

North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
2007

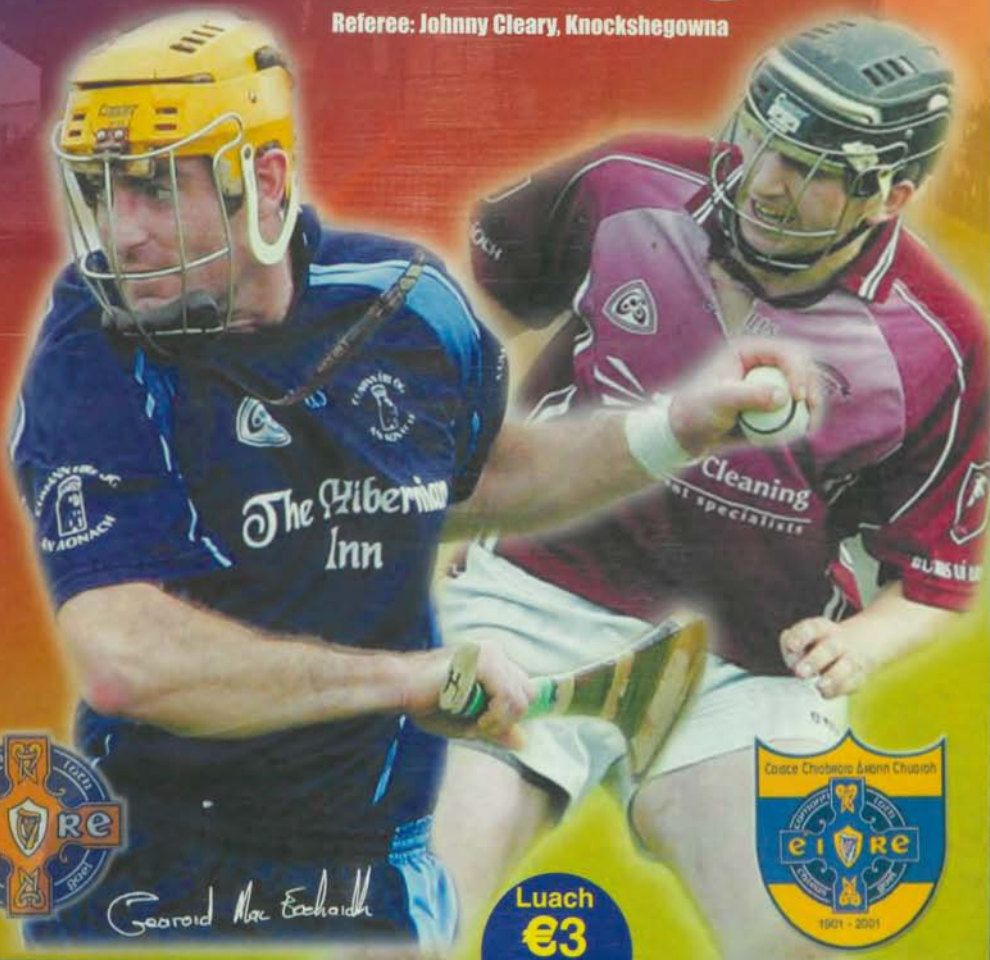
Coiste Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh

The Hibernian Inn

North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final

Buiréas Uí Luíoch v Éire Óg an Aonaigh

Referee: Johnny Cleary, Knockshegowna



Geoid Mac Eochaidh

Luach
€3



MacDonagh Park, Nenagh Sunday 9 Sept 2007

Throw-in 5.30 p.m.



Nenagh Eire Og team that defeated Kildangan in the Hibernian North SHC Final. Back: (l to r) - Noel Moloney, Richie Flannery (captain), Eddie Tucker, Michael McNamara, John Flannery, Declan O'Meara, Hugh Flannery, John Slattery. Kneeling: Michael Heffernan, Hugh Moloney, Paul Ryan, Kevin Tucker, John Brennan, Stephen Ryan, John Kennedy. Photograph: Bridget Delaney.

Fáilte

Cathaoirleach, John Sherlock



A dhaoine uaisle, a chairde, a lucht leanúna ár gcluichí, tá sé de phribhléid speisealta agam, ar mo shon féin agus ar son Coiste Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh, fáilte ó chroí chur roimh go dtí Páirc Mhic Dhonnchadha, Áonach, don Cluiche Craobh Ceannais Iomaint sinsear idir Éire Óg an Aonaig agus Buiréas Uí Luíoch. Tá súil agam go mbeidh cluiche ar fheabhas againn arís i mbliana agus go mbeidh cuimhne ar ócáid seo ar feadh na mblianta.

On behalf of North Tipperary G.A.A. Board, it is my pleasure to welcome all of you to Thomas MacDonagh Park, Nenagh for today's game.

Once again the Senior Championship was run on a straight knock-out system with defeated teams taking part in the County Championship qualifiers. The K.O. element gives a great edge to all games and some fine entertainment was served up. This year's North Championship was very drawn out, due to the involvement of players on a number of county panels. Tipperary's tridium with Limerick and their subsequent participation in the qualifiers severely limited the availability of weekends to play our matches. This is a situation that is being looked at by Central Council and needs to be changed.

The Hibernian Inn, Nenagh are again sponsors of the Senior Championship and we are very grateful to Martin Morris and his staff for their support and hospitality during the year and I would appeal to all patrons to reciprocate this support whenever possible.

I look forward to a very well contested and enjoyable final where hurling will be the real winner.

I would like to wish both teams, their mentors, backroom staff and their loyal groups of supporters the best of luck.

Good wishes also to today's referee John Cleary, his linesmen and umpires.

Many thanks to Éire Óg Club for the use of their facilities today and I'm sure that, as we have come to expect, everything will be in top shape for our final. I would also like to thank my colleagues in the Order of Malta for their assistance. Also, a word of thanks to all those who help in the running of games in so many ways, to Gerard McKeogh our hard working secretary and to Catherine Gleeson our ever efficient treasurer and her loyal group of gatecheckers and to anyone else who helps in any way.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Liam Hogan for once again producing a fine souvenir programme for our final this evening

Seán Ó Scurlóig, Cathaoirleach.

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

Gerry Slevin, Shane Brophy, James Hayden, Bridget Delaney, Sean Minogue, Nenagh Éire Óg PRO, Brendan Kenny, Borris-Ileigh PRO, Tony Rabbitte, Jimmy Minogue, John Stapleton and P. J. Maxwell.

Thanks to Kathy Slattery for typesetting my articles.

Thanks also to today's programme sellers, the sponsors, advertisers and officers of North Board and Bord na nOg.

Editor : **Liam Hogan**

Design and printing by The Guardian, Nenagh



Borris-Ileigh team that defeated Toomevara in the Hibernian North SHC semi-final. Back (l to r) Vinnie Stapleton, David O'Connor, Kieran Cowan, Philip Maher, Philip Rabbitt, Brendan Maher, Angelo Walsh, Jody Harkin, Aidan Cowan. Kneeling: Bertie Sherlock (trainer), Martin Maher, Mark Bourke, Martin Treacy, Declan Maher (captain), Paddy Stapleton, Mattie Stapleton.

Photograph: Bridget Delaney.

Winners will be set up for crack at county title

By **Shane Brophy** *The Guardian*

For the third time in the new millennium, rivals Nenagh and Borris-Ileigh go head-to-head for the North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship title.

Both sides have enjoyed one success each with Nenagh emerging winners by four points in 2001 while Borris-Ileigh exacted revenge two years with a two point win when a then sixteen year old Brendan Maher starred for the maroons.

At the start of the championship, I predicted that the final would be between Nenagh and Borris-Ileigh and their routes to the final have come along expected lines.

Nenagh Eire Og produced the performance of the championship so far in their quarter final win over Roscrea and it looked as if they were carrying on from where they left off in 2006 but the performance dipped against Kildangan but to their credit, the character of the squad shone through to dig themselves out of a difficult situation.

A win today would set them up nicely for another crack at the county title have come so close in last years epic decider.

Borris-Ileigh came into the championship after an impressive league run and have duly carried the form into the championship, disposing of the green

and gold's of Burgess and outgoing North champions, Toomevara in the process.

Their team has been completely restructured with backs going to the forward line and forwards going to the back line and it has had the desired effect so far and they will hope it will continue today in what is their third North Final in four years.

With the latter stages of the club championship now congested into a six week period with the County Final confirmed for Sunday, 21 October, for the victor, as well as earning the prize of the Frank McGrath Cup, will also get an extra weeks rest which could prove vital in championship which has not turned into a sprint rather than a marathon.

The loser will face either Toomevara or Mullinahone in round 7 of the championship next weekend and that will not be an appetising prospect for either Nenagh Eire Og or Borris-Ileigh.

This will be far from the players minds when the ball is thrown in as North Final appearances are special and for some players, they might never get to play in one again.

Enjoy the game.



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Kieran Carey's passing leaves many memories

By **Gerry Slevin**

Kieran Carey's passing on Wednesday morning, May 30th evoked great memories among thousands, both within and outside the county, of a strong, resourceful and reliable inside back man. Kieran teamed up with the Holycross duo of John Doyle and Michael Maher to form what became known as Hell's Kitchen, a nigh impregnable defence line that took no prisoners and stoutly defended its area at all times.

Kieran played minor hurling with Roscrea in 1950 and helped his native parish Kyle & Knock to its only Laois senior title in '51, thereafter devoting his club activities to the red of neighbouring Roscrea on taking up employment there.

