in existence at this time, drawn mainly from around Pound Street with such names as John and Tom Brophy, Tom and Paddy Bourke, Digger Stanley, Toddy Bolger and of course the legendary John 'Pee-Wee' Whelan.

There were many sterling duels between these two teams and it was after witnessing one of these famous encounters that a local curate, Fr. Joe Hayes decided to try to amalgamate the two teams. He succeeded in his task and both clubs united in 1947 under a new name 'St. Mary's' the name coming from the local Catholic Club.

The new club had instant success winning the North Tipperary inter-



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and
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Manager, Billy Martin

Manager, Tom Kenny

Manager, Sean O'Callaghan

mediate championship and the county junior championship in its first year. Some of the people involved in this new St. Mary's team were Jack Nolan, Billy O'Brien, Eddie John McGrath, Tom Brophy, Jimmy Spearman, Toddy Bolger, Chris Kennedy, Bart Coffey, etc. They contested a North Tipp senior final in their very early years, but success at senior level eluded St. Mary's. There were, however, many successes at minor level with one particularly noteworthy occasion when they won a North Tipp hurling and football championship on the same day in the 1950s, with eleven of the hurlers going straight back on the field to assist in winning the football.

St. Mary's survived as a club until the mid 1950s, when during a low period for the club it was decided at an AGM to change the name of the club to its present name Eire Og. The first big success came for this club when it won the North Tipp senior championship in 1957 and again in 1964.

CONTRIBUTION TO TIPPERARY

St. Mary's and Eire Og, have supplied very many players to Tipperary, especially at minor level. It was a common occurrence during the '40s and '50s to have two and three players from the club represent Tipperary at minor level, and as many of these Tipperary teams won All-Irelands, there are a lot of minor All-Ireland hurling medals, held by players from the club.

At senior level, the most prominent player from the club would, of course, be Mick Burns, who holds five All-Ireland senior medals, followed by Johnny McGrath who won All-Ireland medals. Many other players from the club have played senior with Tipperary down through the years, but 1989 was certainly a milestone for the club with three players — John Heffernan, Conor O'Donovan and Michael Cleary from Eire Og playing on the Tipp team that finally bridged a 17 year gap to capture the elusive All-Ireland.

Michael Cleary and Conor O'Donovan again collected two further celtic crosses when the Premier County achieved their 24th All-Ireland title this year.

NORTH FINAL SNIPPET

Top scorers: Nenagh - M. Cleary 21 pts. E. Tucker 1-7.

Top scorers: Toomevara - M. Nolan 15 pts; Tony Dunne 1-4; Thomas Dunne 1-4; Tony Delaney 0-6.

9 Toome' players on scoresheet. 7 Nenagh players on scoresheet.

Nenagh have scored 2-36 (42 pts) en-route to today's final and they have conceded 4-19 (31 pts).

Toomevara have scored 3-43 (52 pts) en-route to the final and have conceded 2-31 (37 pts).

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PEN PICTURES:

EIRE OG

SEAMUS KENNEDY: Age 27. Manager courseware. Achievements: 3 North senior leagues, 4 county u-21; 2 county minors; county u-16 hurling; county junior football.

JOHN HEFFERNAN: Age 27. Self employed. Achievements: North and county u-16 hurling; North and county minor hurling; 4 North and 3 county under-21; 3 Munster, 1 National League, 1 All-Ireland, 2 North and county junior football; 1 North and 1 county intermediate football; 2 North senior football.

DONIE O'BRIEN: Age 25. Bricklayer. Achievements: North and county junior and u-21 hurling; North and county junior football; North, minor and senior football.

DENIS FINNERTY: Age 28. Pharmacist. Achievements: All-Ireland minor hurling 1980; 2 county minor hurling; 4 county u-21 hurling.

CONOR O'DONOVAN: Age 29. Building society branch manager. Achievements: 2 North u-21 and 2 county u-21 hurling; 3 North league medals; 4 Munster senior hurling and 2 All-Ireland senior hurling medals.

FRANK MORAN: Age 21. Farm apprentice. Achievements: 2 North senior hurling leagues; 1 North junior football; 3 under-21 North football; 1 North and county intermediate football; 2 North senior football medals.

PAUL KENNEDY: Age 28. Glazier. Achievements: North and county u-21 hurling; North and county junior and intermediate football; 2 North senior league.

PHILLIP KENNEDY: Age 31. Laboratory technician. Achievements: 2 All-Ireland u-21 medals; North and county intermediate football, 2 county minor hurling; 3 county u-21 hurling; North and county junior football, North senior football; 3 North senior leagues.

JIM NAGLE: Age 29. Engineer. Achievements: North and county junior football; 2 North and county minor hurling; 3 North and county u-21 hurling; 2 senior league medals.

DONACH O'DONNELL: Age 22. Student. Achievements: North Cork under age medals; Fitzgibbon Shield.

Best wishes to Toomevara from

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of Latteragh

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MICHAEL CLEARY: Age 24. Retailer. Achievements: 2 senior All-Irelands, 4 Munsters, League, Oireachtas, 2 North league, All-Star 1990, All-Ireland B. colleges 1983, 1 North and county junior.

MICHAEL KENNEDY: Age 32. Civil servant. Achievements: 1 All-Ireland u-21; North and county minor hurling; 2 county u-21 hurling; 2 North senior football; North and county junior and intermediate football; 3 senior league medals.

P. HENNESSEY: Age 28. Purchasing clerk. Achievements: 3 North senior leagues medals, 1 North senior football; 2 North and county u-21 hurling medals.

BARRY O'BRIEN: Age 21. Student. 1 North senior league, 3 North u-21 football; 1 North senior football; 1 North minor football.

KIERAN O'BRIEN: Age 24. Accountant. 2 North senior league medals.

EDWARD TUCKER: Age 19. Factory employee. Achievements: North and county u-16 hurling and football; North minor hurling; 2 North, 1 county minor football; 1 North senior football medal.

NEILLY CORBETT: Age 35. Electrician. Achievements: 3 North league medals.

JOHN KENNEDY: Age 19. Student. Achievements: North minor hurling; North and county under-16 hurling; 1 minor, 1 under-21, 1 senior football.

