

North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final  
Match Programme  
2004

  
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Coiste Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh

**North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final**

# Buiríos Uí Luíoch v Ros Cré

**3.15 Referee: Brian White**

preceded by

**Nenagh Guardian**

**North Tipperary I.H.C.**

**Quarter-Final Replay:**

***Fanaithe na Sionnaine  
v Béal Átha Gabhann***

1.15 p.m.

Referee:

John Collins, Templederry



Club Blán at Tús

**Luach  
€2**

*Georoid Mac Eochaidh*

**MacDonagh Park, Nenagh Sunday 22nd Aug. 2004**

**Permanent TSB Bank S.H.C. Finalist: Borris-Ileigh**





# Fáilte

Seamus Ó Muineog, Cathaoirleach

## A Chara

Fáilte go Páirc Mhic Dhonnchadha, Aonach, inniu, don, Cluiche Craobh Ceannais Iomaint Sinsear idir Buirios Uí Luíoch agus Ros Cré.

Senior hurling final day in North Tipperary is one of main occasions of the year. This year brings together Borris-Ileigh and Roscrea in the Permanent T.S.B. Bank sponsored championship final. Our sincerest thanks to George and the staff at Permanent T.S.B. - their support and the support of all our sponsors are gratefully appreciated.

Best wishes to both clubs in final. Both clubs and supporters will bring colour and enthusiasm to the game, to make it an occasion to remember. Getting a North senior hurling medal is a great honour, and this year even more so, as it is the only remaining passage to the county series for both clubs.

A welcome to Brian White - our referee and his officials. Brian is well used to occasions such as this, but nonetheless we wish him well.

The curtain raiser is the Nenagh Guardian Intermediate Hurling quarter final replay between Shannon Rovers and Silvermines. If it is half as exciting as the drawn game, early arrivals are in for a treat.

Thanks also to the Nenagh Éire Óg field committee for having MacDonagh Park in fine condition for our disposal.

Thanks also to Liam Hogan who goes to such great rounds to put together a splendid programme each year. Thanks to all those also who work away in the background such as gate checkers and referees. Without your help and assistance through-out the year, we would not be able to reach today's game.

Enjoy the day and may the best team win.

**Seamus Ó Muineog** (Cathaoirleach)



## Buíochas

Thanks to all those who helped with today's match programme:

Bridget Delaney, Gerry Slevin, David McDonnell, James Hayden and Liam Doran.

North Board secretary, Ger McKeogh; Bord Na nOg secretary Anne McGrath.

Billy Ryan and Anne Maher Borris-Ileigh. Mickey Phelan, Tadhg O'Connor and Niamh Fitzpatrick, Roscrea. **Editor: Liam Hogan**

**THANKS TO TULLA PIPE BAND for providing today's entertainment**

Design and printing by The Guardian, Nenagh

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# The Gallant John Joe

By Gerry Slevin (The Guardian, Nenagh)

**H**e was so easily recognisable. That little trot on to the field to attend to an injured player. It could only be one man.

After a hurling career that stretched from 1925 when he led Roscrea to the first ever North Tipp minor title, up to 1950, John Joe Maher threw himself into the administrative side of the Association. As a club official .. he was secretary from 1927 until 1975 - selector at both club and county levels and as a raconteur, John Joe epitomised the very soul of the GAA.

His Gaelic Bar premises on Main Street attracted people from everywhere and hurling matters were aired there with authority, John Joe himself to the fore, throwing in the odd barb, the juicy piece from which a heated debate might emerge!

When I began my journalistic career with 'The Midland Tribune' in 1962, one of the first jobs I got was to go to Roscrea and compile the local notes. A visit to the Gaelic Bar was a must. Along with being sure of some newsy information from John Joe (and there were times when that had to be double checked for accuracy!), one was always assured of becoming immersed in debate with someone, or hearing tales of some great achievements. Often too, one had to make one's own mind up as to the veracity of what was being said!

But there was no argument with the achievements of John Joe Maher. He played minor for Tipp in '29, captained Ros to North junior success in '30, played in the club's first ever North senior title win in '36,

with more senior titles going their way in '37, '39, '41, '42 and '45. In the 1949 final John Joe captained the Reds to divisional honours and when today's opponents Borris-ileigh defeated them a year later, John Joe left the hurley aside for good.

Though county success had eluded him as a player, ample amends were made when in 1968 Ros led by John Dillon won the Dan Breen Cup for the first time. He was a selector then - he was also a Tipp selector in 1970 - and in 1971 was a selector when his beloved Ros became the first ever All Ireland club champions. Earlier that same year club man Tadhg O'Connor led Tipp to All Ireland honours and John Joe it was who had the privilege of welcoming Tadhg, the other players and the Liam McCarthy Cup home.