As a pupil of Roscrea BNS Kieran's love of hurling was nurtured by the school principal Dermot Fitzgerald, grandfather of present Roscrea and Tipp hurler Diarmuid. He won his first medal (North Tipp championship) as a minor with Roscrea in 1950. A year later, with two of his brothers, Mick and the late Tommy, he helped Kyle & Knock to success in the Laois championship, that final played in April '52. 1953 saw Kieran back in the red of Ros and a year later he won the first of seven North senior medals, others to follow in '63, '67, '68, '69, '70 and '71.

When Ros emerged on top of the pile as county champions in 1968 after so many years of gallant but unavailing endeavour Kieran was an integral part of such achievement, going on to endorse the club's status in '69 and '70. He also picked up two Munster inter-club medals culminating in success in the inaugural All-Ireland inter-club championship in 1971. That final against St Rynagh's, Banagher played in Birr in December brought the curtain down on his playing career.

Back in 1958 Kieran, who hadn't come to the notice of Tipp selectors in other grades – he did line out in the Laois colours though -- made his

senior championship debut with Tipperary against Limerick in the old Athletic Grounds in Cork. It was a relatively new Tipp team and lining out also with him that day was Roscrea club mate Leo Dooley. It was a successful debut and the first of his seven Munster medals and five All-Ireland medals came later that season.

Kieran was a regular in the Tipp defence until the end of the 1967 campaign although the Hell's Kitchen era didn't arrive until 1962. Then, the famous and feared trio of Doyle, Maher, Carey became a defensive institution, remaining in place for the following five seasons. In '67 Kieran had moved to full back, John Doyle still wearing the number 2 jersey but in the left corner was Newport's Noel O'Gorman.

Along with five All-Ireland medals and seven Munster medals, there were five National League medals including three-in-a-row, '59, '60 and '61, five Railway Cup medals with Munster that also included three-in-a-row, '59, '60 and '61. Five Oireachtas medals won between 1960 and '65 found their way to his vast collection, as did an All-Ireland Inter-Firm medal with Roscrea Bacon factory.

The 1971 season was extra special for Kieran. He was a selector of the Tipp senior team along with Sean Ryan (Toomevara); Theo English, a long time playing colleague; Jimmy Hennessy (Knockavilla) and John Lanigan (Thurles). Reclaiming the Liam McCarthy Cup that year after a gap of six years meant as much to him as did the five finals he won as a player because Tipp's captain was Tadhg O'Connor, the first ever Roscrea man to lead Tipp to All-Ireland senior victory and the team also included another Ros man Francis Loughnane.

Kieran Carey will go down as one of the greats of Tipperary hurling, a fearless defender, and a team player all the way.





Borris-Ileigh All-Ireland 7-a-Side Champions 2000: Back: Rory Kinane (Manager), Philip Rabbittie, Philip Maher, Rory Kinane, Martin Maher, Mark Stapleton, Tony Rabbittie (Club Chairman), Noelle Maher (Selector). Front: Mark Bourke, Sean Maher, Darragh Rabbittie, Declan Maher, John Keane, John Stapleton (Masseur).

Late Seamus O Riain . . . Tipperary's most distinguished GAA person

By **Gerry Slevin**

It's hard to imagine that on this, the greatest occasion in the North Board's annual calendar, the event is not graced by the presence of Seamus O Riain. For decades Seamus was an integral part of everything for which the GAA stood and nowhere was his dedication and loyalty demonstrated so actively and enthusiastically than in regard to the North Board where he first received a taste for administrative affairs back in the 1930s.

Although 1967 would see Seamus elevated to the highest position in the GAA, he always proudly spoke of the influence the North Board had on him and the leadership qualities he acquired from such people as Frank McGrath, Frank Maloney, Tomas Malone, Seamus Gardiner, Mick Moylan and many others. By the time his administrative abilities were recognised through his election as vice chairman of the Board in 1956 Seamus had a tidy medal collection that included Intermediate hurling and junior football awards.

The Convention of '56 saw him elected with Seamus Gardiner, a man with whom he had taught earlier in Borrisokane, to be one of the Congress delegates. He was also elected vice chairman with Con Heffernan.

The two Seamus's (Gardiner and O Riain) were nominated for the chair in '57, the elder graciously conceding to his protégé whose unanimous election saw him begin a reign of eight years, great years for the Board.

The following year Seamus was elected as one of Tipperary's two delegates to Munster Council and his administrative career really took off from there. Vice chair of the Council came in '62, the chairmanship in '65, before Easter Sunday 1967 brought him to the office of President of the GAA.

His presidency completed, an era of tremendous achievement and innovation, there was no slackening off for Seamus O Riain as he threw himself back into the promotion and development of affairs in Tipperary. With Philip Canon Fogarty

stepping down as County Board chairman in 1970 after twenty two years at the helm, Seamus was the obvious choice to succeed him, thereby commencing yet another brilliant era. The emphasis was now placed on what mattered most to Tipperary and how best Tipperary might

contribute to heightening the influence of the GAA both at local and national level.

Feile na nGael, the Canon Fitzgerald Cup competition for post-primary schools were among the innovations that came under his watch and guidance and the three years of his chairmanship were very fruitful indeed.

Ironically, having been denied the privilege of presenting the Liam McCarthy Cup to a Tipp captain during his presidency, it was his good fortune to

be Board chairman when Tadhg O'Connor accepted the trophy in '71. Hand in hand with the promotion of Tipp affairs went the leadership of the Moneygall club and the capture of the club's first North senior title in '75 along with county titles in '75 and '76 came with no little gratitude to his encouragement, his direction and influence.

1990 saw Seamus honoured with presidency of the County Board, the North Board following suit seven years later when such vacancy arose. Seamus took these honours seriously and while in recent years the weight of years began to take its toll, his addresses to annual Conventions were always received with acclaim, as indeed was his final public address delivered in Moran's Red Cow Hotel on Dublin's Naas Road in April 2006. It was a couple of weeks after his 90th birthday and he had been inducted into the Tipperary Association in Dublin's Hall of Fame.

Yes, today's occasion lacks a great physical presence but Seamus O Riain is here in spirit. The GAA in Tipperary and especially in the North division will be forever in his debt, the innumerable contributions he made to its furtherance serving as beacons for all others to seek to be guided by.





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Best Wishes to both teams in the North Final

Jimmy Finn . . . forever the pride of Borris and Tipp

By **Gerry Slevin**

On June 6th 1944 the Nazi grip on eastern Europe was broken when a strong armada crossed a narrow strip of sea from England to Normandy in France.

D-Day – a day to forever remember.

On June 6th 1959 in Nenagh's MacDonagh Park a Borris-ileigh hurler, so much achieved, lined out against Roscrea in a North senior championship match. He was aged twenty-eight years. An accidental blow to the eye put paid to any further involvement in the game.

D - (for departure Day) for JIMMY FINN. A day for all Tipperary hurling people to remember with regret.

For nine years Jimmy had worn the blue and gold in senior grade when fate intervened to bring it all to a halt. But what a glorious era it had been, crowned by being handed the captaincy of the Tipp team for the final leg of the '49-'51 three-in-a-row feat. He was aged nineteen years when he accepted the McCarthy Cup from GAA President Michael Kehoe.

Jimmy's promise was well illustrated during his school days at Thurles CBS and he progressed to the Tipp minors in '48, Waterford beating them in the provincial final. A year later, with John O'Grady as captain, the inaugural presentation of the Irish Press Cup saw Tipp successful on All-Ireland final day. Jimmy, at centre back. As he then watched Tipp defeat Laois in the senior decider he could hardly have imagined that exactly one year later, he would be drafted in at right half back to mark Kilkenny's star, Jimmy Langton when Tipp retained that title. The next year, '51 Jimmy Finn was an All-Ireland winning captain.

Two All Ireland senior medals won and a third one to follow in '58. Add in five NHL medals, two Railway Cup medals. Hurling was a roller coaster journey for Borris-ileigh's Jimmy Finn.

But while all that was happening on the inter-county front, back home Jimmy was demonstrating so much skill and endeavour in the maroon of his beloved Borris and in the company of some of the greatest club hurlers ever, he was thrilling supporters and rivals alike. At seventeen he was on the team beaten by Lorrha in the '48 North senior final. A county title was won in '49, retained in '50, regained in '53. A Mid title was won in '49, North titles in '50, '51, '52, '53, '55.

He was at the height of his career when injury struck on that June Sunday in '59 and, most assuredly, he would have been destined to play a significant role in the formation of one of the greatest hurling combinations of all time, the Tipp team of the '60s. It is a measure of Jimmy Finn's standing in hurling history that he was chosen at right half back on the Ireland Team of the Century, selected to mark the centenary of the GAA's founding in 1884.

Jimmy Finn will forever remain high on the list of outstanding Tipperary hurlers. Equally efficient in any defence or mid field position Jimmy graced the hurling stadia of Ireland and Tipperary with distinction. Although it was his and hurling followers' misfortune that injury cut short his career, the memories he left are indelible.

A great hurler, a most unassuming man. Jimmy Finn forever the pride of Borris-ileigh and Tipperary.



Family connections in Borris

By *Brendan Kenny*, Borris-Ileigh PRO

A notable feature of the Borris-Ileigh senior panel, like all other club panels throughout the country, especially rurally-based ones, is its many family connections. There are 3 sets of brothers on the team alone.

