

South Tipperary Senior Hurling Final

Match Programme

1999

the glanbia **GAIN**

SOUTH TIPPERARY SENIOR HURLING FINAL

Cluain Meala, 15ú Lunasa, 1999

(6-45 i.n.)

Clár Oifigiúil



Muileann na hUamhan
(C.J. Kickhams)
Na hEalaí
(Carrick Swans)

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Thar ceann Chumann Luth Chleas Gael, Coiste Chontae Thiobrad Árann Theas, cuirim cead míle fáilte roimh gach einne chuig Cluain Meala do cluiche cheannais iomanaíocht sinsear. Gabhaim buíochas leis na foirne agus le na daoine a chabhraigh linn. Tá suil agam go mbeidh cluiche brea sportiúl againn.

It is with great pride and joy that I welcome you one and all this evening to Clonmel Sportsfield for the Glanbia Gain sponsored Senior Hurling Final between Carrick Swans and Mullinahone.

In recent years the John Leahy led team from Kickham Country have been a tremendous advertisement for hurling in the Division, reaching the County Final in 1997 and they are hoping to attain ultimate glory this year. They have all the credentials to do so.

Carrick Swans have a proud tradition in Senior Hurling holding pride of place in the honours list with twenty titles. They are eager, willing and an accomplished team who will strive to the utmost to add to their splendid record. It promises to be an outstanding game full of drama and excitement. I wish both teams the best of luck in their quest for county honours.

Early patrons will be highly entertained in the opener between St. Mary's and Carrick Davins, a contest which will be charged with emotion as each of them will be trying to avoid relegation.

Also at half time in the Senior Final, under 12 hurlers from all over the Division will be showing off their skills for our enjoyment.

On behalf of the South Board I extend our appreciation and gratitude to Glanbia Gain (Avonmore Waterford) for their generous sponsorship of our Senior Hurling Championship.

I also thank Clonmel Sportsfield Committee for the facilities provided and our secretary Michael O'Meara for the production of this programme.

Finally, best of luck to Tommy Lonergan and also to John Cahill, our referees and their officials. We extend our appreciation to our loyal patrons and ask you to support our sponsors. I trust that all of you will enjoy both games.

Mise le meas

Seamus Ceitinn

CLÁR AN LAE

5.15

GLANBIA GAIN S.H.C.

NAOMH MHUIRE v CARRAIG NA SIÚIRE

Ref: J. Cahill (Ballingarry)

6.45

GLANBIA GAIN S.H.C. FINAL

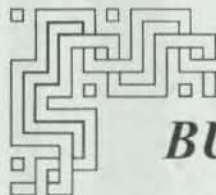
NA hEALAI v MUILEANN NA hUAMHAN

Ref: T. Lonergan (Kilsheelan)

The Mini Game of 12 mins. duration will be played at the Interval of the S.H.C. Final

Ref: Jim Hennessy (Kilsheelan)

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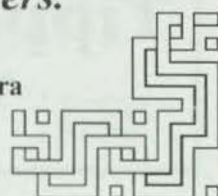
BUÍOCHAS

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THE 88th FINAL - MULLINAHONE ARE FAVOURITES BUT!

This evening Glanbia Gain Senior Hurling Championship decider brings into opposition famed Carrick Swans for long the kingpins in the grade and the proud holders of 20 titles and C.J. Kickhams, Mullinahone comparative newcomers to senior ranks whose three titles have all been gained in recent years.

Based on semi-final performances many judges have installed Mullinahone as warm favourites and whilst there can be no doubt but that a repeat of the form thrown against Ballingarry will make them extremely hard to beat, it must be remembered that recent meetings of the teams have seen the results go mainly in Swans favour.

In last year's league stages Swans were successful by 1-13 to 1-12 and they then went on to defeat today's rivals by 3-13 to 3-7 in the semi-final. This year in the league stages the sides finished level so all the indications are that a very exciting decider looks in prospect.