RONAN BURNS: Age 20. Student. Achievements: North minor hurling; 2 North senior football; 3 North u-21 football; 2 North minor football.

GERRY HYNES: Age 24. Factory employee. Achievements: 2 North league medals; North and county junior football; 1 minor football; North and county intermediate football medals.

ROBBIE TOMLINSON: Age 17. Student. Achievements: U-16 county hurling and football; North minor hurling medal; minor football North and county medals.

FERGAL HYNES: Age 18. Student. North minor hurling, North and county minor football, Munster u-16 and minor; North and county u-16 hurling and football medals.

GEAROID CLEARY: Age 19. Student. Achievements: North and county u-16 hurling and football; North senior football; North and county minor football; North minor hurling.

DEREK CONROY: Age 19. Student. Achievements: North and county u-16 hurling and football; North senior football; North and county minor football; North minor hurling.

Meet the Captains



Rory Brislane
(Toomevara)



Michael Cleary
(Eire Og)

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NOEL COFFEY: Age 25. Factory employee. Achievements: 2 North and county u-16 hurling; North and county junior hurling and football; North and county intermediate football; 2 North senior football; 2 North senior leagues.

CHRIS BONAR: Age 21. Garda. Achievements: North minor football; 3 North u-21 football; 1 North senior football.

CON HOWARD: Age 19. Student. Achievements: North and county u-16 hurling and football; North and county minor football; North minor hurling; North senior hurling league.

MARK SHEAHAN: Age 19. Student. Won North and county minor football medals, and North minor hurling medal. Representative on minor and under-21 football teams.

NORTH FINAL SNIPPETS

Tony and Thomas Dunne who play with Toomevara are father and son and Tony won an Intermediate county final in 1984, when Thomas was just 10 years of age.

The "famine" will truly be over for whichever team wins this years final because if Toomevara win, they will be bridging a 29 years gap, while if Nenagh claim the laurels, they will bridge a 27 years gap.

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EIRE OG'S BACKROOM TEAM

Early this year **Liam Heffernan** was appointed manager of the Eire Og senior hurling team. In turn he appointed three selectors namely **Tony Tierney**, **John Tucker** and **Billy Flannery**. In 1984 Liam successfully trained the Nenagh Vocational School senior hurling team which brought honour to the school by winning the All-Ireland senior vocational championships. That team included three players who are involved in today's final: Noel Coffey, Eire Og who was captain of that year's team plus Michael O'Meara and his brother Declan who will form part of today's half back line on the Toomevara team.

In 1979 Liam Heffernan trained the successful Tipp team which won the National Hurling League against Galway in Limerick. Later that year Tipp were unlucky not to beat Cork in the Munster semi-final at Pairc Ui Chaoimh. Liam is also a holder of a North Tipp league medal. He was a member of both the '82 and '84 North final teams.

BILLY FLANNERY: Billy last donned the light blue jersey in the 1973 North semi-final. Ever since then he has been involved in all age groups with with club.

TONY TIERNEY: Holder of North senior medals in '57 and '64 with Eire Og, he was trainer of the team that reached the '82 North final against Roscrea.

JOHN TUCKER: Played in 1982 final on Francis Loughnane. Came on as a sub in the '84 final against Lorrha. Holder of a North Tipp league medal. He has had a lot of success with under age teams..

NORTH FINAL SNIPPET

John Heffernan and **Conor Donovan**, who form two thirds of the Nenagh full back line held down the same respective points on the Tipperary team which defeated Antrim in the 1989 All-Ireland final.



Eire Og, winners over Kiltuane in the North Tipp semi-final

SILVERMINES MINOR TEAM

1. Finbar Ryan		
2. Eric Ryan	3. Mark Kennedy	4. James Gleeson
5. Niall Sherlock	6. John Kennedy (C)	7. Rory Kennedy
8. Donnacha Droney		9. Paddy Quinn
10. Michael Ryan	11. Joseph Ryan	12. Declan Corcoran
13. David Ryan	14. P. J. Forde	15. Peter Ryan

Subs: Colm Maher, P. J. Corcoran, Declan Forde, Seamus Slattery, Fergal Timmons, Enda McDonagh, Colm O'Brien, Anthony McGrath, David Forde, Waller O'Grady.

KILDANGAN MINOR TEAM

1. Eamonn McGrath		
2. Dan Hogan (C.)	3. Aidan Ryan	4. James Minihan
5. Kevin Ryan	6. Art Flannery	7. John Slattery
8. Michael Nolan		9. Aidan Killeen
10. Darren McGrath	11. Sean Kelly	12. Peter McCarthy
13. John Maher	14. Anthony Sherlock	15. David Finch

Subs: Brian Flannery, John Harty, Niall Kelly, Karl Hogan, David Gavin, Wm. Seymour, Paul Hyland, Nigel McGrath, Alan Finch, Gerard Kennedy.

EIRE ÓG

1.

Seamus Kennedy

2.

John Heffernan

3.

Conor O'Donovan

4.

Donie O'Brien

5.

Denis Finnerty

6.

Frank Moran

7.

Paul Kennedy

8.

Jim Nagle

9.

Philip Kennedy

10.

Michael Kennedy

11.

Con Howard

12.

Michael Cleary

13.

John Kennedy

14.

Neille Corbett

15.

Eddie Tucker

Subs: 16 Gerry Hynes, 17 Robbie Tomlinson, 18 Noel Coffey, 19 Fergal Hynes, 20 Derek Conroy, 21 Ronan Burns, 22 Barry O'Brien, 23 Kieran O'Brien, 24 Chris Bonar, 25 Philip Hennessy, 26 Donach O'Donnell, 27 Gearoid Cleary, 28 Mark Sheehan.

Toomevara	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachai	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

TOOMEVARA

1.

Jody Grace

2.

Pat Maher

3.

Sean Nolan

4.

Rory Brislane (c).

5.

George Frend

6.

Michael O'Meara

7.

Declan O'Meara

8.

Jimmy Dunne

9.

Pat King

10.

Liam Flaherty

11.