He represented the club on the North Board through six decades, likewise the North Board on the County Board.

Both club and North Board honoured him with honorary Presidency and it was his proud boast that he attended at no fewer than eighty All Ireland finals, the first as a six year old in 1917 when Dublin defeated Tipp and the last in the year he died, 1996, when Wexford overcame Limerick.

His was a long life of commitment and dedication to an Association he loved so much. John Joe Maher was one of those people whose total immersion in the GAA at all levels gave him a status among the greats, a man of whom Roscrea and Tipperary can be so proud.



**Best Wishes to Roscrea**

from

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*Best of luck to the  
Borris-Ileigh hurlers  
from John and Anne*





# Brendan Murnane - a very special club man

By Gerry Slevin (The Guardian, Nenagh)

**W**hile attachment to one's native club is always to be appreciated, such attachment can oftentimes wane when circumstances decree that residence must be taken up elsewhere.

For well over half a century, the Portroe club has had the services, the encouragement, and the guidance of Brendan Murnane, notwithstanding the fact that life's destiny has taken him away from his native village. Apart from short stints in England and Portlaoise, Brendan has been settled in Nenagh.

Nenagh, of course, is a base for many people from outlying clubs, but there can scarcely be anyone (except, perhaps, Matt Hassett from Toomevara) with such an unwavering loyalty to the club that first gave him his love for the GAA than Brendan.

Recently Brendan Murnane celebrated his 80th birthday. He doesn't look his age and he will tell you that healthy outdoor activities, notably taking on all-comers on the golf course out in Beechwood is the ideal recipe for good health. There, at present, wife Carmel is Lady Club President.

It was back in 1951 that he first set up his dental practice in Nenagh's Kickham Street. Though Brendan is long since retired, the premises remains in the Murnane name through daughter Dr. Brenda and her practice there.

While he both hurled and played football with Port, administratively he shone out, being both club secretary and treasurer and club delegate to the North Board. At a time when four delegates (as distinct from the present situation which sees club representation instead) represented the Divisional

Board on the County Board, Brendan won the confidence of clubs to be one of their delegates. He was also vice chairman of the North Board for two periods in 1957 and again in 1964-65.

Along with promoting the club's cause on the playing fields, Brendan threw himself wholeheartedly into the physical development of the club, being to the forefront (with Matt Shinnery) in the acquisition and development of the club grounds and providing the leadership and guidance necessary to make the project an unqualified success.

A marvellous man to read a game, equally adroit in discussion and debating various aspects of a game, Brendan has seen Portroe move up from intermediate to senior ranks, return to intermediate and make it back to senior once more, where they now proudly stand. Divisional and county honours have come in several grades but nothing would please Brendan more than to see a Port man claim the Frank McGrath Cup.

This year, Port went to within a whisker of reaching its first ever-senior final, Roscrea ousting them by a goal. How ironic it was that in an earlier round of the same competition, Port overcame their Roscrea opponents!

Portroe owes to Brendan Murnane a debt that can never be adequately repaid. Brendan, of course would never see it that way, such has been the tremendous love he has always had for the parish and the club from whence he came.

A club man extraordinaire indeed.



Best Wishes to Roscrea from

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Best of Luck to the Borris-Ileigh Hurling  
Team in today's North Final

From.

# **Thomas V. Ryan**

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Thomas Ryan



Vincent Ryan

# Borris-Ileigh and Roscrea met in 1954 final

By **Liam Doran** (The Guardian)

**R**oscrea and Borris-Ileigh met in the 1954 North final. Roscrea had beaten Portroe in the semi-final, as they did this year.

Borris, defending county champions, had a bye to the semi-final, where they completely outclassed Kildangan. With Philly Ryan in top form, they led 1-11 to 1-2 at the interval, and ran out winners by 4-14 to 1-5.

A crowd of 5,000 turned up at MacDonagh Park for the final. 'North Tipperary Hurling Title Changes Hands; Roscrea Create Surprise Of the Season' was the headline in 'The Guardian' of September 4, as Roscrea were winners by 3-4 to 0-11. 'Borris-Ileigh went down with their flag flying by a two point margin and were considered unlucky to have been disallowed a goal at a critical point of the game...

Borris-Ileigh, who are North Tipperary Divisional champions for four years in succession, bowed the knee to a wellknit fifteen and a team that proved itself great cup fighters. That they upset the calculations of the champions goes without saying. Borris-Ileigh did not anticipate the determined opposition they met with. Roscrea struck ball for ball throughout the hour and met man for man in hectic clashes in the best exhibition seen at this venue since Roscrea played Thurles Sarsfields to a draw in the 1945 county final but lost the replay.