Mullinahone are laden with players who have worn the blue and gold of Tipp with pride and, indeed, only three members of the team have not enjoyed that honour. The likes of John Leahy, Brian O Meara, Pat Croke, Sean Brett, Paul and Eoin Kelly and Paul Curran are household names that would adorn any final.

By comparison the Swan players do not possess the same high profile but they lack nothing in skill or determination and names to watch out for include Kieran Maguire, Tomas Keane, Ray Dunne, Alan P. Ryan, Sean Barnett and Philip Loughnan.

We wish both teams well. The evening's curtain raiser, a relegation battle between St. Marys and Carrick Davins, should get events off to a cracking start. Both sides are proud of their senior status and will not surrender their standing without a major battle.

The mini game is a new innovation on Southern Final day and the cream of the Division's under 12 players are sure to provide lots of entertainment. The famed Sean Treacy Pipe Band will add further lustre to the occasion.

Enjoy Your Sunday Games.

GLANBIA GAIN S.H.C. - 1999 STYLE

Six teams contested the championship which was run on a league basis with the top four going through to the semi-finals and the bottom team to be relegated to the Intermediate Grade.

LEAGUE STAGES

25/4	Clonmel	Killenaule 2-14	Ballingarry 3-9	W. Barrett
		Mullinahone 3-11	Swans 1-17	T. J. Corby
9/5	Kilsheelan	Mullinahone 2-17	St. Marys 1-3	W. Barrett
23/5	Clonmel	Killenaule 3-12	Davins 2-11	S. Roche
30/5	Carrick	Swans 3-9	Davins 0-7	W. Barrett
19/6	Kilsheelan	Swans 4-14	St. Marys 1-6	J. Cahill
20/6	Clonmel	Mullinahone 2-22	Killenaule 1-15	T. Lonergan
		Ballinarry 4-20	Davins 1-10	S. Mullins
27/6	Clonmel	Killenaule 3-10	Swans 3-10	T. J. Corby
		Ballingarry 5-2	St. Marys 1-14	T. Lonergan
	Kilsheelan	Mullinahone 2-14	Davins 0-11	S. Roche
11/7	Clonmel	Ballingarry 3-10	Swans 0-11	B. White
18/7	Monroe	Killenaule 2-9	St. Marys 2-4	W. Barrett

Not played:

Ballingarry v Mullinahone

Remaining Game:

Relegation Decider St. Mary's v Davins

SEMI-FINALS

25/7	Clonmel	Mullinahone 6-12	Ballingarry 1-12	T. Lonergan
1/8	Clonmel	Swans 3-11	Killenaule 1-9	T. J. Corby

Good Luck to the Swans from

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1990 - SWAN'S LAST SUCCESS

On the 19th of August 1990 at Clonmel Sportsfield, our senior hurlers won the South title for the 20th time and the first since 1986 when defeating champions Killenaule 3-7 to 2-7 in a memorable game. Training for the 1990 campaign began in March under the watchful eye of trainer Bernard O'Neill. Tournaments and challenge games were the order of the day for the first month or so.

EARLY ROUNDS

In the first round of the championship we were drawn against Killenaule who seemed to have the "Indian sign" over us the past couple of years. The game was played in Clonmel and after a good hour's hurling by both teams Killenaule again proved our masters with a seven points' victory, 2-15 to 1-11. We had our chances of victory but overall we could not complain about the result.

So it was into the losers' group but we were not too despondent as we are generally slow starters in the competition. Our play-off game was against Cahir and it was with apprehension that we travelled to Clonmel, but after a shaky opening period we finally took control and ran out winners by 3-15 to 2-10. Some concern for our selectors was conceding soft frees near goal.

Training was now being stepped up and the attendance increasing as we awaited the semi-final clash with our great rivals from Ballingarry. Ballingarry had already won the league final and were installed as favourites in the days coming up to the game. We were more hopeful than confident as we took the field on that windy day in Clonmel. We had first use of that big wind but after ten minutes we only had a few points to show on the scoreboard, then our forwards clicked into overdrive and Ballingarry were swept off their feet.

