

North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final
Match Programme
2011

Coiste Thiobraid Árann Thuaidh

The Hibernian Inn

North Tipperary Senior Hurling Final

Cill an Daingean v Tuaim Uí Mheara

Referee:

Ger Fitzpatrick

(Roscrea)

Eugene Ryan

Runal

Each

€3



MacDonagh Park, Nenagh
Sunday 31st July 2011 at 6.30 pm

Frank McGrath Cup - 50th anniversary

Today we visit the life and times of a great Gael

If Wedger Meagher could be said to be the best loved of the early figures of North Tipperary's GAA story, Frank McGrath is the one whose lifetime contribution to the Association stands out most prominently. He was born within a year of the founding of the Association. When he died in 1965 the All-Ireland final was capable of attracting over eighty thousand spectators. From his youth to his death he was part of the machinery of the Association from its lowest to its highest levels.

A man of infinite talent, Frank McGrath was a first-class hurler and footballer, a champion handballer and step-dancer, a dedicated soldier of freedom, an able and far-sighted administrator, a highly successful businessman, a natural leader of men whose ability brought him to the top in whatever assembly he was part of.

Born in Youghal where he acquired a love of those sporting activities which would dominate his life, he began his formal association with the GAA and the Gaelic League as soon as he went to work in Nenagh when he had left his local school. A perfectionist in everything, he would later recount how he used cycle to Limerick for lessons in Irish step-dancing. He was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood from an early age and became a member of the executive of the Irish Volunteers. He was Brigadier of the North Tipperary Brigade of the IRA during the early part of the Anglo-Irish war, was a judge in the Republican courts and later on was chief of Republican police. He was jailed in Durham and Wormwood Scrubs, from which he was released after hunger strike. He took no part in the Civil War and from then until his death, outside of his huge business interests, the GAA received all his attention.

Having won North Tipp championships with Youghal in 1908 and '09, he won wider fame as full-back with the Greyhounds selection which won county honours in 1912, '13 and '14 and went down to Kilkenny in the All-Ireland of that same year. Later he helped revive the Nenagh club which won the North championship in 1915 and 1923; back in 1908 he had captained the Nenagh team which won the inaugural North Tipperary football championship.

But it was as an administrator that he made his greatest contribution to the Association. He was chairman of the North Tipp board in 1922-23 and from 1927 to '31. With Tom Semple he represented the county on the Munster Council in 1917 and with Johnny Leahy in 1922. He represented the county continuously from 1933 to 1936 and was chairman of the Council from 1936 to 1941. In 1926 he served as manager to the Tipperary team on their six-weeks tour of the United States, attracting much favourable comment by his cool direction of the touring party's affairs and his readiness with an appropriate speech for every occasion.

His record of service on the Central Council is no less remarkable. Not until 1946 did every county have representation on the Association's highest body, and it is indicative of the universal respect that Frank McGrath commanded that his name appears among the members of the Central Council for no less than 22 years, his service

beginning in 1919 and ending only in 1955 when he stood down to make way for his friend Paddy Leahy. An inkling of his influence in the councils of the GAA was conveyed by the Tipperary Star at the time of his death when it stated, "When Frank McGrath rose to speak, all were prepared to listen carefully. His voice and word had the ring of sincerity and they usually swung his hearers to his cool, impartial judgment."

At a strictly local level Frank McGrath's greatest contribution to the GAA may have been his part in the purchase and preparation of the site at Nenagh that was named after his friend Thomas MacDonagh. As chairman of the original MacDonagh Park committee, he ensured that its facilities were of the highest order and that they were always at the service of the local community. At a time when most GAA fields did not even provide basic tugging-out shelters, MacDonagh Park had up-to-date dressing-rooms with the luxury of running water. In the context of the 21st century, this may sound not at all impressive but in the late '40s and early '50s it was very impressive indeed. And not only were the dressing rooms available for Sunday games; anyone from the local club or from the schools who was merely going to the field "for a few pucks" could drop into Jack Roberts' s home near the field and collect the dressing-room keys.

His influence on the proceedings of the North Tipp board over many years was huge and it was due to him and his friend Roddy Nealon that the Parish Rule was adopted - a measure which shaped the character of the North championship down to our own time. The enormous respect in which he was held was manifested in the creation of the post of President of the board, a position which he held for many years until his death.