Could Philly Ryan going on the field have

sensed what was to be the outcome when he wondered if he would gain his sixth divisional medal"

The report said the "saviour of Roscrea was undoubtedly young Butler in goal and he gave a great exhibition of net minding which completely upset the opposition forwards. He saved shot after shot until he was helped to the sideline injured". It said also that in the defence Timmy Bergin stood out, "a small but sturdy hurler who from first to the last whistle hurled with abandon.... In Carson and Dyer, Philly Ryan and Tom Ryan met opponents of their steel and they gave a fine account of themselves at midfield.". The legendary Martin Loughnane was "in tip top form, and he led his forwards with guile and craft. His two goals were rasps".

In the Borris-Ileigh defence, Jimmy Finn played a captain's part, "never allowing a ball to pass him, often emerging from a group of opponents with ball in fist to give Borris a spell of relief... In goal Delaney proved as sound as ever and could not be blamed altogether for the three goals that passed him. He made a remarkable save once when he went down on his knees and the ball bounced off them clear".

Sadly one of the Roscrea stars on that day fifty years ago, Joseph Maher, who scored Roscrea's third goal, passed away on August 14. I measc laochra na gcaman ar Neamh go raibh se.

Best Wishes to Roscrea from

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# Permanent TSB Bank S.H.C. 2004

## Preliminary Round

Team	Score	Team	Score	Venue	Date	Referee
Kilruane Mac Donaghs	0-18	Moneygall	1-10	Moneygall	Tue 25th May	Willie Clohessy

## Round 1

Roscrea	1-13	Newport	0-06	Toomevara	Sun 13th June	John Ryan (Boherlahan)
Kilruane Mac Donaghs	0-11	Borris-Ileigh	0-24	Toomevara	Sun 13th June	Dinny Curtis
Portroe	1-16	Templederry Kenyons	2-10	Dolla	Sat 12th June	Tommy Ryan
Nenagh Éire Óg	2-17	Toomevara	2-19	Cloughjordan	Sun 13th June	Noel Cosgrove

## Loser's Group Preliminary Round

Nenagh Éire Óg	3-18	Newport	0-04	Dolla	Sun 27th Jun	John Collins
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## Loser's Group Round 1

Kilruane Mac Donaghs	1-10	Nenagh Éire Óg	1-18	Nenagh	Sat 3rd July	John Cleary
Moneygall	2-18	Templederry Kenyons	1-09	Nenagh	Sat 3rd July	Francis Kearney

## Round 2

Borris-Ileigh	0-17	Toomevara	2-17	Nenagh	Wed 30th Jun	John Ryan (Boherlahan)
Roscrea	1-09	Portroe	2-11	Nenagh	Wed 14th Jul	Willie Clohessy

## Quarter Finals

Nenagh Éire Óg	1-09	Borris-Ileigh	2-13	Nenagh	Sat 24th July	Brian White
Moneygall	3-13	Roscrea	2-17	Cloughjordan	Sun 25th July	Noel Cosgrove

## Semi-finals

Toomevara	0-11	Borris-Ileigh	1-16	Nenagh	Sun 8th Aug	Noel Cosgrove
Portroe	0-13	Roscrea	1-13	Cloughjordan	Sat 7th Aug	Dinny Curtis

## Final

Borris-Ileigh		Roscrea		Nenagh	Sun 22nd Aug	
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**Best Wishes to Borris-Ileigh team**

from

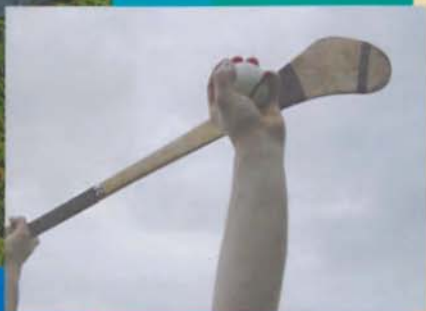
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Best of luck to Borrisoleigh  
and Roscrea in the  
North Tipperary Hurling Final  
from AIB Nenagh.

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# 'Traditional' final to excite hurling purists

By **James Hayden** (Tipperary Star)

**D**ISTANT memories of bygone clashes will be evoked today as Borrisoleigh and Roscrea face each other in what many gael's will see as a 'traditional' North SHC final.

Both Borris-Iliegh and Roscrea have met on eight previous North finals down through the years with the men in maroon edging it on the finals tally, defeating Roscrea in five finals (50, '51, '55, '81, and '88).