Our big full forward line of Tony Fitzpatrick, Dick Lonergan and Tom Waters were revelling in all the possession that was coming their way and the game was as good as over by half-time. Ballingarry tried to rally early in the second half but the Swan men were in confident mood now and giving nothing away. We ran out easy winners in the end: 4-12 to 0-6. The hunger that was missing in previous years was now evident in our play and some of our near veterans seemed to be after visiting Tir na nOg. Maurice Walsh was brilliant at left full-back, Eoin Cooney was hurling like a man inspired. Ray Walsh, also a newcomer, was showing great promise.

THE FINAL

South final day was nothing new to the "Swans" but everybody in the club seemed to sense the need for victory this time round. The men from Killenaule, the holders in '88 and '89, were again our opponents but after our display in the semi-final we were quietly confident of taking the cup back to Carrick.

South final day arrived and it turned out one of the wettest days of the year. We played into the breeze in the first half and looked in deep trouble at half-time with the score Killenaule 1-7 to 0-1 ahead. The Swan dressing room at half-time was no place for the faint-hearted as harsh words were spoken and each player to a man listened and obeyed.

Within two minutes of the restart the tonic we needed arrived - a passing movement involving Sean Cronin, M. J. Russell ended with Tony Fitzpatrick bulging the Killenaule net and the Swans were now flying. Points followed in quick succession and then Dick Lonergan and Tom Waters fired in more goals and the game was within our grasp. But Killenaule, stout men that they are, rallied with a good goal and we had to sweat out the last few minutes' final score Swans 3-7, Killenaule 2-7. Gerry Kehoe lifted the cup to delighted Swan supporters and the young juveniles, wet as they were on the far side of the ground, now had their own local heroes. We pay tribute to our backroom team of Pat Ryan, Michael Walsh and Tony Fitzpatrick (who coached the team), also our great trainer Bernard O'Neill.

The full panel that gave Swan its 20th title was: William Barret, Kevin Nugent, Paul Walsh, Maurice Walsh, Eoin Cooney, Gerry Walsh, Gerry Kehoe (capt.), Sean Cronin, Kevin O'Shea, Ray Walsh, Brendan White, M. J. Russell, Dick Lonergan, Tony Fitzpatrick, Tom Waters, Tony Roche, Maurice Grace, Maurice Whelan, Matty Whelan, Matty Waters, James Connolly, Derek Hogan, Noel Walsh, Martin Walsh, Michael Whelan, Bernard Hahessy, Michael Fleming.

~ (Noel Russell)



CARRICK SWAN - South Senior Hurling Champions

Back row: Maurice Grace, Kevin O'Shea, Brendan White, William Barret, Gerry Kehoe, Kevin Nugent, Tom Waters, Tony Fitzpatrick, Eoin Cooney. Front row: Bernard O'Neill (Trainer), Michael J. Russell, Ray Walsh, Maurice Walsh, Gerry Walsh, Paul Walsh, Sean Cronin, Dick Lonergan. (photo Tipperary GAA Year Book)

Best of Luck to Carrick Swans from

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Wise Words From The Walls



WILLIE WALL



TOM WALL

The Wall Brothers from Newtown, Willie and Tom, Swan's most celebrated players enjoyed a lifetime of hurling and we wish them well on this big day for the Carrick Club.

The Walls had very definite views on the modern game as these snippets from an interview with Michael O'Meara in the 1991 Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook illustrated :-

"Today's game has changed completely from that played in our day. It is not faster as many people feel. In our day it was all ground hurling, now it's catch and run. You cannot beat ground hurling, Tipp won all their matches on the ground. Running with the ball leads to trouble and slows up the game. The hand pass should be banned. The back has no chance with the hand pass."

"The Under-21 grade is the most important of all. It is the ideal stepping stone to Senior. It's a wonderful competition.. The Under-12, Under-14 and Under-16 we have no time for at all. It's win the whole time. Players should be playing for the love of the game. Young players are burned out too early".

"There was a better spirit and give and take in our day. You'd be ashamed to lie down and now they are throwing themselves down".

"To be able to defend yourself is one of the arts of the game. Stand in close and you'll never get hurt. We could not wear a helmet to save our lives".