A bookish man who, like so many of his generation, had an enormous respect for the written word, Frank McGrath always saw the GAA in the context of the people. He could play in making Ireland free and Gaelic. Like his lifelong friend Wedger Meagher, he saw the GAA as a vehicle for producing patriotic citizens. After he had left the town where he had enjoyed such huge commercial success to live in Dublin, he returned to Nenagh in 1961 to be honoured by the North Tipp board and the MacDonagh Park committee.

Many of those present had not been born when he was already a veteran in GAA affairs and he availed of the opportunity to remind them in no uncertain terms of the origins and history of the Association. Appropriately the plaque which was presented to him bore a rifle and a hurley crossed while a silver cup to be known as the McGrath Cup was presented as the official trophy for senior hurling in North Tipperary. - S. J. Leahy.



Frank McGrath

Fáilte

Cathaoirleach, Michael Sheehy

A Dhaoine,

Fáilte romhaibh go leir go dtí Cluiche Ceannais Iomaint Tiobraid Arann Thuaidh anseo i bPáirc Mhic Donnacha an Aonaigh. Fáilte fe leith roimh na foirne as an Tuaim Uí Mheara agus Cill An Daingain agus na hoifigigh agus an reiteoir. Tá suil againn go mbeidh cluichi sportuail againn nua.



This year the Senior Hurling Championship was very competitive with many sporting games, culminating in today's final between Toomevara and Kildangan. With both clubs having recently won the championship, it should lead to a cracking game and I wish both teams the very best of luck.

I would like to wish the best of luck to referee Ger Fitzpatrick, who takes charge of today's game.

We are especially grateful to our Championship sponsors Martin and Jane Morris of The Hibernian Inn for continuing their generous sponsorship of our Senior Championship. We wish our sponsors well in their future business.

We are grateful to Éire Óg GAA club for the use of their pitch which is always in excellent condition. Also a word of thanks to those who help in the running of the games in so many ways, to Secretary Eugene Ryan, Treasurer Willie Lennox and his loyal group of gate checkers and programme sellers and anyone else who helps in any way. Thanks also to our PRO Noel Cahill and to Liam Hogan for coming up with another fine programme production and to the Order of Malta for their attendance at our games.

Is mise

Micheál Mac Shíthigh, Cathaoirleach.

Buiochas The compilation of this programme would not be possible without the help of the following: Noel Cahill, North Board PRO; Toomevara Club Secretary Mary Burke; Kildangan Club Secretary Michael Quigley; Kildangan PRO Eoghan Ryan; to contributors of articles Shane Brophy, James Hayden, Brian McDonald; to Bridget Delaney, Andy Jay, Rose Mannion and Michael Ryan

Editor: **Liam Hogan**



Toomevara senior hurlers that defeated Nenagh Éire Óg in The Hibernian North SHC semi-final at Dolla. Back row: (l to r) Brian McCormack, Darren Delaney, Francis Devaney, Ken Dunne, James McGee, Barry Dunne, Eoin Brislane. Kneeling: Benny Dunne, Terry Dunne, Paddy Grace, Willie Ryan, Andrew Ryan, Paddy Grace. Photograph: Bridget [redacted]

Kildangan need to break Toome's winning finals record

By Shane Brophy (Nenagh Guardian)

Experience and consistency are terms you could use to describe both Kildangan and Toomevara and they are exactly the characteristics needed in a team to come through the minefield that is the North Senior Hurling Championship to reach this evening's final.

With the sides having won three of the last five finals, in terms of consistency they have been that over the past five years since the sides last met at this stage when Kildangan, in just their second year back in the senior ranks following lost out to Toomevara by 1-15 to 0-12.

Kildangan reached a semi-final in 2007 before getting back to the final in 2008 when they won their first divisional senior title since 1943 in dramatic fashion when they came from eight points down with eleven minutes remaining to beat Burgess. Again they progressed to the quarters in 2009 before losing a semi-final to today's opponents last year.

This is also Toomevara's third final appearance in the same period and they will be hoping to continue their 100% record having edged out Borris-Ileigh in last year's decider by two points.

In fact, Toomevara's record in finals over the past twenty years is almost flawless and makes Kildangan's task even more difficult. Since Toomevara returned as a major force at senior level in the mid eighties, they have appeared in eleven finals since their breakthrough in 1991, winning 10 with their only loss coming to Nenagh Éire Óg in 1998.

Both sides have emerged through another highly competitive championship

and from the same group.

Toomevara played two games less than Kildangan having earned a walkover from Lorrha before topping the group and progressing directly to the semi-finals where they edged out great rivals Nenagh Éire Óg last Saturday at Dolla while Kildangan came through via the quarter finals where they accounted for Borris-Ileigh before overcoming Templederry Kenyons by the narrowest of margins in the semi-final here in Nenagh last Friday week.

