

North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
2009

Coiste Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh

The Hibernian Inn

North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final

Éire Óg an Aonaigh v Port Rua

Preceded by
Denis Meats
Intermediate Hurling
Championship
Semi-final

**Béal an Átha v
Béal Átha Gabhann**

at 1.30 p.m.

Referee:

Ger Fitzpatrick
(Roscrea)

Seoroid Mac Eochairdh

Luach
€3

GAA
CELEBRATING **125** OF THE GAA
YEARS



MacDonagh Park, Nenagh Sunday 23 Aug 2009

Throw-in 3.30 p.m. Referee **Tommy Ryan** (Kildangan)

Comhairle Coiste Thiobraid Árann

Comhairle Contae Tipperary

Clár an Lae

- 1:30pm** Denis's Meats Intermediate Hurling Championship Semi-final – Silvermines Vs Ballina
- 2:05pm** Presentation to David O'Connor & Paul Lillis (North Tipperary Long Puc Winner & Runner-Up 2009)
- 2:12pm** Denis's Meats Intermediate Hurling Championship Semi-final – Silvermines Vs Ballina (2nd half)
- 2:45pm** Denis's Meats Intermediate Hurling Championship Semi-final – Silvermines Vs Ballina (Extra time) or Musical Entertainment by Tulla Pipe Band
- 3:12pm** Arrival of Portroe on Field
- 3:14pm** Arrival of Nenagh Éire Óg on Field
- 3:20pm** Arrival & Presentation of Frank McGrath Cup to North Chairman, Michael Sheehy by a representative of each club involved in Final.
- 3:25pm** Pre Match Parade
- 3:28pm** Amhrán na bhFiann
- 3:30pm** Hibernian Inn Senior Hurling Championship Final – Portroe Vs Nenagh Éire Óg
- 4:05pm** Draw for Dinner in Hibernian Inn
- 4:12pm** Hibernian Inn Senior Hurling Championship Final – Portroe Vs Nenagh Éire Óg (2nd half)
- 4:45pm** Presentation of Frank McGrath Cup to winning captain or Extra Time



North Tipperary board officers 2009. Standing: Jimmy Minogue, John Sheedy, Arne McGrath, John 'Rocky' McGrath, Dan Kennedy, Liam Hogan. Seated: Catherine Gleeson (Treasurer), Michael Sheehy (Chairman), Gerard McKeogh (Secretary).

Fáilte

Cathaoirleach, Michael Sheehy



Fáilte romhaibh go léir go dtí Cluiche Ceannais Iomáint. Sinsear Tiobraid Árann Thuaidh anseo i bPáirc Mhic Donnacha an Aonaig. Fáilte fé leith roimh na foirne as an Port Rua agus Éire Óg Aonaig, na h-oifigigh agus an réiteoir. Tá súil agam go mbeidh sár cluichí spóirtúil againn.

This year our Senior Hurling Championship was as competitive as ever with many fine sporting games culminating in today's unique final pairing of Portroe and Nenagh Éire Óg. For Portroe, appearing in their first final, it is a unique occasion for the whole parish. Nenagh Éire Óg are appearing in their twentieth final, their last win coming in 2001.

This year the GAA are celebrating the 125th anniversary of the founding of the association. I would like to thank the members of the GAA for their dedication over the last 125 years.

Today's Intermediate semi-final brings together old rivals Ballina and Silvermines, which should make for a cracking game. I would like to wish the best of luck to both teams.

I would like to wish the best to today's officials. Tommy Ryan who takes charge of the senior decider and who handles the Intermediate match.

I would like to thank our sponsors. Martin and Jane Morris of the Hibernian Inn for the Senior Championship and Dennis Quirke of Dennis's Quality Meats for the Intermediate Championship.

We are grateful to the Éire Óg club for the use of their pitch which is always in tip top condition.

Also, a word of thanks to those who help in the running of the games in so many ways, to Secretary, Gerard McKeogh, Catherine Gleeson and her loyal group of gate checkers and programme sellers, and anyone else who helps in any way.

Thanks also to Liam Hogan for coming up trumps with another fine programme production and to the Order of Malta for their attendance at our games.

Micheál Mac Shíthigh, Cathaoirleach.

Buiochas The compilation of this programme would not be possible without the help of the following: Shane Brophy, Gerry Slevin, James Hayden, P. J. Maxwell for writing articles; Bridget Delaney for the photographs; the PROs of each club who were so co-operative; to the programme sellers, the sponsors, advertisers and officers of the North Board and Bord na nOg

Editor : **Liam Hogan**

Design and printing by The Guardian, Nenagh

Portroe's first North final appearance



Portroe senior hurlers that defeated Toomevara in the North semi-final. Standing: (l to r) Nicky Ryan, Jimmy Creamer, Michael Sheedy, Colm Gleeson, Darren Gleeson (Captain), Dimpau Hogan, Dermot O'Halloran, Noel O'Halloran. Kneeling: John Hogan, John Sheedy, Mark Gennery, Charlie Wilford, Justin Conroy, John Ryan, Michael Creamer. Photograph: Bridget De

North Final referees 1901-2008

Compiled by Eanna Gleeson, Kildangan

Forty-nine men have refereed the estimated 109 finals including replays. Donie Nealon heads the list with 11 finals, including the 1980 replay, beginning with the 1961 decider between Toomevara and Borrisokane. Today we list all of the referees who officiated.

11	Donie Nealon	Burgess	1961, 1962, 1965, 1969, 1973, 1977, 1980 and replay, 1981, 1983, 1986.
7	Michael Cahill	Kilruane MacD	1988, 1991 and replay, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2008
6	Hubie Hogan	Lorrha	1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1957, 1959
5	Johnnie McDonnell	Roscrea	1989, 1993, 1994, 1997, 2006.
	Sean O'Meara	Lorrha	1968, 1974, 1979, 1982
	Rody Nealon	Youghalarra	1937, 1939, 1941, 1949
	Con Heffernan	Ardcroney	1936, 1942, 1943, 1948.
	Peter Carroll	Kilbarron	1902, 1903, 1904, 1905
4	Felix Cronin	Lorrha	1916 and replay 1917, 1918.
3	Denis Costello	Kilbarron	1935, 1946, 1947.
	J Kennedy	Silvermines	1930, 1932, 1934.
	J.J. Callanan	Thurles	1935, 1926, 1928.
	T.F. Stapleton	Borris-Ileigh	1996 and replay, 2000
2	Gerry Long	Knockshe	1987, 1990
	Philly Ryan	Borris-Ileigh	1958, 1966.
	P O'Connell	Offaly	1955, 1956
	M Rainsford	Newport	1933, 1938.
	Jim Gleeson	Terryglass	1919, 1924.
1	John Cleary	Knockshegowna	2007
	Sean Bradshaw	Knockavilla	2005
	Brian White,	Clonmel	2004
	John Ryan	Cashel	2003
	John Ryan	Boherlahan	
	Ger Hayes	Moneygall	1995
	Michael Lenihan	Ballinahinch	1992
	Liam Hogan	S. Rovers	1987
	Pat Dunlea	Silvermines	1985
	Michael Nolan	Moneygall	1984
	Denis Floyd	Newport	1978
	Pat McGrath	Toomevara	1976
	Sean O'Connor	Limerick	1975
	MI Spain	Offaly	1972
	Michael O'Brien	Silvermines	1971
	Liam Ryan	Holycross	1970
	Pakie Jones	Newport	1967
	Mick Carey	Ballinahinch	1964
	S Gleeson	Limerick	1963
	Tony Murphy	Borrisokane	1960
	J Sadlier	Limerick	1950
	M Fitzgibbon	Limerick	1945
	E Daly	Waterford	1944
	P Kennedy	Dolla	1940
	M F Cronin	Lorrha	1931
	T Delaney	Borrisoleigh	1929
	M Kennedy	Cloughjordan	1927
	Pat Hennessy,	Toomevara	1915
	T McDonnell	Templederry	1912
	Jim Ryan	Newport	1911
	J Salmon	Lorrha	1910
	P J Flanagan	Templederry	1909
	M Flanagan	Nenagh	1909
	P Ryan	Borrisokane	1906
	Michael Kelly	Nenagh	1901



Hubie Hogan



Con Heffernan

The beginnings to 1909

In 1909, The GAA would have been 25 years old.

Youghalarra won the final defeating Clonakenny, 3-5 to 2-3 following a replay at Roscrea on 1st May 1910. The replay arose after Youghalarra objected to Clonakenny who won the first encounter 2-6 to 1-5 at Templederry.

Eight teams took part, a reduction on the 1906 season when 15 teams entered, to include Roscrea, Nenagh, Clonakenny, Toor, Youghalarra, Templederry, Borrisokane and Terryglass.

- The North Board was formed in 1901. The formation of the Board was prompted by a letter from Peter Carroll in 1899. In the letter he mentioned that the association was in a bad state north of the county.
- The first North Board meeting was held in the Literary Institute Hall, Nenagh on June 30.
- Ned Keeshan, Roscrea, became the first

President. John Spain, also Roscrea was the first secretary and Michael Kelly, Nenagh became Treasurer.

- The committee included Peter Carroll, Kilbarron, Dan Tuohy do; Michael Torpey, Ballingarry; Stephen Coffey and Pat Burke, Carney; Tom Ryan, Pat Gleeson and Michael Gaynor, Lahorna; Pat O'Brien, Nenagh; Jim Looby and Pat Donoghue, Toomevara; Ned Ryan and Neil Moloney of Newport.
- Seven teams entered the first senior hurling championship. The draw was made on September 1: Newport v Carney; Nenagh v Kilbarron; Lahorna De Wets v Roscrea; Lorrha a bye. The final was played at Cloughjordan on April 20, 1902. De Wets 4-1 Roscrea 0-3.
- In those early years, Lahorna De Wets were the kingpins collecting seven North finals 1901, '02, '03 '04, '06, '07 and '08. Lorrha defeated them in the 1905 decider.



Youghalarra Senior Hurling team

The years 1910 to 1934 Jubilee Year

By **Liam Hogan**

In 1934, the Gaelic Athletic Association celebrated its Jubilee Year. The North Board honoured the fiftieth anniversary by putting up standard medals for all grades. It also ran a special competition for senior teams.

At the beginning of the year, the North Board refused Toomevara's application to form an amalgamation with Templederry in the North Tipp senior Hurling championship.

Toomevara affiliated on its own joining Borrisokane, Roscrea, Lorrha, Portroe and Kildangan. By March the number of teams decreased to four with Lorrha and Borrisokane relegated to Intermediate ranks.

As a result the North Senior hurling championship was run on a league basis. Kildangan defeated Portroe and Toomevara and drew with Roscrea in what was effectively the North final, played on July 15th at Nenagh

Showgrounds. The final score read: Kildangan/Kilbarron 5-6 Roscrea 4-9.

A special competition was organised afterwards and Kildangan/Kilbarron won the double overcoming Portroe and Roscrea. Thoughts then turned to the County championship as the North champions defeated Moyglass in the county semi-final on August 26 at Thurles. The county final was played on October 7th but the North men fell to Moycarkey-Borris.

Statistics: Five other clubs won the North senior championship. Toomevara were the kingpins winning seventeen with Lorrha collecting two (1914 and 24), Nenagh (1915), Newport (1932) and Borrisokane in 1933.

Many clubs held the runners up spot. De Wets, Ballina, Templederry, Moneygall, Glenahilly, Youghalarra, Duharra, Borrisoleigh, Toomevara and Roscrea.



Kildangan Kilbarron team North intermediate champions 1930

1935 to 1959: Newport are first champions in the period

The 1935 to '59 period saw the emergence of Roscrea, Borris-Ileigh and Kilruane MacDonaghs as the dominant teams in the championship. The period began with Parish Rule becoming a regulation following a successful motion from the Roscrea club. No amalgamation was allowed

Newport became champions in 1935. With parish rule insitu, sixteen clubs entered and were divided into three areas. The three teams that emerged were Borrisoleigh, Kilruane MacDonaghs and Newport. Kilruane defeated Borrisoleigh. Newport met Kilruane in the final on September 8th. Some wonderful saves by Mick Coffey in goal allied to great play by two goal hero, Martin Moloney and the strong play from county man, Jimmy Coffey helped Newport win by 6-4 to 5-4 at Nenagh. Denis

Costelloe was the referee. The Silvermines Band led the teams onto the field and later played the National Anthem

Newport's win came three years after being crowned champions in '32 when the Board awarded them the championship as Toomevara



Jimmy Butler Coffey

refused to field for the final.

Kildangan won two championships in 1938 and '43. They formed a great rivalry with Roscrea taking centre stage appearing in six finals between 1936 and '45.

The 1938 win arrived after Kildangan survived their area clashes with Kilruane MacDonaghs, Eire Og and Youghalarra. A semi-final win over Newport led to their third north final appearance in a row.

The final was played in Nenagh on July 31. The winners led by 6-0 to 1-3. Christy Coen was



Christy Coen was one of five players to start in both finals. The other four were Jack Hctor, Matt Coen, Jimmy Killeen and Martin Kennedy

impressive in goals with Martin Kennedy top scorer on 3-0 as Kildangan added 1-2 to win by 7-2 to 3-4.

After the game the New Murphy Cup was presented to the winning captain, Jack Hctor

Five years later, ten new faces lined out on August 22 at Nenagh including Paddy Morrissey and Seamus Flannery, both of whom are alive today.

Seven teams contested the championship with Kildangan winning their area at the expense of Shannon Rovers, Duharra and Borrisokane. Roscrea overcame Borrisoleigh and MacDonaghs. The final was played in front of 3,700 people. Kildangan led 4-2 to 0-1 with Danny Gleeson hitting two second half goals helping his team survive by the narrowest of margins.

1935 to 1959

Tony Reddin's goalkeeping

Lorrha have eight North finals to their credit. They collected two in 1948 and '56 with their displays capturing the attention of the public mainly due to the displays of Tony Reddin. Reddin's goalkeeping which was a source of joy for many.

It was not unusual to see scores of young devotees, watch the Tipperary keeper play, from the safety of the end line and move to the other when the teams change around.

Having achieved intermediate success in 1946 and reached the senior semi-final the following year - losing to Borris-Ileigh before reaching the senior final in '48.

Played in a downpour, Reddin's exploits and Benny O' Donoghue three goals helped Lorrha dethrone the champions ending a twenty four years gap with a 5-4 to 2-5 victory.

Eight years later Lorrha faced Borris-Ileigh again champions and were also the favourites with well known names such as Jimmy Finn, Paddy Kenny and Liam Devaney forming the backbone of the team.

Three of the Lorrha '48 side lined out in the final. Tony Reddin, Eugene O'Meara and Michael

Brophy. Brophy was captain as Lorrha took the first half lead by 3-3 to 0-7. Borris-Ileigh took over for the third quarter but Eugene

O'Meara's goal – top scorer on 1-3 – brought Lorrha back in contention. Borris-Ileigh regained the lead but late points by Frank Larkin, Eugene O'Meara and Paddy Madden gave Lorrha a merited two point win. Final score Lorrha 4-8 Borris-Ileigh 0-18.



Tony Reddin, Lorrha

- Liam Devaney was the games top scorer with 0-9, four points from play.

1935 to 1959: Roscrea the kingpins

No doubt about it, but Roscrea was one of the most consistent teams in the 1935 to '59 period. They captured eight North finals in 1936, '37, '39, '41, '42, '45, '49 and '54 while appearing in 17 finals during a 22 year period between 1934 and '55 inclusive.

They formed two great rivalries the first with Kildangan in the late thirties and early forties winning five of their seven north final meetings. They would meet Borris-Ileigh in five finals between 1950 and 55 with one victory arising in 54.

That victory came against all the odds as a star studded Borris side had been crowned

County champions the previous year.

