

West Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
2001

CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL - TIOBRAID ÁRANN THÍAR

cluiche ceannais 2001 iomáint sinsear



TIPPERARY CO-OP SUPER VALU
SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL
PÁIRC UÍ LAOCHDA
CASHEL - 7TH OCTOBER 2001



WEST SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

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v

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FÁILTE - CATHAOIRLEACH TIOBRAID ÁRANN THIAR

As chairman of west Tipperary Board of the Gaelic Athletic Association it is an honour and a privilege to welcome you all to Leahy Park, Cashel, to the West senior hurling final. With finalists Cappawhite and Knockavilla Kickhams we have a repeat of the 2000 final when Cappawhite were victorious and lifted the Willie O'Dwyer Cup. With this in mind, it should be an exciting final with Cappawhite looking for back to back wins and Knockavilla Kickhams looking to reverse last year's result. We look forward to a sporting and entertaining game which can be enjoyed by all.



Our hosts today, Cashel King Cormacs club, have undertaken major developments of their grounds with new dressing rooms and stand. We compliment them on their work and wish them luck with any future developments.

Our referee, Francis Kearney, Clonoulty Rossmore club, is officiating in his first West senior hurling final. We wish him and his officials well.

We once again welcome our sponsors, Tipperary Co-op SuperValu, and thank them for their continued support to the Board.

A word of appreciation to all who contributed to this final today - Cashel King Cormacs club, our officials, gate checkers, Press, Gardai and Red Cross. To those who contributed to this programme, I thank you. Finally, to you our supporters, a big thank you for your support throughout the year. I hope you enjoy this final.

James O'Donnell, Cathaoirleach Coiste Tiobraid Árann Thiar.

CASHEL KING CORMACS CHAIRMAN, JOE MOLONEY, ADDS:



I should like to join with the board chairman in welcoming the teams, officials and supporters to Leahy Park today. I wish everyone an enjoyable visit. I want to thank all the members of the club who are present today for stewarding purposes and I wish to pay a special thanks to Seamus King and West Board P.R.O., J.J. Kennedy, for the production of the programme and Jerry Ring for supplying the pictures.

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CAPPAWHITE CAPTAIN, EUGENE O'NEILL

by Leonard Fitzgerald

Eugene O'Neill has enjoyed a lot of success for a twenty-three year old. In a short period the Cappawhite man has progressed from a promising minor to becoming an All-Ireland senior medal winner. He is certainly a huge talent and anything he lacks in determination he more than compensates for in sheer class and skill.

The self-employed roofing contractor is third in a family of seven. He was born in Fr. Callanan Park in the village but at an early age moved to the hurling fields of Ayle, just outside the small village of Toem. Hurling quickly became his favourite pastime and he spent the summer months in a neighbour's plot for countless hours of diligent practice.



His talent was first recognised at under 14 level. Picked on the county team for the Tony Forrestal Tournament there wasn't any success. But that came two years later when he gained All-Ireland honours in the Nenagh Co-op Tournament. Under the guidance of Dinny Cahill he played for two years as a county minor and was an integral part of the team that won All-Ireland honours in 1996. Doon C.B.S was also to profit from his considerable poaching instincts when he helped the school to the All-Ireland B hurling title in the same year.

At club level he won under 16, minor and three under 21 divisional titles before earning county honours in the 1999 under 21 final against Mullinahone. Earlier, in 1997, he had begun to appear in club and county senior ranks and his display against Brian Lohan of Clare in the All-Ireland final brought him to national attention.

He was captain of the successful Cappawhite team in last year's West final, when the club took it's first title in 13 years. He gave an outstanding performance and won the Man of the Match award. It is no surprise that he has retained the captaincy this year. After the thrills and spills of inter-county hurling fever, which have seen him win National League and All-Ireland medals during the year, he has to refocus and regenerate an appetite at club level. Nobody doubts but he will.



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the best of luck today*



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BRIAN HORGAN

By: J.J. Kennedy.



Brian Horgan, Kickhams' wing back and team captain today, holds a unique distinction: he is the only Kickhams' player ever to captain Tipperary to an All Ireland win at any level. The year was 1995 and the event was the All Ireland U21 hurling decider when Tipperary conquered Kilkenny at Semple Stadium.

It was a special distinction for a player who has shown huge potential but whose career has been dogged by injury. In fact injury interrupted that U21 campaign in '95. He came on as a late substitute against Clare in the Munster final and missed the All Ireland semi versus Antrim before returning for the final.

1995 was the first of three seasons Brian Horgan spent on the Tipperary U21 team. 1996 is best forgotten as Cork routed the All Ireland champions at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. A forgotten detail from that game is the fact that Brian Horgan spent the last ten minutes in goal for Tipperary after Brendan Cummins suffered a hand injury. If 1996 is forgettable, the following year isn't a pleasant recall either for the county's U21s. The team had Cork beaten in Thurles when a certain Timmy McCarthy careered through in the final seconds to tap in a winning goal. It was a sickening defeat made all the more regrettable by the fact that Cork went on to capture the All Ireland.

After such underage prominence it was inevitable that Brian Horgan would earn promotion to the Tipperary senior side. He was involved with Fr. Tom Fogarty's outfit from 1996 but 1998 was his greatest year when he made his championship debut at wing back against Waterford and played a starring role. Unfortunately his display wasn't matched by his colleagues and Tipp lost out.

The following year, 1999, Brian came on as a substitute in the championship replay against Clare but then a serious groin injury hampered a budding career. After two visits to Gerry McEntee's operating theatre in the Mater Hospital, and a long lay-off from the game, he now hopes that this particular problem is behind him and he can start rebuilding his career. Ominously, though, he has been nursing damaged ribs in recent weeks so hard luck continues to play an unwelcome role.