Declan Maher is captain and is joined on the team by Martin and Brendan. Seán, the eldest, is also on the panel. Their father Johnny has been club treasurer for a good many years. Corner-back Martin Treacy is a first cousin of the boys while they are also related to full-back and recent county star Philip Maher and his brother Seamus, another panelist.

When Borris' lost the 2004 North final to Roscrea, Seán was team captain. Declan has the chance today to go one better and bring back the Frank McGrath cup to Cullinane for the first time. Of course, Brendan, the youngest, is captain of this year's county minor team. This has been a tremendous honour for himself and his club as only one Borris' player had ever captained a Munster or All-Ireland winning team before this year – Paddy Kenny in 1947, all of 60 years ago! Indeed, last Sunday saw Brendan become the first Borris' player since Bobby Ryan, in 1989, to captain a Tipperary team in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day.

Centre-forward Vincent Stapleton, last year's team captain, is joined on the team by his brother Matthew. Eoin, a regular at corner-back for many years, is also on the panel. Their father is Matt, who hurled at centre-back for Tipperary in the 60's. He had the misfortune of missing the 1968 All-Ireland final due to an injury sustained in a junior football match. Indeed, many believe that Tipperary would have beaten Wexford that day had Matt been fit to play. The boys are joined on the team by their first cousin, Patrick Stapleton, at centre-back. His father is John, a North board referee for the last number of years and heavily involved with many Borris' teams at all levels down through the years. Patrick Stapleton is also a first cousin of panelist John Keane, captain of the team in 2003.

Aidan Cowan, at midfield, is this year joined on the team by his younger brother Ciaran. Their father is Mick, who was corner forward on the Borris' team that won the 1987 All-Ireland club final. The Cowans are proprietors of that well-



Philip Maher

known hurling watering-hole in Borrisoleigh, Stapletons (no relation to the above families!). Brendan Kenny, another panelist, is related to the Cowans.

There are many more family connections within the Borris-Ileigh panel. Starting in goals, Jody Harkins is joined by his first cousin Patrick Ryan. Wing-back Angelo Walsh, whose father Owen won 2 county finals with Borris in 1981 & 1983, has his first cousin William Donnelly with him on the panel. Philip Rabbittie, full-forward and captain of the 2005 North final winning team, is first cousins with last year's full-forward, Rory Kinane. Mark Bourke, at wing-forward is joined on the panel by his relation Cathal.

Another feature of the Borris-Ileigh senior set-up is the tremendous experience of their management team, especially at club level. Trainer Bertie Sherlock's reputation for preparing teams, especially to win county finals, which he did many times with Toomevara, is without question. In recent years, he has enjoyed Fitzgibbon cup success with LIT. Coach John McGrath and selectors Michael Ryan and Timmy Ryan all played on the last Borris' team to win a county final (1986) which went on to win the 1987 All-Ireland. Selector Pat Stakelum was club treasurer at that time.

Borris-Ileigh Snippets

10 years ago (August 3rd, 1997), Borris played in the North final against Toomevara at rain-sodden Cloughjordan. They were beaten that day but the team that lined out makes for interesting reading:

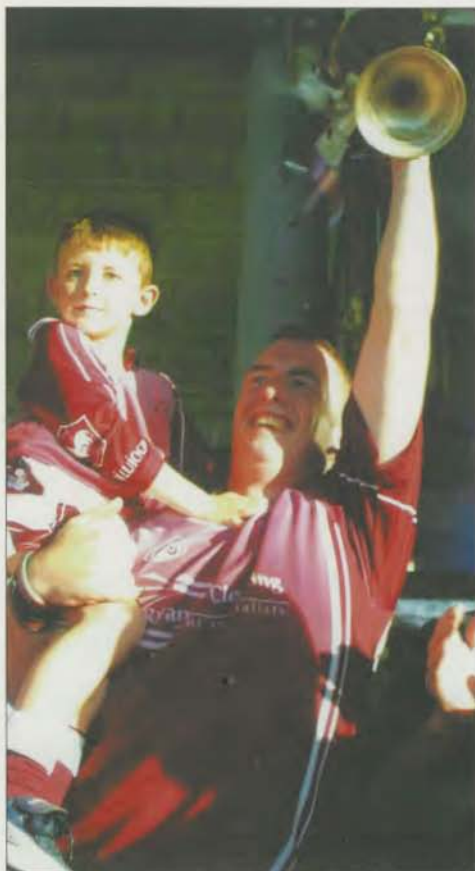
1. Darragh Rabbitte
2. Michael Ryan (present team selector)
3. Philip Maher (present full-back)
4. Michael Ryan
5. Joe Loughnane
6. Seamus Maher (present panelist)
7. Sean Maher (present panelist)
8. Tom Stakelum
9. Conor Stakelum
10. Martin Hayes
11. Philip Rabbitte (present full-forward)
12. John McGrath (captain of the day; present coach)
13. John Keane (present panelist)
14. Aidan Ryan
15. Declan Maher (today's captain)
16. Gerry Stapleton
17. Angelo Walsh (present wing-back)
18. John Joe Maher
19. Robert Stakelum
20. Mark Stapleton
21. John Cummins
22. Eoin Stapleton (present panelist)
23. Aidan Cowan (present midfielder)

The team went on to capture the Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland 7s later that year, which incidentally was celebrating its 25th year.

20 years ago. Having won the All-Ireland championship earlier that year Borris-Ileigh failed to negotiate the North championship. The U-21s however, won the club's first 'A' county title.

30 years ago (August 14th, 1977), Borris' lost the North final to Kilruane McDonaghs. Timmy Ryan of the present management team played that day.

60 years ago On the last Sunday of August, 1947, at McDonagh Park, Nenagh, before an attendance of 3,200 people, Borris' won their first North final, beating Kilruane MacDonaghs. Captain that day was Paddy Kenny, captain of the county minors that year also. Curiously, by today's reckoning, the All-Ireland minor final was taking place on the following Sunday and so he was wished good luck during the presentation by the then North board chairman, Fr. Ned Murphy. It was a good week for Paddy - Tipp won and he brought home the Irish Press cup to Borris'!



Philip Rabbitte Borris-Ileigh captain 2005 with the Frank McGrath Cup and his son Aaron (team mascot)

Hibernian Inn Senior Hurling Championship

Borris-Ileigh, Burgess, Kildangan, Kilruane MacDonaghs, Moneygall, Nenagh Éire Óg, Portroe, Roscrea & Toomevara.

Round 1:

Kildangan	3-12	Vs	3-10	Kilruane Mac Donaghs
In Nenagh Mon 07-May-07 @ 6:30pm				Referee: Johnny McDonnell

Quarter Final:

Nenagh Éire Óg	2-21	Vs	2-12	Roscrea
In Clough Jordan Sat 19-May-07 @ 7:00pm				Referee: Michael Cahill

Moneygall	1-12	Vs	1-14	Kildangan
In Nenagh Sun 20-May-07 @ 3:00pm				Referee: Joe Cahill

Borris-Ileigh	0-14	Vs	0-11	Burgess
In Dolla Sun 20-May-07 @ 7:00pm				Referee: John Cleary

Toomevara	3-13	Vs	2-10	Portroe
In Nenagh Sun 20-May-07 @ 1:30pm				Referee: Dan Darcy

Semi-final:

Nenagh Éire Óg	3-10	Vs	2-10	Kildangan
In Nenagh Sun 19-Aug-07 @ 2:00pm				Referee: Dinny Curtis

Borris-Ileigh	1-20	Vs	1-15	Toomevara
In Nenagh Sun 19-Aug-07 @ 3:45pm				Referee: Richie Barry

Final: Nenagh Éire Óg	-	Vs	-	Borris-Ileigh
In Nenagh Sun 09-Sep-07 @ 5:30pm				Referee: John Cleary

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Borrisoleigh take championship to Mid Tipperary

By *Liam Hogan*

Played on August 31- 1947

Borrisoleigh 4-3, Kilruane McDonagh 2-6

Pulling down a lead of seven points, Borrisoleigh won the North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship at MacDonagh Gaelic Park, Nenagh, on Sunday, when they defeated Kilruane MacDonagh by 4-3 to 2-6, and thus qualified for the Inter-Divisional semi-final with Knockavilla (West Tipp. champions).

Borrisoleigh were worthy winners, but they were never out of the groove until the final whistle. That the final did not end in a draw was due to the sound goal-keeping of Martin Ryan, who saved a point-blank shot from Tom Darcy two minutes before the end.

This was Borrisoleigh's first final in the North Tipperary grade, and all through the championship they had been showing improved form; their defeat of the 1946 champions (Toomevara) marked them out as a team coming well to the fore for divisional honours.

Sunday's game was one of the best seen at the Park this year. Hurling at a terrific speed in the first half, no quarter was asked or given.

The ball flashed from goal to goal in full-blooded attacks, and there was practically no lost time. It was only two well-trained teams could stand the strain of a sweltering sun.

When McDonagh went ahead by 2-2 to 0-1 it looked as if Borris's year had not arrived. But Dwyer, Maher and Coffey stood up well to the pressure and it was the soundness of the two lines of backs, especially Phil Maher, Johnson Hackett, Coffey and the goalie that threw the attack out of gear. When Ralph Ryan turned the ball to the net, Borris were going places, and when they turned over they quickly went into the lead, where they stayed to the final whistle.