August 29th was the date set for the final at Nenagh. Despite trailing by four points at one stage, Ros led 2-2 to 0-6 at the break, the goals (one from free) coming from Martin Loughnane. There were other notables keeping the underdog on top, with special efforts from Gerdie Butler, Fanny Rowland and Roddy Ryan. Michael Butler was outstanding in goal but had to be replaced by Butler because of injury. Borris cut the lead to one but with minutes remaining, Joseph Maher had the third green flag to push the challengers four clear. Late scores from Borris arrived too late. Ros had won their eight north senior final.

Captains' Call

By Shane Brophy

It has always intrigued me how players can suddenly go from teammates and the best of friends one week and then completely change their mental approach to that same person on another.

Take today's captains in the Senior Final, Nenagh's Hugh Maloney and Darren Gleeson. Good mates off the field, county colleagues on it but for sixty minutes, all that is put to one side.

It's likely that the only time the respective captains will come together today will be at the toss but you'll never know. Hugh will start at full back but if needs be, he could pop up at the edge of the square, just yards from Darren Gleeson in the Portroe.

Also, it is not inconceivable that should Portroe need a goal late on, Gleeson could be called from between the posts to the edge of the square. He has form in this regard having scored two points from play in a relegation clash with Carrick Swans less than two years ago.

Such a turnaround in fortunes in two years has been dramatic. Allied to the introduction of skilful young players, particularly in the forward line, the management team headed up by manager Joe Sexton and coach Ger Bradley has worked a treat according to Darren Gleeson.

"Ger Bradley has had a huge influence on us as well as Joe Sexton. Ger takes on the training and keeps everyone on their toes and Joe keeps everyone ticking over.

"Most people would think that we have limited numbers but we don't. If you come to the field any night, we have 25-30 players but only use 16-17 because our juniors are going all year. Lads are showing hunger and that is important.

"We played our first league game against Moycarkey and set ourselves targets that day and one was to go a step further in the championship and we'd reassess and then we wanted to go the whole way and now we are there," he said.

While Nenagh Éire Óg are no strangers to finals day, their record is not the best. Of 21 finals contested, they have won just eight with the last coming back in 2001. Since then, they



Hugh Maloney, Éire Óg captain

have been on the losing side on three occasions in 02, 05 & 07.

Getting to this year's final looked far off less than a year ago when Nenagh failed to win a single championship game of any description.

"Last year was one year which the Nenagh players and supporters would like to forget," admitted captain Hugh Maloney.

"This year we got together last January and set out a few goals and thankfully so far everything has gone to plan and hopefully this Sunday we will put another notch on the belt."

The Nenagh captain accepts that Portroe will have the neutrals support for today's game and on any other occasion, he himself would be rooting for their near neighbours but he and his many of his Nenagh teammates don't have the number of medals that they should have over the years.

"Outside of Nenagh, everyone will be rooting for them. North Tipp hurling wouldn't be the same without a side like Portroe. They have phenomenal team spirit for the resources they have and it is great to see a team like that coming through.

"However, come Sunday, Nenagh will be only focusing on one thing and that is winning and that's what it is all about," he said.



Darren Gleeson, Portroe captain

1935-to 1959

Borris-Ileigh win seven finals

Borris-Ileigh were one of the most successful clubs in the forties and fifties. Under the name Borrisoleigh they won the 1947 final but lost to Lorrha the following year.

They affiliated to the mid division in 1949. This followed an agreement arrived at in '48 when the two clubs, Borrisoleigh and Ileigh united. They returned to the North division in 1950 and won five north finals in six years.

Their team had a multiple of All-Ireland medal holders with Jimmy Finn, Paddy Kenny, Phil Kenny and Sean Kenny bringing ten celtic crosses to the parish.

The crowds turned up to their games. A record crowd of 6,700 witnessed their 1950 win over holders Roscrea at Nenagh. Borris won 3-7 to 1-5.

Over 3,000 attended in wind and rain for the 2-10 to 3-5 win over a stubborn Roscrea side in '51.

In 1952 they held Kilruane scoreless in the first half in their 3-8 to 0-4 win but the following year they met a stiffer test from MacDonaghs. Their lead was just two points at half time but their greater experience allowed them take a 3-12 to 1-6 victory conceding one point in the second

In completing their four in a row they conceded just five goals in the four deciders. Their ability to reap high scores proved to be their catalyst and in their 13 unbeaten games between 1950 and '53 they scored 48-117 as opposed to 23-27.

Ironically, the Board decide to allow Borris-Ileigh a bye to the semi final in 1954 but subsequently they lost to Roscrea. One year later they gained revenge with a 3-10 to 2-9 win.



Bobby Ryan accepting the North cup from John Tierney, chairman of the North Board in 1988

1935 to 1959: Kilruane bridge fifteen year gap

Kilruane won the North final on the 75th year of the GAA. They defeated Toomevara on August 2nd by 0-11 to 1-4 at MacDonagh Park.

The victory bridged a fifteen year gap. However, Kilruane's year suffered a first round defeat to Borris-Ileigh 4-7 to 1-12 at Roscrea on May 17th. The road through the Losers Group proved less hazardous. Wins over Moneygall, Duharra and Shannon Rovers gave them entry to the north semi-final.

They defeated Borrisokane by 5-15 to 4-5 at Nenagh on July 19. Two weeks later they were to face the holders Toomevara in the final.

John Heenan's charges hit the ground running taking a 0-8 to 0-1 half time lead. Facing the breeze in the second half, Sean Williams extended the lead. Jimmy Donavon's goal gave

Toome re-newed hope but the five point lead was insurmountable as Kilruane had leading displays from Michael Ryan in goal, Tom Hensey in defence and Jimmy Gibson who was outstanding at centre back. Des Gaynor with a point from play and Gerry McCarthy on six points from frees had the upperhand at midfield.

Toomevara played without John Hough and Denis Cuddihy but in their absence, Matt Hassett was one of Toome's best at corner back with goalkeeper, Roger Mounsey, Matt O'Gara, Gerry Hough, Jimmy Donovan and eighteen year old Tom Ryan also playing their parts.

The Roscrea's Boys Band and the Sean Treacy Piper band played the teams on to the field.



Kilruane MacDonaghs North senior hurling champions 1985: Back l-r: Ned Fogarty, Paddy Williams, Philip Quinlan, Enda Hogan, Jack Cahill, Eamon O'Shea, Jim Williams, Denis O'Meara. Front: Jim O'Meara, Seamus Gibson, Denis Cahill, Michael Hogan, Tony Sheppard, Gilbert Williams, Seamus Hennessy, Gerry Williams.

Portroe hoping to upset the odds

By **James Hayden** (*Tipperary Star*)

This year's surprise package in the Hibernian Inn north senior hurling championship, Portroe will be hoping to upset the odds when they faced red-hot favourites, Nenagh in a hugely anticipated north final here in MacDonagh Park today.

Nestled at the foot of the Arra mountains, the famed hurling stronghold has had plenty to boast about in recent times with Tipperary manager, Liam Sheedy, European MEP, Alan Kelly and the reigning Rose of Tralee, Aoife Kelly all hailing from the parish.

Today though will undoubtedly be one of the biggest days in the parish's history when every man, woman and child from the parish will make the short journey to Nenagh to witness Portroe's appearance in their first ever north senior hurling final.

Manager, Joe Sexton has steered his charges through the treacherous waters of the north championship - an achievement that is not lost on the Portroe faithful who recently took the opportunity to rub this fact in with near neighbours and long-time rivals, Burgess with a tongue-in-cheek sign on the outskirts of the village taking a pop at the fact that Burgess had forked out serious money to bring in Clare coach and GAA analyst, Tony Considine for two years but had failed to lift any championship silverware.

Portroe haven't won any championship silverware yet either but since their elevation to major status they have picked up some accolades - winning the county senior hurling league in 1999 and 2000.

The 2009 men in green and gold boast a formidable outfit seasoned with a mix of youth and experience. Current Tipperary sub-keeper, Darren Gleeson provides a steadying influence between the sticks while his penchant for long-range frees is a unique weapon in Portroe's artillery.

In defence, old heads like Noel O'Halloran and John Hogan provide the leadership for Colm Gleeson, Jimmy Creamer and Co. while in attack big Dinny Hogan provides the fulcrum around

which the other five forwards revolve. Another asset is the fact that Portroe have six forwards who are all adept at taking a scoring chance - a statement that was borne out in their semi-final triumph over Toomevara.

Standing in their way today will be a Seán Treacy led Nenagh Eire Og side bidding to lift the Frank McGrath cup for the first time since 2001. Maybe it's an omen of sorts but the last time the McGrath Cup rested on the counter of Paddy Rohan's Bar in the town it had the famous Liam McCarthy as a companion.

Throughout this year's championship an unbeaten Nenagh side have proved impressive. Given the debacle that was Davy Fitzgerald's tenure at the club, the Blues went about rebuilding, picked themselves up, dusted themselves down and embarked on a hugely impressive 2009 campaign.

Like Portroe, Nenagh boast a potent mixture of youth and experience with Treacy bleeding number of the up and coming stars in this year's championship. Players like Michael Heffernan, Cliff Moloney, Paddy Murphy, Tommy Heffernan and Pearse Morris have made the breakthrough and gelled well with seasoned campaigners like Eddie and Kevin Tucker, Hugh Moloney, Noel Moloney, John Flannery and Ritchie Flannery.

From very early the Blues were being tipped as potential North champions, but just two years ago they also bore the favourites tag but flopped disappointingly to a determined Borris-Ileigh outfit.

Their recent semi-final victory over the same side provided little in the way of spectacle and it has been well-documented that Nenagh will have to up their performance if they are to emerge victorious today.

Portumna based manager, Sean Treacy, however will have his side well-primed for today's encounter and nothing less than the Frank McGrath Cup will do for the former Galway great.

Whatever the outcome, today's game promises to be a real cracker with one of the biggest ever crowds expected to descend on MacDonagh Park for the showpiece event in the north board's calendar.

Intermediate Hurling Semi-Final Silvermines v Ballina

Path to the semi final -Silvermines

Rd 1: Silvermines 2-14 Ballina 1-7
Rd 2: Silvermines 2-7 Newport 3-5
Rd 3: Silvermines 2-13 Borrisokane 2-6
Rd 4: Silvermines 1-14 Shannon Rov 2-7
Rd 5: Silvermines 4-22 Moneygall 0-7
Rd 6: Silvermines 1-14 Knockshe 2-5
Rd 7: Silvermines 2-18 Ballinahinch 1-13
For 14-102 Against 11-50

Path to the semi final -Ballina

Ballina 1-7 Silvermines 2-14
Ballina 0-10 Ballinahinch 1-13
Ballina 1-13 Knockshe 1-9
Ballina 1-11 Newport 0-10
Ballina 1-17 Borrisokane 1-15
Ballina 3-8 Shannon Rov 0-15
Ballina rec w/o from Moneygall.
For 7-66 Against 4-76

Nenagh Guardian IHC semi-final 2005

Ballina 2-14 Lorrha 2-10

By Ger McKeogh

Ballina's great run in this year's Nenagh Guardian North Tipperary Intermediate championship lengthened following their semi final win over Lorrha helping them reach the North final for the first time since 1973.

The first half of this game never reached any great heights, but patrons were treated to a pulsating second 30 minutes as both sides enjoyed periods of dominance.

Ballina led at half-time by 0-7 to 1-3. The second half started in a welter of activity as a goalmouth scramble in the Lorrha goals resulted in a Ballina sixty-five. The sixty-five struck the post and Aaron Devane was quickest to react and buried the rebound. Fifteen minutes of the second half Ballina had stretched their lead to five, 1-12 to 1-7.

In the 57th minute, Lorrha were back in contention when James Dunne shot to the back of the Ballina net to leave just two points between the sides. Ballina had a great chance to seal the game, a minute later, but Ken Hogan make a good save to smother Kevin Cosgrove's shot. Two minutes later, Lorrha got a 20 metre free and Padraic Madden reduced the deficit to one.

Lorrha came in search of the equaliser but Patrick Cosgrove and Brendan Mc Keogh repelled a couple of Lorrha attacks. In the 62nd minute, Cosgrove caught another Lorrha delivery and won a free out in his attempt to clear. The resultant free was picked up by Seamus Mc Keogh and his cross was flicked to the net by Aaron Devane to secure victory.

Ballina: Martin Mc Keogh; Mark King, Patrick Cosgrove, Brendan Mc Keogh; Alan Mc Keogh, Thomas Collins, Seamus Larkin; Gerard Sheehy, Jerry O'Brien (0-1); Sean Mc Keogh (0-5 (4 frees)); Sean Collins (0-1); Eoin Sheehy (0-2); Brian Mc Keogh (0-1); Aaron Devane (2-1), Kevin Cosgrove (0-3). Subs: Stephen Stritch for G. Sheehy; Seamus Mc Keogh for Brian Mc Keogh & Domhnall Mc Keogh for Sean Mc Keogh.

Lorrha: Ken Hogan; Jack Maher, Richie Bourke, Tadgh Nevin; David Needham, Stephen Hogan, David Bourke; Padraic Madden (0-4 (3 frees & 1 sideline)); Rory Coen; Ronan O'Meara (0-1); Enda Moran (0-1), Kevin Liffey; Brendan Coen, Barry Moran, Colm Duggan (0-2). Subs: Michael Kinsella for R. Coen; Michael Cleary for D. Needham; Noel Hogan for B. Moran & James Dunne (1-2) for B. Coen.

Referee: Andy Moloney (Cahir).

Blast from the past:

Guardian Inter Hurling Championship Semi-final '06

SILVERMINES 2-16 LORRHA 2-14

By Liam Hogan

The Nenagh Guardian North Tipperary Intermediate Hurling championship has produced some great matches in its time but few will compare to what we saw last Sunday when Silvermines grabbed a 65th minute goal to defeat Lorrha by two points at the end of a pulsating game at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh.

This was a cracking game of hurling, full of spirit and speed. One could hardly take their eyes off the ball such was the non stop action. Lorrha looked to have the game won when they went 2-14 to 1-16 ahead after Barry Moran pointed a sixty five in the 63rd minute.

But this game had everything and the drama didn't end there. Brendan Coen blocked down Donal O'Brien's puckout while standing too close to the ball and he was sent off for a second yellow card offence.

When play did resume, Donal O'Brien's puckout travelled almost the full length of the field. It landed on the Lorrha thirteen metre line and Stephen Hogan allowed it to hop. Out of nowhere, Mines corner forward, David Keogh raced from his left corner and pulled first time low to Ken Hogan's right hand post ending up in the net.

Suddenly, Mines were two points ahead and after 64 minutes and 55 seconds and Ken Hogan's puckout was the last piece of action.

SCORERS: Silvermines- W Keogh 0-9(6f and 1=65); David Keogh 2-2; O Quirke 0-2; R Sherlock, C Gleeson and T Kelly 0-1 each. Lorrha- N Hogan 0-6 (3f) P Maher and R O'Meara 1-0 each B Coen 0-3; S Hogan 0-2 (2f); B Moran 0-2 (1f and 1=65); M O Meara 0-1.

SILVERMINES: Donal O'Brien; Maurice Leamy, Sean Quirke, Alan Ryan; Donal Keogh, David Boland, Declan Mulqueen; Willie Keogh, Ronan Sherlock; Niall Kelly, Declan Corcoran, C Gleeson; Orrie Quirke, Eoin Quirke, David Keogh. Subs- Eoin Grace for Donal Keogh h/t; Timmie Kelly for Eoin Quirke 43 min; Damien Boland for N Kelly 58 min.

LORRHA: Ken Hogan; Jack Maher, Tony Hogan, Tadgh Nevin; Kevin Maher, Stephen Hogan, Jimmy Dunne; Rory Coen, Michael O'Meara; Noel Hogan, Brendan Coen, Kevin Liffey; Ronan O'Meara, Trevor Hogan, Patrick Maher. Subs- Barry Moran for Liffey h/t; Colm Duggan for T Hogan min.