Roscrea were not without their famous victories over Borris-Iliegh either ('54 '68, and '71), and many will still remember those great finals of the early fifties with Roscrea thwarting Borris-Iliegh's five-in-a-row bid with a memorable victory in the '54 final.

While Borris-Iliegh's fortunes slumped in the sixties, Roscrea emerged as a force to be reckoned with in the North, winning five North finals on the trot between '67 and '71 while Borrisoleigh emerged from their slumber the following year to de-throne Roscrea with a comprehensive victory over Lorrha (2-9 to 0-4) in the North final and putting back-to-back titles together with a three-point victory over Kilruane MacDonagh's the following year (3-6 to 2-8).

Rivalries between Roscrea and Borris-Iliegh were renewed again in 1981 and this time it was Borris-Iliegh's chance to de-throne the reigning champions and they did so with a hard-earned two-point victory, (1-8 to 1-6).

The last meeting between both sides took place in 1988, with Borris-Iliegh emerging victorious by a seven-point margin (1-14 to 1-7) to capture their 12th North title.

Today they are going for their 13th, but will it prove an unlucky number for them. With a comprehensive victory over Toomevara in the semi-final they have been installed as favourites today, but they will face a

determined Roscrea side bidding for their 16th North crown.

Ironically, today's final will be the first one in which both finalists will have been previously defeated in the championship with Roscrea succumbing to Portroe before overcoming them by solitary goal in a hard-fought semi-final encounter at Cloughjordan.

Borris-Iliegh's route was similar too, having been defeated by Toomevara 2-17 to 0-17 before reversing the result with a barnstorming performance in the semi-final.

Throughout this championship both teams have both impressed and disappointed their respective supporters but this will all be forgotten by the victors this evening when the destination of the Frank McGrath Cup is known.

Borrisoleigh have players with the calibre of Philip Maher, Philip Rabbitte, Sean Maher, Martin Maher and Mark Bourke, all of whom have hugely impressed this year. But that, not to say they are ably abetted by a group of players who have knitted together to prove a formidable force in this year's championship and it is no surprise that they are contesting today's North final.

Roscrea progress to today's final saw them avoid some of the perceived big guns but hard-earned victories over Moneygall and Portroe displayed an inner belief and determination which will serve them in good stead today.

John Carroll remains doubtful so Roscrea will need big games from Enda Fitzgerald, Diarmuid Fitzgerald, Liam England, Tommy Fitzgerald, and Mark Ryan if they are to topple Borris-Iliegh but they are well capable of upsetting the odds and raising their game for a North final which, for many will be a trip down memory lane.





**Silvermines who lost to Nenagh Éire Óg in the quarter final 2000:** Back row: G. Grace, M. Murphy, N. Sheehy, S. Quirke, D. Keogh, A. McGrath, B. Timmons, D. Droney. Front: G. Ryan, W. Keogh, M. Cunneen, T. Kelly, D. Corcoran, T. Cunneen and Ger Gleeson.



**Shannon Rovers U-21 North champions 2003:** Back row: Alan Byrnes, Bill O'Meara, Bob O'Halloran, Noel O'Donoghue, Roy Darcy, Derek Horan, Michael J. Quinlan, Edward Brophy, Rob O'Gorman, Shane Carroll. Kneeling: Daryl Darcy, George Hannigan, Michael Burke, Lee Darcy, Kevin Cahalan, James Stack, Paul Ryan, Paddy Donnellan, Michael Dwyer.

## Silvermines Intermediate

	1 Donal O'Brien	
2	3	4
Kevin Cunneen	David Boland	Alan Cunneen
5	6	7
Declan Mulqueen	Donal Keogh	Ronan Sherlock
	8	9
	Brendan Timmons	Sean O'Brien
10	11	12
Neil Kelly	Declan Corcoran	Cathal Gleeson
13	14	15
William Keogh	Timmy Kelly	Orrie Quirke

**Fir Ionaïd:** 16 Michael Murphy, 17 Eoin Quirke, 18 Damien Egan, 19 Anthony McGrath, 20 Tom Cunneen, 21 Maurice Leamy, 22 Alan Ryan, 23 Ger Gleeson, 24 Stephen Kennedy, 25 Sean Forde, 26 Eoin Grace, 27 Gavin Steed, 28 Willie Forde, 29 Kevin Kennedy, 30 Damien Boland

**Selectors:** Jim Keogh and Ger Ryan (D). **Manager:** Nathal O'Grady.

## Shannon Rovers Intermediate

	1 Pat Quinlan	
2	3	4
Michael Hourigan	Pat O'Meara	Kevin Cahalan
5	6	7
Alan Byrne	Donal Lennane	Donal Hourigan
	8	9
	Shane Carroll	Derek Horan
10	11	12
Sean O'Meara (capt)	Martin Burke	James Stack
13	14	15
Lee Darcy	Ray Darcy	Dermot Costello

**Fir Ionaïd:** 16 Michael Burke, 17 Pakie Burke, 18 George Hannigan, 19 Adrian Whelan, 20 Ross Burke, 21 Conor Deegan, 22 Liam Gorman, 23 Paddy Donnellan, 24 Edward Brophy, 25 Damien Burke, 26 Stephen Darcy, 27 Niall Cahalan, 28 Ml. James Quinlan, 29 Paul Ryan, 30 Anthony Hogan.