Michael Murphy

12.

Tony Delaney

13.

Michael Nolan

14.

Tony Dunne

15.

Tommy Dunne

Subs: 16 John Ryan (Curraheen), 17 Brendan Spillane, 18 Tommy Carroll, 19 Tommy O'Meara, 20 Seamus O'Meara, 21 John Ryan (Lought), 22 Philip Shanahan, 23 Kevin Delaney, 24 Owen Cuddihy, 25 Kevin McCormack.

EIRE OG	Cúil	Cúillíní	Seachai	65m	Saor Pocanna
1adh Leath					
2adh Leath					
Iomlán					

Martin Kennedy - A hurling legend

On July 17th., 1983, one of the legends of Tipperary hurling passed away in Nenagh Hospital. In the 1931 match preview the Guardian described Martin Kennedy as "undoubtedly the finest experient of full forward play".

Martin Kennedy was born in Kilnafinch, between Toomevara and Templederry, on November 20th 1889. His father, Michael Kennedy, had married Mary Shanahan of Glanmore, Templederry in Templederry Church at Shrovetide of 1887, and had ten children. Martin was the fourth son.

Next day he was baptised in Templederry Church, Dan Kennedy and Margaret Maher being the sponsors. He went to school in the little National school in Latteragh. His initial hurling was with Borrisoleigh with whom he reached two County finals in the Intermediate grade as a goalie. In 1919 he transferred to toomevara and from then on his career blossomed.

Toome' were then at the height of their fame. They won every North title between 1916 and 1931, except for Lorrha's brief interruption in 1924.,Martin was to make the county team in 1919, and was to win all-Ireland medals in 1925 and 1930. This brought him two trips to the U.S. with the Tipperary teams.

Six Railway Cup medals, two Thomond Shields, four County medals and eleven North medals, added to an impressive tally.

After Toome's failure to play the 1932 final against Newport, Martin Kennedy transferred to Kildangan. He won North medals with them in 1934, 1938 and in 1943, when he was then 45 years of age.

Speaking at the graveside in Monsea, Seamus O Riain said: As a player he has won a place supreme among the great artists of hurling and his feats have been recorded in the histories of the game. But the last words have not been written, for whenever games are discussed and games are assessed, their merits will be measured against the high standards set by Martin Kennedy".

Liam Doran.

Toomevara Club Officers

Life President: Jack Donovan

President: Matt Hassett

Vice-President: Tom Shanahan.

Chairman: Fr. Michael Casey, C.C.

Vice-Chairmen: Fr. Michael Hogan, C.C.; Gerry Kelly

Secretary: Paddy O'Brien.

Treasurer: Bernard O'Neill.

Registrar: Neill Williams

P.R.O.: Bill Carroll.

Toomevara's Roll of Honour

COUNTY TITLES

Senior hurling: 1890, 1910, '12, '13, '14, '13, '19, '20, '30, '60.

Junior hurling: 1913.

Intermediate hurling: 1984.

Under-21 hurling: 1985, '86, '90.

Minor hurling: 1986, '87.

Under-16 hurling: 1981, '85.

Under-14 rural hurling: 1979, '81, '84, '88, '91.

Under 12 hurling: 1977, '86, '88.

NORTH TITLES

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.

Hogan Cup. S.H.L.: 1990.

Junior hurling: 1913, '14, '20 (Ballymackey), 1925 (Garnafana), 1928 (Monanare), 1938 (Ballymackey) 1958.

Junior hurling 'B': 1986.

Intermediate hurling: 1944, '55, '85.

Under-21 hurling: 1967, '85, '86, '90.

Minor hurling: 1932, '37, '54, '56, '79 (B), '81, '82, '85, '86, '87.

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

Under-14 rural hurling: 1953, '55, '75, '77, '79, '80, '81, '82, '83, '87, '88, '91.

Under-14 urban/rural hurling: 1977, '79, '83, '87, '89, '91.

Under-12 hurling: 1975, '77, '80, '81, '82, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87, '88, '89, '91.

Junior football: 1927 (Kylarue), 1972, 1973, 1983 (B).

Community Games All-Ireland: 1979.

Community Games Munster: 1979, 1987.

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

Club of the Year (North): 1986.



Is this a record? Tommy and Tony Dunne of Toomevara must surely be the first father and son to play together in a North final.

PEN PICTURES:

TOOMEVARA

RORY BRISLANE: Age 24, captain. Won co. championships with Toomevara at under-12, 14, 16, 21, intermediate; won Munster and All-Ireland colleges' medals with St. Flannan's. He also played minor and under-21 hurling with Tipperary. Factory worker.

JODY GRACE: Age 24. Won co. championships at under-12, 14, 16, 21 intermediate with Toomevara; Munster under-16 medal with North Tipperary. He has represented Tipperary at minor and under-21 and in 1989 won All-Ireland junior medal with Tipperary as goalkeeper and was on this year's Tipp senior panel. Farmer.

PAT MEAGHER: Age 25. Won co. championships at under 12, 14, 16, 21 with Toomevara; also played with Tipp under-21s. Officer clerk.

SEAN NOLAN: Age 28. Won under 12, 14, intermediate co. championship medal as well as many divisional medals with Toomevara, played with Tipp minor team in 1981; Tipp under-21 team in 1984 and was a member of the Tipp junior panel in 1989. Butcher.

GEORGE FREND: Age 20. Won co. championships with Toomevara at under-12, 14, 16, minor and under-21; won All-Ireland medal with Tipperary under-21 in 1989 playing at corner back; he was on this year's under-21 team as captain. Teacher.

MICHAEL O'MEARA: Age 22. Won co. championship medals with Toomevara under 12, 14, 16, minor and under-21. He has played on the Tipperary minor team and is a member of the Tipp senior panel this year. Factory employee.

DECLAN O'MEARA: Age 21. Won co. championship medals under 12, 14, 16 and minor with Toomevara; played with Tipperary minor hurling teams in 1987, 1988 when he captained the team and was also on this year's under-21 team. Carpenter.