Referee Sean Bradshaw Knockavilla/Kickams.

Did you know that . . . ?

1901. The North Tipperary GAA Board is born. De Wets are first champions.

1909 First Senior Football championship. Templemore are first champions defeating Nenagh Shamrocks.

The 1910 North final was a low scoring affair. Youghalarra defeated Clonakenny 3-5 to 2-3, the first decider played under the new rules, where the side posts were removed.

Top scorer in North Finals

YEAR	DATE	VENUE	WINNERS	SCORE	TOP SCORER	RUNNERUP	SCORE	TOP SCORER	WINNING CAPTAIN
1985	08.09.85	Nenagh	Kilruane MacDonaghs	2-10	Gerry Williams 1-02	Roscrea	1-10	MI Scully 0-05	Tony Sheppard
1986	17.08.86	Nenagh	Kilruane MacDonaghs	1-12	Philip Quinlan 1-01	Toomevara	2-06	MI Nolan 1-04	Tony Sheppard
1987	20.09.87	Nenagh	Kilruane MacDonaghs	2-15	Seamus Hennessy 0-05	Lorrlha and Dorrlha	0-13	Joe Kennedy 0-02	John Cahill
1988	24.07.88	Nenagh	Borris-Ileigh	1-14	Philip Kenny 1-02	Roscrea	1-07	MI Scully 1-04	Bobby Ryan
1989	20.08.89	Nenagh	Lorrlha and Dorrlha	1-14	Eamon Sherlock 0-05	Toomevara	1-12	MI Nolan 1-05	Ken Hogan
1990	29.07.90	Nenagh	Kilruane MacDonaghs	2-07	Tom Killackey 1-02	Toomevara	0-05	MI Nolan 0-03	Pat Quinlan
1991	29.09.91	Cloughjordan	Toomevara	2-11	Tony Delaney 1-01	Eire Og Nenagh	2-07	Eddie Tucker 1-00	Rory Brislane
1992	30.08.92	Cloughjordan	Eire Og Nenagh	1-18	MI Cleary 0-08	Lorrlha and Dorrlha	0-08	Kieran Hough 0-03	Paul Kennedy
1993	22.08.93	Cloughjordan	Eire Og Nenagh	0-14	MI Cleary 0-05	Moneygall	0-12	Brian O Dwyer 0-05	Donie O'Brien
1994	14.08.94	Nenagh	Toomevara	1-16	Liam Nolan 1-02	Kilruane MacDonaghs	0-07	David Quinlan 0-03	Pat Meagher
1995	20.08.95	Nenagh	Toomevara	0-18	Thomas Dunne 0-11	Borris-Ileigh	1-12	Conor Stakelum 1-07	Tony Delaney
1996	15-09.96	Nenagh	Newport	2-13	Ger Bradley 0-09	Lorrlha and Dorrlha	3-06	John Madden 1-04	Connie McGrath
1997	03.08.97	Cloughjordan	Toomevara	1-15	Ken Dunne 0-08	Borris-Ileigh	0-08	Conor Stakelum 0-06	George Friend
1998	06.09.98	Cloughjordan	Nenagh Eire Og	1-11	John Kennedy 0-05	Toomevara	0-11	Ken Dunne 0-04	Eddie Tucker
1999	22.08.99	Cloughjordan	Toomevara	2-19	Thomas Dunne 0-06	Nenagh Eire Og	2-15	John Slattery 1-02	Tommy Dunne
2000	09.09.00	Nenagh	Toomevara	3-13	Paddy O'Brien 1-03	Moneygall	1-10	John Doughan 0-03	Terry Dunne
2001	30.09.01	Nenagh	Nenagh Eire Og	1-15	Declan O'Meara 1-04	Borris-Ileigh	1-11	Angelo Walsh 0-06	Kevin Tucker
2002	14.09.02	Nenagh	Toomevara	0-19	Ken Dunne 0-06	Moneygall	1-07	Ken Dunne	Ken Dunne
2003	07.09.03	Cloughjordan	Toomevara	3-12	Willie Ryan 2-01	Nenagh Eire Og	0-16	MI Cleary 0-11	MI Bevans
2004	22.08.04	Nenagh	Roscrea	0-13	Mark Ryan 0-08	Borris-Ileigh	1-09	James Maher	James Maher
2005	07.08.05	Nenagh	Borris-Ileigh	1-12	Angelo Walsh 0-04	Nenagh Eire Og	0-12	Darragh Egan 0-09	Philip Rabbite
2006	30.07.06	Nenagh	Toomevara	1-15	Ken Dunne 0-05	Kildangan	0-12	Thomas Dunne	Thomas Dunne
2007	09.09.07	Nenagh	Borris-Ileigh	0-19	David O'Connor 0-08	Nenagh Eire Og	0-16	Kevin Tucker 0-08	Declan Maher
2008	24.08.08	Nenagh	Kildangan	1-17	Darragh Egan 0-08	Burgess	2-12	Tony Scroope 0-08	Brian Kelly & MI Ryan
2009									

Scor is forty years old

by Gerry Slevin

Winter Social Activities was the name first applied when towards the end of 1969 a new limb of GAA activity emerged. Soon, that unwieldy name changed to Scor and this year the Association's move into the field of formal indoor entertainment celebrates its 40th birthday.

North Tipperary has played its part magnificently in the emergence and progress of Scor over the years and today with so much emphasis placed on Portroe's first appearance in a North senior hurling final, it is interesting to recall that Portroe should have figured so prominently in the birth of Scor, the local Muintir na Tire Hall selected as the venue for the inaugural North Scor finals held there on January 21st 1970.

Toomevara, Portroe, Nenagh and Terryglass had been the chosen venues for the area finals held before Christmas and such was the effort made by Jim Donnellan, club chairman and his Port colleagues in the organisation of their area final that the North Board had no problem in decreeing that the same Muintir na Tire Hall be the venue for the divisional finals. Thirteen clubs were represented on finals night, Burgess leading the way with competitors in five of the seven categories. Eire Og had four and Knockshegowna, Toomevara and Roscrea had three each. Borrisokane and Newport had two each while also represented were Shannon Rovers, Borris-ileigh, Silvermines, Moneygall, Lorrha and the host club Portroe, all with one finalist each.

A packed hall experienced some great entertainment. Figure Dancing (1972) and Set Dancing ('74) had yet been introduced to Scor as had Novelty Act ('74) and the seven categories obtaining revealed a varied programme that went down so well with the

large and enthusiastic audience. Jim Donnellan was MC for the evening and Board chairman Hubie Hogan, Lorrha led a strong GAA membership, many of those present experiencing their first taste of this new GAA phenomenon.

Burgess came out on top in no fewer than four competitions.

Donie Nealon (pictured), Jerome Hogan and Michael O'Donnell teamed up to win the Question Time. Michael made it a personal double as with Colette and Anne Collins and Jim Barry they took the Ballad Group honours. 12 year old Eileen O'Brien – there was no age distinction in the first three years – beat off adult competition to take Instrumental Music honours on her fiddle. Solo dance honours went to Margaret Mulcahy but not until after the adjudicators recalled the Burgess lass and Patricia McCormack from Silvermines for a repeat performance!

Solo Singing was won by Kitty Egan from Shannon Rovers. Gerry Slevin, Borrisokane took Recitation honours and Tim Haugh, Knockshegowna came out on top in Motion Speaking. A week later the county finals were held in the Premier Hall, Thurles from which Eileen O'Brien, Margaret Mulcahy and Gerry Slevin emerged to compete in the inaugural provincial finals held in the City Hall, Cork on February 28th.

The Borrisokane man was the only North victor here and he went on to represent the county in the All-Ireland finals in Dublin's Liberty Hall on March 22nd along with Austin Crowe, Knockavilla Kickhams (Solo Song) and the quiz trio of T.K. O'Dwyer, Eddie O'Dwyer and Pat Ryan from Moycarkey-Borris. None were successful at the final hurdle but Tipperary had indeed played a huge role in the birth of Scor forty years ago.



Johnny McGrath's achievements

Johnny McGrath's achievements:

All-Ireland senior hurling 1958

All-Ireland minor hurling 1949

North Tipp, Senior hurling 1957, 1964

North Tipp, Minor hurling 1949

American Junior hurling 1952

American 3rd brigade 1952

New York SHC 1952

Croke cup 1960

London intermediate hurling 1961

London senior league 1962

Johnny McGrath was born in 1932 at Pound Street Nenagh. In his youth he attended Nenagh CBS and was a member of the Harty Cup side for two years in the late 1940's. He played minor for Nenagh Eire Og for four years and won three north minor medals and two football medals playing at center forward. He played with the 1949 senior team when they were narrowly beaten by Roscrea. Playing at left wing back, He won a minor All-Ireland with Tipperary in 1949 when they beat Kilkenny. He emigrated to the United States in 1950 where he played with Tipperary for a number of years and won three championships. He returned to England in 1954 and played with St Finbarr's in Coventry with whom he won two English Championships.

On returning to Nenagh in 1956, he won two North senior medals with Nenagh in 1957 against Toomevara at full forward and in 1964 against Roscrea at full back. He was a member

of the of the Tipperary senior hurling team from 1958 to 1960 and won both a national league playing at wing back and a senior medal playing at full forward in 1958. He retired from hurling in 1967 at the age of 35.

Johnny McGrath was a fearless and courageous hurler. When at full forward, he was the conductor of the orchestra and when full back he controlled his area and acted as protector in chief of his goalkeeper and younger team mates. He was a powerfully build man who could more than hold his own under the dropping ball. Favoring the first time pull, in one particular match he took a drop shot at an opposition puck out and dispatched the ball back over the opposition bar. In a league match with Tipperary he once scored a truly spectacular goal when despite having his back to goal and a defender wrapped around him, he still managed to double a dropping ball to the net as he was wrestled over backwards.

A class act, who had all the requisite skills to function as a back or a forward, his favorite playing position was the half back line. The best hurler he encountered was Sean Clohessy of Kilkenny and Terry Leahy who played with Kilkenny in New York. His most memorable game was the 1964 North final and his biggest regret was in losing the 1949 North final by two points. While "The Digger" was his favourite selector, his sweetest victory was Pound street beating Islandbawn in a street league final!



Tipperary minor hurling team 1949.

Age:

Nenagh Player Profile

Name: John Brennan
Club: Nenagh Éire Óg
Position: Corner Back

Age: 25
Height: 5 10"
Weight: 12st 7lbs

Do you recall your first childhood training session? No

Who were your childhood sporting heroes?
Michael Cleary, Roy Keane

Who was the biggest influence on your career?
Parents, and all underage coaches in Éire Óg.

Who is the greatest player you have seen?
Kevin 'Jug' McGrath before knee trouble.

What is the most important skill? First touch

What advice have you for young players?
Practice makes perfect

Best club hurling memory outside of playing?
1995 County Final

What has been your greatest moment in sport?
2001 North final

What would you like to change about the game? Inconsistent referring, two points for a sideline

Favourite sport other than hurling? BMX
Racing, Darts.

What books or films have inspired you in your sporting life? The Bible

Book you are currently reading or just finished?
John Daly - life in and out of the rough

When I was a child I wanted to be? David Hasselhoff



How do you relax away from sport? Socialising with friends

The best invention ever? The wheel

You may not know but I am good at? Scuba diving (but not as good as Maloney!)

Person you would most like to meet? Eva Mendez

Marooned on a desert Island what could you not be without? My cot.

Describe your life in seven words or what is your sporting motto? Wunning isn't everything it's the only thing!

In 10 years time I hope to be? Rich, with a few North and County Medals!

2009 Hibernian Inn Senior Hurling Championship

GROUP 1

<u>Round 1</u>					
26-04-09 @ 19:00	Kilruane MacDonaghs	3-12	0-09	Templederry Kenyons	Dolla
26-04-09 @ 13:00	Lorrha/Dorrha	1-09	0-17	Kildangan	Nenagh
04-05-09 @ 17:00	Roscrea	1-13	0-17	Portroe	Nenagh
<u>Round 2</u>					
10-05-09 @ 15:00	Templederry Kenyons	0-19	1-11	Lorrha/Dorrha	Nenagh
10-05-09 @ 17:30	Kildangan	2-10	2-12	Roscrea	Toomevara
10-05-09 @ 13:30	Portroe	0-22	0-20	Kilruane MacDonaghs	Nenagh
<u>Round 3</u>					
15-05-09 @ 19:30	Lorrha/Dorrha	2-19	2-19	Kilruane MacDonaghs	Borrisokane
16-05-09 @ 19:30	Roscrea	1-08	0-08	Templederry Kenyons	Nenagh
17-05-09 @ 13:00	Kildangan	3-11	1-10	Portroe	Dolla
<u>Round 4</u>					
07-06-09 @ 19:30	Kilruane MacDonaghs	4-14	2-09	Roscrea	Toomevara
06-06-09 @ 18:45	Templederry Kenyons	0-09	0-12	Kildangan	Dolla
07-06-09 @ 13:30	Portroe	4-21	4-18	Lorrha/Dorrha	Cloughjordan
<u>Round 5</u>					
28-06-09 @ 15:30	Roscrea	1-13	2-13	Lorrha/Dorrha	Cloughjordan
26-06-09 @ 20:00	Kildangan	2-14	1-17	Kilruane MacDonaghs	Nenagh
28-06-09 @ 15:30	Templederry Kenyons	2-12	2-18	Portroe	Nenagh

Group 1	Played	Won	Drew	Lost	Score	Score	Points
					For / Against	Diff	
Portroe	5	4	0	1	7-88 / 10-74	+5	8
Kildangan	5	3	1	1	7-64 / 5-57	+13	7
Kilruane MacDonaghs	5	2	2	1	10-82 / 6-73	+21	6
Roscrea	5	2	0	3	7-55 / 8-62	-10	4
Lorrha/Dorrha	5	1	1	3	10-70 / 7-89	-10	3
Templederry Kenyons	5	1	0	4	2-57 / 7-61	-19	2

GROUP 2

<u>Round 1</u>					
26-04-09 @ 15:00	Burgess	0-14	2-13	Toomevara	Nenagh
25-04-09 @ 17:30	Moneygall	2-11	3-17	Nenagh Eire Óg	Cloughjordan
<u>Round 2</u>					
09-05-09 @ 18:00	Toomevara	W/O	Scr	Moneygall	Nenagh

10-05-09 @ 19:00	Nenagh Eire Óg	2-17	2-12	Borris-Ileigh	Toomevara
Round 3					
17-05-09 @ 15:00	Moneygall	1-11	0-11	Burgess	Cloughjordan
17-05-09 @ 14:30	Borris-Ileigh	1-13	2-10	Toomevara	Dolla
Round 4					
07-06-09 @ 18:00	Burgess	3-13	1-15	Borris-Ileigh	Toomevara
07-06-09 @ 15:00	Toomevara	0-18	1-16	Nenagh Eire Óg	Cloughjordan
Round 5					
28-06-09 @ 14:00	Borris-Ileigh	2-15	0-14	Moneygall	Nenagh
28-06-09 @ 14:00	Nenagh Eire Óg	0-17	0-07	Burgess	Toomevara

Group 2	Played	Won	Drew	Lost	Score	Walk-Over	Score	Points
					For / Against	Rec / Con	Diff	
Nenagh Eire Óg	4	4	0	0	6-67 / 4-48	0 / 0	+25	8
Toomevara	4	2	1	1	4-41 / 2-43	1 / 0	+4	5
Borris-Ileigh	4	1	1	2	6-55 / 7-54	0 / 0	-2	3
Moneygall	4	1	0	3	3-36 / 5-43	0 / 1	-13	2
Burgess	4	1	0	3	3-45 / 4-56	0 / 0	-14	2

Quarter Finals (Extra Time)

19-07-09 @ 14:00	Kildangan	3-13	2-17	Borris-Ileigh	Nenagh
(Quarter Final A)	(2nd Place Group 1)			(3rd Place Group 2)	Matchtracker
19-07-09 @ 16:00	Toomevara	2-22	3-13	Kilruane MacDonaghs	Nenagh
(Quarter Final B)	(2nd Place Group 2)			(3rd Place Group 1)	Matchtracker

Semi-finals (Extra Time)

26-07-09 @ 18:00	Portroe	1-14	1-12	Toomevara	Nenagh
(Semi-final A)	(1st Place Group 1)			(Winner Quarter Final B)	Matchtracker
26-07-09 @ 19:45	Nenagh Eire Óg	1-16	0-08	Borris-Ileigh	Nenagh
(Semi-final B)	(1st Place Group 2)			(Winner Quarter Final A)	Matchtracker

FINAL

Sun 23-08-09	PORTROE	0-00	0-00	NENAGH EIRE ÓG	NENAGH
@ 15:30	(Winner Semi-final A)			(Winner Semi-final B)	Matchtracker

Sean Kenny - from Portroe to Polo Grounds

By Gerry Slevin

On Sunday September 24th 1950 Tipperary lined out in New York's Polo Grounds against New York in the National League final. Earlier that morning, almost unnoticed, a thirty eight year old 12-ton gaff cutter called *Ituna* slipped into New York harbour, its four occupants ordered to remain on board until cleared by customs. Later that day the four attended the hurling final which Tipp duly won, having captured their 15th All-Ireland title just three weeks earlier against Kilkenny. When, a week after their league final victory, they played an exhibition match in New York against a local team comprising Tipperary exiles, who should figure prominently at corner forward for those exiles – he scored two goals in a 6-3 to 6-2 win -- but Sean Kenny, the Portroe man who was a member of the *Ituna* crew.