In West Tipperary hurling circles Brian Horgan has won divisional medals in every grade bar junior. His collection includes U12, U14, U16, minor, U21 and two senior medals from 1997 and 1999. At county level there was a famous U21 win over Boherlahan in 1994, the success that landed him the captaincy of the county team for 1995. There are also county football medals from 1992 in minor "B" and 1996 in intermediate. He played county minor hurling for two seasons winning a Munster medal in 1993 but losing by a point to Waterford in 1994. He also has a national league medal from 1999.

Today Brian Horgan lines out in his optimum position at wing back. At his best his hurling can be spectacular and inspirational, good in the air and with fast hands dispatching long clearances. At 25 years of age injury has deprived him of a few crucial years but he still has time on his side if the old form of '98 can be rediscovered.

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MARTIN JOHN COUGHLAN R.I.P.

Martin John Coughlan, who died tragically in the atrocities at the World Trade Centre in New York on Sept. 11th, played at centre forward on the Cappawhite juvenile hurling team that won the county juvenile (rural) title in 1962, defeating Moycarkey Borris in the final. This team also defeated Kilruane McDonagh's (county urban/rural champions) in the "John Players Treat" competition, winning a trip to Croke Park for the All-Ireland hurling final. Martin John played at right half forward on the minor hurling team that defeated Moyne-Templetuohy in the county championship final in 1965. This was the first team from West Tipperary to win a county minor hurling title.



CAPPAWHITE - COUNTY MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1965

Back: Dick Browne, Jimmy Grisewood, Tony Hogan, John O'Carroll, Jim Buckley, Jude Fitzgerald, Andy Cleary, Ml. Barry, John Kelly, Martin John Coughlan
Front: Paddy O'Neill, Ml. Ryan, Pat McDermott (Capt.) Maurice Fitzgerald, Tim Crosse, Tom O'Neill, Patsy O'Neill, Liam Breen

Two verses from a contemporary song recall the occasion

*The final was fixed with the Moyne lads
In the sportsfield below in Clonmel
They were there in their hundreds
from Cappa
Men, women and children and all
To see our own boys do battle
With the lads who had beat Killenaule.*

*And when the game it got started
Moyne quickly got into the lead
But to tell you the truth we were worried
But later, and then 'twas no need
In the second half Cappa took over
And Moyne were completely outclassed
And when referee Nealon blew full time
We were Tipp. County Champions at last.*

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*Above: Ladies at the launch of the West Tipperary GAA History
 Mary B. O'Neill, Anne Holmes Club Sec., Pauline Treacy
 Below: Kickhams players on the West Millennium Team
 Donie O'Brien, Billy Hayes and John Farrell*



WEST TIPPERARY BORD NA N-ÓG SPONSORS & RESULTS 2001

U16 Hurling

A *Tipperary Credit Union* Galtee Rovers 3-10 Kickhams 2-7

B *Centenary Co-op Thurles* Arravale Rovers 6-7 Lattin/Cullen 1-8

C *P.J. Burns Plumbing Supplies Tipperary* Rockwell R. 6-12 Eire Óg 2-17 AET

U14 Hurling

A *Kelly Soft Drinks Tipperary* Kickhams 0-12 Clonoulty Rossmore 0-7

B *Caulfields SuperValu Tipperary* Arravale Rovers 1-7 Cappawhite 1-5

C *Emly* 1-4 Eire Óg 3-9

U14 Hurling Skills Winner Tommy Comerford, Kickhams

U14 Poc Fada Winner: Padraig Heffernan Clonoulty/Rossmore

U12 Hurling

A *Gleeson Concrete* Kickhams 2-3 Clonoulty Rossmore 1-2

B *Tipperary Co-op Eire Óg* 7-2 Rockwell Rovers 0-4

C *Noel Browne Bus Hire Solohead* 2-3 Cashel King Cormacs (B) 1-1

Garda Cup U13 Football Oola 2-7 Arravale Rovers 1-5

U12 Football

A *Fitzpatrick Printers Tipperary* Aherlow 2-6 Rockwell Rovers 0-5

B *O'Dwyer Hardware Dundrum* Eire Óg 7-7 Clonoulty Rossmore 2-3

C *Irish Permanent Tipperary* Emly 1-3 Lattin Cullen 0-4

U14 Football

A *Hanly Tyres Tipperary* Rockwell Rovers 3-3 Galtee Rovers 0-11

B *Sergeant Pepper's Tipperary* Arravale Rovers 5-6 Cappawhite 1-3

C *Whelan Sports Tipperary* Sean Treacys 2-11 Emly 1-5

U16 Football

A *Allied Irish Bank Tipperary* Galtee Rovers 1-11 Cashel King Cormacs 2-3

B *Quirke Jewellers Cahir* Golden Kilfeacle 7-10 Cappawhite 1-3

C *Cashel Credit Union* Sean Treacys 4-9 Rosegreen 3-6

*Best of luck to both teams
in today's West Final from*

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SEAN BRADSHAW - KICKHAM'S ELDER STATESMAN.

By: J.J. Kennedy.



The Kickham club has a notable tradition of goalkeepers stretching back to Donal O'Brien, winner of two senior All Ireland medals with Tipperary in 1961 and '62. Sean Bradshaw, the present custodian, first kept goal for the club's seniors in 1987 and as the team's elder statesman today has shown himself to be a survivor in this most unforgiving of occupations.

At 36 years of age he can survey a career that has witnessed the highs and lows of his club in the past few decades. His career began optimistically with West hurling medals at U12 and U14 level, losing a county final to Toomevara in the latter grade in 1979 when, interestingly, he played full back. At school in Cashel C.B.S. he won an All Ireland Colleges "B" hurling title in 1982, net-minding on a star-studded side that included Clonoulty's John Kennedy who that year captained Tipperary to an All Ireland minor title.

Back with his club there was defeat at minor level, losing to Lattin\Emly in 1983, but there was an U21 medal captured in 1986. They lost a stormy county U21 semi-final to Toomevara that year with Sean playing corner forward. County minor, Patrick Kearins was then the goalie.