Kildangan won the group meeting between the sides at Dolla on April 23rd by 0-18 to 0-15 and while both sides will take some small things from that meeting to prepare themselves for the game, in essence it will count for little when the ball is thrown in.

As well as having the final between two evenly matched sides, isn't it great to be playing the showpiece game of North Tipperary hurling in the month of July, and a full seven weeks earlier than in 2010 with Tipperary's progress through the "front door" has benefited club fixture scheduling no end.

Win or lose this evening, both teams will have a long gap before they enter the latter stages of the county championship but for the winners they will get a chance to enjoy the reward of winning the North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship, which remains as important for all the clubs in the division as a county title does and that says something about the mystique that remains in the competition.

Enjoy the game!

Kildangan North Tipperary Senior Hurling Finalists



Kildangan senior hurlers that defeated Templederry in The Hibernian North SHC Semi-Final at MacDonagh Park

Nenagh. Back row l-r: James Flannery (M), Cian Hayes, Darragh Egan, Liam Kelly, Ruairi Gleeson, Fergal Hayes, Michael Quigley, Eoin Gleeson, Gearoid Connors, James Flannery (J), Sean Hackett, Shane Seymour, Paddy Gallagher, David Fitzpatrick, Tommy Connors, Eanna Gleeson. Front: Dan Hackett, Seán Kelly, Martin Minehan, Eoin Kelly, Jack Loughnane, Cathal Hanrahan, John M., Brian McLoughlin, Paddy Lynch, Rory Whelan. Photograph: Bridget Delaney

Ger Fitzpatrick, today's referee

Ger Fitzpatrick (Roscrea) started refereeing in 2005. Refereed North finals in all juvenile levels in both hurling & football. Refereed u/12 county final 2009.

Refereed: North junior 'A' final 2007, North u/21 'B' final 2008; North minor finals 2008 & 2010

County senior hurling premier division league final 2009

County intermediate hurling league final 2010

County junior B football final 2010

has refereed at all levels of hurling & football throughout the county

Umpires: Conor Fitzpatrick, Francis O'Rourke, Ray Hurley, Stephen Ahearne

Linesmen: Pat Gibson, Dan Darcy. 4th Official: T. P. Sullivan



Sean Kelly, Kildangan under attack from Moneygall during a Hibernian Inn North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship match in Toomevara. Photo Andy Jay.

End of an era

Last year's North senior board convention marked an end of an era. Kildangan's Catherine Gleeson as treasurer and Ballina's Ger McKeogh as secretary had to step down from their roles due to the new five year rule. Catherine replaced Michael Nolan 2001 and served the board with honour for nine years.

When Michael O'Brien stepped down as secretary in 1999 Ballina's Ger McKeogh

took over and performed his duties with aplomb.

The patrons attending today's final would like to thank Catherine and Ger for their great service to the board.

Eugene Ryan, Moneygall and Willie Lennox, Shannon Rovers are the new secretary and treasurer respectively for 2011.



North Board Treasurer Catherine Gleeson receives a presentation from fellow North Board officers Michael Sheehy (Chairman) and Gerard McKeogh (Secretary) at the North Board presentation function in Nenagh Éire Óg Sports Complex. Photograph: Bridget Delaney

Toome' hoping to secure back-to-back North titles once again

By James Hayden

THE 2011 North senior hurling championship has once again culminated with the indomitable Toomevara gunning for yet another back-to-back success.

Throughout the history of the championship Toomevara have made a habit of stringing north senior titles together and in the first half of the century were crowned champions four years in a row between 1910 and 1913 and went on to win titles again in 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1922 and 1923.

They went on to surpass that feat again between 1925 and 1931 when they captured an unprecedented seven in a row north titles, with the 1925 championship won by a Toomevara/Moneygall combination side.

Further titles came in 1946 and 1958 but the early sixties once again saw Toomevara come to the fore with the memorable three in row side which emerged victorious in 1960, 61 and 62.

However, it has been over the past two decades when the Greyhounds have really stamped their authority on the small ball game both in the north division and the county as a whole. Back to back successes came in 94' and 95' when they defeated Kilruane MacDonaghs and Borris-Ileigh after having previously captured the Frank McGrath Cup in 1991.

Another north title quickly followed in 1997 when the Greyhounds once again managed a back-to-back feat in 1999 and 2000, overcoming the challenges of Nenagh Éire Óg and Moneygall. Moneygall again provided the opposition in 2002 and in 2003 Nenagh Éire Óg once again succumbed by 3-12 to 0-16 to the men in green and gold.