Co-incidentally, the day of that exhibition match also coincided with Portroe's winning of the North Intermediate title in Nenagh, when they defeated Borrisokane to claim the club's first ever title. Sean Kenny would probably have been on that Port team but he had other things in mind that summer. The 22-year-old architectural student had just spent over three months crossing the broad Atlantic with three fellow students, Tony Jacob, Des Dalton and Kevin O'Farrell.

Sean Kenny would go on to achieve worldwide fame both as a theatrical set designer and as the mastermind behind the remarkable plans for Expo '67 in Canada. It was Sean who designed the original set for Lionel Bart's stage musical *Oliver*.

As a final year student in St Flannan's College in Ennis Sean won a Harty Cup and All-Ireland colleges hurling medal in 1947, the team also including the legendary Clare hurler Jimmy Smyth.

That New York match in which Sean



Sean Kenny

Kenny played after the arrival there of *Ituna*, was more than just a game for the Portroe man. It was a very special occasion because back in 1926 his father Tom as a member of the Tipperary team had also played there when Tipp as 1925 All-Ireland champions travelled to the States on board *SS Bremen*. They left Cobh on May 11th and arrived back home on July 26th. He also wrote and published a diary of the trip entitled 'Tour of the Tipperary Hurling team in America 1926'. Only quite recently a limited edition of this fascinating book was re-issued.

The Kenny homestead was where James Seymour's pub is now situated in the village. Sean Kenny died suddenly on June 11th 1973. In recent weeks his brother Joe in consultation with the local Tidy Town committee made and erected a seat there of local slate and it was dedicated to Sean's memory.

Centenary Final win for Eddie Tucker

Eddie Tucker will line out at centre half forward in today's final. He was there for the Centenary Final win also. In a great career he played in ten North Finals, including replays, bagging four north senior medals. He also won a county senior medal in 1995. In 1997, he played centre forward for Tipp against Clare in the Munster championship. He was a former minor and U-21 player with the county also.

His last north medal arrived in 2001 when Nenagh defeated Borris-Ileigh by 1-15 to 1-12. Conscious of the Centenary celebrations at the time the players looked at the North final as just another final.

"We beat Borris-Ileigh in the North final. We knew about the celebrations of the North Board but in the weeks and days before the final we looked on the final as just another game we had to win. We won the final here in Nenagh which added to the day. Afterwards, when we were presented with the medals you just realised what we achieved. When you look back, you say it was nice to win it in Centenary year.

Significant years in the GAA calendar seem to be lucky for Eddie. In 1984, the Gaelic Athletic Association celebrated its 100 year anniversary. That year he captained Nenagh Eire Og Under 12 hurling team to victory the North championship. They defeated Moneygall 2-2 to 1-0. They added the county title also. As part of the 125 celebrations, the North Tipp Board na nOg decided to invite the winning captains from 1984 to present the cups to the various captains for 2009. On Saturday 15th August last, Eddie presented the U-12 cup to Willie Ryan who captained Kilruane MacDonaghs in their win over Nenagh Eire Og.

"I couldn't believe it was 25 years since we won the Under 12 after receiving a phone call from Ann McGrath, Secretary of North Bord na nOg. It seems a long time ago. But it is great to be hurling twenty-five years on.

Four North senior medal wins later -1992, 93, 98 and 2001 - Eddie recalls. "In 1992 I won my first North medal. I was hurling senior for two years at the time. I didn't realise how hard it was to win one. Twenty years later and to be still playing, I don't take North medals for granted. They are very hard to come by. I played in ten North Finals, including replays, and I would have liked to have won a few more. That's sport and you move on. The first win

will stand out but my favourite final would have to be 1998. We beat Toomevara in Cloughjordan and I was captain of the team that year.

For 2009, Nenagh have prepared well under new manager Sean Treacy. The physical training and build up through the year continues. "I find the physical nature the hardest. I just try and pace myself as best as I can and give it everything. There are lads on the line to come in if needed.

"We decided to shorten the year to freshen things up a bit and we started off in February with a lot of physical training. From there we moved on to the ball work as the spring came in. So far it's been going ok for us," he added.

Nenagh were grouped with Moneygall, Borris-Ileigh, Toomevara and Burgess. They started well with a good win over Moneygall. "It was important to win. After 2008 we didn't know what level we were at. The win gave us confidence. Against Borris-Ileigh we were hoping to get a bogey of our back. We hadn't beaten them since 2001. Two wins, the team were moving well. They faced Toome in round 3 and won.

"This was a huge game for us. Taking on the county champions. We always give Toome a big game. To get one over was important. Because we won we had reached the county championship also. Then we played Burgess. Burgess needed to win to stay in the championship but we needed to maintain the top position in the group and remain unbeaten. We easily defeated Borris-Ileigh in the semi-final."

Looking back does Eddie Tucker think that the North championship, run on a league basis, for the second year is working well for players?

"I would be very happy with the system of running the North championship.

I remember two years ago some teams were only getting two games where as with the league system now, every team is getting at least four games. If you don't qualify for the North championship you have the backdoor into the county championship. It is giving lads more championship hurling in the middle of summer.

Nenagh's path to the 2001 North final win
June 2: Nenagh Eire Og 1-15, Moneygall 1-12 at Toomevara; July 15: Nenagh Eire Og 1-14, Portroe 1-10 at Nenagh; Sep 15: Nenagh Eire Og 4-14 Roscrea 3-10 at Cloughjordan; Sept 30: Nenagh Eire Og 1-15 Borris-Ileigh 1-12 at Nenagh.



Nenagh Éire Óg captain Paul Kennedy received the trophy from John Tierney, chairman of the North Tipperary GAA Board.

2007: Second North Final for Borris-Ileigh in two years and their 14th in all

In 2007 Borris-Ileigh captured their second North final in two years. They defeated Nenagh by 0-19 to 0-17, repeating their 1-12 to 0-13 win over the same opposition two years earlier.

It was Martin Maher's second North medal success. Since making his championship debut in 1999 aged 17 he was playing in his fourth decider (2001, 2004, 2005 & 2007) successful in 2005 and '07. Unfortunately Martin was unable to play in the 2005 Final against Nenagh after breaking his arm in the semi-final against Toomevara.

Luckily 2007 made up for this disappointment when he started that game corner forward scoring a point before moving back to his more familiar role of corner back. The feeling of winning this final meant a lot more to him as he played an active role in the game as opposed to 2005 when he was forced to watch the match from the sideline.



Martin Maher, Borris-Ileigh

Tommy Dunne, won 9 North medals

For Tommy Dunne who has won 9 North Senior Medals. The 1991 and 1999 finals stand out. "The 1991 final was the first North final for Toomevara for such a long time", he said. "They were two good games with Nenagh. Playing with my father and uncle added to the occasion. My father played at full forward. I was at corner forward with my uncle Jimmy at mid-field."

"It was like winning a county final - it meant that much. We later won the County Final in 1992". Moving on to 1999, "We went into the game as underdogs. That year stands out because of the quality of the game. Winning was the highlight in front of a big crowd and a great atmosphere. It was a rip-roaring game. I had the added pleasure of receiving the cup from my friend and clubmate, Donal Shanahan, who was North Board Chairman at the time."

"Over the years, we were lucky to play in a lot of finals. The early rounds of a championship can be very lackadaisical but finals are very serious. They are always enjoyable. I remember going to the North Finals when I was younger and I always got a great sense of occasion, the band, the crowd. We have to thank the north Board for the way they organise finals and keep the sense of occasion going."



Thomas Dunne, Toomevara



2008: Kildangan joint captains Michael Ryan and Brian Kelly hold the Frank McGrath Cup along with Catherine Gleeson (North Board Treasurer and Kildangan GAA Chairperson), Jane Devaney and Martin Morris (The Hibernian Nenagh Sponsors) and on the extreme right John Sherlock (North Board Chairman).



Toomevara, North champions 1995: Back row, l-r: Kevin Kennedy, Liam Flaherty, Thomas Dunne, Pat Meagher, Terry Dunne, Jody Grace, Pat King, Liam Nolan. Front: Philip Shanahan, George Frend, Tony Delaney, Michael Bevens, Michael O'Meara, Ken Dunne, Rory Brislane.

Menagh's last North final win

By **Gerry Slevin**

Nenagh Eire Og 1-15; Borris-Ileigh 1-11

The tag of underdogs suits Eire Og admirably!

On Sunday in MacDonagh Park, they left no doubt as to their worthiness to be called Centenary Champions, when in the North Board's centenary showpiece, they pulled the rug from under the favourites Borris-Ileigh for a satisfying and well merited win to claim the Frank McGrath Cup for the fourth time in the past decade.

The use they made of the wind in the first half a big baring on this game which was always interesting, if somewhat spoiled as a spectacle by both wind and rain, which in recent years, has become the bane of North final.

By the end of the first quarter Nenagh had moved into a five point lead (0-7 to 0-2), the workrate of Declan O'Meara particularly effective. That margin was extended to seven by half time (0-12 to 0-5), the Nenagh squad sowing greater flair in their overall approach, the defence settling in and O'Meara and Kevin Tucker providing the necessary scores to ease them away from their opponents. But it was by no means a lead that could not be overtaken and it was confidently expected that, with wind advantage, Borris would quickly set about remedying a situation they badly needed to adjust.

And indeed they did.

Scorers for Eire Og were D. O'Meara 1-4, K. Tucker 0-

6 (4 frees), J. Slattery, R. Tomlinson, M. Hackett, E. Tucker, M. Cleary 0-1 each.

Borris-Ileigh's replies came from A. Walsh 0-6 (3 frees, 1 65), M. Bourke 1-3, Seamus Maher and T. Stakelum 0-1 each.

Eire Og had ten wides (six in the first half) to their opponents total of eight, four in each half.

What overall was a very sporting game, excellently refereed by Michael Cahill, saw only twelve frees awarded altogether, Nenagh were awarded four in each half and Borris, two in each half.

NENAGH EIRE OG – Michael McNamara, Hugh Flannery, Noel Coffey, Anthony Quinn, John Slattery, Richie Flannery, John Kennedy, Rory Flannery, Noel Moloney, Kevin Tucker (capt.), Eddie Tucker, Robbie Tomlinson, Declan O'Meara, Robbie Foley, Michael Cleary. Subs – Brian Darcy for Foley, Michael Hackett for Darcy, Hugh Moloney for Richie Flannery, Shane Connolly for Rory Flannery.

BORRIS-ILEIGH – Darragh Rabbitte, Ror Kinane, Philip Maher (capt), Martin Maher, Pierce Ryan, Philip Rabbittee, Owen Stapleton, Tom Stakelum, Aidan Coen, John Keane, Seamus Maher, Angelo Walsh, Declan Maher, John McGrath, Mark Bourke.

Subs – Sean Maher for Kinane, Vincent Stapleton for Martin Maher, Mark Stapleton for Declan Maher, Aidan Ryan for Stakelum.

Referee – Michael Cahill, Kilruane.



Nenagh Éire Óg, North SHC winners 2001. Back row, l-r: Christy McLoughlin, John Flannery, Danny Corbett, David Hackett, Richie Flannery, Hugh Flannery, Declan O'Meara, Noel Coffey, Michael McNamara, Eddie Tucker, John Slattery, Robert Foley, Brian Quinn, Brian Darcy, Declan Bailey, Shane Connolly. Kneeling: Michael Cleary, John Brennan, Michael Hackett, Noel Moloney, Anthony Quinn, Kevin Tucker (captain), Rory Flannery, Robbie Tomlinson, John Kennedy, Cormac Galvin, Hugh Moloney.

Top Scorers

	Score	Total	Games	Average
John Sheedy (Portroe)	0-48	48	6	8
Ken Dunne (Toomevara)	0-39	39	5	7.8
Kevin Tucker (Nenagh Éire Óg)	0-32	32	5	6.4
Mark Ryan (Roscrea)	1-29	32	5	6.4
Ray McLoughney (Kilruane MacD)	1-29	32	6	5.3
David O'Connor (Borris-Ileigh)	0-31	31	4	7.75
Ronan O'Meara (Lorrha)	2-25	31	5	6.2
Tony Scroope (Burgess)	0-28	28	4	7
Patrick Lynch (Kildangan)	2-20	26	6	4.3
Seamus Hennessy (Kilruane MacD)	2-18	24	6	4
John Ryan (Portroe)	2-18	24	6	4
Darragh Egan (Kildangan)	0-22	22	6	3.6
Noel Hogan (Lorrha)	1-17	20	4	5
Joe Gallagher (Kildangan)	5-5	20	6	3.3
Eanna Murray (Templederry)	0-18	18	3	6
Shane Quinlan (Kilruane MacD)	3-9	18	6	3
Michael Sheedy (Portroe)	3-8	17	6	2.8
Michael Heffernan (Nenagh Éire Óg)	2-10	16	5	3.2

Biggest Individual tally: Ronan O'Meara (Lorrha) - 1-10 v Roscrea

Biggest tally from play: John Ryan (Portroe) - 1-6 v Templederry

Most Goals: Joe Gallagher (Kildangan) 5

Meet Tommy Ryan, Kildangan and refereee for today's final

Tommy started refereeing at local level in 1995. He has officiated in all finals, bar senior, in North Tipperary.

In addition he has taken charge of the West, South and Mid senior finals. The list continues, a Co. Minor A hurling final, two Co. U21A hurling finals, Co. Senior Football decider in 2008 and a Co. Senior Hurling final in 2007.

On the inter-county level he took charge of the London v Tyrone National Hurling league game in London this season. Other league games include the Laois v Antrim, Donegal v Longford, Kildare v Mayo encounters.

He also took charge of the Waterford v UCC (Waterford Crystal), the Munster minor championship game between Waterford and Limerick as well as the Fresher final involving UCD v UCC. There was the Meath v Kerry All-Ireland B minor clash but his major honour so far has to be the Christy Ring final when Down played Carlow.

Tommy sees refereeing as a challenge but casts some thought on changing a rule or two. He would like to see two points awarded for a side line ball. The sin bin to be introduced and a penalty to be taken against the keeper and nobody else.