"There is no midfield play or overhead hurling now".

At the end of their playing careers the Walls had one regret:-

"We never had the satisfaction of beating Thurles Sarsfields in a championship. They were a marvellous club and were great to train a team. You could beat Sarsfields all over the field but they would still end up getting the scores. We would dearly love to have beaten them".

Best wishes to All Teams

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GLANBIA GAIN S.H.C.- RELEGATION TIE

NAOMH MHUIRE (Blue and White)

- (1) WILLIE McGARRY
- (2) DEREK DOYLE
- (3) MICHAEL O'REILLY
- (4) D. J. O'DWYER
- (5) GER DEELEY
- (6) DONNCHA FAHEY
- (7) KEVIN DEMPSEY
- (8) PAUDIE O'KEEFFE
- (9) DAVE COWHIG
- (10) FERFAL CONDON
- (11) MICHAEL O'MAHONEY
- (12) JAMES KEATING
- (13) EAMON HANRAHAN
- (14) FERFUS McGRATH
- (15) ANTHONY WALL
- (16) TADHG RYAN
- (17) CIARAN BURKE
- (18) LIAM PHELAN
- (19) ALAN EARLY
- (20) PAUL MULLINS
- (21) JAMES O'BRIEN
- (22) EMMETT RYAN
- (23) FERFAL CONDON
- (24) DENIS KIELY
- (25) EDDIE KENNEDY
- (26) DECLAN WALL
- (27) PAUL TREHY

*Selectors : BILLY CARROLL,
BILLY DOYLE, JIMMY COLLINS.*

CARRAIG NA SIÚIRE (Red and White)

- (1) PAKIE WALSH
- (2) PETER WALSH
- (3) AIDAN MARSHALL
- (4) DAVID HARRIS
- (5) MICHAEL ARRIGAN
- (6) VAL CRONIN
- (7) SEAMUS HARRIS
- (8) BRENDAN BUTLER
- (9) MICHAEL WHELAN
- (10) PHILIP MURPHY
- (11) CONOR ARRIGAN
- (12) GERRY POWER
- (13) ANTHONY WATERS
- (14) LIAM CRONIN
- (15) WILLIE ROBINSON
- (16) TOM POWER
- (17) ANTHONY DIGNAM
- (18) MICHAEL HACKETT
- (19) EOIN POWER

Selectors :

*JOE KENNEDY,
TOM DIGNAM,
THOMAS FORAN (Trainer)*

REITEOIRÍ



TOMAS Ó LONARGAIN

Final Referee Tommy Lonergan commenced refereeing in 1975. During that time Tommy has refereed Munster Championship games, National Football League games, Munster Club games and numerous college games, as well as Factory League finals in Munster and Leinster.

At South Board and County Board level he has refereed finals in all grades in both hurling and football. Being the popular official he is Tommy also gives a lot of his time refereeing juvenile matches all over the County.

Besides refereeing Tommy still finds time to manage the Under 16 and Minor Football teams in Kilsheelan. He is at present Vice-Chairman of Kilsheelan G.A.A. club and also Chairman of Kilsheelan Tidy Towns.

His umpires today are Denis Lonergan and Willie Robinson, Peter Moore and Jim Cahill.

The St. Mary's and Carrick Davins tie will be handled by John Cahill (Ballingarry) now emerging as one of South Tipperary's leading referees whilst Jim Hennessy, Kilsheelan will be in charge of the Mini Game.