PAT KING: Age 26. Won co. championship medals with Toomevara at under 21, 14, 16 and 21; captained the under-21 team in '86 which won the co. final; also captained the senior team in 1989. Factory employee.

JIMMY DUNNE: Age 29. He has played with Toomevara at every level, won divisional medals at under 12, 14 and minor, also co. intermediate medal in 1984. Carpenter.

TONY DELANEY: Age 20. Won under 12, 14, 16, minor co. championships with Toomevara. Played with Tipperary minor team in 1989 and was a member of this year's under-21 panel. Van driver.

MICHAEL MURPHY: Age 26. Won co. championship medals at under

Best of luck to both Eire Og and Toomevara in
to-day's final
from

DAN AND MAUREEN SHELLY

at

THE LIMETREE

CLOUGHJORDAN

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MANAGER:

Conor O'Donovan

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12, 14, 16, 21 and intermediate level. Has played with London and is in his first year back with Toomevara since returning to Ireland. Building worker.

LIAM FLAHERTY: Age 26. Won co. championship medals with Toomevara at under 12, 14, 16, 21 also Munster under 16 medal with North Tipp in 1981. Farmer.

THOMAS DUNNE: Age 17. Won co. championship medals at all grades up to under 21 with Toomevara. Played with Tipp minors last year and this year. His father Tony is also on the team. Student.

TONY DUNNE: Age 40. Has played with Toomevara at all levels; won North Tipp juvenile medals and in 1967 won North Tipp under 21 medal; also won intermediate co. championship 1984. Has represented Tipp at junior and senior level. Farmer.

MIKE NOLAN: Age 23. Won co. championship medals at under 12, 14, 16, minor and under 21 with Toomevara; played with Tipp at minor and under 21, winning All-Ireland medal in '89, also played with Tipp senior team and won Div. II league medal in 1987. Welder.

JOHN RYAN: Age 26. Won co. championship medals at under 12, 14, 16, and 21 with Toomevara as well as many divisional medals. Farmer.

BRENDAN SPILLANE: Age 26. Won co. championship medals at under 12, 14, 16 and 21; also at intermediate with Toomevara. Office clerk.

TOMMY CARROLL: Age 20. Won co. championship at under 12, 14, minor as well as many divisional medals with Toomevara, also played minor with Tipperary in 1989. Student.

SEAMUS O'MEARA: Age 29. He has played at all levels for Toomevara, won medals at under age and also junior league medals in 1988 and 1989. Electrician.

JOHN RYAN (L.): Age 34. Played at all levels for Toomevara; won junior league medals with the club in 1988 and 1989. Farmer.

KEVIN DELANEY: Age 23. Won co. championships with Toomevara at under 12, 14, minor as well as many North Tipp medals. Garage employee.

PHILIP SHANAHAN: Age 17. Won co. championship medals at all grades up to under 21 with Toomevara; played with Tipp minor team in this year's All-Ireland. Student.

KEVIN McCORMACK: Age 20. Won co. championship medals at under 12, 14, 16, minor and under 21 with Toomevara; won All-Ireland schools medal with Tipp in 1988; played with Tipp minor team in 1989 and this year's under-21 team. Carpenter.

TOMMY O'MEARA: Age 36. 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, won junior league medals in 1988 and 1989. Machine operator.

Trainer: PAT JOE WHELEHAN (Birr): Pat Joe played with Offaly for 13 years before Offaly made the breakthrough in Leinster. He also played

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with Banagher (St. Rynagh's) winning numerous championship medals at all grades as well as Leinster senior club medals. After retiring from playing he has trained the Offaly minor hurlers to All-Ireland success in the recent past; he was trainer of the Offaly under-21 team beaten by Tipperary in 1989; he was also trainer of the Offaly senior team in 1989. His son Brian is the current wing back on the Offaly senior team.

TOOMEVARA BACKROOM TEAM

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

Both Jim McDonnell and Frankie Ryan were part of the successful three-in-a-row teams of 60, 61 and 62. Toomevara defeated Kilruane, Borrisokane and Kilruane in that order. Jim McDonnell lined out at corner back, while Frankie lined out at top of the left in 60, top of the right in '61 and wing forward in '62. Toomevara had a fine scoring formation in that era. They beat Kilruane 4-12 to 1-3, beat Borrisokane 4-14 to 3-1 and Kilruane again in '62 4-9 to 5-4. Jim has been a part of the Toome selection team for the last four years. Frankie joined that team two years ago. He was also a selector of the successful 84 Intermediate County winning team.

Fr. Casey is Toome's third selector. He has been a selector with the team for the past four years. Fr. Michael played hurling with Ballyhea in Clare which is part of Clarecastle as well as St. Patrick's College in Maynooth.

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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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The Toomevara team that defeated Lorrha in the North Tipp semi-final

Flashback to 1957 —

The year that these two sides last met in the North Final. The following are some extracts taken from the "Guardian" report of the game.

Nenagh side wins first title in forty two years. - Late Toomevara rally failed in final

Eire Og 5-5 — Toomevara 4-5.

GAA history was made at McDonagh Park, Nenagh, on Sunday last when in a hectic finish Eire Og won their second North Tipp senior hurling championship when they defeated Toomevara in the final. By their victory Eire Og have won the North title for the second time, the last being in 1915.

It was a game that sent the blood tingling and provided exquisite delight or sheer agony for supporters of either side as the tide of battle ebbed and flowed. No sooner did the game appear to be assuming a definite course when the tide changed and first one side was on top and then the other.

Toomevara went down fighting true to the great tradition of a great hurling parish and their heroic rally when all seemed lost almost carried the day.

TOOMEVARA IN LEAD

Toomevara opened in splendid fashion and were quickly three points ahead, then Eire Og fought back to score two points and Johnny McGrath from a 21 yard free had their first goal to give them the lead. Toome replied with a point but then came a good goal for the winners from John Hogan. Back came Toome' again and two goals before the interval left them in the lead. However, in the remaining few minutes after Stephen Guerin had restored Toome's lead the Eire Og boys showed promises of things to come.