All through the hour the Kenny brothers were being closely marked by W. Brophy and

'Son' Kelly. Borris decided on switching the county minor to the right wing, where the move was countered by sending Brophy after him. Nevertheless, the county minor's fleetness of foot was too much for Brophy, who hung on grimly in several sprints, but Kenny got his pucks and secured a vital goal.

Sean Kenny also played an outstanding game, eluding his pursuers with swift dashes for goal. Jim Kelly, whose long ball ended in a goal by Waters had his hands full with Phil Ryan, who, though suffering facial injuries on three occasions, hurled a gruelling hour, and it was his long pucks that brought some timely scores.

Phil Maher stood out in defence, and it was here that Kilruane were robbed of many chances in the last half, when Maher cleared time after time. Bourke and Devaney worked hard in forward line.

Waters played well for McDonagh, and his two goals were splendid efforts, Jim and 'Son' Kelly, T. Williams, Cahalane, Heffernan, T. Darcy, W. Brophy, F. Darcy and Whelan were always in the picture.

The attendance, though not as big as at the recent semi-finals, was 3,200. The teams were paraded by the Legion of Mary band, which played 'Faith of our Fathers' and the National Anthem.

Borrisoleigh: M. Ryan (goal); P. Maher, M. Dwyer, J. Coffey, J. Ryan, J. Hackett, J. Leahy, Phil Ryan, E. Ryan, Jas Maher, S. Kenny, Paddy Kenny, H. Bourke, R. Ryan, J. Devaney.

Kilruane-MacDonagh - R. Gleeson (goal); T. Williams, E. Gleeson, P. Williams, J. Cahalane, 'Son' Kelly, W. Brophy, Jim Waters, Jas Kelly, F. Darcy, J. Dunne, M. Heffernan, T. Whelan, T. Darcy, J. Brophy.

Sub - M. O'Meara for J. Waters

Mr. D. Costelloe, Shannon Rovers, refereed impartially.

Declan Maher Borris Captain

Age: 28
Occupation: Insurance & Investment Manager
Height: 5' 8"
Weight: 12st
School/College: St. Joseph's College, Borrisoleigh



1. *Favourite food:* Miniature Heroes
2. *Favourite drink:* Milk
3. *Favourite film:* Big
4. *Music at the moment:* Kings of Leon
5. *Other sports played:* Golf
6. *Other sports people you admire:* Steven Gerrard, Tiger Woods
7. *Sports event you would pay most to see:* Ireland in a Rugby World Cup final
8. *Favourite thing about the GAA:* Making great friends
9. *Least favourite thing about the GAA:* Losing!!
10. *Favourite venue:* Semple Stadium
11. *Favourite hurler of all time:* Brian Whelehan
12. *Best game you've ever seen:* All-Ireland final '93
13. *Best hurling display you've seen:* Joe Deane. Full-forward v Tipp, Munster Final 2000.
14. *Most exciting game played in:* Parish League final '93
15. *Best moment in hurling:* All-Ireland minor final '96
16. *Biggest regret in hurling:* Injuries!
17. *Best personal saying you've heard:* "Spread out in a heap"
18. *Best term of abuse you've heard:* "He's better than you!" (Nameless Borris' selector to brother Seán)
19. *A favourite motto:* "It's not the size of the dog...it's the size of the fight in the dog."
20. *Best bit of advice you've ever received:* "Make your own history."
21. *Most consistent person you know:* Nedser – he's always late for training!!
22. *Person you'd most like to be trapped in a lift with for a few hours:* Jennifer Aniston ... needs no explanation!!
23. *Person you'd least like to be trapped in a lift with for a few hours:* Bertie...guaranteed 20 push-ups!!
24. *Biggest character in the dressing room:* Smiley...just never shuts up!!

Richie Flannery *Nenagh captain*

Age	28
Occupation	Teacher
Medals won	2 x North Senior, 4 County Leagues, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup with UCC, 2 Higher Education Div 1 League, 1 Munster u21, 1 Nenagh Co-Op u16, 1 Tony Forrester u14



<i>Biggest influence on Hurling Career</i>	My family and all belonging to Nenagh and UCC Hurling clubs
--	---

<i>Hurlers you admire most</i>	Seanie McMahon, Michael Cleary, Sean OG O Hailpin
--------------------------------	---

<i>Likes about the GAA:</i>	Friendships made
-----------------------------	------------------

<i>Dislikes about the GAA:</i>	None
--------------------------------	------

<i>Changes you would like to make:</i>	Two pts for a sideline
--	------------------------

<i>Other Sporting Interests:</i>	Soccer (Everton Football club)
----------------------------------	--------------------------------

<i>Should players be paid:</i>	No
--------------------------------	----

<i>What does your club mean to you:</i>	Absolutely everything
---	-----------------------





Nenagh Éire Óg, Centenary Cup Winners 1984. Back row l-r: Michael Griffin, Seamus Kennedy, Matt Ryan, Liam Heffernan, John Flannery, John Grogan, Michael Kennedy, Conor O'Donovan, Brian Heffernan, Nelly Corbett, Michael McGrath, Roger Coffey, Michael Ryan, John Tucker. Front: Jim O'Sullivan, Michael Cleary, Jim Nagle, John Darcy, Denis Finnerty, Philip Kennedy, P. J. Maxwell, Paul Kennedy, John Heffernan, Michael Manning, Phil Hennessy, Sean Minogue. Mascot: Neil Kearns.

Jimmy Morris . . . a career which spanned 50 years

By Jimmy Minogue

Jimmy Morris as a young man growing up in rural Ireland it was only natural that he and his brothers would become involved in the GAA in Borrisokane.

Jim served as secretary in Borris from 1955 to 1965, a period of great success for the club.

Borris winning its first minor title in 1957 and its first Under-21 title three years later. Borris also contested the North senior final in 1961 but were unsuccessful being defeated by Toomevara.

In this period Jim also turned out regularly on Borris teams, winning a North intermediate medal in 1958, when he played at full back. He also won a North junior medal in 1963.

He represented Borrisokane in the boardroom for a 10 year period.

On taking up residence in Nenagh in the late sixties, it was not long before he involved himself in the affairs of the local club. In the early seventies and thereafter his family would also be to the fore front of Éire Óg teams. Jim served as a selector on many successful Nenagh teams, most noteworthy the six in a row of minor and Under-21 from 1977 to 1982. He also served a senior selector in the early eighties.

On assuming the position of club treasurer in 1986 perhaps he made his greatest contribution to Nenagh Éire Óg. He began a fund raising venture which led to the financing of the complex that stands today in MacDonagh Park. Later in the early nineties he along with others was to the forefront in acquiring MacDonagh Park for the club having been asked by the County

Board to become responsible for the park. Still full of enthusiasm and drive in 1994 he oversaw the construction of the stand bringing MacDonagh Park up to the standards of a modern club stadium.

Jimmy also served as club chairman for a period of two years stepping down in 1999 thus bring down the curtain on a career which spanned almost 50 years in the GAA.

Nowadays, though retired, Jimmy still retains a keen interest in the affairs of Éire Óg and Tipperary. His contribution has been immense. He was a natural leader and gave of his time freely and willingly to promote the aims of the Association and provide better facilities for players and spectators alike.



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Best wishes on Sunday to all.

Nenagh Fact File

By **Sean Minogue**

BROTHERS

Six sets of brothers are involved with the Nenagh Senior Hurling team as they head out in today's final.

Hugh and Noel Moloney;
Edward and Kevin Tucker,
John and Conor Brennan,
Michael and David Hackett,
Brian and Darragh Quinn,
Eoin and Brian Fitzgibbon.

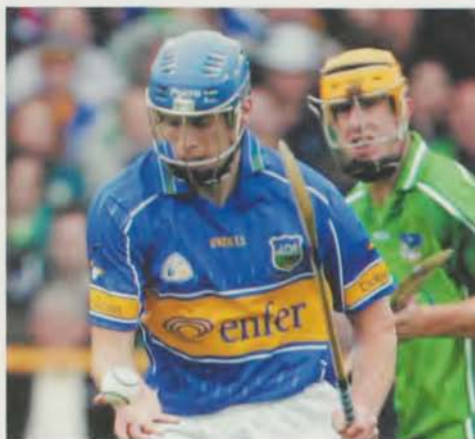
NENAGH MANAGEMENT AND THE CAMOGIE CONNECTION

Michael Cleary, Conor Brennan and Eamonn Brennan are selectors with the Nenagh team who will play in today's final against Borris-Ileigh.

But did you know that Michael and Conor Ryan have played a huge part in playing important roles with Tipperary Camogie team who won five all-Ireland between 1999 and 2004.

Michael was coach to the Tipperary Senior Camogie team that won three All-Ireland Finals in 1999, 2000 and 2001. He stepped down in 2002 after his charges were unsuccessful in winning a historic four in a row. Yet the defeat failed to take away the fantastic achievement set by Tipp under the former two times All-Ireland medal and five time hurling All-Star winner.

Conor Ryan was a selector with Tipperary manager, Ramie Ryan as Tipp won two more camogie finals in 2003 and 04. The Nenagh selection committee is completed by Eamon Brennan who is the father of John Brennan who will line out at full back in today's final.



Hugh Moloney Nenagh Éire Óg and Tipperary

COUSINS

Richard and Hugh Flannery are first cousins and will play in the backline for today's final. Richard is the Nenagh Éire Óg captain. Nenagh midfielder, John Kennedy is a cousin of coach, Michael Cleary. John's brothers Philip and Michael won two North Senior hurling medals with Nenagh Éire Óg and won All-Irelands U-21 medals with Tipperary in 1980 and 81 with Philip also leading the teams to victory. Philip later played with the Tipperary senior team and lined out with at midfield in the 1984 Munster hurling final against Cork.