After two years playing junior Sean stepped up the ranks to senior in 1987 and thus began a long stint with the club's top team. In 1988 he played his first senior West final when Kickhams lost to Cashel at Cappawhite. Subsequent years saw the club fail to impact as Clonoulty and Cashel began to dominate and in 1992 Kickhams made the difficult decision to regrade to intermediate level. It was an inspired decision because they immediately won county honours and with it a rapid return to senior ranks once more. Sean was a steady, capable goalie all through that winning campaign.

There were to be some trying times, though, at senior level. Kickhams lost two West finals to Cashel in 1993 and again in 1995. The big break was eluding them and when it finally came in 1997 Sean Bradshaw was displaced in goal by county minor star, Fergal Horgan.

It seemed to be the end of the line for the man from Ballywalter but in 1999 when Fergal Horgan departed there was a recall and at last a cherished West medal on a team that hammered Eire Og in the final. It had taken patience and persistence but Sean Bradshaw was justly rewarded for his loyalty.

There are also football medals to decorate the sideboard. The nineties saw a major upswing in Kickhams' football fortunes and Sean Bradshaw was part of the process. He won a county junior football medal in 1992 and a county I.F. in 1996. There are also three Crosco Cup medals in his collection of silverware from 1993, 1995 and 1999. The '93 win was special for Sean because he captained the side that defeated Clonoulty by 1-10 to 0-4 in the final at Cappawhite.

He has served his club well, stepping aside gracefully when others arrived on the scene, but always willing to step back into the breach when the need arose. He has also served as club treasurer and team selector. Quiet, shy and unassuming, he has been an exemplary sportsman over the years. A new career in the game began recently when he started refereeing.

Sean Bradshaw works as an accounting technician with Michael Gill & Co. at Caherconlish. Today he plays in his 6th West senior hurling final.



*Jubilation after a long wait - Kickhams' victory 97..
L-R: Chairman Billy Ryan, Captain Kevin Farrell
and former Board Chairman Seamus King*

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REFEREE - FRANCIS KEARNEY

The referee for today's game is Francis Kearney, Clonoulty-Rossmore. A teacher at Scoil Ruain, Killenaule, he has been refereeing for four years. Already this year he was in charge of the Cappawhite-Cashel and the Kickhams-Cashel games. He also refereed the county intermediate league final. This is his first West senior final. As a player he didn't go beyond juvenile level but became involved at the administrative level in his club where he served as chairman and secretary. He also became involved at the county administrative level, serving as secretary of the

development committee for nine years. He has four very loyal and regular umpires in John Kennedy, Philip Maher, Eddie Lyng and Seamus Manton.



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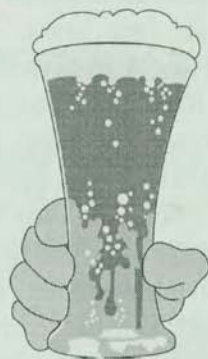
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THE EFFIN REF AND ALL THAT

By Seamus J. King

On the day of the All-Ireland football final, as we made our way towards the Cusack Stand we came across a pub I hadn't seen before. What caught my fancy was the name over the entrance, The Blind Referee! It's situated on Ballybough Road and it must have been newly christened or I would have noted it before.

It immediately sparked off thoughts on the lot of the referee and the kind of language he has to put up with on the playing pitch. "You're blind, ref" is a mild form. "You're effin blind" is a stronger form. Mostly the language used is much more vicious and insinuating. He is variously an illegitimate person, an effing illegitimate person, a part of the female anatomy, an effing part of the female anatomy, a masturbator - Paddy Russell, and he was only a linesman on the day, was called one by a notable Meath footballer in last year's football league final - an effin masturbator.

It's amazing how a crowd of supporters can focus in on a referee and get high on abuse. In such a situation normally sane people become totally unreasonable. The level of invective rises to a crescendo and if people were to hear themselves the following day they'd be thoroughly ashamed. John Moloney remembers being called a "Black curlew" on one occasion. One would love to know the significance of the term. "You long effer" was a regular term of abuse. But the abuse occasionally spilled over to physical contact. He recalls getting his hair pulled after a Connacht under-21 football final. There was some problem about the score. On another occasion he was clattered with an umbrella. He even recalls a young lad, presumably from the losing side, pinching him in the leg as he left the field after an underage game! And we all recall the poor referee from Wicklow who was locked into the boot of his car in County Wicklow!

The referee is the focus of attention in a game and the more important the game the greater his position. He is a most important individual. Not only does he implement the rules, he punishes any infringement of them. His word is sacred. The referee's report is the equivalent of a legal document in that it is unalterable and the last word. When I was chairman of the West Board, I stood by these reports rigidly. The board had to back its referees but following the report made life easy for a chairman: if he said it was rough play it was automatically two weeks. If it was worse the penalty was greater and the Treoraí Oifigiúil spells out the penalty for every offence. In fact the chairman has little or no leeway. That is why I believe the rule of giving the player the right to appear before the board to defend himself is outdated: regardless of what he says it does not influence the