Fir Ionaid:

(16) L. Ó Baroid
William Barrett

(17) D. Breathnach
Gerry Walsh

(18) S. De Paor
Jamie Power

(19) D. Ó hOgain
Derek Hogan

(20) M. S. Ó Ruiseal
Ml. J. Russell

(21) D. De Gras
Gerry Grace

(22) A. Breathnach
Adrian Walsh

(23) V. De Paor
Vinny Power

(24) S. De Burca
Jim Burke

(25) L. Breathnach
Willie Walsh

(26) E. Ó Mairseal
Owen Marshall

SWANS (Na hEalai)

Colours: Black & White

(1)
A. Ó Domhnaill
ANTHONY O'DONNELL

(2)
A. Ó Cathain
THOMAS KEANE

(3)
S. Ó Baroid
SEAN BARRETT

(4)
S. Ó Brofaigh
JOHN BROPHY

(5)
M. Ó hAllorain
MARK O'HALLORAN

(6)
P. Lochman
PHILIP LOUGHMAN

(7)
S. De Gras
JOHN GRACE

(8)
C. Maguidhir (Capt.)
KIERAN MAGUIRE

(9)
R. Ó Duinn
RAY DUNNE

(10)
B. Ó hAthasaigh
BENNY HAHESSY

(11)
R. Ó Riain
BOBBY RYAN

(12)
A. Ó Riain
ALAN P. RYAN

(13)
L. Ó Murchu
WILLIE MURPHY

(14)
B. De Gras
BRIAN GRACE

(15)
L. Lochman
WILLIAM LOUGHMAN

*Selectors: James Hogan, Noel Russell, Ml. J. Collins
Manager: Bobby Jackman
Trainer: Johnny Grace*

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Colours: Green above Red

(1)
L. Ó Conchuir
LIAM O'CONNOR

(2)
P. Ó Curain
PAUL CURRAN

(3)
S. Ó Bolghuidhir
JACKIE BOLGER

(4)
N. Ó Curain
NIALL CURRAN

(5)
N. Ó Laochdha
NOEL LEAHY

(6)
S. De Brit
SEAN BRETT

(7)
C. Ó Bhuachain
KYRAN VAUGHAN

(8)
E. Ó Briain
EDWARD O'BRIEN

(9)
S. Ó Laochdha (Capt.)
JOHN LEAHY

(10)
E. Ó Ciardha
EDDIE CAREY

(11)
M. Ó Toibin
MOSSY TOBIN

(12)
P. Ó Ceallaigh
PAUL KELLY

(13)
E. Ó Ceallaigh
EOIN KELLY

(14)
P. De Croc
PAT CROKE

(15)
B. Ó Meara
BRIAN O'MEARA

*Selectors: Rickie Sheehan, Sean Walzer
Coach: Brendan Fennelly*



Fir Ionaid:

- (16) A. Mac an tSionnaigh
Alan Foxe
- (17) A. Ó Daltuin
Tony Dalton
- (18) U. Ó Dubhcheannaigh
Vincent Doherty
- (19) M. Luttrell
Mr. Luttrell
- (20) D. Ó hAicead
Dermot Hackett
- (21) P. Ó Cathail
Paul Cahill
- (22) D. Ó Meachair
Damien Maher
- (23) C. Ó Meara
Kevin O'Meara
- (24) T. Ó Briain
Terry O'Brien
- (25) G. Ó Coistealla
Ger Costelloe
- (26) C. Ó Cinneide
Kieran Kennedy
- (27) P. O. Meara
Frank O'Meara
- (28) L. Ó Toibin
Bill Tobin
- (29) B. Ó Suilleabhain
Brendan O'Sullivan
- (30) S. Luttrell
James Luttrell

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The Mini Game

The Mini Game, duration twelve minutes, will be played during the interval of the Senior Final. This is an exhibition of Hurling with each juvenile club in the South Division represented.

It is my hope that by playing as under 12's on Divisional Final day our young players will keep their interest alive and perhaps return as Seniors.

I would ask all patrons present to give the young players their full support and I trust that the exhibition will be enjoyed by all.