U-21 WINS

Nenagh forwards, Declan O'Meara and Kevin Tucker were winners of All-Ireland U-21 medals in 1995 when Tipperary defeated Kilkenny in the final. Declan O'Meara is a nephew of Mick Burns who won five all-Ireland senior hurling medals with Tipperary, 1958, 61, 62, 64 and 65 and collected a North Tipperary senior medal in 1964.

John Maher

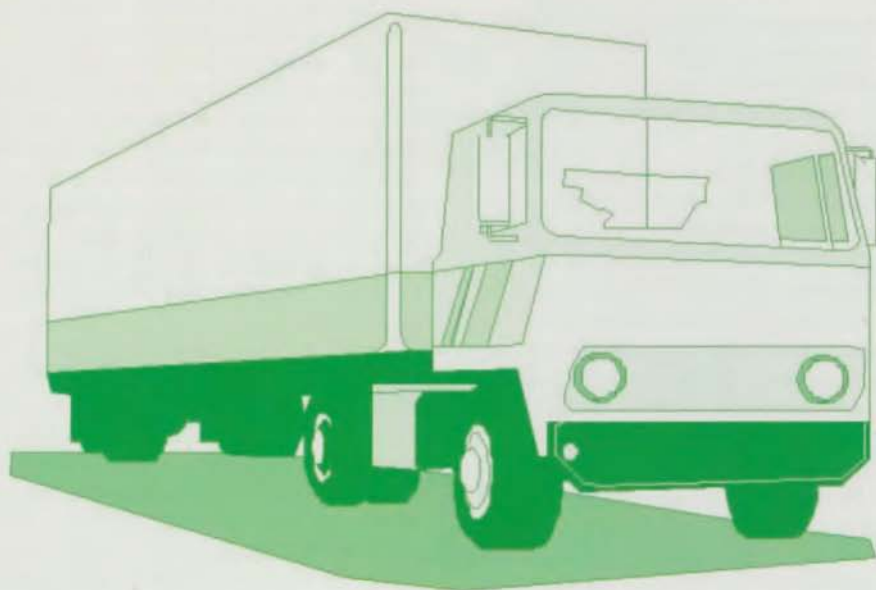
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Where are all the goals gone?

Since the new millennium, the North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final has produced just 13 goals. The seven finals have produced an average of 1.85 goals per game and 0.4 of a goal less than the average set in the nineties.

In fact, the number of goals scored had dipped every decade since the heady sixties when 64 goals adorned the ten finals of that decade.

The 64 come second to the decade of the forties which supplied 79.

1940s

1940	=	5 goals
1941	=	8 goals
1942	=	14 goals
1943	=	11 goals
1944	=	6 goals
1945	=	6 goals
1946	=	8 goals
1947	=	6 goals
1948	=	7 goals
1949	=	8 goals

Total = **79**

1950s

1950	=	4 goals
1951	=	5 goals
1952	=	3 goals
1953	=	4 goals
1954	=	5 goals
1955	=	5 goals
1956	=	4 goals
1957	=	9 goals
1958	=	10 goals
1959	=	1 goal

Total = **50**

1960s

1960	=	5 goals
1961	=	7 goals
1962	=	9 goals
1963	=	3 goals
1964	=	7 goals
1965	=	8 goals
1966	=	5 goals
1967	=	8 goals
1968	=	5 goals
1969	=	7 goals

Total = **64**

1970s

1970	=	6 goals
1971	=	6 goals
1972	=	2 goals

1973	=	5 goals
1974	=	5 goals
1975	=	3 goals
1976	=	7 goals
1977	=	3 goals
1978	=	4 goals
1979	=	2 goals

Total = **43**

1980s

1980	=	7 goals*
1981	=	2 goals
1982	=	3 goals
1983	=	3 goals
1984	=	7 goals
1985	=	3 goals
1986	=	3 goals
1987	=	2 goals
1988	=	2 goals
1989	=	2 goals

Total = **34**

1990s

1990	=	2 goals
1991	=	4 goals*
1992	=	1 goal
1993	=	0 goals
1994	=	1 goal
1995	=	1 goal
1996	=	5 goals*
1997	=	1 goal
1998	=	1 goal
1999	=	4 goals

Total = **22**

2000s

2000	=	4 goals
2001	=	2 goals
2002	=	1 goal
2003	=	3 goals
2004	=	1 goal
2005	=	1 goal
2006	=	1 goal

Total = **13**

2006	Toomevara v Kildangan	=1 goal
2005	Borris-Ileigh v Nenagh Eire Og	=1 goal
2004	Roscrea v Borris-Ileigh	=1 goal
2003	Toomevara v Nenagh Eire Og	=3 goals
2002	Toomevara v Moneygall	=1 goal
2001	Nenagh Eire Og v Borris-Ileigh	=2 goals

* = Score taken from replay



Buiréas Uí Luíoch

1

Jody Harkin

2

Martin Treacy

3

Philip Maher

4

Mattie Stapleton

5

Kieran Cowan

6

Paddy Stapleton

7

Angelo Walsh

8

Aidan Cowan

9

Declan Maher (c)

10

Brendan Maher

11

Vinnie Stapleton

12

Mark Bourke

13

David O'Connor

14

Philip Rabbitte

15

Martin Maher

Fir Ionaí

16 Cathal Bourke, 17 John Keane, 18 Seamus Maher, 19 Sean Maher, 20 Brendan Kenny, 21 Pierce Ryan, 22 Paul Maher, 23 Pauric Maher, 24 Patrick Ryan, 25 Aidan Dwyer, 26 Rory Kinane, 27 Eoin Stapleton, 28 William Donnelly, 29 Joe Tynan.

Raghnóirei

Selectors: Pat Stakelum, Michael Ryan, Timmy Ryan,
Coach John McGrath
Trainer: Bertie Sherlock. **Medic:** Dr. Kevin Delargey
First Aid: Amanda Stapleton



Captain: Declan Maher

Éire Óg an Aonaigh



1 Michael McNamara		
2 Stephen Ryan	3 John Brennan (c)	4 Hugh Flannery
5 John Slattery	6 Richie Flannery (c)	7 John Flannery
8 John Kennedy		9 Hugh Moloney
10 Noel Moloney	11 Edward Tucker	12 Declan O'Meara
13 Kevin Tucker	14 Paul Ryan	15 Michael Heffernan

Fir Ionaí

16 Sean Healy, 17 Eoin Fitzgibbon,
18 Brian Dillon, 19 David Hackett, 20 Alan Kelly,
21 Michael Hackett, 22 Conor Brennan,
23 Conor Kirwan, 24 Brian Fitzgibbon,
25 Brian Maxwell, 26 Brian Quinn,
27 Daragh Quinn, 28 Mark Flannery,
29 Patrick Murphy

Raghnóirei

Selectors: **Conor Ryan** (Manager),
Michael Cleary (Coach), **Eamonn Brennan**
Trainer: **Martin O'Grady**
First Aid: **Bartley Ryan, Noreen Ryan**



Captain: Richie Flannery

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Last Borris North final win

By Liam Hogan

**Hibernian North Tipperary
SHC Final '05**

**Borris-Ileagh 1-15
Nenagh 0-13**

After seventeen years, Borris-Ileagh finally ended there North final bogey when they regained the Frank McGrath Cup for the 13th time following a two point win over Nenagh Eire Og at a sun splashed MacDonagh Park.

Borris were short four key players because of injury with Martin Maher, Philip Maher, Sean Maher and Matthew Stapleton unable to play allowing David O'Connor, Paddy Stapleton, Brendan Maher and Pierce Ryan to start.

It was a well fought encounter with scores level three times, in the opening 19 minutes. Then, Rory Kinnane grabbed the match winning goal which enabled Borris take a six point interval lead at 1-7 to 0-4.

In the second half, Borris had to defend against a strong Nenagh fight back. Nenagh came within two points of the leaders but Borris had a sound defence well marshalled by Philip Rabbitte and Paddy Stapleton. The attack finished the better also and it was fitting that the brilliant Brendan Maher at sixteen, scored the point of the day, one of four, to ensure victory.

A delighted Borris-Ileagh captain, Philip

Rabbitte, accepted the Frank McGrath Cup from North Board Chairman Jimmy Minogue in front of a vast Borris following. In his acceptance speech, Philip dedicated his side's victory to Harry Groome who had died the previous week.

Nenagh made a battle of it especially in the second half where Kevin Tucker, unlucky with his free taking in the first half, ended as the games top scorer on 0-9. Hugh Moloney, Richie Flannery and Eddie Tucker never let the side down.

Borris-Ileagh: J Harkins; M Treacy, P Rabbitte, E Stapleton; V Stapleton, P Stapleton, D O'Connor; Seamus Maher, John Keane; D Maher (0-1), A Cowan, A Walsh (0-4(3f)); Pierce Ryan (0-3), R Kinnane (1-0), Brendan Maher (0-4, 1f).

Subs- Sean Maher for Seamus Maher (50); Tom Stakelum for Cowan (57)

Nenagh Eire Og: M McNamara; J Brennan, J Slattery (Capt), A Quinn; H Moloney, Richie Flannery, Hugh Flannery; J Flannery, E Tucker (0-1); J Kennedy, K Tucker (0-9, 7f and 1=65), D O Meara; P Ryan, N Moloney (0-2), MI Hackett.