A successful 2006 campaign once again brought the cup back to the famed village after captain, Thomas Dunne and Co. over came the challenge of today's opposition, Kildangan by 1-15 to 0-12.

Last year of course saw Toomevara once again

capture the Frank McGrath Cup with Borris-Ileigh put to the sword and this year's side will be hoping to emulate the exploits of players past when they go in search of yet another back-to-back success to garner the Greyhound's long and enviable roll of honour.

Standing in their way though will be a Kildangan side who are no stranger to success themselves, having particularly impressed on the senior scene over recent years with their nadir coming in 2008 when the famously hauled back a seemingly insurmountable deficit to overcome Burgess by 1-17 to 2-12.

Both teams have impressed throughout this year's campaign but Toomevara will bear the favourites tag going into this eagerly awaited clash, especially considering the fact that Kildangan have never managed to vanquish them in a North final.

The Greyhounds have impressed throughout this season, most notably in their victories over Nenagh Éire Óg in the semi-final and in the manner in which they negotiated the group stages.

Kildangan, who are hoping to secure their second title in four years, also impressed in the group stages but were lucky to overcome the challenge of a determined Templederry outfit in a close fought semi-final encounter.

Toomevara will be gunning for their 33rd title boast a side dripping with big day experience and are backboned by David Young, Benny Dunne, Terry Dunne, Ken Dunne, Joey McLoughney and John O'Brien.

To overcome what appears a massive challenge Kildangan will have to be at their best and must hope Darragh Egan, Joe Gallagher, Tommy Connors, Ruairi Gleeson, Gerry Slattery, Liam Kelly and Co. will all be in top form.

However the sides match up on Sunday evening one thing is for sure, it promises to be a tight intriguing encounter between two sides that have rightly impressed throughout this year's championship.

Kilruane MacDonaghs 1986 team celebrate



Kilruane MacDonaghs won the 1986 All Ireland Club Final and celebrated the Silver Jubilee Celebration at the Club's Victory Dinner Dance in the Abbey Court Hotel recently. Seated: (l to r) Gilbert Williams, Philip Quinlan, Tony Sheppard (Captain), Len Gaynor (Manager), Liam Sheedy (Special Guest), Seamus Hennessy, Michael Hogan, Pat Quinlan, Jim O'Meara, Seamus Gibson. Standing: John Cahill, Jim Williams, Paddy Williams, Joe Banaghan, Denis O'Meara, Eamonn O'Shea, John Quinlan, Enda Hogan, Gerry Williams, David Quinlan, Noel Mulcahy (rep. his son Paul), Sean Williams, Eamon Kirby, Dinny Cahill, Jim Casey (Selector), Billy O'Shea (Selector). Absent: Tom Killackey and Jack Darcy. Photograph by: Bridget Delaney.

Random thoughts on Tipp

By Liz Howard

The North Final holds a special place in my heart, possibly because of childhood memories. When we lived in Clare we hit for Tipp the day after getting summer holidays, freedom, hurling and helping out with farm chores.

Nenagh was the Mecca on Sundays, great hurling, big crowds, intensity and the occasional row, all made for excitement. I recall a north Final day when a woman drew a letter with her handbag on a man who was critical of a player on the team she supported. He got a shock but chivalry prevailed, "I would never hit a woman but if you were a man you'd get it back".

Toomevara have dominated hurling in the Division for a number of years and today feature again. Kildangan made the breakthrough in 2008, a welcome newcomer even if at the expense of my own club Burgess. Burgess let it slip badly in the closing minutes. Today Kildangan hope to upset the odds again

Our minor footballers won the Munster C'ship in fantastic style and I hope they go a step further on Monday when they play Meath. Tipperary camogie U16 team defeated Kilkenny in the All Ireland final; they were a well compared and talented team. Today the U18 side play Kilkenny in the All Ireland final in Semple Stadium. Winning the double would be wonderful.

We said goodbye to former County Camogie Chairman Mickey Browne recently, he died peacefully after a short illness. He was a wise man who always wanted to do the right thing.

Cahir camogie U14 team won Division One Feile na nGael, their display in the final was superb, and people in the club are doing great work for camogie.

Ger Ryan Tipperary GAA PRO was voted PRO

of the Year 2010 by GAA writers, an honour also won by Ed. Donnelly previously. Ger is a thorough professional in all he does. Ger Corbett from Thurles Sarsfields, Editor of the County Hurling Match Programme won a McNamee Award for that excellent publication.