BRIAN MAC TOIRRILL
Oifigeach na nÓg

MULLINAHONE

(Red and Green)

- (1) LIAM POLLARD
(Ballybacon)
- (2) BRIAN HICKEY
(St. Pat's) ^{ONS}
- (3) DANIEL LYRE ^{RE}
(Moyle Rovers)
- (4) JOHN O'BRIEN
(Cahir)
- (5) LAURA HEALY
(Kilsheelan)
- (6) MARK FITZGERALD
(Ballylooby)
- (7) BOBBY PLATT
(Fr. Sheehy's)
- (8) KEN REID
(Swans)
- (9) AARON CUNNINGHAM
(Clonmel Og)
- (10) SEAN SWEENEY
(Skeheenarinky)

SWAN

(Black and White)

- (1) ENDA FOGARTY
(Grangemockler)
- (2) KEVIN O'CALLAGHAN
(Marlfield)
- (3) TOMAS KENNEDY
(Newcastle)
- (4) SEAN CAHILL
(Ballingarry)
- (5) NIAL BERGIN
(Killenaule)
- (6) KEVIN LANIGAN
(Swan)
- (7) TONY CAHILL
(St. Mary's)
- (8) DAVID CODY
(Mullinahone)
- (9) SEAMUS BUTLER
(Davins)
- (10) JOHN LEAHY
(Fethard)

Referee : JAMES HENNESSY (Kilsheelan)

Linesmen : BRIAN CARROLL, CHARLES JOHNSON (St. Mary's)

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1993 - MULLINAHONE'S FIRST TITLE

In 1945 Mullinahone last won a divisional senior football title. Prior to 1993 the club had never appeared in a divisional senior hurling final let alone won one.

On 22nd August, 1993, all that was changed forever as Mullinahone's senior hurlers, in only their second year in the ranks, and appearing in their very first final, defeated Carrick Swans who were seeking their 21st South Tipperary senior hurling title. Perhaps it was an omen of things to come that as patrons flocked to Clonmel that day they were met with a programme whose covers were in green and red, the colours of the brash and youthful challengers.

The final itself was a tense battle. In spite of all their experience gathered over the playing fields of Tipperary and indeed Ireland since 1988, Mullinahone were affected by nerves. This was the biggest day so far in the parish's relatively short hurling life. Even their most experienced hurlers were affected and it was well into the second half before the team ignited. Even then it was hard on their followers as wide followed wide and the gap wasn't wide enough to be safe. The end came suddenly and the sound of Tommy Lonergan's whistle was the sweetest music of the year. Mullinahone were the 1993 South Tipperary senior hurling champions. "The old order changeth yielding place to the new." Now things will never be the same again. Mullinahone were an overnight success having been trying for years.

At our AGM it was decided to get an outside coach. The choice was Michael Doyle of Holycross. Early sessions with Michael proved relatively successful but many of our players were away from home. This didn't help nor did the fact that Michael was captain of his own club. However, in spite of all these difficulties I believe that Michael re-ignited the spark and can take a share of the credit for Mullinahone's success later in the season.

The South draw ordained a first round meeting with Carrick Swan. An experimental team took the field as we were hit by injury, illness and examinations. While victory wasn't vital, every win over senior opposition would inspire confidence. After a bit of a struggle we edged out on top 0-12 to 1-7.

We were now in the semi-final but would miss the match practice of the losers group. We were drawn against the reigning champions and our great rivals Ballingarry. They had come through the losers group. Many of our followers would have preferred to meet Ballingarry in the final. Some said the semi-final was the place to catch them. Locally the game was being built up as a clash of the Titans. It was to be our greatest test so far.

Ballingarry had the advantage of the elements and we were holding them okay for awhile. Then the roof fell in as our full-back line buckled perhaps from pressure out further and four goals were conceded. At half-time we were twelve points down 4-6 to 0-6. The hope of our followers were sorely tested. It was the darkest hour but it was also the hour before the dawn.

The Mullinahone dressing-room was a quiet place as the players took in the awful situation they were in and the jibes of the opposition. Perhaps they were after all "only a poor junior team." There was little said as the players looked into their hearts and vowed that in the second half things would be different. They were.

Within minutes Mullinahone had shot 1-1 to drag themselves back into the game. After thirteen minutes the sides were almost level. For ten minutes or so they fought for supremacy but now nothing could halt the Mullinahone machine and incredulous Ballingarry could only stand and stare as Mullinahone roared on to victory. It was the greatest comeback of our time. The second half scoring was Mullinahone 2-12; Ballingarry 0-1 in the end, a five point win 2-18 to 4-7. It was the day when Mullinahone's hurlers became men and learned to believe in themselves.