**Manager:** Sean Darcy. **Selectors:** Pat Stack, Tomas Heenan

**EXTRA TIME** to be played in the event of a drawn match



# Borris-Ileigh

	1	
	<b>Jody Harkins</b>	
2	3	4
<b>Martin Treacy</b>	<b>Philip Rabbitte</b>	<b>Eoin Stapleton</b>
5	6	7
<b>Vincent Stapleton</b>	<b>Philip Maher</b>	<b>Aidan Coen</b>
8	9	
<b>Sean Maher (capt)</b>	<b>Seamus Maher</b>	
10	11	12
<b>Tom Stakelum</b>	<b>Martin Maher</b>	<b>Mark Bourke</b>
13	14	15
<b>Declan Maher</b>	<b>Rory Kinane</b>	<b>John Keane</b>

## Fir Ionaí

16 Brendan Maher, 17 Angelo Walsh, 18 Pauraic Maher, 19 David O'Connor, 20 Mattie Stapleton, 21 Brendan Kenny, 22 Robert Stakelum, 23 Timmy O'Connell, 24 Paddy Stapleton, 25 Pierce Ryan, 26 Mark Stapleton, 27 John Vahey, 28 Niall Hackett, 29 Ollie Delaney, 30 Enda Hackett, 31 Mattie Vahey.

## Raghnóirei

**Manager:** Tom Ryan

**Selectors:** Noel O'Dwyer, Timmy Stapleton

**Trainer/Coach:** Paddy Moore,

**Masseur:** Michael Clohessey. **Medic:** Dr. Kevin de Largy

**Club Officers:** Presidents, Jimmy Coffey, Pakie Costello;

Chairman: Billy Ryan; Secretary: Noel Maher;

Treasurer: John Maher; PRO, Mark Stapleton.



Captain: Sean Maher

# Roscrea

1

**Emmet Dunphy**

2

**Tadhg O'Connor**

3

**Enda England**

4

**Aaron Ryan**

5

**James Maher Capt**

6

**Diarmuid Fitzgerald**

7

**Colm Monaghan**

8

**Liam England**

9

**Vinny Dooley**

10

**Colm Kennedy**

11

**Pauraic Carroll**

12

**Ruairi O'Connor**

13

**A. N. Other**

14

**Tommie Fitzgerald**

15

**Donal Hogan**

## FIR IONAIÐ

16 Mark Ryan, 17 Pat Fitzgerald, 18 Jim McDonnell,  
19 Shane Lee, 20 John Carroll, 21 Denis Moloney,  
22 Jason Ryan, 23 Dinny Kennedy, 24 Prionnsias  
Loughnane, 25 Thomas Lupton, 26 John Dooley,  
27 Phil Ryan, 28 Trevor Ryan, 29 Ray Delaney,  
30 Brian Brooks.

## RAGHNÓIREI

**Manager:** Frank McGrath

**Selectors:** Brian England, Brendan Carey

**Medic:** Marcella Stapleton **Masseur:** Jimmy Cunningham

**Club Officers:** President, Christy Maher; Chairman, Dan Kennedy; Secretary, Michael Phelan; Treasurer, Paul Phelan; P.R.O., Seamus Doran



**Captain: James Maher**

**Best wishes to both teams  
in today's North final  
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**Best Wishes to the Borris-Ileigh Team**



# Has Tipperary hurling gone soft?

By Liz Howard

I came away from Croke Park after the minor All Ireland semi-final game between Tipperary and Kilkenny with a deep sense of disappointment. This was one of the best minor squads to represent Tipperary. These players were well capable of winning an All Ireland.

The team management had put in huge work to prepare them.

Losing the Munster should have been the wake-up call. A very committed team management did all possible to get the players back on track. What went wrong?

Kilkenny are not a patch on teams from previous years. But they wanted to win. What was the difference? Attitude? Hate to say it but true. There was a lack of spirit and pride in the Blue and Gold. This did not apply to all the players but a number of players hid on the day. That is inexcusable.