CENTENARY YEAR

Lorrha, champions after 18 years

John McIntyre represented Lorrha at the adjourned convention proposing a motion that north Senior Hurling championship be run in a league basis. His application proved successful but if his idea was to give his club extra games, well, he was short changed.

The eight teams entered were divided into two groups. Lorrha lined up with Nenagh Éire Og, Borrisokane and Borris-Ileigh. The former duo were well clear into the semi finals, unbeaten after two rounds. The same situation arose in the other group as Moneygall and Kilruane MacDonaghs survived their opening games and the planned round 3 encounters were declared null and void.

The first of the semi-finals was played on Friday, July 28 when Lorrha defeated Kilruane by seven points at Gardiner Park. Nenagh Éire Óg matched the seven point margin when defeating Moneygall at Cloughjordan the following Sunday.

On North Final day a parade of club banners added colour to a wonderful occasion in MacDonagh Park on August 19.

Padraig Kennedy lined out at left corner back with John McIntyre at centre back while his brother Aidan was top of the right. Lorrha were primed for victory.

Kennedy recalls the final. "I remember the previous year when we lost narrowly to Borris-Ileigh in the final so we couldn't wait for this final to come around. We were up for it big time. I was marking John Grogan and Nenagh got off to a great start," said Padraic. "Joe Kennedy and Brian Mannion scored a goal each as far as I can remember.

"Niall Corbett got two early goals," said John McIntyre. "But a quick reply by Brian Mannion got us back in track. Lorrha slowed worked their way into the game. Kieran Haugh was our captain and was man of the match after scoring from all angles. It was a big day for Lorrha. Later we reached the county final but Moycarkey-Borris defeated us.

"It was real warm day and Nenagh got a lot of chances to win. I was marking Denis Finnerty," said Aidan McIntire who scored 1-1. "The early stages of the game had its fill of

goals. Neilly Corbett gave Nenagh the best possible start. Lorrha hit back with goals from Willie Fogarty and myself before Corbett struck again. As the half wore on, Lorrha's experience began to tell. Further goals by Brian Mannion and Joe

Kennedy helped us take a 4-3 to 2-4 half time lead.

"Brian Heffernan had to leave the scene with an injury. Nenagh got back into the game with a John Grogan goal. Grogan was Nenagh's top scorer on the day but Lorrha replied as Eamon



John McIntyre, Lorrha

Sherlock, Willie Fogarty and Aidan McIntyre added points. Kieran Haugh was playing great stuff. Scoring 0-4 he was made the Nenagh Guardian player of the week. He captained the team also."

LORRHA scorers (4-11): W Fogarty 1-4 K Haugh 0-4; A McIntyre 1-1; J Kennedy and B Mannion 1-0 each; J Sherlock and E Sherlock 0-1 each.

Nenagh scorers (3-9): J Grogan 1-5; N Corbett 2-0 P Kennedy 0-3; M Kennedy 0-1.

LORRHA: Ken Hogan; Martin Young, Michael Brophy, Padraig Kennedy; John Harding, John McIntyre, Eamon Sherlock; Pat Kelly, Eamon Maher; Joe Kennedy, John Sullivan, Kieran Haugh; Aidan McIntyre, Brian Mannion, Willie Fogarty. Subs: Joe Kennedy.

NENAGH ÉIRE OG: Seamus Kerinedy; John Flannery, P J Maxwell, Denis Finnerty; Brian Heffernan, Conor Donovan, Paul Kennedy; Philip Kennedy, Liam Heffernan; John Heffernan, Matty Ryan, Michael Kennedy; John Grogan, Niall Corbett, John Darcy.

Referee: Michael Nolan, Moneygall.

Portroe Player Profile

Name: Denis Hogan

Club: Portroe

Position: Centre Forward

Age: 36

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 15 Stone

Do you recall your first childhood training session? Walking down from Portroe School to the hurling field, aged 9

Who were your childhood sporting heroes? Jack Sheedy (Dublin), Pat Fox (Tipperary) and Brendan Lynskey (Galway).

Who was the biggest influence on your career? My Dad. We never missed a match.

Who is the greatest player you have seen? Henry Shefflin.

What is the most important skill? Catching the ball. What else matters.

What advice have you for young players? Practise all the skills.

Best club hurling memory outside of playing? As selector with Portroe U-12 County final winning team at Semple Stadium.

What has been your greatest moment in sport? Winning All-Ireland Sevens. Today's final.

What would you like to change about the game? Allow the square ball.

Favourite sport other than hurling? Rugby.

What books or films have inspired you in your sporting life? All the Rocky films. (Inspirational)



Book you are currently reading or just finished? Last week's Guardian.

When I was a child I wanted to be? Really fast. It never happened.

How do you relax away from sport? I have been known to have a few pints of Heineken in my time.

The best invention ever? The wheel.

You may not know but I am good at..... Set Dancing

Person you would most like to meet? Being at a north final and I'd love to see the faces of my Dad, Grizzly and Jimmy Sheedy.

Marooned on a desert Island what could you not be without? The wife and kids.

Describe your life in seven words or what is your sporting motto? Always believe it's never too late.

In 10 years time I hope to be? Celebrating my son's first county final victory for Portroe at under 12.

Ballina Intermediate

1 Martin McKeogh

2 Rody Kennedy	3 Gerard Sheehy	4 Brendan McKeogh (c)
5 Patrick Cosgrove	6 Brian Stritch	7 Brian McKeogh
8 Jerry O'Brien	9 Seán McKeogh	
10 Stephen Stritch	11 Kevin Stritch	12 Kevin Cosgrove
13 David Hickey	14 T. J. O'Connell	15 Eoin Kent

Fir Ionaíd: 16. 17 Seán Collins, 18 Thomas Collins, 19 Aaron Devane, 20 Daniel Frawley, 21 Patrick Kennedy, 22 Donal Kent, 23 Paul Ryan, 24 Paudie Sheehy 25 Diarmuid Healy, 26 Michael Kelly, 27 Micheál Kennedy, 28 Padraig McKeogh, 29 Des Morgan, 30 Eamonn O'Sullivan.

Trainer: Michael Galligan. **Selectors:** Martin Kennedy, Gerard McKeogh & Pat Sheehy.

First Aid/Physio: Helen O'Brien.

Silvermines Intermediate

1 Donal O'Brien

2 Maurice Leamy	3 Seán Quinn	4 Damien Boland
5 Noel Quirke	6 Ronan Sherlock (Capt)	7 Declan Mulqueen
8 Niall Kelly	9 Donal Keogh	
10 Orrie Quirke	11 David Boland	12 Cathal Gleeson
13 Willie Keogh	14 Brendan Timmons	15 David Keogh

Fir Ionaíd: 16 Cathal Sherlock, 17 Timmy Kelly, 18 Eoin Grace, 19 Anthony McGrath, 20 Eoin Quirke, 21 Peter Kennedy, 22 Kevin Kennedy, 23. Matthew Collins, 24 Willie Forde, 25 Paul Sherlock, 26 Danny O'Donnoghue, 27 Damien Egan, 28 Alan Ryan, 29 Daniel Keogh
Manager Barney Naughtnane, **Selectors:** Jack Dunlea, Fr. Brendan Maloney, Sean Quigley



Éire Óg an Aonaigh

1

Michael McNamara

2

Eoin Fitzgibbon

3

Hugh Maloney

4

John Brennan

5

Hugh Flannery

6

Noel Maloney

7

Richie Flannery

8

Brian Dillon

9

Pearse Morris

10

Kevin Tucker

11

Eddie Tucker

12

Michael Heffernan

13

Cliff Moloney

14

Paddy Murphy

15

Tommie Heffernan

Fir Ionaid

16 Willie Bugler, 17 John Flannery, 18 Alan Kelly, 19 John Slattery, 20 Paul Ryan, 21 Shane Maher, 22 Stephen Ryan, 23 Brian Maxwell, 24 Declan O'Meara, 25 Billy Heffernan, 26 David Ryan, 27 David Hackett, 28 Mark Grace, 29 Sean Healy, 30 Mark Flannery, 31 Michael Hackett, 32 David Cleary, 33 Paddy Harrington, 34 Eoghan Slattery, 35 Michael Hayes, 36 Cian Tucker

Raghnóirei

Manager: Sean Treacy

Selectors: Neil Corbett, Donie O'Brien, Declan Bailey

Physio: Brian Fitzgibbon

Logistics: Matt Lillis *First Aid:* Bartley Ryan

Team Doctor: Dr Paul O'Farrell



Captain: Hugh Maloney

Port Rua



1
Darren Gleeson (Captain)

2
John Hogan

3
Nicky Ryan

4
Dermot O'Halloran

5
Charlie Wilford

6
Colm Gleeson

7
Noel O'Halloran

8
Jimmy Creamer

9
Justin Conroy

10
John Ryan

11
Michael Sheedy

12
Mark Gennery

13
John Sheedy

14
Dinny Hogan

15
Michael Creamer

Fir Ionaí

16 Damian Ryan, 17 Pádraig Malone, 18 Fergal Hayes,
19 Shane O'Brien, 20 Pádraig Hickey, 21 David O'Halloran
22 Anthony Freeman, 23 John Hogan (S), 24 John
Maloney, 25 Patrick Conroy, 26 Adrian Shinnery,
27 Nigel Kennedy, 28 Shane Creamer, 29 James Ryan,
30 David Gleeson, 31 Darren Ahern,
32 Coleman Shouldice

Raghnóirei

Manager: Joe Sexton
Selectors: Mackey McKenna & Pat O'Connor
Coach: Ger Bradley; First Aid: Tim O'Halloran
Physio: Jim Leahy



Captain: Darren Gleeson

Bridging a 61 year gap

1935 - 1996

Newport won the North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship of 1996. They took the field in the final against Lorrha on September 8th exactly 61 years to the day after Newport had last won the divisional crown. It took 2 games to overcome the men from Lower Ormond before Con McGrath received the Frank McGrath from John Joe McKeogh in front of the throngs of ecstatic supporters. The final score was 2-13 to 3-6, with John O'Mahony scoring the 2 goals and Ger Bradley contributing 9 points.

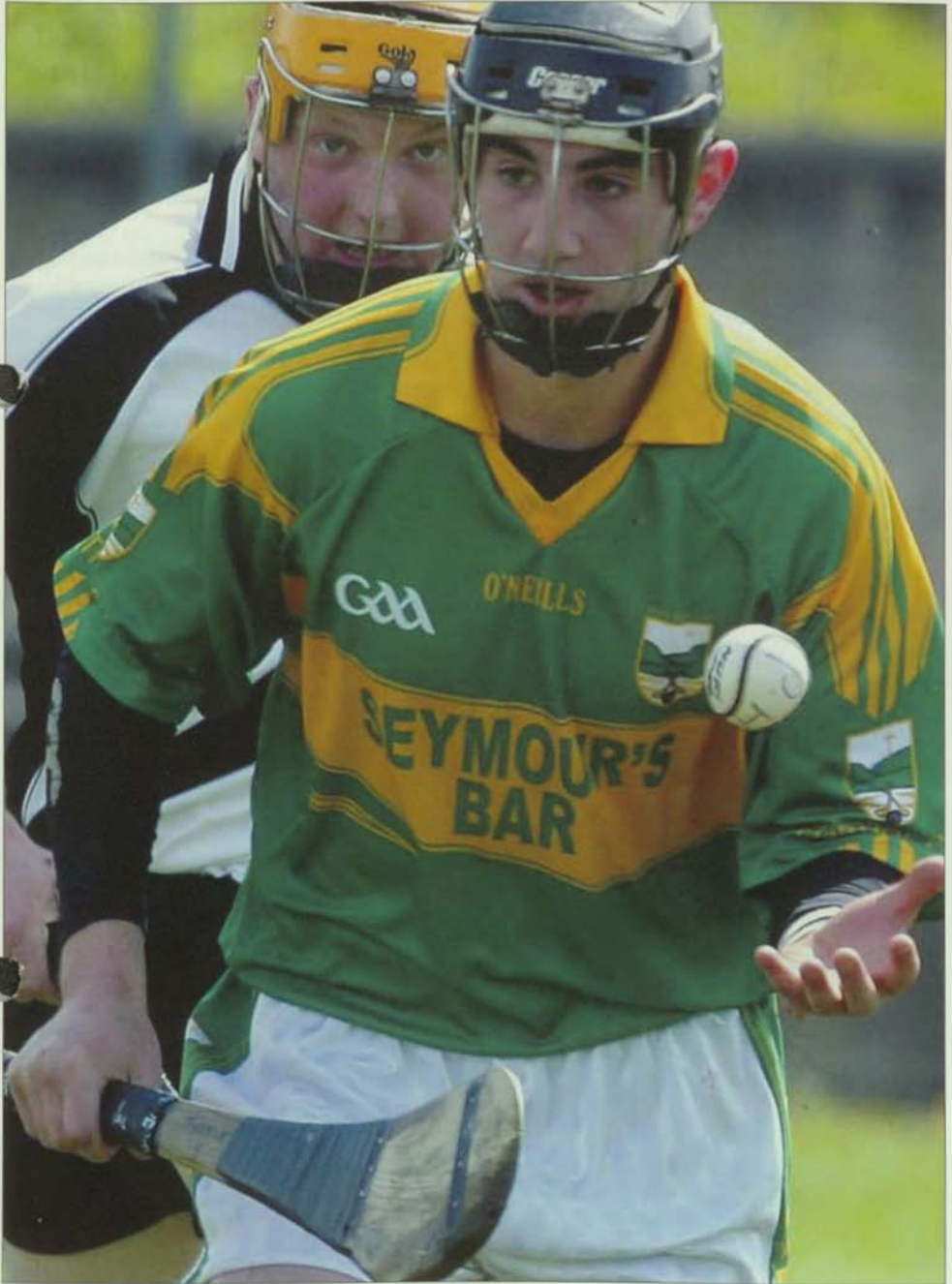
Newport Team & Panel: Ger Floyd, Timmy Jones, DJ O'Brien, Martin McCabe; Barry Gleeson, Aidan O'Gorman, Liam Jones; Tom Moylan, Pat Keating; John Ryan, Con McGrath, Ger Bradley; Gerry Moloney, John O'Mahony, Dinny Ryan; Peter Coleman, PJ O'Rourke, Kieran Buckley, Eoin Bonfield, Kenneth O'Brien, Paddy Ryan, Michael Coffey (S), Brian Coffey, David Hickey, John Keating, Ger Carey.

- Newport defeated Portroe, Toomevara, Moneygall (replay) and Lorrha (replay) on their way to being crowned champions.
- Six different trainers played a part in preparing the team during the year – Mike Grimes, Tony Hassett, Cormac Bonner, Len Gaynor, Colm Honan and Paudie Butler.
- Martin McCabe returned from Australia before the semi final to play a vital role in the remainder of the campaign.
- The ages of the players ranged from 39 (Ger Floyd) to 19 (Aidan O'Gorman) with the average age at 27.8 years.
- Record crowds attended both the drawn and replayed final at McDonagh Park, Nenagh, where the recently opened new stand was packed to capacity.



Newport captain, Connie McGrath, and Jimmy 'Butler' Coffey after the presentation of the Frank McGrath Cup in 1996.

- Still playing from the title winning panel of 13 years ago are Tom Moylan, Eoin Bonfield, Paddy Ryan and PJ O'Rourke. Liam Jones and Pat Keating are part of the current management team.
- Nigel Jones, son of corner back, Timmy, was the team mascot in 1996 – he is now playing with Newport's intermediate team.
- TF Stapleton, Borrisoleigh, refereed both the drawn game and the replay.
- The only two surviving members of the 1935 team, Mick Madden and Jimmy 'Butler' Coffey, attended the 1996 final. The latter, who won an All Ireland senior medal in 1937 will celebrate his 100th birthday before the end of 2009. He is still hale and hearty and can recall with great detail many of the games of the 1930's.



Justin Conroy (Portroe).