The final brought ballyhoo and pressure. Once more this group of players were stepping into the unknown for Mullinahone. As I said the pressure got to Mullinahone and only when the anxiety lifted did Mullinahone show something approaching their true form. Again they will learn and hopefully the team will grow to fill the mantle of champions. On final day the club had many heroes as winners always do. Even 'Man of the Match' and captain, John Leahy, had local rivals on the day. His county colleague, Brian O'Meara had a profound effect on the turning around of the final whilst wing back Tony Dalton was outstanding. Sean Brett and Kyran Vaughan at seventeen the baby of the side turned in some sterling performances. In earlier rounds Jackie Bolger showed hurling class.

As I have previously said, on final day all proved heroes and it is well to name the South final panel for posterity - Liam O'Connor, Kyran Vaughan, Ollie Maher, Michael Skehan, Tony Dalton, Sean Brett, John McCormack, Ray Cody, Brian O'Meara, Jackie Bolger, 'Mossie' Tobin, Noel Leahy, John Leahy (captain), Sean Walzer, Pat Croke, Stephen O'Brien, Jim White, Alan Foxe, Jim O'Neill, Ger Dalton, Albert Curran, Thomas Cahill, Terry O'Brien, 'Toss' Lonergan, Gerry Brett and John O'Shea who was later enlisted.

- Richard Sheehan



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Jackie Bolger : The Hurler Time Forgot



JACKIE BOLGER

When the Mullinahone Senior Hurling team ran onto the field for the recent South Tipp Senior Hurling semi-final, by far the oldest member of the starting 15, now in his 38th year was full back Jackie Bolger. In fact six of Jackie's team mates Niall Curran, Edward O'Brien, Paul Curran, Eoin Kelly, Eddie Carey and Paul Kelly were not even born or were babes in arms when Jackie first played adult hurling for Mullinahone twenty one seasons ago, way back in 1979.

By coincidence all of that sextet have played championship football or hurling or both for Tipperary. That year 1979 Mullinahone won their second ever South Tipp Junior Hurling title and first in 39 years. They, having beaten Lattin-Cullen in the semi-final, were beaten by Silvermines in the County

Final. In the semi-final Nicky English made his adult debut for Latin-Cullen and was marked by Jimsy Kelly.

Mullinahone rose again and Jackie was captain when the "lads" captured their third junior title defeating Killenaule in 1985. Partners with Killenaule in minor, under 21 and senior ranks as Eire Óg in the early 1980's Jackie was to win South Tipp under 21 and eventually senior championships with Eire Óg.

In one of those senior finals against Swan, Jackie was to win the "Man of the Match" award at wing back. When Mullinahone entered the Leahy era and began the roll towards hurling acceptance, Jackie was to become a club mentor at under 21 level in the glory days of 1988 and 1989. The Junior Final County win of 1989 was one of the highlights of Jackie's career. An All-Ireland Club Junior 7-a-side followed in 1990. It was Jackie's second All-Ireland hurling award. In the mid eighties he was a member of the PN Construction team to win the Firms Junior All-Ireland. Some regard this as Mullinahone's first All-Ireland Hurling award. Jackie was as ever present as Mullinahone rose through Intermediate and into Senior ranks. Now the chairman of the Mullinahone Club he still retains two ambitions (1) to win a County Senior Hurling Medal and (2) to play championship for Tipperary. (watch out the over 40's - mid summer's day 2002 is D-Day - Could today be a step on the road ?)

Today Jackie's son Kevin is 13. In 1975 another 13 year old lined out with Mullinahone in an effort to win first South Tipp rural and urban rural hurling titles. Jimmy O'Connor trained that bunch of young hurlers and laid foundations for hurling to flourish. Remember some of the names: Jimmy Bolger (Killaghy), Michael McGrath, Michael Hearne, Pat Fitzgerald, Paul Hogan, John McCormack and of course Jackie Bolger. A non-drinker and non-smoker Jackie has retained youthful enthusiasm for hurling. Today he has a lifetime of adult hurling service behind him. Give him a special cheer for Jackie Bolger is indeed the hurler that time forgot.