Continued on page 25

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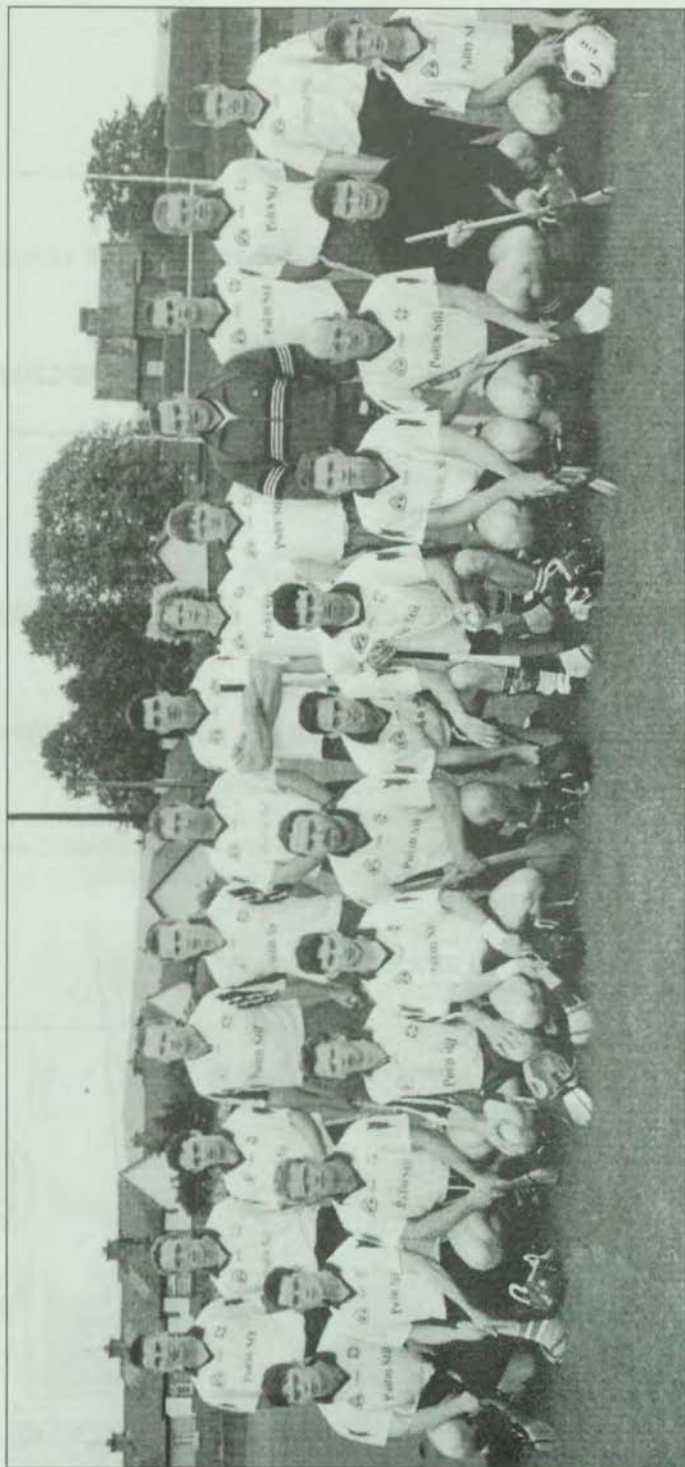
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**to Brian & the Kickhams
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CAPPAWHITE



Front L-R: William O'Neill, Matthew Kennedy, Eugene O'Neill, Paddy Julian, Leonard Fitzgerald, Martin Ryan (B), Pat O'Neill, Thomas Costelloe, Shane McDermott, Franny Quinn, Gary Quinlan, Alan O'Neill

Back L-R: Denis Kelly, Gerard Ryan (P), Brian O'Neill, Michael O'Connor, Jason Maguire, Anthony O'Neill, Ger Ryan (B), John Ryan (P), Damien O'Neill, Declan Costelloe, Cian Creedon, Eoghan O'Keefe, Finbarr O'Neill

CAPPAWHITE

1
DECLAN COSTELLO

2 EGIN O'KEEFFE 3 SHANE McDERMOTT 4 ANTHONY O'NEILL

5 GER RYAN (B) 6 THOMAS COSTELLO 7 LEONARD FITZGERALD

8 FRANNY QUINN 9 PAT O'NEILL

10 EUGENE O'NEILL (CAPT) 11 CIAN CREEDON 12 PADDY JULIAN

13 ALAN O'NEILL 14 MARTIN RYAN (B) 15 JOHNNY RYAN (P)

16 DAMIEN O'NEILL 17 WILLIAM O'NEILL
18 MATTHEW KENNEDY 19 SEANIE RYAN 20 DENIS KELLY
21 GARY QUINLAN 22 BRIAN O'NEILL 23 FINBAR O'NEILL
24 GER RYAN (P) 25 JASON MAGUIRE 26 PA O'NEILL

TEAM MANAGER: JERRY CREEDON
SELECTORS: MICHAEL RYAN (P) & EUGENE MAGUIRE
TRAINER: PAT HEFFERNAN



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9
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11
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ALAN HORGAN

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GER BUTLER

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16 FERGAL O'BRIEN 17 AIDAN BUTLER 18 JOHNNY BUTLER
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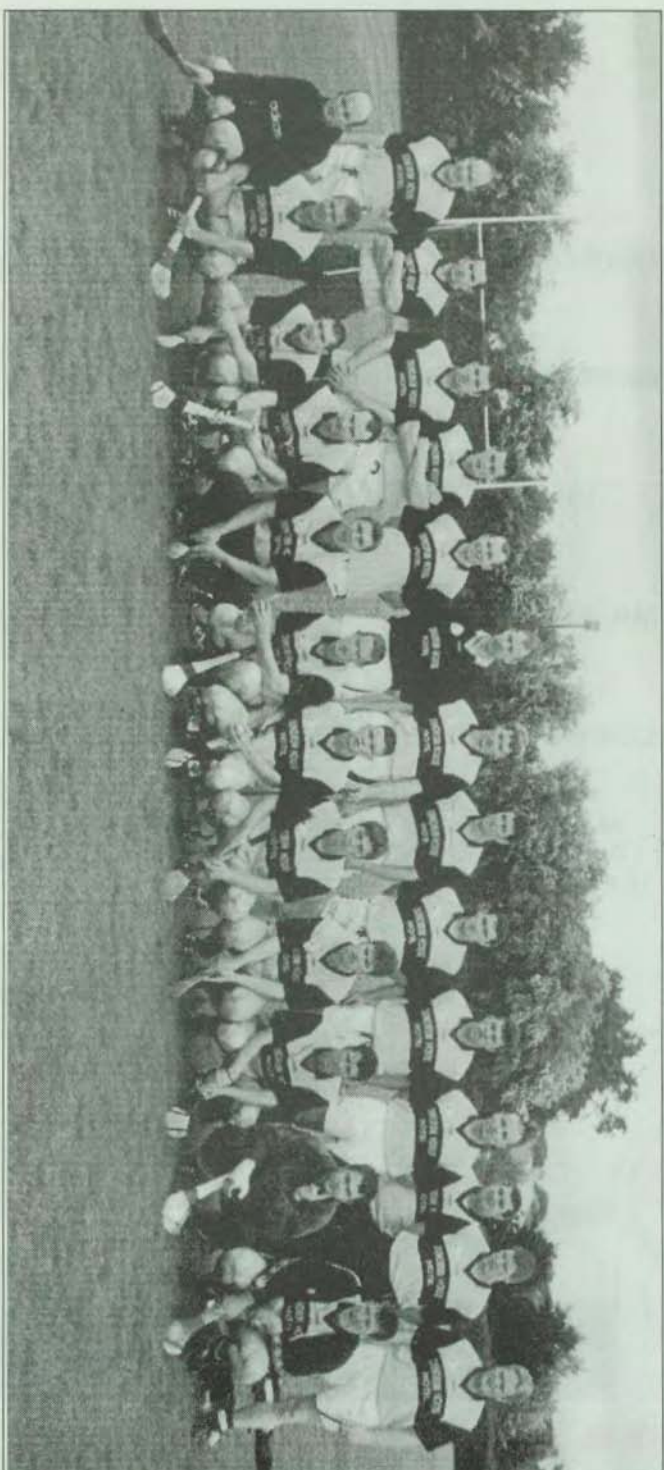
Wishing every success to Kickhams