Toome and Nenagh share limelight

Toomevara and Nenagh Éire Óg shared some limelight in the early part of the sixties. Toomevara won four North finals in a five year stint, he first in 1958 end with a three-in-a-row 1961. '62 and '63. Toome completed a three in a row, 1960, '61 and '62. They reached the 1957 final after a lapse of eleven years, their first decider in a eight north final run between 1957 and '66 inclusive.

Their four final wins produced an total of 18- 47, some seven goals and ten points greater than achieved by Borris-Ileigh when winning a four in a row 1950 to '53.

At each end of the Toomevara dominance came Nenagh with two North final wins in 1957 and '64. In continuing a high scoring trend of the time, Éire Óg Nenagh dethroned Roscrea 5-12 to 2-8 in the sixty four decider which incidentally was almost the same score in the All-Ireland senior hurling, of the same year, when Tipp defeated Kilkenny 5-13 to 2-8.



Nenagh Éire Óg team 1964, North champions: Back row, l-r: John Lawlor, Johnny Starr, Oliver Tucker, Philip Murray, Sean Duigan, Gerry Quinlan, Paddy Kearns, Michael Kearns, Jimmy McCarthy, Tony Tierney, Christy Morgan, Denis Cahalan, Johnny McGrath, Martin O'Connor. Front: Terry Maloney, Adrian Ayres, Paudie O'Kennedy, Mick Burns, Phil Kennedy, Connie Clear, Eamonn O'Meara, Billy Shoer.

**Celine, Mike and Family of
Wm. Mc Loughlin Hardware
NENAGH**

would like to wish Portroe all the best

1960 to 1984 era

The early 'sixties saw the re-emergence of Toomevara. Roscrea were the dominant side in the later 'sixties and early 'seventies leading up to winning the All-Ireland Club final.

Kilruane achieved a three in a row while Nenagh Éire Óg, Silvermines and Moneygall came out of the wilderness.

Five time All-Ireland medal holder, Mick Burns, led Nenagh Éire Óg to victory when they defeated Roscrea in the 1964 final. It was Nenagh's second victory in seven years when Nenagh overcome Toomevara.

In 1974 Silvermines became the latest team to win the North final at the first attempt. They defeated Roscrea by 4-7 to 1-10 at Nenagh. Jim O'Brien led his team from the corner back position in what was a crowning moment for Tom Kennedy, Jim Keogh, Michael O'Brien and John Sherlock.

One year later, Moneygall were crowned champions for the first time. They defeated the holders at Tomas MacDonagh Park, the first final

played outside of Nenagh since 1941. Philip Fanning earned the player of the week award as Pat Sheedy's men had to come from behind five in arrears before finally securing victory when Philip Ryans twenty one yard free went crashing to the net for a 2-10 to 1-11 win. The North meal was a nice bonus for county players, John Gleeson and Jack Ryan.

Spare a thought for one of the unluckiest teams in the division never to win a north final throughout the sixties. Who? Borrisokane. They had a great side reaching the North final in 1961. They lost to an inform Toomevara team by 4-14 to 3-4. Coming on the back of an Intermediate win in 1958, they reached the semi finals in '59 and '60. After their failure to Toome in '61, they maintained a steady side reaching the penultimate stages in '65, '67, '68 and '69.

Four time All-Ireland medal winner, Mackey McKenna was one of the leading forwards of the time.



Lorrha: 1985: Back row, l-r: Martin Young, John Sherlock, Kieran Molly, Gerry Sullivan, Ken Hogan, John Madden, Aiden McIntyre, Michael Brophy, John Harding, James O'Meara. Front: Willie Fogarty, Eoin Mannion, Pat Kennedy, John McIntyre, Seamus Mannion, P. O'Meara, Kieran Hough, Eamonn Sherlock, Cathal McIntyre, Donal O'Donoghue, Pat Kelly, Tom Madden.

Roscrea win 5 in a row

Many players became household names when Roscrea emerged as the leading team of the 1960s. They won their ninth title in 1963. Their tenth arrived four years later, the beginning of a five in a row success, a feat that hasn't been repeated since. Add in the county championships and All-Ireland Final win.

With players like Tadgh Murphy, Kieran Carey, Tadgh O'Connor, Patsy Rowland, Michael Hogan, Mick Minogue, Jimmy Crampton, John Dillon, Francis Loughnane, and Joe Tynan the teams had stars among stars.

When they overcome Éire Óg Nenagh in the second round on June, 1967 they

begun a twenty-one game run in North Tipp, winning eighteen, drawn two and losing once.

Their semi final and finals were:

1967: Semi - Roscrea 4-8 Borrisokane 3-7;

Final: Roscrea 4-15 Moneygall 3-8

1968: Semi - Roscrea 0-13 Borrisokane

2-5; Final: Roscrea 2-15 Borris-Ileigh 3-7

1969: Semi - Roscrea 4-5 Borrisokane

2-10; Final: Roscrea 5-9 Lorrha 2-4

1970: Semi - Roscrea 4-16 Newport 2-3;

Final: Roscrea 3-9 Moneygall 3-3

1971: Semi- Roscrea 3-13 Lorrha 4-3;

Final Roscrea 3-8 Borris-Ileigh 3-5

Roscrea, All-Ireland Club Champions 1971



Roscrea 1971: Back (l-r): J. Moloney, W. O'Reilly (sel.), J. Cunningham (sel.), M. Minogue, K. Carey, L. Brussels, L. Spooner, J. Spooner, J. Shanahan, W. Stapleton, B. Hogan, T. Murphy, F. Dooley, J. Crampton, B. Brussels, J. J. Maher (sel.), M. Loughnane (sel.). Front: F. Loughnane, J. Tynan, M. Hogan, J. Cunningham, D. Moloney (capt), P. Rowland, B. Maher, M. Nolan, T. O'Connor. Inset: A. Spooner, P. Dynan, P. Landy, J. Hannon, H. Loughnane, J. Fitzgerald, T. Tynan.

1960 to 1984 and beyond

Borris-Ileigh and Kilruane dominate

Between 1965 and '88 both Borris-Ileigh and Kilruane MacDonaghs shared thirteen north final wins. They met in two finals, 1973 and '77 which helped form part of a great rivalry.

Loroha were three time victims to Borris as the Frank McGrath Cup arrived six times, 1972, '73, '76, '81, '83 and 88. Club secretary for ten years, Noel Maher was a winner in the six finals, a list that includes, Timmy Ryan and Noel O'Dwyer.

Maher was a versatile player. The sometimes defender won his first senior medal as a forward and collected his sixth as a goalkeeper in 1988. "I began playing in the goal in 1986 and played there for six years after playing out the field for eighteen or nineteen. I retired at 42 years of age," he said.

Timmie Ryan remembers his first North final vividly "It was in 1972 and the final was against Loroha at Nenagh on October 29. Weather conditions were very windy. I lined out at midfield marking Loroha's big star Liam King. Borris won by 2-9 to 0-4," he said.

Noel O'Dwyer, the former Tipp All-Ireland medal holder and later a selector recalls, "At the time Borris-Ileigh had not won a north since 1955 and it added to the thrill of winning. I won six north senior medals and cherish the whole lot of them.

Meanwhile Kilruane McDonagh, backboned by a successful under-age period in the seventies saw the McGrath Cup arrive seven times to include a double three in row successes 1977-79 and 1985-'87.

Their 1-12 to 2-7 win over Borris-Ileigh in 1977 saw MacDonaghs bridge a 12 year gap and Gilbert Williams played at wing forward, scoring one point, winning his first of seven North senior medals (including 1990) a record he shares with his brother, Jim, Dinny Cahill, Enda Hogan, Tony Sheppard and Jim O'Meara.

Gilbert played in every position with his senior team, bar goals and full back, he recalls the first triumph as special.

"The first one is always specials because there was a gap since 1965," he said. "I was playing wing forward marking Timmy Delaney. The day was wet. Kilruane always liked the rain," he claims. "I suppose the sheer joy after the final with our supporters of winning after what was considered a drought. At that time, things were at a low ebb in the late sixties and early seventies," he said.

Kilruane, with Len Gaynor both playing and training the team had now overturned the Borris-Ileigh win of four years earlier. In addition they had beaten a team with the calibre of players like Noel O'Dwyer, Timmy Ryan, Timmy Delaney, Tommy O'Dwyer, Brendan Kenny and T F Stapleton, a feature which added to the joy.

"It was all the more pleasing because they denied us in '73 by a point. To beat the team with the calibre of Borris-Ileigh who would have beaten Kilruane 'forties and 'fifties in North finals.



Gilbert Williams

Kilruane

1965: Kilruane	3-10	Loroha	5-2
1977: Kilruane	1-12	Borris-Ileigh	2-7
1978: Kilruane	3-6	Roscrea	1-11
1979: Kilruane	1-12	Moneygall	1-9
1985: Kilruane	2-10	Roscrea	1-10
1986: Kilruane	1-12	Toomevara	2-6
1987: Kilruane	2-15	Loroha	0-13

Borris-Ileigh

1972: Borris-Ileigh	2-9	Loroha	0-4
1973: Borris-Ileigh	3-6	Kilruane	2-8
1976: Borris-Ileigh	4-11	Loroha	3-5
1981: Borris-Ileigh	1-8	Roscrea	1-6
1983: Borris-Ileigh	1-11	Loroha	2-6
1988: Borris-Ileigh	1-14	Roscrea	1-7

Portroe Team pen pictures

Name: Darren Gleeson
Age: 28
Occupation: Financial Consultant
Claim to Fame: Only Port man to win a Munster Senior Hurling Medal.

Name: John Hogan (Wolf)
Age: 37
Occupation: Farmer
Claim to Fame: Held D.J. Carey scoreless in Ireland Sevens in 1996.

Name: Nicky Ryan (Faldo)
Age: 26
Occupation: Fitter
Claim to Fame: Won a Munster U-21 Hurling Medal with Tipperary in 2003.

Name: Dermot O'Halloran
Age: 27
Occupation: Project Manager
Claim to Fame: Clocks up thousands of miles to train and play with his native parish. Won a North u-21 in 2001.

Name: Noel O'Halloran
Age: 37
Occupation: Careys Glass
Claim to Fame: Only member of the present team to start in 1990 County Intermediate Final.

Name: Colm Gleeson
Age: 20
Occupation: Student
Claim to Fame: All-Ireland Minor Hurling winner 2006.

Name: Charlie Wilford
Age: 26
Occupation: Accountant
Claim to Fame: Kick started Liam Sheedy's managerial career with u-14 victory in 1997.

Name: Jimmy Creamer
Age: 23
Occupation: Tyre Fitter
Claim to Fame: Played in All-Ireland seven a side final in 2008.

Name: Justin Conroy
Age: 20
Occupation: Student
Claim to Fame: Won u-12 c Hurling, u-14 B Hurling, U-16 B Football and u-18 B Hurling North Medals.

Name: Mark Gennery
Age: 19
Occupation: Student
Claim to Fame: Scored 7 pts from play in u-16B North Semi Final V Shannon Rovers 2006.

Name: Dinny Hogan
Age: 36
Occupation: Construction Worker
Claim To Fame: Best high fielder of a ball this side of the Shannon.

Name: Michael Sheedy
Age: 19
Occupation: Student
Claim To Fame: Scored 1-5 in All-Ireland Vocational Schools Final 2008.

Name: John Sheedy
Age: 18
Occupation: Student
Claim To Fame: Scored winning goal in 2006 U-16B County Final Victory V J.K Brackens.

Name: John Ryan
Age: 31
Occupation: GAA Coach
Claim To Fame: Holds 3 county Senior Hurling Division 1 league medals.

Name: Michael Creamer
Age: 20
Occupation: Student
Claim To Fame: Won Minor B North Final in 2005 at wing back against Silvermines.

Name: Patrick Conroy
Age: 28
Occupation: Medical Technician
Claim To Fame: Won Junior B County Final in 1998 V Thurles Fennellys.

Portroe Team pen pictures

Name: Padraig Malone
Age: 22
Occupation: Student
Claim To Fame: Won North Junior A Football Championship in 2006 and played in Munster Club Football Championship.

Name: Damien Ryan
Age: 28
Occupation: Plumber
Claim To Fame: Won North Junior B Hurling medal in 2008 V Ballina.

Name: David Gleeson
Age: 20
Occupation: Bank Official
Claim To Fame: Top Scorer in Minor B team that won North Final in 2005.

Name: John Maloney
Age: 32
Occupation: Plasterer
Claim To Fame: Won All-Ireland Seven A side in 1999 V Glynn Barntown (Wexford).

Name: John Hogan (Stoney)
Age: 31
Occupation: Wyeth Employee
Claim To Fame: Scored winning goal in 1998 county Junior B Final v Thurles Fennelly's.

Name: Coleman Shouldice
Age: 29
Occupation: Student
Claim To Fame: Won All-Ireland Colleges Medal with St Flannan's Ennis in 1998.

Name: Anthony Freeman
Age: 30
Occupation: Proctor & Gamble Employee
Claim To Fame: Won County Junior B Medal 1998 Top scorer in Championship.

Name: Darren Ahern
Age: 20
Occupation: Carpenter
Claim To Fame: Won u-12, u-14, u-16, u-18 North Hurling Medals.

Name: Shane O'Brien
Age: 19
Occupation: Student
Claim To Fame: Won North Junior B Hurling Medal in 2008 V Ballina.

Name: Padraig Hickey
Age: 26
Occupation: Quantity Surveyor
Claim To Fame: Won North Junior A Football in 2006. North Junior B Hurling Medal 2008.

Name: Fergal Hayes
Age: 27
Occupation: Builder
Claim To Fame: Won North U021 Hurling Medal in 2001.

Name: Shane Creamer
Age: 26
Occupation: Bank Official
Claim To Fame: Won Munster u-16 Hurling Medal with Tipperary in 1998.

Name: David O'Halloran
Age: 23
Occupation: Shop Manager
Claim To Fame: Won u-14 c North Hurling Final V Ballinahinch 1997.

Name: Nigel Kennedy
Age: 22
Occupation: Student
Claim To Fame: Won North Junior B Hurling Med V Ballinahinch 2008.

Name: Adrian Shinnors
Age: 29
Occupation: Engineering Supervisor
Claim To Fame: Won u-21 North Hurling Medal in 2001.

Name: James Ryan
Age: 17
Occupation: Student
Claim to Fame: Won All Ireland Vocational Schools Medal with Nenagh VEC 2008.

What's in a Name?

It is certain that some of the Ryan clan would appear in some the games that featured in this years Hibernian North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship. There were at least twenty players involved. Instead we decided to have a look elsewhere to see what other well established dynasties were involved. We found out that the Hogans and Mahers were very common around these parts and it was decided to select two teams and see what we could come up with. The Mahers look very strong I must admit but the Hogans are not ones to give in too easily. Check it out.

THE HOGANS

	Dermot Hogan <i>Kildangan</i>	
John Hogan <i>Portroe</i>	Karl Hogan <i>Kildangan</i>	Paul Hogan <i>Burgess</i>
Eoin Hogan <i>Kilruane</i>	Steven Hogan <i>Lorrha</i>	Brian Hogan <i>Burgess</i>
	Noel Hogan <i>Lorrha</i>	Timmy Hogan <i>Burgess</i>
Eoin Hogan (G) <i>Burgess</i>	Dinny Hogan <i>Portroe</i>	Eoin Hogan (N) <i>Burgess</i>
Cian Hogan <i>Lorrha</i>	Trevor Hogan <i>Lorrha</i>	John Hogan (S) <i>Portroe</i>

V

THE MAHERS

	Declan Maher <i>Borris-Ileigh</i>	
James Maher <i>Roscrea</i>	Philip Maher <i>Borris-Ileigh</i>	David Maher <i>Burgess</i>
Kevin Maher <i>Lorrha</i>	Shane Maher <i>Burgess</i>	Martin Maher <i>Borris-Ileigh</i>
	Shane Maher <i>Nenagh Eire Og</i>	Stephen Maher <i>Moneygall</i>
Brendan Maher <i>Borris-Ileigh</i>	Patrick Maher <i>Lorrha</i>	Donagh Maher <i>Burgess</i>
Paul Maher <i>Borris-Ileigh</i>	Jonathon Maher <i>Burgess</i>	William Maher <i>Lorrha</i>

Subs: Jack Maher, Lorrha; Sean Maher, Borris-Ileigh; John Maher, Kildangan

Portroe v Nenagh Éire Óg

Head to head

Nenagh Éire Óg lead 8 to 4 in the twelve North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship encounters 1951 and 2008.