Subs- D Hackett (0-1) for Slattery inj(24); Cormac Galvin for Flannery (h/t); Michael Cleary for O'Meara (38); Robbie Tomilson for Ryan (48); Paul Ryan for E Tucker inj (60).

Referee Sean Bradshaw Knockavilla
Kickhams.



Rory Kinnane (extreme left) scores in a recent game.

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Slattery hoping for memorable year

by James Hayden (Tipperary Star)

2007 has already been a memorable year for one of Nenagh Éire Óg's best servants.

The 6th of June last saw wing-back, Johnny Slattery marry Borrisokane woman, Evelyn Morris and he will be hoping he can cap a memorable summer with a North final victory over close rivals, Borris-Ileigh here in MacDonagh Park today.

The Corville NS principal has been a mainstay of Nenagh's senior side for the past decade and to many he is Nenagh's utility player, having donned every jersey bar the Number 1 keeper's shirt since he first burst into the senior ranks in the late nineties.

At 29, Slattery has been called into service in both defence and attack and is comfortable virtually anywhere on the field, a trait that has ensured his continued inclusion down through the years.

Last year's county final loss to Toomevara was a bitter pill for Nenagh Éire Óg to swallow but Johnny agreed the loss has served to spur Nenagh on to once again reach the county final. The only difference is that on this occasion Nenagh are determined bring the Dan Breen back to the town for the first time since their only victory in 1995, when they overcame the challenge of Boherlahan-Dualla in a well-contested final.

Johnny believes there is a steely determination within the side, a determination that has been galvanised since last year's four point loss to the Greyhounds.

"We were five points up at half-time and we were in with a great shout right to the very end. We had a deserved five-point lead at the break but in the end Toomevara came back and caught us at the end."

While Éire Óg could be forgiven for setting their sights higher than today's North final, Johnny is adamant that winning today is uppermost.

"We want silverware and we want the McGrath Cup back in Nenagh. It's as simple as that. It's one game at a time for us but I am sure neither ourselves nor Borris-Ileigh would particularly relish facing either Toomevara or Mullinahone after losing a North final. The incentive is huge for us to win today?"

Turning to Borris-Ileigh, Johnny believes it will be a tough contest with the 2005 champions

but guaranteed that Nenagh won't be found wanting when the chips are down.

"Borris-Ileigh are a very good side and are an up and coming team. They will provide a big challenge for us today but we have prepared well and here's hoping that we come out on top.

"They have already dethroned the North champions and they will be gunning for us today. We lost in 2005 and today we don't want to have that same feeling again," Johnny said.

With two North winners medals in his collection Johnny is hoping he can secure a third today and with it bridge a six-year gap since Nenagh Éire Óg's last North senior hurling title.



Meet Aidan Cowan

By *Liam Hogan*

Jules Verne didn't have Aidan Cowan in mind, when he wrote the classic "Around the World in Eighty Days" but for Aidan, around the world means spending a part of his young life in America and Australia.

While in those great countries, the Borris-Ileigh star midfielder won the equivalent of two county titles during his stay.

In 2000, he was apart of the Cuchulans club who won a Chicago and North American championships. Denis Kelly, Toomevara was on the same team. Three years later, it was the turn of Sydney Shamrocks as they won an all Australian championship. In fact, Borris were well represented in the Sydney club that year with Declan Maher, Rory Kinnane and Philip Rabbittie on the side.

In between times, Aidan returned to club duties. He played in three North senior hurling finals. The Centenary final was centre stage in 2001 and Borris fell to Nenagh Eire Og lined out at midfield along with Tom Stakelum. In 2004, Borris failed to Roscrea as Aidan manned the left half berth. One year later, it was success at last after Borris overcome Nenagh as Aidan wore the number 11 shirt.

His medal tally increased at county level as Borris won the County Division 1 Senior Hurling League in 2006 followed by a Premier Division League medal earlier this season.

An impressive CV one might say but they might never have come if Aidan had to heed medical advice after he sustained an eye injury when he was eleven years old.

He was on the Borris-Ileigh U-12 team that defeated Burgess in the North U-12 B hurling final. A few weeks later and while playing in

his back yard, he was hit by a stone in the eye.

Hurling was far from his mind for the next few weeks. He received a visit from Pat Hartigan, the famous Limerick All-Ireland winning full back from 1973 and also a winner of five All-Stars. Hartigan also sustained an eye injury which curtailed his hurling career.

Hartigan's condition threw cold comfort on the young lad. Anyway time was a healer and Aidan was determined to fulfil his dream of playing with Borris-Ileigh. His parents Mick and Breda purchased a helmet the following year and the rest is history.

Hurling was the number one subject in his home. His father Mick won a county medal with his native Moyne Templetoohy before transferring to Borris-Ileigh. Mick also played with Tipperary at half back usually and his career reached its pinnacle when Borris won the All-Ireland club final in 1987.

Aidan's mother was Breda Stapleton who came from another family with strong GAA traditions.

So against medical advice, Aidan donned the helmet and the rest is history. His hurling career earned him a North U-16 B medal in 91; North U-21 B in 95 plus a North and County U-21 A in 1997.

Aidan first played with Borris-Ileigh seniors in 1997 while lining out against Kilruane MacDonaghs. His ten year journey has been fairly successful. A second North medal today would be welcome. Either way, Aidan is determined to add a county medal to his tally. The sooner the better for him and today could be the stepping stone in that direction.



Paddy Stapleton

- a Tipp half back in the making

By Liam Hogan

Borris have produced some well known defenders in the past. Jimmy Finn, Noel O'Dwyer, Martin Maher and Philip Maher are ones to name but a few.

Looking at the display of the clubs current centre back, Paddy Stapleton it looks as if he could be on the way to join them.

In the recent North Tipperary Senior Hurling semi final, Paddy Stapleton gave a great display at centre back. Marking Toomevara's Eoin Brislane, Paddy had a shaky opening ten minutes but soon settled down to inspire his team to a five point victory over the holders.

The performance has come to no surprise to anybody who has followed the fortunes of Borris-Ileigh hurling. Paddy played minor with Tipp in 2003 and helped Tipp win the Munster final that year. Darragh Egan, Shane Long and Darragh Hickey were on that team and later, Galway denied them a place in that year's All-Ireland final following a three point defeat.

The Borris-Ileigh man was at right corner back in last year's Munster and All-Ireland U-21 campaigns as Tipp overcome Cork

before failing by a whisker against Kilkenny in a replay at Semple Stadium.

On the club front, Paddy was injured for the North senior final defeat against Roscrea.

In 2005, he was positioned at centre back and Borris-Ileigh defeated today's opponents, Nenagh Eire Og. Strangely, the number of medals at juvenile is limited to two. In 1999, Paddy helped Borris win the hurling and football double in the U-14 B grade.

Playing in the U-16 A grade, two years later, he had little success but he was recognised as a player worthy to make the Tipperary U-16 team

which competed in the then Arrabawn All-Ireland failing to make the knock-out stages.

That was the step he needed for further county appearances with the Minor, U-21 and senior grades

So today's North Final will be seen as a stepping stone to greater things. A repeat performance of his semi-final efforts should see a more permanent place with Tipp seniors soon.



Mick Hynes - a Nenagh stalwart

By Gerry Slevin

Hurler, selector, grounds man, a most avid GAA enthusiast, Mike Hynes has been synonymous with everything concerning his beloved Nenagh for many decades.

He enjoyed great success in a long playing career that saw North minor honours (St Mary's) go his way in hurling in 1947 and in football in '48 and '49. He was corner back on the Tipp minor hurling team defeated by Kilkenny in the '50 All Ireland final and was eligible again in



'51 when St Mary's won the divisional title but this time Tipp went down to Cork in the Munster semi final.

In all, Mike played minor for five years and North junior honours would come his way in '53 (Eire Og) to be followed by a senior medal in '57. He was honoured by the Tipp senior selectors on several occasions, played in the National League and won an Oireachtas medal in '61 and played in the Wembley tournament in '62, also winning a North junior football medal in '62.

Mike learned and developed his craft while playing with his brothers Pat, Philip and Eddie and passed the torch on to his own sons Martin, Michael, Gerry, Eddie and Jodie. He can now watch with pride that same flame as it burns brightly in his grandchildren.

His vast knowledge of the games was put to good use in selectorial duties in all grades with Nenagh teams and his is now a daily presence around MacDonagh Park where in his duties as grounds man he can be seen regularly at work cutting the grass, lining the field, replacing divots and sweeping litter from the stand. A very active promoter of the club's weekly Lotto as well as the County Board draw, Mike is also a crucial member of the club history committee. He also repairs hurleys, looks after the club jerseys and imparts words of wisdom to all wearers of the sky blue colours.

His tremendous loyalty and work rate led to his elevation as Joint Honorary Life President of the club in 1997.

Last November Mick deservedly received a Sean Gael Award in Bru Boru, Cashel.

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Moloney key to Nenagh's plans

By **Shane Brophy** *The Guardian*

He may still be fresh-faced to a lot of people but Noel Moloney is now one of the most experienced members of the Nenagh senior hurling team.

At the age of 27, Moloney is one of the key players within the team and his form over the last two years or so has played a major part in Nenagh being in contention for North and County honours.

This will be Noel's third North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final and peculiarly, all have been against the maroon of Borris-Ileigh. He made his senior championship debut in 2001 against Roscrea in the semi-final and has been an ever present in the squad since.