CENTRA

For the way we live today

WHITE AND KICKHAMS

KNOCKAVILLA KICKHAMS



Front L-R: Pat Ryan, Johnny Butler, Michael O'Brien, Barry Ryan, Kevin McGrath, Kevin Farrell,

Alan Horgan, Damien McGrath, Eoin Morrissey, Richard Horgan, Ger Butler, Aidan Slattery.

Back L-R: Ger Crosse, Aidan Butler, Fergal O'Brien, Fergal Heney, John McCormack, Sean Bradshaw,

Jimmy Farrell, Brian Horgan, John O'Brien, Vinny Kelly, Paul Morrissey, Donal O'Brien, Derek Breen, Declan Crosse

decision of the board. So, why invite the offender along on a vain mission? The only way matters can be changed is when the referee decides to do so.

One recalls the case of the replay of the drawn All-Ireland semi-final between Offaly and Clare in 1998. Offaly objected on the grounds that short time was played and got a refixture only because the referee admitted he had called the game up short. If he had stuck to his guns and said full time was played, nobody could have done a damn thing about it. The case of Brian O'Meara this year emphasises the point. Regardless of all the bluff and bluster, the representations and appeals, the newspaper columns of support and the backing of players for his reinstatement, the simple fact was that the referee's report was sacrosanct and until he chose to change it, there was nothing the Association could do about it. In the event Pat Horan did not relent and Brian O'Meara missed the All-Ireland.

While on this particular match, I want to refer to a column by Liam Griffin in the Sunday Tribune around this time. In the course of it he referred to the choice of referees for the All-Ireland quarter and semi-finals in which Wexford were involved. The two referees, Michael Wadding of Waterford and Pat O'Connor of Limerick, according to Griffin could, by virtue of being Munster men, be biased in favour of Limerick and Tipperary. Ironically Wexford got a Leinster referee, Pat Horan of Offaly, for the replay and we all know what happened! I'm disinclined to believe that referees at this level, or at any level for that matter, follow a partisan line on the field of play. But there's also a lighter side to refereeing. A larger-than-life character, Philly Ryan of Borrisoleigh, used to referee in the fifties of the last century. There are many stories told about him, many of them more than likely apocryphal. He was a serious referee, who claimed never to have read the rule book! For him the job was a matter of using your head and commonsense. One of the many stories told is alleged to have happened in a game between Knockshegowna and Kildangan. A Knochshie player complained to Philly about the attentions of his opponent. Philly told him he had something in his hand to defend himself. Later in the game the player clobbered his opponent and was sent off. "But" he protested to Philly as he left the field, "you told me to defend myself". "Yes!" replied Philly, "I'm sending you off for your own protection! You didn't hit him hard enough. He's going to get up and kill you!"

John Moloney was in charge of the Munster football final between Cork and Kerry in the newly reconstructed Pairc Uí Chaoimh in 1976. The game ended in a draw and in the replay, at the same venue, Cork, leading by seven points, looked likely winners with twelve minutes to go. Then Kerry got a goal Cork claimed they didn't deserve and Cork were disallowed one at the other end.

The match ended in a draw and Kerry won in extra time. The Cork supporters blamed the referee for the defeat. It was the time Bishop Casey had been promoted to Galway and the Kerry see hadn't yet been filled. John Moloney got a series of letters and cards from irate Cork supporters telling him he should become the next Bishop of Kerry! He still treasures some of the communications.

I suppose one of the great stories of refereeing is quite recent. It happened during a West championship game. The referee, who is well-known in the division, got a call on his mobile phone during the game. He duly stopped the game, as car drivers are recommended to do on the road, and took his call. When he was finished he re-started the game and took a blind bit of notice of nobody! I suppose you could call it keeping up with the times and an indication that referees are capable of adapting to the latest technology!

Poets or songwriters have hardly touched on the subject of refereeing but I recall the words of a song that did include a reference. Billy Cotton and his band used to play it back in the fifties of the last century:

Oh! oh, what a referee!
And his little wooden whistle
Wouldn't whistle.

Congratulations to both teams in today's Final



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Wishing the Cappawhite team the best of luck today

**NORA P. McGRATH M.P.S.I.
TELEPHONE: 062 75248**



A KICKHAMS TEAM V SEAN TREACY'S 26/7/1984

Front L/R: John Keane, Martin McGrath, Paudie Slattery, Seanie O'Brien, John Farrell, Dominic Hayes, Donal Kennedy, Eamonn Browne, Michael Breen.