EIRE OG'S GOLDEN PERIOD

After the interval that promise began to materialise, and in the tenth minute Johnny McGrath once again put his side in the lead with a goal from a 21 yds free. This was Eire Og's golden period and McGrath hit a wonderful point from far out followed by a point from Billy O'Brien and two well taken goals from John Hogan.

FIGHT BACK

With the Nenagh side leading by nine points with little over 12 mins for

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play they seemed all set for an easy victory. However, Toomevara with Matt O'Gara doing some tremendous work fought back and narrowed the gap to two points back in the dying minutes. McGrath had a point from a free for the winners to clinch the issue.

CARRIED THE DAY

Nenagh folk unconsciously influenced by their ties may pick one man or other as player apart from his fellows. But truly magnificent was Ml. Hynes at right corner back, wonderful as was Mick Burns at right half back splendid as Phil Hennessy was at midfield, tantalising as were Johnny McGrath and Kieran McDonnell to the opposition, it would have been little use but for John Hogan's opportunism in snatching three goals that carried his side to victory.

Toomevara's outstanding player was Matt O'Gara, time and time again he sailed right up the field shaking off would be tacklers to send the ball up to the forwards. Others to impress included Martin Burke, W O'Donovan and Billy O'Brien. Toomevara goalkeeper Roger Mounsey a minor of last year also gave a very capable performance.

Scorers: Eire Og: J Hogan 3-0, J McGrath 2-3, K McDonnell 0-1, B O'Brien 0-1.

Toomevara: S Guerin 2-0, P Shanahan 1-3, S Ryan 1-0, J Hough 0-1, C Ryan 0-1.

Teams: Eire Og: T Tierney, P Kearns, E McGrath, M Hynes, M Burns, D Reynolds, M O'Connell, P Hennessy, P Hallinan, P O'Meara, J McGrath, K McDonnell, B O'Brien, S Duignan, J Hogan.

Toomevara: R Mounsey, W O'Donovan, W O'Brien, M Burke, M O'Gara, T Shanahan, T Cuddy, G Hough, J Hough, M Hassett, P Shanahan, C Ryan, S Guerin, S Ryan, W Harty.

Subs: J McDonnell for Ryan; D Galvin for Cuddy.

NORTH FINAL SNIPPETS

Tipperary panelists will be on view in abundance today when 4 of this year's senior panel will be in action - Michael O'Meara and Jody Grace from Toomevara and Michael Cleary and Conor O'Donovan.

Also on their respective panels today will be Fergal Hynes of Eire Og and Thomas Dunne and Philip Shanahan of Toome who were all part of the Tipperary minor squad this year.

Toomevara have scored most goals in a North Final. They put nine past Youghalarras in the 1925 decider. But Youghalarras scored six goals in the same game to place both teams in the position of contributing the most goals in a final.

THE QUILL

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meets the clash of the ash,
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Best wishes to Eire Og in today's Final

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MICK BURNS

Eire Og and Tipperary

Report in *The Guardian* on 1964 All-Ireland:

"Tony Wall was caught once or twice by John Teehan at the start of the game but his positional sense and his neat clearances particularly in the critical period after half time were tremendous assets to Tipp.

"On the other hand Mick Burns played superbly through the hour answering those critics who felt that he was off form at the moment. He certainly put the shackles on Eddie Kehir who never looked as dangerous as in his scoring spree in last year's All-Ireland against Waterford".

The Guardian Report on the 1965 final said of Burns that he and Len Gaynor had their problems with the speed of Dick Shannon and Jimmy O'Brien, but Burns came through with some fine clearances especially in the second half.

In the 1967 final against Kilkenny *The Guardian* reported that: "It's a case of much wonder among many Tipp supporters why Mick Burns was removed from the scene. He was to many people the best defender for Tipp after Len Gaynor. At the time of his removal he had received a rather sickening knock and could have been forgiven for faltering at the next ball he contested.

MICK BURN'S ROLL OF HONOUR

All-Ireland senior medals: 5, 1958, '61, '62, '64, '65.

All-Ireland minor medal: 1955.

Munster senior medals: 8.

Munster minor medals: 2.

National Hurling leagues: 6.

Railway Cup medals: 1.

Oireachtas medals: 5.

Brendan Cup medals: 2.

North Tipperary senior medals: 1.

North Tipperary minor medals: 3.

North Tipperary junior medals: 1.

Wishing Toomevara and Eire Og the best of luck in the final from

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Féile '91

by DAVID WHELAN, Terryglass (Shannon Rovers - age 14).

On Thursday, 20th June, 20 players, their mentors and a number of supporters of the Naomh Moinne, (Dundalk) Louth team arrived in Ballinderry at 7 p.m. They were quickly dispersed to their hosts for the weekend. So began one of the greatest week-ends of my life.

Next day started with lashing rain. Shortly after midday we (Shannon Rovers hurling team) and our guests left on their team bus for Portumna on a trip before the serious business of hurling began. We were well entertained by Tim "the friendly bus driver", whose musical tastes ranged from reggae to Reilly. That evening the weather was dry and overcast as we took the field. Our opposition, Naomh Moninne had won Féile in their section the previous two years. We were confident of breaking their winning sequence but it was not to be. We trailed 1-5 to 1-1 at half-time and even though we brought the gap down to a point they won 1-7 to 2-1.

The following morning at half eight we left for Moyne where we took on Moyne/Templetuohy and our guests faced Keady of Armagh. After playing well in the first half, we lead 3-2 to 0-3 at half-time. Even though under pressure in the second half we still lead by two points three minutes into injury time. The referee awarded a harsh free against which they goaled from. Final score: 3-2 to 2-6. Shattered and dejected we trudged off, our chances of reaching the semi's gone.

In the match that followed Lough and Armagh drew in a tight match 0-3 each. On the way back we were treated to chips and burgers by our guests.

Our next match was back home in Ballinderry against Keady of Armagh. After a tired looking display by us in the 1st half, Keady lead by 13 pts. I was one of three subs brought on early in the second half and even though I scored a goal we still lost 3-4 to 1-5. Louth went on to clinch a semi-final place by beating Templetuohy 1-8 to 0-5 after a good game of hurling. After a short break in Ballinderry we headed for Drombane where Louth would play Kildare in the semi's. Kildare lead 0-4 to 0-0 at half time and even though Louth put up a brave fight in the second half they lost 1-5 to 1-0. The bus driver had said as soon as Lough lost the Reggae would stop and so we left Drombane to the sounds of Paddy Reilly.