R. Sheehan

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*Is binne ghlór mo chamán féin
Ná guth na n-éan ná ceol na mbárd,
Ní binne fuaim ar bith faoin ngréin
Ná poc ró-threán ar liathróid áird.*

A Hurler's Prayer

*Grant me, O Lord, a hurler's skill,
With strength of arm and speed of limb,
Unerring eye for the flying ball
And courage to match them what'er befall.
May my aim be steady, my stroke be true,
My actions manly, my misses few;
And no matter what way the game will go,
May I rest in friendship with every foe.
When the final whistle for me is blown,
And I stand at last at God's judgement throne,
May the Great Referee when He calls my name,
Say "You hurled like a man, you played the game"*

South Tipperary Senior Hurling Champions Down the Years

1908	Glengoole	1931	Killenaule	1954	Killenaule	1977	Carrick-on-Suir
1909	Racecourse	1932	Killenaule	1955	Killenaule	1978	Swan
1910	Racecourse	1933	Swan	1956	P. Pearse's	1979	Carrick-on-Suir
1911	St. Ailbe's, Emly	1934	Moyglass	1957	Na Piarasigh	1980	Ballingarry
1912	O'Leary's	1935	Swan	1958	Swan	1981	St. Mary's
1913	Cashel	1936	Swan	1959	Swan	1982	St. Augustine's
1914	Cashel	1937	Fethard	1960	Marlfield	1983	Swan
1915	Boherlahan	1938	Fethard	1961	Killenaule	1984	Swan
1916	Killenaule	1939	Swan	1962	Marlfield	1985	Swan
1917	Boherlahan	1940	Killenaule C.Y.M.S.	1963	Killenaule	1986	Swan
1918	none	1941	Killenaule C.Y.M.S.	1964	Marlfield	1987	Ballingarry
1919	Fethard	1942	Killenaule	1965	Carrick-on-Suir	1988	Killenaule
1920	none	1943	Killenaule	1966	Carrick-on-Suir	1989	Killenaule
1921	none	1944	Swan	1967	Carrick-on-Suir	1990	Swan
1922	none	1945	Swan	1968	B'Bacon Grange	1991	Killenaule
1923	Kilmoyler	1946	Swan	1969	Carrick-on-Suir	1992	Ballingarry
1924	Boherlahan	1947	Swan	1970	Marlfield	1993	Mullinahone
1925	Boherlahan	1948	Swan	1971	Carrick-on-Suir	1994	Ballingarry
1926	Boherlahan	1949	Ballingarry	1972	Carrick-on-Suir	1995	Mullinahone
1927	Boherlahan	1950	Swan	1973	Carrick-on-Suir	1996	Ballingarry
1928	Boherlahan	1951	Coolmoyn	1974	Swan	1997	Mullinahone
1929	Boherlahan	1952	Swan	1975	Carrick-on-Suir	1998	Ballingarry
1930	Boherlahan	1953	Killenaule	1976	Carrick-on-Suir		

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1911	William Quane, Clonmel
1912-13	Daniel O'Leary, Cashel
1913-16	J. J. Wyse, Tipperary
1917-22	Edward O'Shea, Fethard
1923-27	Jerry Shelly, Grangemoockler
1928-36	Sean O'Shea, Fethard
1937-40	Robert Hall, Killenaule
1941-47	David Meagher, Ardfinnan
1948-51	Michael Lacey, Clonmel
1952-54	Thomas Power, Clonmel
1955	John Keating, Fethard
1956-57	Thomas Power, Clonmel
1958-70	James Gleeson, Drangan
1971-75	Philip O'Shea, Cloneen
1976-78	Michael McCarthy, Moyle Rovers
1979-81	John Fleming, Fr. Sheehy's
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1994-96	Sean Nugent, Kilsheelan
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1909-10	Ned Kenrick, Fethard
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1917	J. J. Wyse, Tipperary
1918-30	Thomas Ryan, Clonmel;
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