Back L/R: Donal Morrissey, Sean Alley, Tony Farrell, Paddy Hayes, Nicky Greene, Jimmy Hayes, Danny O'Brien, John Slattery, Bill Hayes, Gerry Morrissey, Gerry Colohan, Christy Ryan



CAPPAWHITE V SEAN TREACY'S 15/7/1985

Front L/R: Austin Buckley, Ger O'Neill, Eamon Ryan (B), Lar Cleary, Breandain Hennessey, Pa O'Neill, Eugene Maguire, Conor Ryan (H), Possy Butler

Back L/R: Martin McDermott, Deasun Hennessy, Dan Ryan (P), Ger Ryan (B), Simon Ryan (L), Noel Buckley, Danny O'Neill, Mike Buckley, John O'Neill, Anthony O'Neill, Mylie Coughlan, John Ryan (P)

TOMMY KELLY, KICKHAMS, R.I.P.

Tommy Kelly, Kickhams, who died during the year, gave loyal and faithful service to his club, division and county during the course of his life. He gave many years service to Kickhams as a player, and later as secretary and selector.



He was chairman of West Bord na nÓg from 1985 - 1987 and later secretary from 1989 - 1991. From 1980 - 1992 he was delegated to County Board. In the latter year he became secretary and served efficiently for four years. He was selector at Under 14 and Under 16 level for the County.

To all positions he brought a dedication and an enthusiasm that made him one of the most respected G.A.A. officials in the county.

Best of Luck to Both Teams

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*Seventy years waiting for former Glengar player and Cappawhite club groundsman Willie Walsh - He finally got his 1932 West Minor Hurling medal.
L-R: Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, Willie Walsh, His Grace Most Rev. Dr. D. Clifford, Patron of the G.A.A., James O'Donnell, West Chairman.*

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LEAHY PARK

When the Gaels of Cashel decided in 1957 to call their new park after Johnny Leahy, there was a feeling that they were honouring not just a great figure in the Gaelic world but an outstanding member of a family that was unique in the history of the G.A.A. Four of the Leahy brothers had won All-Ireland senior hurling championship medals - a record that still stands.

Johnny, the eldest of the family, was only a lad when he began his hurling career with Cashel in 1908 and he played with the Cashel Racecourse team until it folded up in 1911. After that the Boherlahan club was founded and before he retired towards the end of the 1920s he had led his county to five Munster championship successes, two All-Irelands and one National League. He also captained the Tipperary team which travelled the United States from coast to coast in the much publicised six-weeks tour in 1926 and he led his club to no less than nine county championship titles. Such were his qualities of leadership and so long was he captain of Tipperary teams that for the remainder of his life he was generally known by the title of Captain.

His association with the G.A.A. did not end, however, with his playing days.

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He held a number of administrative positions and was for many years secretary of the Tipperary County Board, during which time his personal influence with the Land Commission was responsible for acquiring numerous playing pitches in the county.

Separated from him by only a year, Paddy Leahy played with all the great Tipperary teams of his period and shared Johnny's successes. But it was when he became a hurling selector in 1949 that his greatest services to the county began. From then until his death in 1966 he was widely regarded as one of the principal architects of Tipperary's dazzling successes of that time. His ability to make crucial switches and his command of players' respect and allegiance were recognised by hurling followers everywhere.

The third member of the family, Mick, though he won an All-Ireland with Tipperary in 1916, enjoyed his greatest successes with Cork. He was a member of the famous Blackrock team of the twenties and won All-Irelands with Cork in 1928 and 1931. A dynamic corner-forward, old timers still recall matches between Tipperary and Cork in which he was pitted against his brother Johnny, who moved out from his full-back position to mark him.

Tommy was the youngest of the family and he succeeded to the captaincy of Boherlahan when Johnny stepped down. He was on John Joe Callanan's team which won the All-Ireland in 1930 and toured the United States in 1931.

The fifth brother, Jimmy, was described by Tom Semple as 'the handiest of all the Leahys' but the loss of sight of one eye as a result of a wound received during the Anglo-Irish war put an end to his hurling days. Before his injury, nevertheless, he played once with Tipperary when, following a meeting of I.R.A. officers, he rode with Michael Collins on a sidecar to line out in a National Aid tournament in Croke Park.

All the Leahys with the exception of Tommy who was then only a boy, were members of the 2nd Tipperary Brigade of the I.R.A. during the Black and Tan war, Jimmy being the Brigade O/C. Mick was also a member of the Cork No. 1 Brigade. Their home at Boherlahan was a rendezvous for 'men on the run' and many of the leading figures of the war in the South sheltered there.

It is of particular interest that the family's connection with the G.A.A. began with the foundation of the Association. Their father, Mike Leahy, was on the Moycarkey selection which took part in the first great Cork-Tipperary clash in August 1886. And their uncle Thomas Leahy of Tubberadora Mill, was President of the famous Tubberadora team which brought All-Irelands to Tipperary in 1895, '96 and '98.

*Best of luck to the
Cappawhite team in the
West Final!
from*

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to all the Team and
Cappa Lads on Sunday



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Millennium Hurling Team

Front L-R: Declan Ryan, Dinny Ryan, Con Hogan, County Chairman, James O'Donnell, West Chairman, Mrs Vera O'Donnell repr. the late Bill O'Donnell, Mrs. Claire Furlong repr. the late Paddy Furlong, Mrs. Anne Mulcahy repr. the late Jim Devitt. Back L-R: Cormac Bonnar, Colm Bonnar, Pat Fox, Billy Hayes, James Brennan repr. the late Tony Brennan, John Farrell, Donald O'Brien, Ger O'Neill, Nicky English, Pa Fitzelle.