Tipperary senior hurlers are back in Croker on Sunday 14th August to play Dublin. We cannot take anything for granted, Dublin are fit, fast and physical and will challenge Tipp. I continue to be so impressed with our players; they are so grounded and such wonderful ambassadors for the county and hurling. The quality of their play is all that is good about the game, movement, speed, beautiful skill, teamwork and hard work. Our tactics cannot become predictable to the opposition but I expect that Tommy

Dunne and Declan Ryan will develop the game plan further. Tipperary support has been fantastic and it is joyful to see the Blue and Gold worn by so many.

Eamon O'Shea brought so much to Tipperary hurling with Liam Sheedy and Michael Ryan. He thinks outside the box and his approach is unique. It is vital that he is involved in Tipperary hurling at some strategic level. The underage structure is most important; I observe a lack of basic skills in many young players. Why? Many well meaning coaches have poor skills so cannot pass on what they do not have. Every club should have a Skills Development Programme deliver in a professional and enjoyable environment.

Finally one of the finest people I ever knew, Gerry Slevin went to his eternal reward recently. We mourn his loss and remember a very special person who had many gifts but the gift of friendship was his greatest. Think of him today.

North SHC Top Scorers 2011

TOTAL	SCORE	PLAYER	CLUB	Games Played
59	1-56	Darragh Egan	(Kildangan)	7
45	0-45	Kevin Tucker	(Nenagh Éire Óg)	7
	1-42	Ray McLoughney	(Kilruane MacDonaghs)	6
44	2-38	Adrian Ryan	(Templederry Kenyons)	6
41	1-38	Ken Dunne	(Toomevara)	5
	2-35	John Sheedy	(Portroe)	5
37	0-37	Stephen Murray	(Burgess)	5
	1-34	David O'Connor	(Borris-Ileagh)	6
35	2-29	Colm Larkin	(Borrisokane)	5
29	0-29	Willie Greene	(Moneygall)	5
	1-26	Michael Heffernan	(Nenagh Éire Óg)	7
27	6-9	Philip Rabbittie	(Borris-Ileagh)	6
24	1-21	Davin Flynn	(Roscrea)	5
21	3-12	Timmy Minogue	(Templederry Kenyons)	5
17	2-11	Ruairi Gleeson	(Kildangan)	7
16	2-10	Shane Quinlan	(Kilruane MacDonaghs)	6
	2-10	Brian O'Meara	(Kilruane MacDonaghs)	6
15	1-12	Paddy Murphy	(Nenagh Éire Óg)	7



Brian McCormack sets up a Toomevara attack with Nenagh's Richie Flannery in close pursuit during The Hibernian North SHC semi-final at Dolla. Photograph: Bridget Delaney

Francis Devaney a future leader with Toomevara

By Liam Hogan

As with any Toomevara player, Francis Devaney, has a huge treasure of medals in his collection. He has won divisional, county and provincial club with Toomevara and has won Munster Minor and U-21 with his county and went on to captain the Tipperary senior team in the 2007 All-Ireland qualifiers.

However it is today that the Toomevara Vice Captain is most concerned with as he is seeking his fifth North senior medal to add to his other divisional successes in 2002, '03, '06 and last year.

Last year's North final win over Borris-Ileigh was his favourite, he says. Toomevara hadn't won it for four years and Borris-Ileigh had beaten them earlier in the year so they were determined to get one back on them.

Francis first lined out with his club at senior level in the 2002 championship against Borrisokane. His Tipperary Minor coach, Vincent McKenna, lined out in goals for Borrisokane.

Earlier in his career he won a share of Juvenile medals and added a Munster U-16 medal with North Tipperary Divisional side. He made the Tipperary minor side in 2001 and won his first of two Munster minor championships when lining out at half forward along side fellow clubman, David Kennedy.

Diarmuid Fitzgerald was captain of the team.

A year later, Francis won his second minor with Toome player Willie Ryan at his side. Conor O'Mahony and Conor O'Brien were also on the team.

On making the Tipp U-21 side he was part of an attack that included John O'Brien and Eoin Kelly in their Munster success of 2003. There was more success the following year, another Munster medal and Tipp reached the All-Ireland but lost to Kilkenny at Nowlan Park.