17/6/51: Second Rd-	Portroe 6-10	Saint Marys	1-0	at Nenagh
18/5/52: First Rd-	Portroe 2-4	Éire Og Nenagh	4-6	at Nenagh
7/6/53: Area 2 Lrs-	Portroe 1-6	Éire Og Nenagh	2-0	at Nenagh
4/7/54: Area 2 Final-	Portroe 2-7	Éire Og Nenagh	3-2	at Nenagh
5/6/55: Area 2 Lsr-	Portroe 4-6	Éire Og Nenagh	3-8	at Nenagh
20/5/56: First Rd-	Portroe 2-5	Éire Og Nenagh	4-3	at Nenagh
5/5/57: Area Final-	Portroe 0-3	Éire Og Nenagh	5-9	at Borrisokane
23/6/96: Losers Gr-	Portroe 1-6	Nenagh Éire Og	3-17	at Toomevara
19/6/99: Gr 2 Rd 2-	Portroe 1-12	Nenagh Éire Og	1-13	at Cloughjordan
29/7/00: Gr 2 Rd 3-	Portroe 1-12	Nenagh Éire Og	1-19	at Toomevara
15/7/01: Q-Final	Portroe 1-10	Nenagh Éire Og	1-15	at Nenagh
20/7/03: Q-Final	Portroe 0-16	Nenagh Éire Og	2-12	at Dolla



Portroe's Justin Conroy gets away from Toomevara's Terry Dunne in The Hibernian North SHC semi-final.

Finals by the Decade

By Jimmy Conroy

1969: Roscrea 5-9 Lorrha 2-4

Three in a row Champions, Roscrea, cruised to victory over a disappointing Lorrha side in front of 4,000 spectators at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh. Roscrea led by 4-4 to 1-2 at the break and at that stage were well on their way to their 12th title.

ROSCREA: Tadgh Murphy; Michael Hogan (capt), Kieran Carey (R.I.P.), John Dillon; Patsy Rowland, Tadgh O'Connor, Brendan Maher; Mick Minogue (1-0, line ball), Francis Loughnane (0-4, 2f's); Donie Moloney (1-1), Michael Nolan, Liam Brussels 0-2, Joe Tynan (2-1), Jackie Hannon (1-1), Harry Loughnane (R.I.P.).

LORRHA: Noel Montieth; Michael Liffey, P.J. O'Donoghue, Padraig Kennedy; Christy Molloy, Noel Lane, Wilsey Morris; Liam King (0-1, free), Declan Corcoran; J.J. Kennedy (1-0), Sean O'Meara (0-2), Liam Moran (capt); Kieran Haugh, M Kennedy (1-0), Jim Lane. Subs: Mick Gleeson (0-1) for Corcoran; Paddy Madden for S O'Meara; S O'Meara for Haugh.

Referee Donie Nealon, Burgess.

1979: Kilruane MacDonaghs 1-12 Moneygall 1-9

Kilruane MacDonaghs captured their third North Tipperary title in a row in front of 2,500 patrons at MacDonagh Park. The champions played with the wind in the first half but trailed 0-6 to 0-5 at the break. A Sean O'Meara goal early in the second half turned the game in their favour but after stretching their lead to five a Pat Sheedy goal six minutes from time left the champions on tender hooks before holding out for victory.

KILRUANE MACDONAGH: Tony Sheppard; Sean Hyland, Denis O'Meara, Enda Hogan; Gilbert Williams, Paddy Williams, Denis Cahill; Mackey Keogh, Seamus Hennessey (0-9, 8f's); Eamon O'Shea (0-1), Liam O'Shea (Capt), Gerry Williams; Jim Williams (0-1), Sean O'Meara (1-1), Mackey Waters.

MONEYGALL: Noel White; J.J. Comerford, Mike Doherty, Sean Doughtan; J.J. Guilfoyle D Fanning, Eugene Ryan (0-1); Jack Ryan, Bobby Jones; Donal Kennedy, Seamus Ryan (0-5, 1f), Phil Fanning; Philip Ryan (0-3), Dan Guilfoyle, Eddie Sutton. Subs: Pat Sheedy (1-0) for Sutton; Billy McLeish for Kennedy.

REFEREE: Sean O'Meara, Lorrha.

1979: Lorrha 1-14 Toomevara 1-12

Lorrha captured their eight North title before a fair sized attendance at MacDonagh Park. Heavy showers and a swirling wind made conditions difficult for fluent hurling. Toomevara, playing with the breeze in the first half, managed a 0-9 to 0-4 half time. The breeze strengthened in the second half helping Lorrha draw level on forty-three minutes. Two minutes later, Aidan McIntyre fired home a decisive goal.

LORRHA: Ken Hogan (Capt); Eamon Sherlock (0-5, 4f's), Donal O'Donoghue, Michael Brophy; Aidan McIntire (1-1), John McIntire (0-1, 1f), Cathal McIntire; John Madden, Declan O'Meara (0-1), Pat Kelly, Seamus Mannion, Michael Young; Pat Kennedy, Gerry O'Sullivan (0-1), Kieran Haugh (0-5, 4f's).

TOOMEVARA: Kevin McCormack; Pat Maher, Rory Brislane, Brendan Spillane; George Frend, Pat King (Capt), Noel McDonnell; Kenneth McDonnell (0-2), Michael O'Meara; Eddie Frend, Liam Flatherty, Michael Nolan (1-5, 0-5 f's); Jimmy Dunne (0-2), Tony Dunne (0-1), John Ryan (0-2).

Referee: Johnnie McDonnell, Roscrea.

1999: Toomevara 2-19 Nenagh Éire Óg 2-15

In one of the best finals of the decade, Toomevara claimed title number 28 when they defeated holders, Nenagh, at Tomas MacDonagh Park, Cloughjordan. Approximately 2,300 witnessed Toomevara overturn a seven point half time deficit to claim victory.

TOOMEVARA: Justin Cottrell; George Frend, Rory Brislane, Aidan Maxwell; Declan O'Meara, Tony Delaney, Benny Dunne; Terry Dunne, Brian Duff; Paddy O'Brien, Pat King, Tomas Dunne (Capt, 0-4); Paul McGrath, Michael O'Meara, John O'Brien.

NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG: Christy McLoughlin; Noel Coffey, Frank Moran, Aidan Quinn; John Kennedy, Hugh Flannery, Con Howard (Capt); Richie Flannery, John Tucker; Kevin Tucker, Eddie Tucker, John Slattery; Michael Hackett, Michael Cleary, Declan O'Meara. Sub Robbie Tomlinson.

REFEREE: Michael Cahill, Kilruane MacDonaghs.

1990 North Tipp Intermediate Final:

Portroe defeat depleted 'Mines in memorable contest

Portroe 3-8; Silvermines 2-9

The aftermatch scenes were almost indescribable, and hearts were still fluttering, as Portroe closed a barren seven years gap, when winning a memorable and thrilling North Tipperary Intermediate hurling championship in an incredible final at Nenagh on Sunday, on a scoreline of 3-8 to 2-9, against a battling Silvermines, a player short for twenty five minutes of the second half.

It was always tough, hard and uncompromising, yet there were spells of brilliant play and individual effort, interspaced in all that heart-stopping excitement. There were many who thought after Joe Harrington had regained the lead with a brilliant goal six minutes from the end, but a one-handed flick to the net two minutes later by James Seymour, buried the aspirations of the men in blue and white and lifted, Portroe to the Mecca of an exhilarating achievement.

It was a success hard won in a contest which probed deeply into the corners of character and the players answered the test with fierce physical

commitment. If it was not a classic hurling final, it was an epic contest with tension clamping over a good sized attendance until the referee's final peal of the whistle.

Scorers: Portroe: J. Seymour 2-2, J. Sheedy 1-2, L. Sheedy 0-2, B. O'Driscoll 0-2. Silvermines: J. Harrington 1-1, S. Forde 1-1, N. Sheehy 0-3, G. Ryan 0-3, O. Ryan 0-2.

Portroe: Chris Madden, Martin McKenna, Paddy Conroy, Jimmy Ryan, Michael Gleeson, Gerry O'Brien, Tom Keating, Noel O'Halloran, Barry O'Driscoll, Padraig O'Brien, Jimmy Sheedy, Liam Sheedy, Michael Madden, John Sheedy (capt.), James Seymour. Subs: Donnchadh Keating for T. Keating, Michael McKeogh for Madden, Richard Freeman for O'Halloran.

Silvermines: Ger Clifford, Liam Touhy, Donal Forde, Ger Ryan, Joe Quinlan, Ger Ryan (D), Liam Keogh, Ger Gleeson, Ml. Cuneen, Martin Ryan, Noel Sheehy (capt.), John Sherlock, Joe Harrington, Sean Forde, Eoin Ryan. Subs: Declan Corcoran for M. Ryan, Finbar Ryan for Clifford.

Referee: M. Lenihan (Ballinahinch).



Staunch Portroe fan Denise Shouldice who is the Tipperary representative in the Rose of Tralee contest with her parents at the North semi-final between Portroe and Toomevara at MacDonagh Park Nenagh.

J.J. Lewis & Shinnors

ARCHITECTS

Best Wishes to Portroe in the North Final

T&B Gleeson, Spar Portroe

SPAR



Good luck to the Portroe team and
managment in the North Final

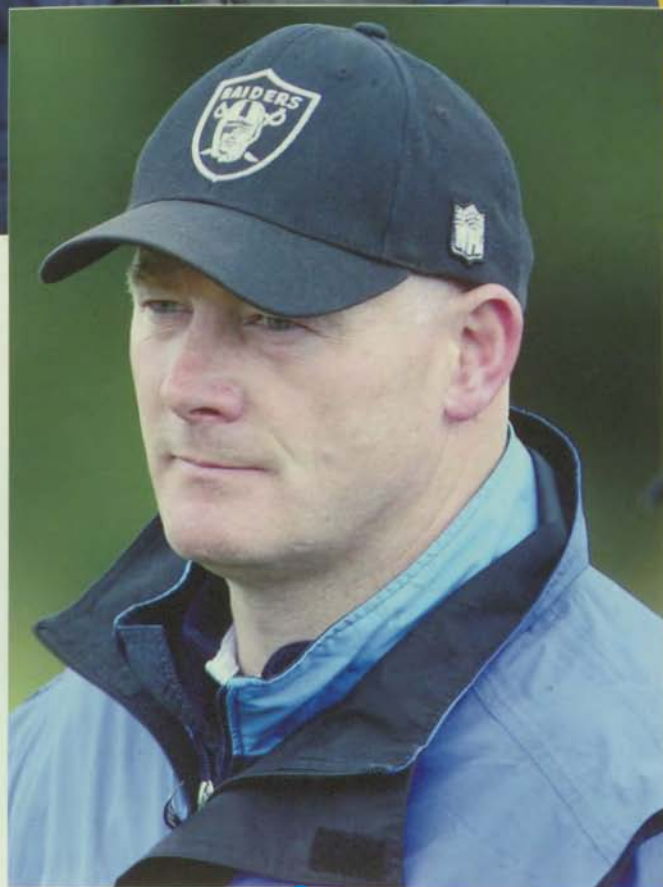


Nenagh Eire Og fans (l to r) Billy Flannery, Ger Gavin and Rory Flannery watch the flight of the ball during The Hibernian North SHC semi-final between Nenagh Eire Og and Borris-Ileigh at MacDonagh Park Nenagh.

The management



Portroe management team. Martin McKenna, selector, Joe Sexton, manager, Ger Bradley, coach and Pat O'Connor.



Nenagh Eire Og Manager
Sean Treacy.

1989:

Lorrha winners after five year lapse

It's twenty years since Lorrha defeated Toomevara in the North Final. They defeated an up and coming Toomevara side by 1-14 to 1-12 at Nenagh.

Ken Hogan was the captain for Lorrha. "We were underdogs for the final. Earlier in the year we lost to Shannon rovers after a replay. But we reached the semi-final and defeated Nenagh. Eamon Maher was the coach. It was a novel idea to have a coach to coming from our own club. Eamon was very thorough. Players coming down from Dublin for training had to arrive at Redwood in time or it was ten minutes training after the session was over.

"Joe Kennedy came back from America and stayed around Lorrha for a month leading up to the game", said Ken.

On North final day itself, "Conditions on the day of the North final were poor. A very showery day as I recall. We needed a huge start as we played against the strong breeze in the first half. Eamon Sherlock scored 0-5 from frees.

"There was no stand in Nenagh at the time and the crowd seemed to be very close to the players. There was a great atmosphere.

I remember coming towards the end of the

game when I received an accidental blow to the side of the face. It was poorly accidental but the late Patsy Carroll came out to see if I was all right. He put up two fingers in front of me, the usual, bandaged me up and I continued.

"I am a kind of superstitious and I remember wearing a white jersey all year. That day you could see some blood on the jersey as the Chairman John Tierney, now manager of Dublin City Council, presented the Frank McGrath Cup.

"It was a huge honour to win and to be the captain in the day", concluded Ken.



Ken Hogan,
Lorrha goalkeeper

Centenary Celebrations in 2001

The North Tipperary GAA Board celebrated its centenary year in 2001. Tom Slattery, Shannon Rovers, was Chairman of the Board that year with Ger McKeogh as Secretary and Catherine Gleeson as Treasurer

A committee under the chairman Noel Morris organised many events for the year.

On June 30, the North Board held a meeting in the New Institute to mark the first meeting held by the Board, there in 1901. A plaque was unveiled on the wall outside the New Institute to mark the occasion.

Later in the year two hurling teams of the century and one in football were selected. Former GAA President, Seamus Ó Riain now deceased, and then president of the Board was honoured in November.



Tom Slattery,
North Board chairman in 2001

1990 Final: Kilruane's latest success

**Kilruane MacDonaghs 2-7
Toomevara 0-5**

The 1990 final between Kilruane MacDonaghs and Toomevara won't be recalled as one of the epic deciders. No bard was moved to pen a ballad and no scribe waxed lyrical. Yet, it is fondly remembered as one of MacDonaghs most momentous victories.

At half time, MacDonaghs mentor Billy Meara departed MacDonagh Park to head to the capital city for a prearranged meeting with a surgeon. As he left, the prospects of a MacDonaghs victory seemed remote. After a dour opening half, punctuated by stoppages for injuries, Kilruane had a paltry one point lead, despite playing with the strong wind. Early in the game veteran Jim Williams, who was having a magnificent season, suffered a broken collarbone and was whisked away to Nenagh hospital. With his departure, the hopes of an eighteenth title seemed to evaporate and a first half return of three points gave little cause for optimism.

However, as one old warhorse departed the scene another battle hardened veteran Dinny Cahill was to provide the required leadership. The selectors performed their own surgery on the team by switching Dinny from defence to fill Jim Williams's spot at full forward. This inspirational move galvanised MacDonaghs and into the teeth of the wind they fashioned a famous triumph helped by a brace of goals from Ger Williams and Tom Killackey. That evening Billy O'Meara faced his impending hospital sojourn with less trepidation and Jim Williams's collarbone was already on the mend.



Dinny Cahill, Kilruane MacDonaghs

Did you know that . . . ?

As an from August 1, 1910 the scoring area was reduced and point posts to be abolished arising from decision made by Congress earlier in the year.