Millennium Football Team

Front L-R: Con Hogan, County Chairman, Mrs. Mary Breen repr. her brother Mick McCormack, Mrs. Breda O'Donoghue repr. her husband the late Billy O'Donoghue, Mrs. Anna O'Brien repr. her husband the late P.J. O'Brien, Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh, Catherine Doyle repr. her grandfather Larry Maher, Matt Nugent repr. Vincent O'Donnell, James O'Donnell, West Chairman.

Back L-R: Patsy Dawson, Paddy O'Connor repr. the late Tom Power, Shane O'Donoghue repr. John O'Donoghue, Mick Byrnes, Sean McGovern, Brian Lacy, Seamus McCarthy.

ANTHONY 'BRICKEY' O'NEILL by Seamus J. King.



Anthony O'Neill (left) won a Master's All-Ireland in 2001. Photographed with Thomas Costello, his nephew, who was on the victorious county senior team.

There are so many O'Neills in Cappawhite that they all need a nickname to distinguish them from one another. Anthony O'Neill is known far and wide as Brickey and is probably more recognisable by it than by his real name. He doesn't know the origin of it or its significance. He recalls having it as far back as primary school. He believes he may have been so christened by one of his brothers.

And there are a lot of brothers. The best known is probably Pa, who was reported is the past couple of weeks to be in a secret hideout getting restorative physio in order to be sprung on the unsuspecting opposition some-

time today. As well, there's Mickey, Danny and Seanie.

They never all played together for Cappa but Brickey thinks four of them did. Whether Pa turns out or not today, Brickey will have other relations on the team. The extended family includes his nephew, Thomas Costello, and his second cousin, Eugene. Brickey and Eugene's father are first cousins.

Although living today in Anacarty, where he is married with three children - a son plays with Éire Óg - Brickey was born in Clonganhue, a great place for hurlers. The year was 1960, which makes him a fairly ancient forty-one years at the moment. This age qualified him to play for the county masters team, which has resulted in two All-Irelands, this year and last year. It's belated recognition for a fine player because Brickey never played for the county until now. A close observer of Brickey and his contribution to the Cappa club told me he was probably the best O'Neill who never made the county. He did get a trial at the under-21 level but didn't make it. Perhaps the county's loss was Cappa's gain as Brickey devoted all his time and energy to his club.

He has achievements to show. The highlight has to be the county final in 1987 and the qualification for the Munster final against Midleton at Kilmallock.

Defeat was his lot that day as John Fenton drilled a 65 between the posts to snatch a one point victory. He has another county medal in intermediate football, which was won in 1990.

His other successes include West senior hurling titles in 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 2000. He was on a successful Junior 2 side in 1978 after which he played senior, and has been playing it since. He also has under-14 West titles and divisional titles in hurling and football at minor and under-21 levels. Today we associate Brickey with the corner-back position but he started his senior career at wing-forward. He went from there to wing-back, then centre-back and finally to his present position.

What is the secret of his success there? He is noted for playing from the front and his motto against more fleet-footed opponents could be summed up in the words of Johnny Ryan Cusack, when questioned how he beat Cork's, Joe Kelly, the 100 yard champion of Ireland, to the ball in the 1945 Munster semi-final at Thurles, said: 'I started in time.' And Brickey does that again and again in spite of his aging limbs.

There must be some secret to his hurling longevity. Not really, he answers. He loves the game of hurling with a great passion. He has played football and soccer but hurling is his first love. If you want to play strongly enough you will get fit enough to play. He puts great emphasis on training and never misses a session. He also looks after himself. He never smoked, takes a few pints but in moderation. He can see himself going forward for another few years. He has been reasonably free from injury and this has been a major help. He has a nig-gling injury at the moment that's preventing him from giving a hundred percent. If he can overcome that and avoid others, his hurling future is still there. Brickey has played many fine games.

Anyone who was at last year's West Final will remember his display as one of the finest he ever gave. He himself looks back through rose-tinted glasses to his contribution to Cappa's victory over Cashel in the 1983 final at Golden. Another display that is remembered with satisfaction was against Patrickswell in the Munster club semi-final in 1987. Playing at centreback, his position at that time, he gave an outstanding display against Gary Kirby. Brickey can be proud of his achievements and the contribution he has made to his club successes.

He is a model of behaviour not only for his own clubmates but for players anywhere. The love of hurling and the success of his club come foremost in his priorities and he gives constant and unswerving expression to these through his dedication to training and preparation for games.

FERGAL HENEY AND THE AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION



It may come as a surprise to many to learn of the very real connection between Fergal Heney and the number 6 on the Australian rugby team in the recent tests with the visiting Lions. Owen Finegan, who performed very well, is a first cousin of Fergal's. Their mothers, Mary and Josephine Fowley from Ringaskiddy, Co. Cork are sisters.

How did this come about? Pat Finegan from Oldcastle, Co. Meath bought Dargan's Pub, Bank Place, Cashel in 1961. The pub is no longer there and the building is occupied by Morelli's restaurant. Finegan ran a pub in Dublin before coming to Cashel. Earlier he had worked at Ford's of Dagenham. While there he met his wife, Josephine Fowley, who was a nurse in the place. They married in Romford.

When they took over Dargan's pub, Josephine's sister, Mary, came to work there. She used to dance in the Tippland Ballroom and there she met Billy Heney. They got married in 1969 and have five children including Fergal. A year later Pat and Josephine Finegan decided to sell out in Cashel and emigrate to Australia. They had three children at that stage. Owen was born in 1972 in Sydney, where they settled. They are both still alive.

Both Owen and Fergal have made their names in very different sports. Fergal, who was born six years after Owen, has impressive achievements to his name. Pride of place must go to an All-Ireland minor hurling medal in 1996, won after a replay with Galway. Fergal gave an epic display in these games against Galway ace, Eugene Cloonan. Three years later he won a Munster under-21 medal against Clare. His winning collection also includes a National Hurling League medal in 1999 and two South-East Leagues. At club level he has a number of underage medals and two senior hurling divisional titles.