Toomevara's Francis Devaney and Thurlus Sarsfields Barry O'Dwyer in a contest for possession at Semple Stadium.
Photograph: Bridget Delaney

Meanwhile, Francis was doing well with Toomevara seniors. County final wins in 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2008 had enhanced his medal collection. This culminated with Munster club final joy in 2004 against Mount Sion (Waterford) and Eirns Own (Cork) in 2006.

Tipperary senior manager, Ken Hogan, gave the Toomevara player his debut with Tipp seniors in 2005. His career lasted three seasons. He captained Tipp in an all-Ireland qualifier against Offaly in 2007. Michael Keating was the Tipp manager at the time.

Usually plays as a half forward, midfield is my favourite position. Today, Francis will share the half forward and midfield roles as the Toome management allow their forwards and midfielders roam from time to time.

Looking ahead to next year, Francis hopes to lead his team to North, county and Munster success. All-Ireland honours is in the pipeline also.

Last meeting 2011 Kildangan had three points to spare

2011 North Tipp Senior Hurling
Championship Second Round
Kildangan 0-18 Toomevara 0-15 at Dolla

Kildangan finally broke their three-game losing streak against Toomevara when today's finalists faced off during the group stages of this year's championship.

Kildangan arrived in Dolla as underdogs, but opened the eyes of many observers with a mature performance which saw Dinny Ryan's men dispose of the defending champions with three points to spare. And, it could be argued, such was their dominance for prolonged periods of this contest, that Kildangan should have won by much more.

An outstanding display by the Kildangan defence (keeping John O'Brien scoreless is no mean feat) provided the platform, up front Joe Gallagher proved himself an outstanding leader at centre-forward while Darragh Egan found his

best form and helped himself to nine points. Kildangan won 0-18 to 0-15.

Kildangan: Cian Hayes, Martin Minehan, Liam Kelly, Fergal Hayes, Hugh Flannery, Dan Hackett, Gerry Slattery (0-1), Páraic Kelly (0-1), Tommy Connors (0-1), Tadhg Gallagher (0-2), Joe Gallagher (0-2), Paddy Lynch (0-1), Seán Kelly (0-1), Darragh Egan (0-9, 0-5 frees, 0-1 sideline), Ruairí Gleeson. Subs: Eoin Gleeson for Seán Kelly, Brian Kelly for Paddy Lynch, Eoin Kelly for Tadhg Gallagher.

Toomevara: Seán Delaney, Barry Dunne, John Boland, Andrew Ryan, David Young, Joey McLoughney (0-2), David Kennedy, Francis Devaney (0-1), Darren Delaney (0-1), Ken Dunne (0-8, 0-7 frees), Benny Dunne, John O'Brien, Paddy Grace (0-2), Brian McCormack, Willie Ryan (0-1). Subs: Bob Duff for Darren Delaney, Denis Kelly for Bob Duff, James McGrath for Seán Delaney.

Referee: John Cleary (Knockshegowna).

Last win for Toome over Kildangan

North Semi Final Meeting 2010
August 1: Toomevara 1-16 Kildangan 1-13

Toomevara survived a Kildangan fightback to win a place in the final for the first time since 2006.

After an evenly balanced first half, they took control in the final minutes of the half with four Ken Dunne points, three coming from frees to take a 0-10 to 0-6 lead to the break.

The seven first half wides left Kildangan rueing being that far adrift. However they introduced Eoin Kelly and Paddy Lynch for the start of the second half and within a minute, the former had made a major impression when sending a low ball into Brian Kelly who turned onto his left and flashed a shot to the corner of the net from 21-yards.

However, the momentum from the goal lasted just one minute as Toome struck for their only

goal as a Ken Dunne free looked to be tailing wide but Denis Kelly was alert as he diverted the ball into the net despite Kildangan claiming a square ball. Two points from Joe Gallagher reduced the margin to two points after 39 minutes but each time Kildangan threatened a rally, Toome always managed to tack on score with two Ken Dunne frees added to a John O'Brien point opened a five point lead after 44 minutes.

Paddy Lynch pointed for Kildangan but as Toome brought extra men deep, it left more space for their forwards to work in as John O'Brien and Eoin Brislane both pointed from play to bring the lead to six points with nine minutes remaining.

Kildangan kept battling away with two frees from Darragh Egan and points from Tommy Connors and Cathal Hanrahan but a late Michael Bevans point sealed the win.

Dan the man in Kildangan

For the best part of 15 years now Kildangan hurling has been led and marshalled by the herculean efforts of their inspiring centre back Dan Hackett. Such has been Hackett's influence on the current Kildangan team that many followers of the blue and golders would struggle to recall a time when Dan wasn't leading by example from the No. 6 jersey.