The following morning at half eight we were on the road for Thurles. We arrived in Semple Stadium for Mass which was celebrated by the Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, Dr. Dermot Clifford. After Mass 18 bands and over one hundred handball, camogie and hurling teams assembled behind the Ryan stand for the start of the parade. As we headed for Liberty Square the beautiful colours of the banners brightened an overcast day passing the review stand in Liberty square. Michael O Muirheartaigh introduced the teams to the people that lined the streets of Thurles. The parade concluded on the playing field and after a short address, the finals got under way. So, it was time to say farewlll to Féile and our friends from Louth.

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Juvenile Highlights

by SEAMUS J. KING

The goal scored by Michael Cleary in the All-Ireland was not the first time a mishit shot by him changed the course of a game. Another time was on November 13th., 1982 at Holycross in the under-16 hurling final between Eire Og and Knockavilla Kickhams. This game had everything, atmosphere, speed, skill and tension. At halftime the west champions were a point in front, 0-4 to 0-3. By the beginning of the final quarter they had gone two points ahead and seemed set for victory. Then Eire Og got a 65 and Michael Cleary, who was playing at centre-back and had already scored six points, went to hit it. The ball didn't come up properly and he hit along the ground. It travelled all the way to corner-forward, Noel O'Meara, who deflected it into the net to give the Nenagh lads victory by 2-6 to 1-7.

1981 was a great year for Toomevara juveniles. They won the under-12, the under-14 rural and the under-16 championships. They beat Durlas Og and in the under 12 hurling final. The sides played at Templemore on July 26 and the game ended in a draw at 2-2 each. The replay was on August 9 and Toomevara were successful by 2-2 to 1-3. Good ground hurling at crucial times during the game contributed to their victory.

In the final of the under-14 rural hurling championship Toomevara beat Moycarkey-Borris. A feature of this game was the high scoring. It was played at Templemore on August 22nd and the star of the day was the Moycarkey corner-forward, Pat Cahill, grandson of the legendary Phil, who netted five times for a great personal record. However, it was Toomevara who were in front, five goals to three, at halftime, and by 8-3 to 6-0, when the final whistle sounded.

Toomevara were favourites to take the under 16 hurling title because of their impressive performance in Féile na nGael two years previously. The final was played at Holycross on October 11th and in beating Emly, the north champions were winning their first ever under 16 hurling title. The game was fairly close in the first half with Emly leading by 0-6 to 1-2 at the interval, the Toomevara goal coming two minutes before the break. Gradually their superiority showed at the final whistle, when they lead by 6-7 to 0-9. The successful side was: Jody Grace, Rory Brislane, Joe Ryan, Brendan Spillane, T.J. browne, John Delaney, Pat King, James Connolly, Liam Flaherty, Michael Murphy, Michael Harty, John Ryan, Liam Nolan, Michael Kennedy, P.J. Brislane.

(Some excerpts from 'Sixty Years of Bórd na nÓg in County Tipperary', to be published in November.)

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.



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Ken Hogan '87.

Full-back: Noel Sheehy '90.

Left Full-back: Tadhg O'Connor '79.

Right Half-back: Tadhg O'Connor '71 and '75.

Conal Bonnar '89.

Centre back: Mick Roche '71.

Bobby Ryan '89.

Left half back: Bobby Ryan '86 & '88.

Right mid-field: Colm Bonnar '88.

Declan Carr '89.

Right half-forward: Francis Loughnane '71 - '73.

Nicholas English '88 - 85.

Declan Ryan '88.

Michael Cleary '90.

Centre forward: Michael Keating '71.

Left half forward: Aidan Ryan '87.

Right full forward: Pat Fox '87 & '89.

Full forward: Nicholas English '87 & '88.

Cormac Bonnar '89.

Left full forward: Tommy Butler '78.

Nicholas English '89.

LIST OF ALL STARS

Kilkenny 65; Cork 64; Galway 52; Tipperary 31; Limerick 25; Offaly 21;
Wexford 18; Clare 13; Waterford 4; Antrim 3; Dublin 2; Laois 1;
Westmeath 1.

* Tipp's most successful year was 1989 when they won 6 all-stars. The best ever in 1983, Kilkenny winning 9.

* Tipp's most successful position is right half forward with 8 All Stars. Their most successful player is Nicky English with 6 All-Stars.

* Tipp have had won All-Stars in all positions except right full back and left midfield.

Best wishes to all teams in today's final.

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When Reddin was king of McDonagh Park

by Gerry Slevin

A few weeks ago when I spotted Tony Reddin leisurely walking towards Croke Park on All-Ireland final day with Jackie Ryland from Banagher, I was immediately reminded of the marvellous asset he was to the Tipperary team in those golden days of the late '40s and early '50s. Later that same afternoon, as Ollie Walsh came out in his capacity as manager of the Kilkenny side my mind flicked back to his great era and all he had done to keep the black and amber banner high.

Reddin and Walsh, great keepers of a different era but there were two occasions when the respect the opposition had for these men, came between them and victory. In the case of Walsh it was the Leinster final of '69. Offaly had surprisingly beaten All-Ireland champions Wexford in the semi-final and had qualified for their first provincial final appearance.

Kilkenny were their opponents and they duly won, but a glance at the score-line indicates just how afraid Offaly were of the mighty Ollie that afternoon. 3-9 to 0-16 was the final score and it was plain to see that Offaly's mentors had imbued their charges with a 'take your point' attitude and so intent were Offaly on doing just that, that opportunities that would certainly have brought goals had they been taken were forsaken in the interests of those points and of course, through fear of the reputation of the Kilkenny net minder.

Thirteen years before that, Lorrha and Borris-ileigh lined out in Nenagh's McDonagh Park in the North Tipp final. Lorrha, who had taken their first title, at Borris' expense in '48 were seeking their second title, and of course, Tony Reddin was the player Borris had to pass, if those goals that invariably boost a team, were to come about. It was 4-8 to 0-18 at the final whistle, a score-line that tells its own tale.