Noel was part of the Tipperary squad for the National Hurling League in 2004 and made his debut against Cork in March of that year and enjoyed a productive afternoon on Diarmaid O'Sullivan but a nasty facial injury cut short his debut.

That was the first of just two appearances in the blue and gold with an appearance as a substitute against Waterford in April 2004 being his last for

Tipperary.

His place on the Tipperary squad that year came about after a very productive Fitzgibbon Cup campaign with UCC. The Cork College got to the final that year beating a star-studded Limerick IT (including Eoin Kelly) along the way but succumbed to Waterford IT in the final.

From his two previous North Senior Finals against Borris-Ileigh, he has one winners medal to his name from 2001 while disappointment was his lost two years ago when Borris ended their eighteen year wait for the Frank McGrath Cup.

Moloney's form this year has been good so far. He didn't get on the scoresheet against Roscrea in the quarter final but was very effective in his roving role at midfield and the half forward line while his second half solo-run was the catalyst for the Paddy Murphy goal which rescued Nenagh in the semi-final victory over Kildangan.

Nenagh Eire Og will be looking to him once again to play a leading role if they are to take possession of the Frank McGrath Cup for the first time since 2001.



Last North final win for Nenagh Éire Óg

Centenary Final. Sept. 30, 2001

Nenagh Éire Óg 1-15

Borris-Ileigh 1-11

Nenagh Éire Óg became Centenary Champions after defeating favourites, Borris-Ileigh, to claim their fourth Frank McGrath Cup in the past decade.

A goal from Declan O'Meara was the decisive score coming in the 43rd minute. The right corner forward was man of the match and helped by the breeze in the opening half, he scored four points to help them lead at the interval by 0-12 to 0-5.

After the interval, Borris began to mount a challenge. Two points from Mark Bourke from play and Angelo Walsh from a free kept them in the hunt. A goal from Mark Bourke reduced the deficit to two.

Tom Stakelum, who had just moved to full forward from midfield, connected with a cross from Mark Bourke. Stakelum's shot should have gone under the cross bar, but over it went.

Borris forced the game's only 65, Angelo Walsh pointing to see the teams level. No sooner had the ball returned to play than Mark Bourke pointed to send Borris into the lead for the first time since Angelo Walsh had opened the scoring in the game's first minute.

But Declan O'Meara's goal after 43 minutes edged Nenagh ahead at 1-12 to 1-10. Michael Hackett stretched the lead to three. Mark Bourke scored for Borris-Ileigh, their last score as it happened just on 48 minutes. But Nenagh finished well with Eddie Tucker and Michael Cleary pointing to seal victory.

Nenagh Éire Óg: M McNamara; Hugh Flannery, Noel Coffey, Anthony Quinn; John Slattery (0-1), Richie Flannery, John



Declan O'Meara, goalscorer

Kennedy; Rory Flannery, Noel Moloney; Kevin Tucker (Capt) (0-6,4f), Eddie Tucker (0-1), Robbie Tomilson (0-1); Declan O'Meara (1-4), Robert Foley, M Cleary (0-1).

Subs: B Darcy for Foley, M Hackett (0-1) for Darcy, H Moloney for R Flannery, Shane Connolly for Rory Flannery.

Borris-Ileigh: Darragh Rabbitte; Rory Kinnane, Philip Maher (Capt), Martin Maher; Pierce Ryan, Philip Rabbitte, Owen Stapleton; Tom Stakelum (0-1), Aidan Cowan; John Keane, Seamus Maher (0-1), Angelo Walsh (0-6, 3 frees, 1 by 65); Declan Maher, John McGrath, Mark Bourke (1-3).

Subs: Sean Maher for Kinnane, Vincent Stapleton for M Maher, Mark Stapleton for D Maher, Aidan Ryan for Stakelum.

Referee Michael Cahill. Kilruane MacDonaghs.

Fifty Years Ago: Menagh Éire Óg celebrate victory

NENAGH EIRE OG 5-5
TOOMEVARA 4-5

Eire Og Nenagh ended a forty-two year barren spell when they won their second North Tipperary senior hurling final in defeating Toomevara at MacDonagh Park, August 4, 1957.

After a hectic game, Nenagh faced off a late Toome challenge after taking a three goal lead. After the game was over, their supporters swarmed all over the field as the red and white flags brightened the overcast skies before team captain, Billie O'Brien was presented with the Murphy Cup by North GAA Board, Chairman, Mr Jim Ryan, Moneygall.

In the opening minutes, Toomevara went 0-3 ahead when John Hough, Con Ryan and Phil Shanahan scored. John McGrath reduced the lead with a point from a free. Kieran McDonnell pointed for Nenagh before John McGrath gave the home side the lead with a goal from a 21 yards free.

Phil Shanahan replied for Toome. Kieran McDonnell sent a long ball to the Toome goal and John Hogan beat Mounsey all ends with a great shot.

Toomevara fought back. Phil Shanahan sent in a hard shot which Tony Tierney got a hurley to it but the ball went in to the net off the upright. Stephen Guerins gave Toomevara the lead when with all the time in the world he gave Tony Tierney no chance with a hard drive.

Interval score, Toomevara 2-4 Eire Og 2-2.

After the restart, Nenagh went on a



Tony Tierney, Nenagh keeper in 1957 final

scoring spree. John McGrath regained the lead for them when he sent a 21 yards free to the net. He added a point soon after. John Hogan goaled followed by a Billie Brien point. Another John Hogan goal followed and Nenagh led 5-4 to 2-4.

But Toome fought back and from a goalmouth melee forced the ball over the line. Shanahan added a point Guerins reduced the lead to two points with a goal but before the final whistle, McGrath pointed a Nenagh free.

EIRE OG: T Tierney; P Kearns, E McGrath, M Hynes; M Burns, D Reynolds, M O'Connell; P Hennessey P Hallinan; P O'Meara, J McGrath (2-3, 2-1 frees), K McDonnell (0-1); B O'Brien (0-1), S Duignan, J Hogan (3-0).

TOOMEVARA: R Mounsey, W Donovan, W O'Brien, M Burke; M O'Gara, T Shanahan, T Cuddy; G Hough, J Hough (0-1); M Hassett, P Shanahan (1-3), C Ryan (0-1); S Guerins (2-0), S Ryan, W Harty.

Subs J McDonnell for Ryan; D galvin for Cuddy.

Nenagh Éire Óg 1982 North Final v Roscrea

The match was drawn but the replay didn't take place.



Nenagh Éire Óg 1982. Back l-r: Pat Lee, P.J. Maxwell, Gerry O'Brien, Conor O'Brien, Jim Nagle, Michael Kennedy, Liam Heffernan, Micéal Ryan, John Flannery, Michael Griffin, Conor O'Donovan, John Tucker, Matt Ryan, John Darcy. Front: Jim O'Sullivan, Sean Minogue, Mairtín O'Connor, Brian Heffernan, Denis Finnerty, Christy Tucker, John Heffernan, Philip Kennedy, Roger Coffey, Seamus Kennedy, Philip Hennessy, Robert Ashman, Paul Kennedy, Pat Power.

107 All-Ireland minor medals in North Tipp

Tipperary have won 18 All-Ireland Minor Hurling titles and it is estimated that 100 players have collected 107 All-Ireland Minor medals in this division.

Roscrea lead the way with 20 players and they have won 22 medals-

Charlie Downes 1932; Joe Fletcher 1932, *33, Tadgh Maher 1933; Martin Loughnane, Billy Brussels 1933, 34; Jack Ryan, Tom O Meara, Dermot McNulty 1947; Tom Aherne 1949; Rody Ryan 1955; Mick Nolan 1959; Ger O Connor, Purdy Loughnane, John Stone, Joe Hogan *1976; Eddie Hogan 1980; Michael Scully, Donal Kealy 1982; John Carroll 1996; Darren O Connor 2007.

Borris-Ileigh: 15 players and 19 medals- Philly Ryan 1933, 34; Phil Crowley, Paddy Kenny *1947; Jimmy Finn 1949; Joe Small 1951; Liam Devaney 1952, 53; Sean Warren 1955, 56; Matt Stapleton 1957; George Kinnane 1959; Pat Ryan, Gerry Stapleton 1976; Philip Kenny 1980; Aidan Ryan 1982; Declan Maher 1996; Brendan Maher 2006, 07;

Nenagh Eire Og: 15 players, 16 medals - Mick Burns, Phil Hennessey 1952; Paddy Hallinan 1953; Mick Gilmartin 1955; Tony Tierney 1956; Devere Reynolds 1956, 57; Terry Moloney, Paddy Kearns, Paudie Kennedy 1957; Michael Griffen, P. J. Maxwell 1976; Denis Finnerty 1980; John Flannery 1982; Michael Heffernan, Patrick Murphy 2007

Newport: 7 players, 7 medals - Jimmy Coffey 1930; Mick Boland, Jim Close, Jack

Coffey 1930; Tim Floyd 1976; Ger Bradley 1982; Sean O'Brien 2007.

Toomevara: 7 players, 7 medals- Tommy Cawley 1934; Matt O Gara 1955, Tom Ryan 1959; Noel McDonnell 1982; Paddy O'Brien 1996; Joey McLoughney* 2006; Kieran McGrath 2007.

Templederry: 6 players, 6 medals - Michael Murphy, Michael Stapleton 1976; Michael Ryan, Paul Ryan- 1996; Tomas Stapleton, Gearoid Ryan 2006.