While the Urra man has achieved so much on the hurling field for his beloved Kildangan he has also represented Tipperary in both codes, his most notable achievement been the All-Ireland Intermediate medal he won as part of the last Tipperary team to win an All-Ireland in 2000. Dan has also represented Tipperary in senior football.

It is no coincidence that Dan's time on the Kildangan team has coincided with the most successful period in Kildangan's recent history, he was part of the intermediate team that won three north titles around the turn of the century namely 2001, 2002 and 2004. The

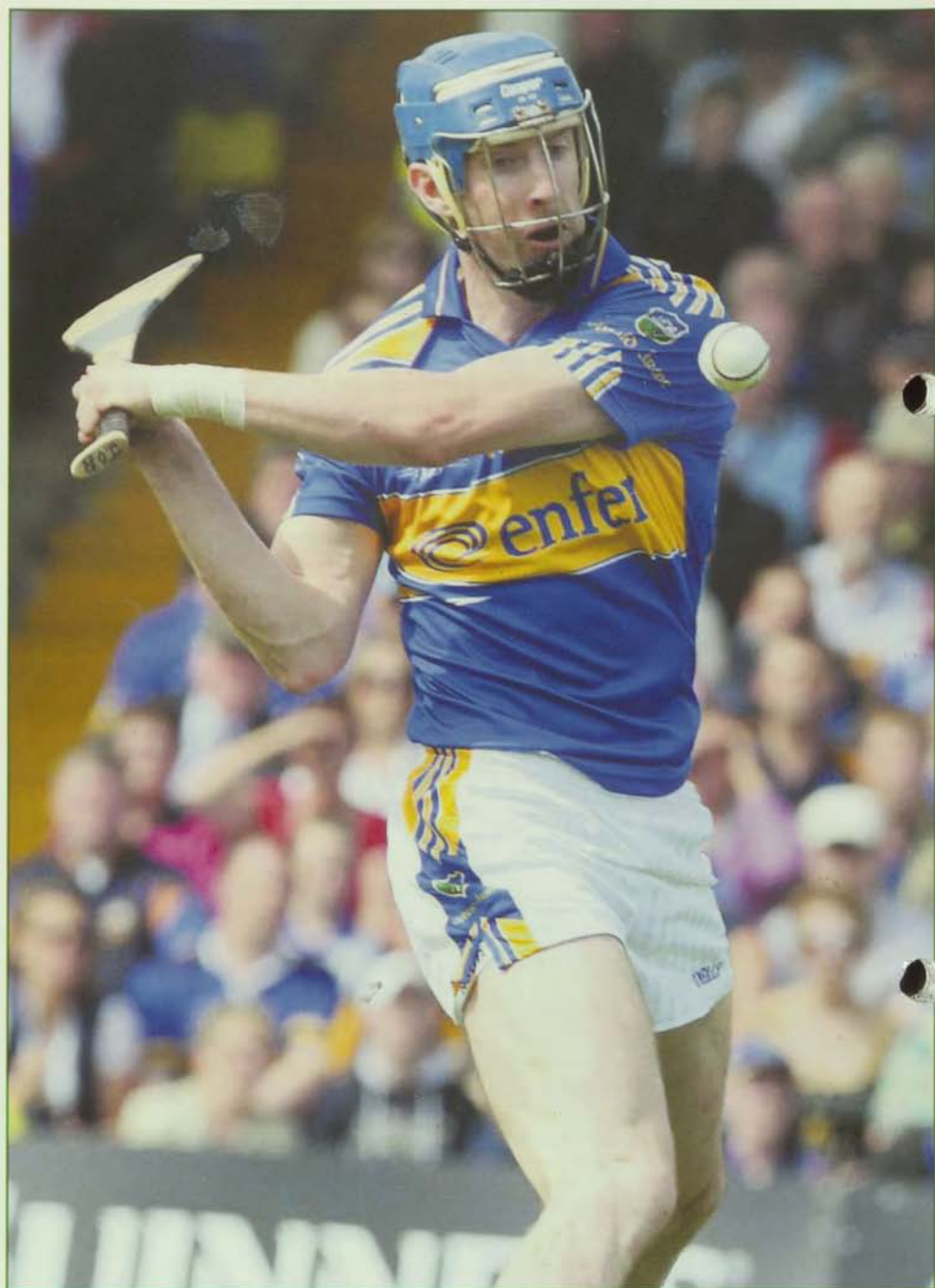
latter of course was followed by Kildangan being crowned the inaugural winners of the club Intermediate All-Ireland Champions, a game in which Dan was inspirational from centre back, thwarting Carickshock time after time, and despite suffering a horrific leg injury in the final throws of the game, there was no prouder man in Semple Stadium on that glorious day for his pride and joy.