North Finals in 1911 and 1912 see an increase in the North final results, 1911: Toomevara 7-0 De Wets 3-0; 1912: Toomevara 7-3 Ballina 0-1

Congress reduced players from 17 to 15. North Board follow suit but a motion seeking 13 a-side was defeated 16 votes to nine.

The 1925 final had the biggest share of goals when fifteen were scored. Toomevara/Moneygall 9-6 Youghalarra 6-2.

1927: The North Intermediate championship is introduced. Dolla are champions.

1928 Roscrea win the inaugural Minor Hurling championship.

Éire Óg All-Ireland medal winners

Senior Hurling

William J Spain 1890
Jack Darcy 1925
Mick Darcy 1924, 1925
Seamus Bannon 1949
John McGrath 1958
Mick Burns 1958, 1961, 1962, 1964,
1965,
Michael Cleary 1989, 1991
Conor O'Donovan 1989, 1991
John Heffernan 1989

Under 21 Hurling

Roger Coffey 1979, 1980
Brian Heffernan 1979, 1980, 1981
Michael Kennedy 1980
Philip Kennedy 1980, 1981
PJ Maxwell 1980
Jim O'Sullivan 1981
John Flannery 1985
Declan O'Meara 1995
Kevin Tucker 1995

Minor Hurling

Tom Brophy 1933,
John McGrath 1949
Edward McGrath 1952,
Phil Hennessey 1952.
Paddy Hallinan 1953
Mick Burns 1955
Michael Gilmartin 1955

Anthony Tierney 1956
Devere Reynolds 1956, 1957
Paddy Kearns 1957
Paudie Kennedy 1957
Michael Griffin 1976
P.J. Maxwell 1976
Dennis Finnerty 1980
John Flannery 1982
Michael Heffernan 2006, 2007
Patrick Murphy 2007

Intermediate Hurling

Paddy Hallinan 1963
Michael Kearns 1963
John Darcy 1972

Junior Hurling

Jim Murray 1926,
Dan Gleeson 1933,
Jimmy O'Riordan 1933

Junior Football

Chris Bonnar 1998
Kevin Coonan 1998
Jim McAuliffe 1998

Masters Hurling

Conor O'Donovan 1983
Phil Hennessey 1983
Rody Cawley 1983

Senior Football

William J Spain 1887

Flan and Mary Lowry of
Newsfayre and Card & Gifts

Best wishes to both teams in Senior Final today.

James Maher, captain Roscrea 2004

2004: Roscrea 0-13 Borris-Ileigh 1-9

Was it a coincident that Frank McGrath was our manager the year we won the Frank McGrath cup? As Roscrea supporters young and old were clearly overjoyed with our first North Tipp win in 24 years, my memories of that day will never be forgotten.

As captain I believed from the beginning of the season we had the winning factor in us. A good combination of experience and youth on our side and extreme determination from all players proved that this was our year.

The dreams and hopes I had as a young hurler that some day I would lead my team to victory all became reality when the final

whistle blew and I knew we had done it. I fell to my knees and all I could hear was joyous cries and roars of delight as the supporters flooded onto the field. In my speech I spoke of pride in wearing the Roscrea jersey and thanked those people who had helped us on our journey that year. The celebrations began in earnest when we returned to Roscrea that evening and they ran well into the night in the tranquil setting of Roscrea Golf Club, with our most senior player taking the McGrath cup home to bed that night!!! That for me is what winning finals is all about. Now we know why hurlers make great golfers when they retire.

For James Maher being captain that year was a great honour.



Roscrea, North Tipperary senior hurling champions 2004.



coiste chontae
thiobraid árainn



Monster All Ireland Draw

Support
Tipperary Senior Hurlers
Training Fund

Star Prize:

All Ireland S.H. Final Weekend in Dublin

- Travel By Limo
- 2 Match Tickets
- 2 nights in the Burlington
- 2 tickets to After Match Function
- ***and also travel on team holiday***

2nd Prize:

- 2 tickets for All Ireland SH Final plus
- 2 tickets to After Match Function

3rd - 10th Prize:

- 2 tickets for All Ireland SH Final

Tickets - €20 each; Book of 6 - €100

Draw on Thur Sept 3rd 2009
in Thurles Sunfields Centre 9pm

If interested in joining the Draw, contact your local Tipp GAA Club or complete the coupon below and forward immediately with subscription to the Tipperary GAA Office, Lar Na Páirce, Thurles, (0504) 22702. A receipt will be posted to you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

If you are interested in promoting this Draw contact the GAA Office at Lar Na Páirce Thurles.



Michael Creamer (Portroe).

2008 Kildangan bridge a moment in time in a North Final

Picture the scene, approximately half way through the second half of the 2008 North Final, Burgess were in control and looking set for victory. The Kildangan management team were not happy with events on the field and they turned to the bench and asked Sean Kelly to warm up. He was about to enter the action at right corner forward. His grand uncle Paddy Morrissey, the Kildangan Club President, one of just three links alive to the last Kildangan team to win a North Final in 1943 was looking on from the stand.

(Seamus Flannery and James Hogan the other two)

It took just 57 seconds for Sean to make an impact on this final.

A long ball from out the field towards the town goal broke kindly between two Burgess

defenders into his path and Sean, composed, beat the advancing Niall McGrath in the Burgess goal for a crucial score. Hence began one of the greatest comebacks with Kildangan coming from 8 points down to claim victory by two points. Sean added a point to his goal and assisted in three other points.

The remarkable thing about Sean was that he had not hurled for 4 years with Kildangan due to a crippling back injury that threatened his quality of life never mind making an appearance in a North hurling final. It proved to be the decisive moment of the final and a moment never to be forgotten in the Kelly house down by Lough Derg.

Kildangan were managed by Eamonn Kelly, Coach, Ger Cunningham. Joint captains - Michael Ryan and Brian Kelly.

Meet the Tulla Ceili Band



The Tulla Pipe Band was formed in 1936 and despite some tough years we are still a vibrant organisation 73 years on with over 20 active members. The Band performs at many engagements throughout Co Clare and neighboring counties ranging from GAA matches, sporting-charity events and festivals. In recent years we have also played in competition and hosted both the Munster and All-Ireland Pipe Band completions. Today we are delighted to play for yet another North Tipperary Final.

Did you know that . . . ?

Parish Rule introduced to North Tipperary in 1935

Jack Hctor Kildangan became the first captain to receive the New Murphy Cup, silverware for the North Senior championship in 1938. Seamus Gardiner N.T., Borrisokane, was chairman of the Board.

Fourteen goals were scored in the 1942 final. Roscrea defeated Kildangan 7-5 to 7-4.

Tadgh O'Connor, Roscrea becomes the first Carroll's hurling All-Star in 1971. He is selected at right half back.

Francis Loughnane, Roscrea, is at right half forward. Michael Roche and Michael Keating are also on the team.

Kilruane are winners of the 1964 JHC of the new Monsignor O'Keeffe Cup.

1961: The Frank McGrath Cup is the new SHC Cup and John Hough becomes the first captain to receive it when Toomevara defeat Kilruane MacDonaghs.

The McGrath Cup remains the silverware to this day.

Kildangan became North Intermediate champions in 1971 and Paddy Kelly became the first Captain to receive the new The Fr Hewitt Cup.

1974: New Minor B Hurling championship - Burgess are winners.

Silvermines became the latest club to capture the North Senior Hurling Final for the first time. They defeated Roscrea.

One year later, Moneygall win it for the first time overthrowing Silvermines in the final at Tomas MacDonagh Park, Cloughjordan.

1980: New Under 21 B Hurling grade - Champions Portroe.

TSB became the first sponsors of the North Tipperary Senior Hurling championship in 1997.

Donie Shanahan was Chairman of the North Board at the time.

The Nenagh Guardian later became sponsors of the North Intermediate Hurling Championship.

Other competition sponsors Junior, The Watch Centre; U-21 Hurling, Walsh's of Nenagh and Minor Hurling, Ger Gavin



Portroe coach Ger Bradley
on his knees following the
great win over Toomevara.
Photographs: Bridget
Delaney

John Sheedy of Portroe

Former Portroe and Tipperary netminder John Sheedy reflects on his hurling career with his club Portroe and his involvement with the Tipperary Minor and U-21 Hurling teams in the seventies and he says that for a small club, Portroe can hold there own with any team in the county!

John Sheedy began his career playing in the goals and from that position he lined out in Portroe's great win in the inaugural Feile Na nGael. The finals were held in Thurles. At least five or six players from that team continued to play for Portroe up to end of the nineties. "I was twelve years of age when we won the Feile in '71. It was a great highlight for any young player. We played a team from Enniskillen here at Portroe. Gerry O'Brien and my late brother Jimmy were playing" says John.

John was selected to the position of substitute goalkeeper on the Tipp minor team in 1976. Tipp won the All-Ireland Minor final that year.

"Vincent Mullin of St Mary's was the number one keeper then and I could not shake him off. He was the number one goalkeeper for the two All-Ireland U-21 successes in 79 and 80 and fair play to him he deserved his place. I thoroughly enjoyed those years."

In 1983, John made goalkeeping position his own with the Tipp seniors. In the Munster championship that year he helped Tipp win their first championship game in ten years. One year later he lined out in the fantastic 1984 Munster final when losing to Cork at Thurles.

Returning to club level Portroe won the Walsh Cup for U-21 "B" Hurling final in 1980. It was played in Cloughjordan. John played at full back. "Earlier we lost to Lorrha in the semi-final of the "A" championship. The Lorrha team included Ken Hogan who was a promising goalkeeper at the time. We then concentrated on the "B" championship and we defeated Shannon Rovers in the final."

Intermediate Hurling

Portroe played in many north intermediate finals throughout the 70's and 80's and John got his first taste in 1981. He won his second in '83 and seven years later John he had the privilege of leading his side to north and county titles

against a John Leahy-led Mullinahone.

However the clashes between Portroe and Shannon Rovers 1986 when two and a half hours were needed to separate the teams, were the games which John recalls vividly. Operating at full forward he remembers the game with great affection despite losing.

"We were very unlucky in 86 especially in the replay," says John. "We had a few great matches with Shannon Rovers and we lost. It is amazing how the game of hurling can produce so many ups and downs and we were very unlucky in that game. I thought that our chance had gone after all of our years trying for the breakthrough.

"We got all the breaks in 1990," John Sheedy was captain that year and his passionate acceptance speech will be long remembered by those who were present on the day. Being Captain made the winning extra special for him.

John married local girl Mary O'Brien former inter-county camogie player and they have four kids, Marie, John, Aoife, and Garroid. Hurling still forms part of John's life.

The winning of an All-Ireland Masters medals were a welcome addition to his medal collection but he looks back with pride on his involvement with the Junior "B" team which brought home the club's second county final in eight years. "I was a player manager that year and winning that championship proved to be very enjoyable. We were the fourth best team in the competition but the players showed great heart and determination to defeat teams like Burgess Toomevara and Thurles Fennellys in the County final.

Since then John took over as manager of the senior team and acquitted himself well. Under his guidance Portroe won two County Senior leagues (Div 1) and won the All-Ireland Seven a side in Kilmacud. Not bad for a small parish!



John Sheedy

PORT RUE C.L.G.



Portroe GAA Club's Thanks

Portroe GAA club wish to thank the following sponsors for their generosity:

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Steps2fitness Gym Portroe will re-open on the 1st of September.

New members welcome.



Zest Restaurant, Portroe

Martina and Staff would like to wish very success to the
Portroe Hurling Senior Hurling Team and Managment

Ciss Ryan's Bar

GARRYKENEDY

*Roy, Denise and family wish Joe and his team
every success in the Final*



Brothers Eddie (top) and Kevin Tucker will line out for Nenagh Éire Óg in today's final.

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North Senior Final today*

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Best wishes to Portroe team and managment on North Final day

Seymour's Bar, Portroe

*James, Mary and family wish Portroe team
and management all the best in the North
Senior Final today.*

Celebrating our Gaelic Games

by Liz Howard

The "GAA125" is an occasion to celebrate. Last Saturday week in Nowlan, Cumann Camógaoíochta na nGael paid a tribute to mark the 125. It was colourful and symbolic, reflecting the success of the GAA across the globe. Many think that Cumann Camógaoíochta comes under the remit of the GAA. While it is part of the family of Gaelic Games it is autonomous in running its own business, so is ladies football. Both rely on the GAA for pitches and other facilities. We appreciate that support.

When the GAA was founded, women were not considered because "sport was socially undesirable for women". At the turn of the 20th century the Civil Service changed policy to allow women to join. Many young women moved to Dublin to work in the Civil Service. The Gaelic League was strong in Dublin and the Keating Branch provided a focal point for male and female alike. The female members wanted to play an Irish game. They decided that a game based on hurling would be ideal. Wise women!

Máire Ní Chinnéide a graduate of the Royal University, Tadhg O Donoghue who later became Professor of Irish Studies in UCC, and Sean Ó Ceallaigh ("Sceilig") and later Minister for Education and Dublin footballer Seamus Ó Braonáin drafted the first rules. Máire Ní

Chinnéide has Nenagh connections. The first Camogie game was played in Navan on July 17th 1904. How it has progressed since that.

Portroe has a strong camogie tradition. Prominent players past included Mary McNerney, Sadie Mc Cormack, Mary O'Brien – Sheedy, Sinead Kennedy, multi All-Ireland winner Claire Madden and present day players Trish and Jenny O'Halloran, Nessa O'Driscoll and Karen O'Brien. Trish brought the first Camogie All Star Award to Portroe in 2008.

St. Mary's Convent, Nenagh plays a leading role in promoting camogie. Tipperary Camogie owes a huge debt to teacher Ger Dulea. In 1991 and 1992 St Mary's won the All Ireland Junior Colleges Championship, two years later senior All Ireland success was achieved. That was repeated in 2000. Camogie at underage is flourishing in Éire Óg Nenagh, great work is being done. Pat Sheridan invited me to a wonderful U11 Blitz in Nenagh last year. It is only a matter of time before the club becomes a real force. Portroe and Nenagh contest North Final today. The Portroe spirit is superb with Dinny Hogan and Noel O'Halloran epitomising that. Éire Óg, stylish and classy, Kevin Tucker and Richie Flannery reflect that so well. We all love the North Final.



Trish O'Halloran receiving her Camogie All Star Award 2008 from Liz Howard, Uachtarán Cumann Camógaoíochta na nGael and Brendan Cummins, guest of honour.



Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

North Tipperary Divisional Board

Official GAA Website

CLG Tiobraid Árann



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www.north.tipperary.gaa.ie

The North Tipperary G.A.A. Bórd launched its own website back in early 2008. This website seeks to maximize the information available to the general public and in particular to those who are based away from North Tipperary.

On a weekly basis, Fixtures, Results & the North Tipp Notes are added to the website. Also updated on a regular basis is the progress of the various North Tipperary Championships & Leagues. These regular updates can be of great value to those looking for various results. In time they will hopefully provide a valuable archive & resource for those interested in North Tipperary affairs. This year our path to the final printed elsewhere in the programme has been lifted directly from the website.

Also on the website is information about the various clubs, office holders, Bórd na nÓg fixtures and other pieces of information. This area of information will be expanded over the coming weeks & months.

What has grabbed most people's attention lately is the Match Tracker Services. This was first introduced on the excellent Tipperary county Bórd website: <http://tipperary.gaa.ie> by Ed Donnelly and we have followed on with a similar service in North Tipperary. People as far away as Canada, USA & Greece have been able to follow our Senior Hurling Championship Quarter Finals & Semi-finals live from the comfort of their own armchairs.

Indeed if you know someone who is away from home and would be interested in keeping up to the date with today's games, why not ring them now. Tell them to log onto www.north.tipperary.gaa.ie and click on the Match Tracker link.

Best of Luck to Portroe in today's final



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

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