Whereas Fergal is a lithe and athletic figure, six feet tall and weighing about thirteen stone, his cousin, as the picture, taken three years ago when Owen visited Ireland shows, towers over him. Playing as a flanker in the Wallaby pack he reaches six feet six inches and weighs eighteen stone. He made his test debut against Wales in 1996, the same year as Fergal's All-Ireland minor medal and has played in forty tests overall, scoring six tries during the period. He missed the 2000 season because of a knee injury but, according to the Australian Rugby Union website 'the big, bruising, Brumby backrower is back to his best in 2001.'

Different games and different places but both major achievers.

Best of luck to the Kickhams
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PREVIOUS WEST SENIOR HURLING FINALS AT CASHEL

By Seamus J. King

Today's final is the seventy-second to be played since the West division was founded. It is the fifteenth to be played at Cashel and the twelfth to be played at Leahy Park. Prior to then the Cashel Sportsfield was located on the Ardmayle Road and before that on the Dualla Road.

Leahy Park was new in 1951 when the first final, between Clonoulty-Rossmore and Kickhams, was played. Originally fixed for September 9, it was postponed and the delegates heard why at a special meeting of the West board the following night. Board secretary, Jerry O'Dwyer, informed the meeting that the game had been postponed as a result of representations made to him by Canon Fogarty, P. P., Clonoulty and one of the honorary presidents of the board. The Canon pointed out that the game was clashing with a Pioneer Rally at Thurles and the secretary had postponed the match as a result of the representations. After much discussion the final was fixed for the following Sunday.

There was also some controversy over the 1945 final at Cashel, between Cashel and Éire Óg. Originally fixed for Dundrum, Cashel wouldn't play at the venue. A special board meeting was called and the delegates were informed that Cashel's objections were to the size of the Dundrum field and its proximity to Éire Óg. They wanted a neutral venue and a neutral referee. The chairman pointed out that the field was in Knockavilla parish and the referee was from Clonoulty (Timmy Hammersley). Mick Davern, the Cashel delegate replied: "The ball was lost three times in the grass in Dundrum, when we played Golden there." The Dundrum delegate denied this. It was pointed out to Cashel that they had already won championship matches in the field. Then Jim Devitt, Cashel, came up with another reason for not playing Éire Óg there: "We were butchered previously in Dundrum by Éire Óg." After a lot of discussion Cashel and Éire Óg agreed to toss for venue and Cashel won.

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Best of Luck to Cappa



The match was played on October 7. (I can't be sure if that was the nearest Éire Óg got to hosting a West final: they don't appear on the list of venues.)

The 1931 final between Clonoulty and Newport was played at Cashel. It was the only time Newport played in the West division and it wasn't a very happy one. The final was a tense, tough game. Newport accused Clonoulty of adopting over-robust and questionable tactics. They also complained of the leniency of the referee, Jack Hennessy of Emly. It was reported that one of the linesmen, Jack Raleigh, a former Toomevara player then playing with Emly, pleaded with Hennessy at half-time to either referee the game or call it off. In spite of these difficulties Newport's prospects looked bright when they forged ahead by 3-4 to 3-3 with ten minutes remaining. At that stage a hostile section of the crowd pelted the Newport players with clods of earth, leaving them in no doubt as to their intentions of keeping the title in their own backyard. In the remaining minutes of the game Clonoulty forced through two goals to put the issue beyond the realm of doubt. There was a sequel. Newport objected on a number of grounds including the legality of Pake Mahony and the fact that Dan English in the Clonoulty goal was wearing his trousers. The latter part led to some humorous exchanges at county board where Killenaule's, Bob Hall, wanted to know "Where do knickers end and breeches begin?"

During their great run of success between 1946 and 1960, Kickhams played a number of finals at Cashel. They lost there to Clonoulty in 1951 but were successful in 1953, 1954, 1956, 1958 and 1959. In the 1958 final they recorded their highest score when they defeated Golden/Kilfeacle by 8-8 to 2-2. Leahy Park was the venue for one of Cappawhite's finest hours, in the 1987 final. Clonoulty led by 3-7 to 1-4 at half-time and seemed set to dump Cappa, who had been champions in 1983, 1984 and 1985, out of the championship. But there was a remarkable turnaround in the second half as Cappa went from nine points down to an eight-point win - a swing of seventeen points.

**Best Wishes to the Kickhams
from
Dom & Eileen Browne
062 71221**

A Ger O'Neill goal sparked the resurgence. O'Neill also had their third goal and John O'Neill added a fourth as Cappa were rampant. It was a truly dazzling second-half performance from Cappawhite who, in the process, ended Clonoulty's championship bid for the fifth consecutive year. The winning captain, John O'Neill, accepted the cup from board chairman, Michael Maguire.

Ten years later the venue was the setting for a memorable occasion for Kick-hams, when they bridged a thirty-seven year gap to win their first senior title since 1960. Kevin Farrell was team captain and Aidan Butler got the man-of-the-match award. The winners were slight favourites going into the game and by the call of time had justified the tag with a 0-19 to 2-10 success. They came back to win after been rocked by two Cappawhite goals midway through the first half.

Leahy Park today is a much improved venue to what it was when it was officially opened in May 1956. The program of improvement is ongoing and recent developments include the building of a covered stand and the construction of a dressingroom complex. The latter has been built to the best specifications and the committee are rightly proud of the new structure. The new electronic scoreboard is another addition. The final stage of the current development is a program of pitch sanding to improve the drainage and make it a better surface to play on. This is a three year program and will begin in the new year. It is hoped that as a result it will become the premier pitch in the division and a more fitting venue for the hosting of games.

heartiest
congratulations to both
teams in today's
west finals



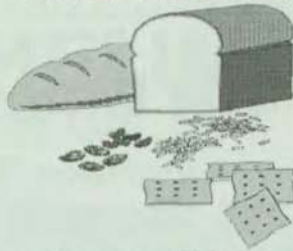
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