Reddin was truly in inspired form that day, though the performance of young Seamus King and John Larkin in the Lorrha defence were also of the top order. Everything Borris threw at Reddin that day failed. And in the end resorting to points was their only avenue. For a team to have scored eighteen times as against twelve for the opposition, and still come out on the losing end by two points, is, at very least, a frustrating experience.

That was Borris-ileigh's fate on September 8th, 1956 when Lorrha took

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their second divisional title. They then went on to beat Pearse's from the South division (5-8 to 2-6) in the semi-final before losing to Thurles Sarsfields, 3-7 to 1-4 in the final.

The teams in that '56 final were:

Lorrha: Tony Reddin, Seamus King, Paul Slevin, Willie Hogan, John Larkin, Davy O'Sullivan, Paddy O'Meara, Hubie Hogan, Phil McIntyre, Eugene O'Meara, Mick Brophy (capt.), Sean O'Meara, Paddy Madden, Paddy Guinan, John Maloney.

Subs: Frank Larkin for Sean O'Meara; Willie Harding for Frank Larkin.

Borris-ileigh: Paddy Delaney, Joe Prior, Liam Maher, Billy Stapleton, Jackie Callinan, Jimmy Finn, Phil Maher (capt.), Mick Connors, Sean Warren, Joe Kenny, Liam Devaney, Timmy Ryan, Paddy Kenny, Philly Ryan, Ned Ryan.

Subs: Jim Quinn for Warren; J. Stapleton for Joe Kenny.

Referee: Paddy Connell, Tullamore.

NORTH FINAL SNIPPETS

Toomevara also have the greatest winning margin in a final when they had 23 points to spare over Ballina in 1912. The score was 7-3 to 0-1.

The team to score most points in a final was Borris-Ileigh. In going down to Lorrha in the '56 final they scored 18 points - and failed to beat Tony Reddan for a goal.

The team with the unenviable distinction of appearing on the losing side in most finals is Roscrea. They have been defeated in 13 finals.

Ballina, Lorrha and Newport could each only manage one point in their finals of 1912, 1924, and 1927 respectively.

Donie Nealon, Burgess, has refereed most North Senior hurling finals, with eight to his credit. Next comes Hubie Hogan, Lorrha, with six and Rody Nealon, Donie's father with four.

Youth and the G.A.A.

The bonds linking the GAA with its youthful players and supporters are deep, strong and traditional. From their very beginnings, the games of the GAA have appealed in a special way to the young. The early initiation, the awkward hurley in clumsy young hand; the unfailing encouragement of the skilled elder; these develop as the years pass - developing into something flowing, graceful and free. As we develop, we accumulate experience; we learn. As the young players develop their skills under the watchful eye of the parent association, they learn many lessons - and these lessons are not confined to the playing field. Determination, enthusiasm, discipline, teamwork - these characteristics, forged during long, enjoyable hours of practice and play, these will stand the young players in good stead all their lives.

Yet, the relationship between the youth and the GAA is not merely a one-sided one, the young players in their turn, make an important contribution to the association. Their support for local and inter-county teams is often firmer, more loyal and more vocal than that of their elders. The games they play are played with a commitment and fervour sometimes lacking in their elders - many areas long bereft of senior success place greater emphasis upon their juveniles than on the luckless senior team itself. Above all, while the youth of today many grow older, seldom will they faithlessly abandon the GAA - as supporters, critics, commentators, referees, coaches, trainers, officials, or even as managers of firms offering sponsorship - the young players, the lifeblood of the organisation, seem conscious of the need to "give something back".

It is sad, therefore, to watch that very lifeblood haemorrhage away; to see more and more youngsters abandoning gaelic games in favour of rugby or, particularly in recent years, soccer. The GAA needs as many young players as possible, for as observed earlier, it is these players, who, in later years, form the basis of our voluntary organisation. Without their future input, we will lose the invaluable, if often unrecognised, contributions of trainers, coaches, committee members and officials who voluntarily give up their time for the sake of the game - for these very people will instead be donating their services to the local soccer club.

The reasons for the defections are complex and varied. The glamour of the foreign games undoubtedly plays a significant part - both rugby and soccer availing of international exposure for their games and highly-paid players yet we in the association are not entirely blameless. The stiff competition and the resulting occasionally sharp criticism has been known to disillusion some, as has the increasingly physical nature of gaelic games, especially football. Increasingly too, many point to the contrast between the local, hard-working, voluntary mentor and the high-ranking official,

who (unfairly or otherwise) has come in for accusations, of greediness and cynicism. the recent criticism of ticket allocations and sponsorship served only to deepen this bitterness.

Yet, thankfully, all is not lost. The GAA perhaps in response to the increasingly urgent necessity, has taken steps to ensure it remains attractive to budding young players. Advertising and sponsorship, despite the reservations of some, have certainly raised the image of gaelic games and their players to a level approaching that granted to soccer. The school-coaching schemes, where coaches travel to schools countrywide, teaching skills and encouraging the game, have met with a great response. And in answer to those who criticise ticket allocations, attention must be drawn to the juvenile passes scheme, which allows groups of juvenile players to attend even headlining matches for as little as fifty pence each.

Young players are the lifeblood of the association. Let us never forget that the future of our games depends on them, and thus, on the effort we spend instilling a love of gaelic games in them. Finally, by supporting the facilities already present to encourage new young players and by striving to develop new ones, let us build solid foundations to support the future, cemented by the bonds linking the youth and the GAA.

James Gleeson.

Meet the Captains

RORY BRISLANE

Toomevara captain, Rory Brislane is 24. He has won many honours with his club, right up through U/12, 14, 16, 21 and Intermediate level. Rory won both Munster and All-Ireland college medals with St. Flannan's. He has also played minor and u-21 with Tipperary. Rory is a factory employee.

MICHAEL CLEARY

Michael Cleary is 24 years of age and works in the family business. He has won 2 All-Ireland medals, 4 Munster senior medals, a league, an Oireachtas and an All-Star award in 1990 with Tipperary. He has won two North League medals with Eire Og as well as an All-Ireland Colleges B medal with Nenagh CBS in 1983.