It is time to have a really hard look at Tipperary hurling. A softness has crept into our game. Contrast that with the hard edge to Kilkenny and Cork. Our players are just as good

but some appear to lack that bite and attitude required to win. Our overall approach is questionable. I am a player's person and will always support the men who represent Tipperary but some players need to look into their hearts and ask themselves a few hard questions. Only they have the answers.

The structure in Kilkenny is excellent. Many former players are involved in coaching at juvenile level. The standard of coaching is excellent. There is a constant pool of talent on tap. Where are our former hurlers? How many are putting anything back into the game. All too few, unfortunately. Time to give something back gentlemen. You owe it to Tipperary.

I am only touching on a subject dear to my heart. Space does not allow further comment. Back to the North Final which sees Roscrea and Borris-Ileigh do battle for the Frank Mc Grath Cup. Good to see both teams back in the big time. To day is all about attitude too. Isn't it every day?



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## Last North final win for Roscrea - 1980



**Roscrea - champions in 1980:** Back row, l-r: John Stone, Joe Rowland, Ger O'Connor, Kevin O'Connor, Philip Ward, Liam Spooner, Brendan Maher, Jody Spooner. Front: Tadhg O'Connor, Joe Butler, Kevin Brady, capt, Jackie Shanahan, Peadar Queally, Joe Tynan, Francis Loughnane. PS: Can you name the young boy in the front row with blue top, he is playing in today's game.

### Replay.. Roscrea 5-6 Kilruane MacDonaghs 2-12

The game was played on August 31st, four weeks after the teams finished level at 1-9 to 0-12.

Come the replay, Roscrea were on fire, shooting three goals past a shocked Kilruane defence. A goal from Francis Loughnane settled Roscrea and soon after a second from Joe Butler gave Roscrea a lead of 2-3 to 0-2. The third goal came from a Francis Loughnane penalty as the game approached half time with Roscrea lead by 3-5 to 0-5.

By the fifth minute of the second half Ros had added two more goals through Joe Butler and John Stone.

Despite the dismissal of Jim O'Meara, Kilruane staged a great comeback. A goal from substitute Denis Whelan left Kilruane trailing 5-5 to 1-9. MacDonaghs added three more points before Joe Tynan found space and an insurance point for Roscrea.

Five minutes from time Jim Williams got what the Nenagh Guardian described a memorable goal, bringing an end to the scoring.

**Roscrea-** Joe Rowland, Kevin Brady Capt, Brendan Maher, Jody Spooner, Kevin O'Connor 0-1, Tadhg O'Connor, Philip Ward, Liam Spooner 0-1, Peadar Queally, Ger O'Connor 0-1, Jackie Shanahan 0-1, John Stone 1-0, Joe Tynan 0-1, Francis Loughnane 2-0, Joe Bergin 2-1. Subs Roger Ryan for Butler.

**Kilruane MacDonagh-** Tony Sheppard, Sean Hyland, Denis O'Meara Capt, Enda Hogan, Jim O'Meara, Paddy Williams, Denis Cahill, Mackey Keogh, Seamus Hennessey 0-6 (5f), Eamon O'Shea, Liam O'Shea 0-2, Jim Williams 1-0, Gerry Williams 0-2, Sean O Meara 0-2, Gilbert Williams. Subs- Denis Whelan 1-0 for S O'Meara, Mackey Waters for L O'Shea, Len Gaynor for Ger Williams.

**Referee** Donie Nealon.



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## Borris-Ileigh's last North final win - 1988



**Borris-Ileigh North champions 1988:** Back row, l-r: Noel O'Dwyer, Timmy Stapleton, Richard Stakelum, Gerry Stapleton, Timmy Ryan, Conor Stakelum, John McGrath, Bobby Ryan. Front: Noel Maher, Philip Kenny, Michael Ryan, Aidan Ryan, Brian Kenny, Seamus Devaney, Christy Reid.

It's been sixteen years since the famed maroon and white claimed the Frank McGrath Cup. The final was played in July 24th and MacDonagh Park. The timing of the game belied the strong wind that blew towards the town goal.

Roscrea had first use of the elements and they raised a 1-6 to 0-2 lead with the goal coming from a twenty metre free from John Stone. Sadly Roscrea missed many chances and therefore the inevitability of a Borris revival was on the cards once the teams changed ends.

Three minutes in to the second half Philip Kenny rattled the net. Kenny was the tormenter in chief and was responsible in bringing Borris one point adrift before Noel O'Dwyer had the teams level from a free.

Two minutes later Kenny had the score of the day and from their on it was plain sailing.