Kilruane MacDonaghs: 5 players, 6 medals - Enda Hogan, Eamonn O Shea 1976; Michael Conway 1980; Eoin Hogan 2006; Seamus Hennessey 2006, 07.

Lorrha: 4 players, 4 medals - Seamus Kennedy 1976; Ken Hogan 1980; Patrick Maher, Ciaran Haugh 2007

Burgess: 4 players, 4 medals - Maurice Fitzgerald 1930; John Darcy 1980; Tony Dunne, Donnagh Maher 2006.

Moneygall: 4 players, 4 medals - Con cash 1955; John Gleeson 1959; Kevin Collison 1980; Seamus Collison 1982.

Borrisokane: 4 players, 4 medals - John Kelly 1930; Ronnie Slevin 1959; Ian Conroy, Vivian Dooley 1980;

Kildangan: 2 players, 2 medals - Neddie McLoughney 1952; Joe Gallagher 2007.

Shannon Rovers: 2 players, 2 medals - Willie Joe Hogan 1959; Kevin Burke 1982.

Silvermines: 2 players, 2 medals - Tom Kinsella 1980; Noel Sheedy 1982,

Portroe: 2 players, 2 medals - John Sheedy 1976; Colm Gleeson 2006.

Ballina: 1 player, 1 medal - Michael Kelly 1982.

** Denotes Tipp captain.*



Borrisileigh 1983 senior hurling county champions. Back l.-r.: Timmy Stapleton, T. F. Stapleton, Gerry Stapleton, Richard Stakelum, Philip Kenny, John McGrath, Bobby Ryan, Timmy Ryan. Front: Noellie Maher, Owen Walsh, Michael Ryan, Noel O'Dwyer, capt., Mick Cowan, Timmy Delaney, Aidan Ryan.

Double medal celebration

By Liam Hogan

Three players, Brendan Maher, Borris-Ileigh; Michael Heffernan and Patrick Murphy from Nenagh Eire Og who will figure in today's Hibernian North Tipperary Senior Hurling final hope to double their medal collection in one week by adding a North Senior Hurling medal, to the one, they won in last Sunday's ESB All-Ireland Minor hurling final following Tipperary six point win over Cork in Croke Park.

In addition, Brendan Maher, who captained the Tipperary side last Sunday, hopes to become the second Borris-Ileigh player to captain an All-Ireland Minor winning side and add a North medallion, in the same week, similar to Paddy Kenny who achieved the feat in 1947.

Brendan will line out for Borris-Ileigh today as expected in the half forward line. He will be opposed by Michael Heffernan who usually takes the corner forward spot and his club mate, Paddy Murphy, who came on in the semi-final win over Kildangan, is sure to play a part also.

It fact, Brendan Maher secured his second All-Ireland Minor medal after Tipp won last years final against Galway when Toomevara's Joey McLoughney led the side. McLoughney won a North Tipperary senior hurling medal last year as a substitute when Toomevara defeated Kildangan in the final.

Kilruane MacDonaghs Seamus Hennessey collected his second minor medal also but his club failed to make a run in this years North championship.

Its been a great two seasons for this county and in this division particularly. With Tipp retaining the Minor final, no

fewer than seventeen players represented the division

There were ten playing last Sunday with both Hennessey and Maher, forming part of the nine man effort in 2006.

One very satisfactory statistic shows that the majority of the players listed, play in the forward line which augurs well for the future of hurling in this division.

A quick glance shows Seamus Hennessey, Patrick Maher, Michael Heffernan and Patrick Murphy played great roles in last Sunday's win. After the final, Seamus Hennessey finished as the teams leading scorer on 0-29. Michael Heffernan scored 2-10. Patrick Maher finished with 3-1 while Brendan Maher who lined out in the half forward for the Munster campaign and moved to midfield in the All-Ireland semi-final and final ended with a total of 0-15.

Seamus Hennessey and Tony Dunne played leading parts in the 2006 success with Dunne scoring 3-7.

The 2007 list is as follows: Brendan Maher, Borris-Ileigh and Captain; Michael Heffernan and Patrick Murphy, Nenagh Eire Og; Seamus Hennessey, Kilruane MacDonaghs; Sean O'Brien, Newport; Patrick Maher and Ciaran Haugh, Lorrha; Darren O'Connor, Roscrea; Joe Gallagher, Kildangan and Kieran McGrath, Toomevara.

2006: Joey McLoughney, Toomevara and Captain; Brendan Maher, Borris-Ileigh; Seamus Hennessey and Eoin Hogan, Kilruane MacDonaghs; Tomas Stapleton and Gearoid Ryan, Templederry; Tony Dunne and Donagh Maher, Burgess and Colm Gleeson, Portroe.

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*Best of luck to both teams in
today's final*



**Open: Monday-Friday 8-6;
Saturday 8-1**

Today's Referee

John Cleary referees his first North senior final today. His appointment comes two years after officiating in the Mid senior hurling final when Thurles Sarsfields defeated Drom and Inch.

He refereed a West intermediate final the same year and in 2006 he was the man in the middle for the county minor hurling 'A' final between Thurles Sarsfields and Ballingarry.

He was refereed two minor hurling 'A' finals in 2002 and 2003.

His umpires today are Sean Cleary (son), Barry Carroll, Michael Kennedy and P. J. Cleary.

Linesmen are Tommy Ryan and Niall McGrath.



1949 Borris-Ileigh county champions. Back row l. to r.: Joe Ryan (R), Ml. Shanahan, Jim Quinn, Paddy Kenny, Sonny Bourke, Ned Finn, Billy Stapleton, Donal Meagher. Middle: Philly Ryan, Ned Ryan, Tom Ryan, Philly Kenny, Phil Maher, Sean Kenny, Mick Joe Dwyer, Johnson Hackett. Front row: Jimmy Coffey, Jimmy Finn, Philly Crowley, Martin Ryan.



Nenagh Éire Óg 1957 panel with its officials and followers. Back l-r: Tom Brophy Paddy Maher, Seamus Murray, Sean Duignan, Buddy Toohey, Pat Stack, John Hogan, Jack Nolan, Edmund McGrath, Michael Fogarty, Michael O'Kennedy, Johnny McGrath, Liam McKenna, Michael Corrigan, Bobby Morgan and Tony Sheary. Middle: Paddy Hallinan, Paddy Kearns, Michael Hynes, Billy O'Brien (capt), Michael O'Connell, Seamus Ryan, Kieran McDonnell, Devere Reynolds, Paddy O'Meara. Front: Frank O'Donnell, Padraig Kennedy, Tony Tierney, Phil Hennessy, Mick Burns, Philip Murray, Joseph Ryan.



The 1957 panel at a reunion



Nenagh Éire Óg, county champions 1995. Back: l-r: J. O'Donoghue, D. Finnerty, J. Heffernan, D. O'Meara, G. Cleary, R. Foley, D. O'Brien, T. Conroy, D. Quinn, F. Moran. Centre: L. Heffernan, C. Howard, H. Flannery, D. Conory, L. O'Gara, C. McLoughlin, P. J. Whelahan, R. Tomlinson, E. Tucker, N. Coffey, P. Kennedy, B. Hennessy, P. Flannery, Front: C. Bonar, M. Cleary, R. Burns, C. O'Donovan (capt), K. Tucker, S. Connolly, J. Kennedy.



Homeward go the heroes 1951. . . Tipperary in triumphant mood at Kingsbridge station, Jimmy Finn of Borrisleigh, the captain, holding the Liam McCarthy Cup on returning home after defeating Wexford in the 1951 All-Ireland final to complete the three-in-a-row.

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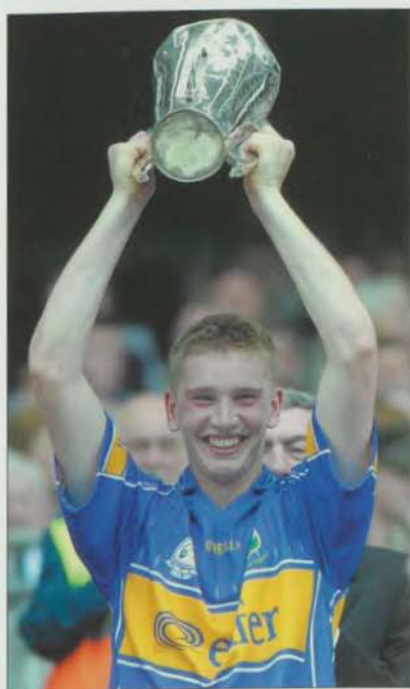
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All-Ireland winners in today's final



On the Eire Og panel today are Michael Heffernan and Paddy Murphy



Brendan Maher, Borris-Ileigh lifts the Irish Press Cup for Tipperary



Be passionate.

Good luck to Nenagh Éire Óg and Borris-Ileigh in the North Tipperary Hurling Final from AIB, Nenagh

be with





Borris-Ileigh hurling team 1926. Back row, l. to r.: Ned Byrnes, Andy Ryan, Pat Loughnane, Jack Kenny, Con Kennedy, Tom Lanigan-Ryan, Tom Delaney, Jack Lanigan-Ryan. Middle row: Jim Devaney, Paki Finn, Fr. Ryan, Ml. McNamara, Joe Ryan. Front row: Tom Harty, Denis O'Shea, Mick Smith, Paddy Harty, Ned Long.

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***Best wishes to both teams
in today's North final***

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