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Kildangan's years of glory

The men of Kildangan captured North Tipperary divisional honours in 1934 when combined with Kilbarron 1938 and 1943.

1934: The championship was played on a league system and in their first game, played in Puckane, Kildangan-Kilbarron met and defeated Portroe in a hard fought game on the score 4-1 to 3-1. In their next game the combination team knocked Toomevara out of the championship which was a novel occurrence at the time. This game marked Martin Kennedy displaying all his guile and hurling ability against his former team mates. The Shannonsiders were led 0-3 to nil at half time, but with Kennedy and especially Danny Gleeson adopting a roving policy in the second half, Toomevara, although they fought gamely, had no answer to the fast play of Kildangan-Kilbarron. In their final game, a drawn game on the score 5-6 to Roscrea's 4-9 was sufficient to ensure new North Tipp champions.

It was one of the most exciting games played at Nenagh for a long time and it was a crashing goal of Danny Gleeson's in the last minute, that the Roscrea goalie stopped but failed to hold, and Martin Moran's last second saving of the situation that brought glory to Shannonside. The combination team dominated the first half to lead 1-5 to 0-2 at the interval, but on the turnover the play swayed from end to end as the lead changed hands amidst intense excitement. It was to be the first of many epic duels between the Shannonsiders and Roscrea for the next decade.

Kildangan-Kilbarron team: Jack Hctor (capt.), Jack Kelly, John Grady, Rody Gleeson, Danny Gleeson, Martin Kennedy, Jim Killeen, Mick Hanrahan, Denis Costello, Mick Quirke, Pat Cahalan, John Mackey, Mickey Hogan, Denis Dwan, Bill Hayes, Joe Cleary, James Cleary, Martin Moran, Danny Gleeson (Kilbarron), John Hogan, P. Hogan, M. Corboy.

1938: Having been defeated by Roscrea in the North final of 1937, Kildangan showed in the first round of the championship of their intent to go a stage further this year. They defeated Eire Og, Nenagh, by a massive score in the first round and continued their scoring form into the next game where they met and defeated Kilruane-McDonagh by 7-4 to 1-2. A feature of this game was Martin Kennedy's tally of six goals. Kildangan next played and beat Newport in a keen contest by 5-6 to 2-8.

Having been on level terms at half time, Jack Hctor led his med with vigor and courage to eclipse a Coffey inspired Newport team. So it was that on 31/7/38 that the following fifteen set out to avenge their 1936 and 1937 North final defeats at the hands of Roscrea: Christy Coen, Jack Hctor, John Grady, Jack Kelly, Danny Moloney, Mick Hanrahan, Danny Gleeson, Jim Killeen, Matt Coen, Mick Quirke, Joe Barry, Pat Hogan,

Mick Murphy, Martin Kennedy, Johnny Hogan.

A massive Shannonside crowd paid a shilling admission at the Showgrounds and were not disappointed. Their favourites led on the unusual score of 6-0 to 1-3 at the interval and despite a fine rally by Roscrea, they held on to win on a final score 7-2 to 3-4 and take the Murphy Cup.

1943: By virtue of a 6-6 to 2-0 defeat of Duhurra, and with Borrisokane and Shannon Rovers eliminated from their group, Kildangan renewed rivalry with Roscrea for championship honours in 1943. Roscrea having defeated them by a single point in 1942. The spectators were treated to a hard fought contest, the last twenty minutes especially providing a most exciting finish. Kildangan, with strong, robust but always skilful hurling, had much the better of the first half exchanges and led at the interval by 4-2 to 0-1, and having turned over they were scarcely prepared for the powerful onslaught flung at them by a 14 man Roscrea team.

However, Kildangan held out to finish as victors on the score of 6-2 to 5-4. It was an ironic finish in so far as John Joe Maher had won the 1942 North final for Roscrea with a last second pointed free; in the 1943 final he missed a similar score also in the last minute which would have levelled the match for Roscrea.

Martin Kennedy received the cup on behalf of the Shannonsiders in what was to be their last North senior success.

Kildangan lined out as follows: Christy Coen, Jack Hctor, Paddy Morrissey, Seamus Flannery, Matt Coen, Danny Moloney, Nick Flannery, Mick Murphy, Jim Killeen, Paddy Devaney, Jim Joe Grace, John Gleeson, Johnny Hogan, Danny Gleeson, Martin Kennedy.

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Mick Murphy, Martin Kennedy, Johnny Hogan.

A meeting in Monaghan decided upon a friendly exhibition at the Sports Grounds and with that arrangement. These fixtures led to the winning of 5-2 to 1-3 at the Athletic Grounds and the title of Champions, they both teams won a final score 7-2 to 1-4 and won the Murphy Cup.

1943 By winning a 6-2 to 1-4 at the Athletic Grounds, and with Northland and Shamrock, Monaghan finished 1st in their group. Kildangan won the county with Ripon, for changing top honours in 1947. Ripon having defeated them by a single point in 1947. The spectators were treated to a hard fought contest, the last victory, however, especially for village football. Kildangan, with strong, robust but almost total defeat, had won the honours of the first half victory and led in the second by 4-2 to 0-1, and having turned over they were victorious and won the powerful trophy from the hands of a 1st team Northland.

However, Kildangan had lost to Northland in the 1948-49 season 1-1 to 2-1. It was an oddity in so far as John O'Mahony had won the 1948 North final for Monaghan with a last second point, but in the 1949 final he scored a strong goal in the last minute which would have levelled the match for Ripon.

Martin Kennedy suffered one day as a result of the circumstances in what was to be their last North final meeting.

Kildangan: Ted Ennis, William, Charles Carr, Jack Hickey, Paddy McQuinn, Seamus O'Mahony, Matt Carr, Tony Mulvey, Nick Farley, Mick Murphy, Jim Kavanagh, Paddy Kennedy, Jim Joe Carr, John O'Mahony, Johnny Hogan, Tony O'Mahony, Martin Kennedy.

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