**Borris-Ileigh-** Noel Maher, Seamus Devaney, Timmie Stapleton, Michael Ryan, Richard Stakelum 0-2, Gerry Stapleton Bobby Ryan Capt, Aidan Ryan 0-2, Timmy Ryan, Brian Kenny, Conor Stakelum 0-4, John McGrath, Christy Reid, Noel O, Dwyer 0-4 (3f), Philip Kenny 1-2.

**Roscrea-** Kevin Maloney, Brendan Carey, Tadhg O'Connor, Joe Bergin, Austin O'Meara, Donal Kealy, Paul Delaney, John Pyne, Aidan Shanahan, Ger O'Connor, Francis Fletcher, John Stone 0-1, Liam Carson, Joe Treacy 0-2, Michael Scully 1-4 (1-3 frees).

Subs- Tony Hctor for Shanahan, Owen Maher for Carson.

**Referee:** Michael Cahill, Kilruane MacDonaghs.

Best Wishes to the Borris-Ileigh Hurling Team  
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# Tadhg O'Connor - first final cherished most

by Liam Hogan

Tadhg O'Connor played in eleven North finals, winning six winners' medals. However playing in his first final and the events leading up to it has given the former Tipp captain his most cherished memories.

He made his debut with Roscrea seniors in '66, when coming on as a substitute. Later in the year he won a North and county minor title. Out of that team, emerging stars such as Brendan Maher, Liam Spooner, Joe Tynan, and Tadhg O'Connor were promoted to senior level.

In that era, Roscrea were doing very well at minor hurling, in both divisional and county level. They won an incredible ten North titles out of eleven seasons 1958 to '68 inclusive. The exception was 1964.

In addition the club won county titles in eight of those years including six in a row, '58 to '63, followed by a two more in '66 and '67.

Such was the talent available to the club; the four year gap '63 to '67 was seen as a major disappointment. There was a sense of desperation at senior level with no North senior titles coming their way.

Judging by the performances of the seniors, the early stages of '67 suggested little better. That was about to change. "We played a challenge match in Borris-in-Ossory. The selectors brought Francis Loughnane out to midfield from his customary wing or corner forward position. From that move, the structure of the team changed," said Tadhg.

A Roscrea v Moneygall North Final was a new derby. As the final approached there was a lot of excitement and of course some wagers thrown around.

"The club had won the North final in '63 but Nenagh beat us in '64. So a new team was put together for '67. We had a lovely mix of youth plus seasoned players like Kieran Carey, Mick Hogan, John Dillon and Mick Nolan, Jackie Hannon and Harry Loughnane," added Tadhg.

Moneygall were a worry for Roscrea. They had scored a lot in the games leading up to the final. They had great players like Jack and Philip Ryan, Billy McLeish plus John and Donal Kennedy. Both Mike Spike Nolan and Henry Condon had played county U-21 with Tipp and were stalwarts with their club.

Roscrea won that final by 4-15 to 3-8 and the win was the start of a great five in a row for the club. They went on to defeat Borris-Ileigh in '68, Lorrha in '69, Moneygall again in '70 while they defeated today's opponents in '71.

Tadhg O'Connor won his sixth medal in 1980. He won six county medals including 1968, '69, '70, '72, '73 and '80. He won a Munster and All-Ireland club in 1970 and after leading Tipp to Munster and All-Ireland honours in '71 he collected his first All-Star along with two more in '75 and '79. The list is endless.

Over three decades later the O'Connor name lives on. In today's final, Tadhg's two sons, Tadhg and Ruairi will line out in their first senior final, at right corner back and left wing forward respectively. Could that signify a new era?

The Roscrea team lined out in '67 was as follows: M Loughnane, M Hogan, K Carey, J Dillon, P Rowland, T O'Connor, J Rooney, M Minogue, F Loughnane, B Hogan, M Nolan, D Moloney, L Brussels, J Hannon, P Dynan. Sub- J Tynan for Dynan.



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# Timmy Ryan, Borris-Ileigh remembers his first North final vividly

By **Liam Hogan**

It was in October 29th 1972 against Lorrha at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh. Timmie lined out at midfield marking Lorrha's big star Liam King. Borris managed to take a 0-4 to 0-3 lead after playing into a strong wind. They maintained their lead and won by 2-9 to 0-4.

A local farmer, Timmie played many a starring role from the midfield berth. He went on to play in six more finals winning five of them. Reflecting on his career, Timmie says he has great regard for the North championship.

"There is something special in winning your own division. I am not certain it is as important now. But it will be to Borris-Ileigh, because it is so long since they have won one. A win for the club would be fantastic," said Timmie.

Timmie is a first cousin of current team manager Tom Ryan, and Tim's nephew Pierce Ryan who is amongst the substitutes.

Alongside his six north medals in '72, '73, '76, '81, '83 and '88, Timmie collected three county senior medals in '81, '83 and '86, plus a Munster later that season, not forgetting the All-Ireland club medal in March of '87.

Injury prevented Timmie from making the Tipp team in '73 and '74 but he figured in the National Hurling League in the '82-'83 season.

P.S. Borris-Ileigh lost their opening game of the '72 campaign to Newport. They recovered well and made it to the semi-finals by defeating Lorrha, Nenagh and Burgess. The semi-finals were played on September 10th and Borris beat Moneygall 4-5 to 3-6 while Lorrha accounted for Roscrea 2-11 to 3-5.

Due to both teams involvement in the later stages of the county championship which was run on an open draw basis, the north final wasn't played for seven weeks. Borris-Ileigh lined out as follows: Owen Walsh, E Loughnane, T.F. Stapleton, P Maher, M Stapleton, Matt Stapleton, Pat Tynan, T Delaney, T Ryan, N Maher, N O Dwyer, B Kenny, L Carroll, L Devaney, T Dwyer.

Best wishes to the Borris-Ileigh team from

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**Roscrea team selectors:** Brendan Casey, Frankie McGrath, Brian England.



**Borris-Ileagh team selectors:**  
Noel O'Dwyer and Tom Ryan.

**Today's referee:**

## **Brian White**

**Clonmel/Wexford**

An experienced referee, more noted for Gaelic football. He refereed last year's All-Ireland senior football final between Tyrone and Armagh. He has officiated at a lot of club games in this division and recently he took charge of the Borris-Ileagh v Nenagh Éire Óg quarter final.



## Selector's profile

### Noel O'Dwyer, winner of six North medals a current selector

Speaking with **Liam Hogan** Noel O'Dwyer gave his opinions on hurling at the present moment in both club and county, and he looks ahead to today's final and feels that the winner and runners up should be allowed to take part in the county championship.

When it comes to experience, Noel O'Dwyer has it all. A former Tipp hurler and later a selector. He is now in his second year as selector with his club Borris-Ileigh.

He worries that Roscrea are hungry for a win. "Borris will have to be very cautious. Roscrea are a traditional club and have being out of the limelight for a long time and they will be very keen to get back in," said Noel.

In his day, Noel won six north senior medals the first one coming in 72, which he fondly remembers. At the time Borris-Ileigh had not won a north since 1955 and the long absence added to the thrill of winning. He won six north senior medals and he cherishes the whole lot of them.

Does he fear for the north championship? "The thing that has affected the North championship is the quality of the games. Every year there seems that only three or four teams who can win a North championship. Toomevara have being the dominant team and nobody is able to come near them," he said

Over the years Noel played against some quality players in the division. He mention the clashes with Lorrha. He says that Roscrea were an exceptional team with great players like Tadhg O'Connor and Francis Loughnane. Playing against Kilruane was always touch and go. "Kilruane had the whip hand on us in the early stages but and then we came back," added Noel.

Nearer home there is one player who Noel always looked up to. "Without a doubt, the player, that every one in my era looked up to was Liam Devaney. Liam Devaney was one of the top fifteen players that ever hurled. He was on the Tipp team of the century and was strongly in the

running for a place on the overall team of the century.

"My earliest memory is of the Kennys and Jimmy Finn. I remember when Jimmy Finn lost his eye. I was eleven years of age," he recalls.

"But my clearest memory is of Devaney and the great service he gave. When Borris-Ileigh were going bad, the score in a game would usually be 1-10 to Borris-Ileigh and Devaney would get all of the scores. He was the greatest stick man I ever saw and above all a sportsman," said Noel.

Of today's pairing, only one team will get a chance to play in the county championship, something he is concerned about. Noel feels that there is too much change in the system of selecting teams for the county championship. He is happy with the old one when the winners and runners up from each division would go through.

"If a team is beaten today, their year is over. For reaching a divisional final, a club deserves another chance. It happened Borris in 2001. At one stage of the game, Borris were in with a chance of victory, but Nenagh finished the stronger and deserved their win. Yet, our year was over."

Noel feels that an objective view will have to be taken if proper coaching of our players is to be improved. He knows of some former inter county players who would be willing to take on the role but for various reasons they won't. The question is why.

He feels that Michael Doyle got a raw deal. "It was a disgrace. He was made a scapegoat of," concluded Noel.

**Noel won six North and three county medals with his club. He has an All-Ireland senior with his club ('87) and county ('71) plus success with Tipp's U-21 team in '67, four Railway Cups with Munster and three Oireachtas.**







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