As a result of that historic year Kildangan made their return to senior ranks in 2005 and wasted no time in announcing their return to the pinnacle of North Tipperary Senior Hurling. They claimed the ultimate prize in 2008 with victory over near neighbours Burgess, as with all their many fine days over the last few years Hackett was of course central to the win. This Sunday's showpiece will represent their third North Final since they returned to Senior Hurling.

Eoghan Ryan
Kildangan PRO.



Dan Hackett in action



John O'Brien aims for a point for Tipperary at Semple Stadium. Photograph: Bridget Delaney

Benny Dunne, in search of more honours

By Brian McDonnell.

On the eve of the 1998 All-Ireland hurling final the Kilkenny manager Kevin Fennelly observed during a Kenny Live interview that Offaly were "the one team that took a lot of dreams away from me".

Well, the great Toomevara are the one team that have dashed the dreams of so many in North Tipperary. It is simply extraordinary to note the capacity of the Greyhounds to carve out vital wins - Toome have won ten of the last 25 North Tipperary hurling finals. In the last 25 years they have appeared in 13 finals and only lost three. The same practically goes for county finals - Toomevara have won 11 of the last 25 county titles and only lost a single decider.

Such records are down to the abstinence and the pride of their players.

Benny Dunne, for instance, is one such player, a player of an occasion-seizing type. Perhaps the greatest indication of the strength of the current Tipperary team is the fact that the Gortagarry man can't force his way onto Declan Ryan's first 15.

Benny Dunne is the type of guy who can tuck a match into his back pocket and carry it around with him. Dunne, as a player, is desperate for the ball during pivotal moments when plenty of other players seek to shirk that responsibility.

Dunne, a centre-back who challenges with fury for the ball only to treat it with such tenderness thereafter, will celebrate his 31st birthday in September and has been a member of the Tipperary panel since 2002.

Although Benny Dunne's sideboard is decorated with Munster, National League and All-Ireland medals the Toomevara centre-back has always saved his very best performances for the green and gold.

And even though Benny Dunne has won six county titles (2000, 2001, 2003, 2004,



Benny Dunne, Toomevara and Tipperary

2006 & 2008) and five north medals (2000, 2002, 2003, 2006 & 2010) none have sated his appetite for more.

Indeed last summer Dunne captained Toomevara to their 32nd north Tipperary senior hurling crown when Toome saw off Borris-Ileigh (1-12 to 0-13) in a tense encounter at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh.

Toomevara substitute Eoin Brislane grabbed the headlines when firing the goal which turned the game in the Greyhounds favour late on, but it was Dunne who held off an enthusiastic Borris-Ileigh side with a sensational display at centre-back.

At club level in Tipperary there is not a more consistent presence at centre-back than Benny Dunne and if Kildangan are to wrestle the Frank McGrath Cup away from the Greyhounds they will have to better that man.

Good luck with that lads!



Kildangan

1

Kian Hayes

2

Martin Minehan

3

Liam Kelly

4

Fergal Hayes

5

Jack Loughnane

6

Dan Hackett

7

Gerry Slattery

8

Tommy Connors (C)

9

Paraic Kelly

10

Darragh Egan

11

Joe Callagher

12

Tadhg Gallagher

13

Seán Kelly

14

Eoin Kelly

15

Ruairi Gleeson

Fir Ionaid

16 Dermot Hogan 17 Eoin Gleeson 18 Paddy Lynch
19 Rory Whelan 20 Eanna Gleeson 21 Cathal Hanrahan
22 Shane Seymour 23 Paddy Gallagher
24 James Flannery J 25 Gearoid Connors
26 James Flannery M 27 Michael Quigley
28 Sean Hackett 29 Stephen James Gleeson
30 Matthew Harty 31 Hugh Flannery 32 Brian Kelly

Raghnóirei

Manager Seamus Hogan Coach Dinny Ryan
Selectors Jos Hogan & Donal Flannery



Captain: Tommy Connors

Toomevara



	1	
	James McGrath	
2	3	4
Barry Dunne	Terry Dunne	Andrew Ryan
5	6	7
Darren Delaney	Benny Dunne	Joey McLoughney
	8	9
	Ken Dunne	David Young
10	11	12
Francis Devaney	Brian McCormack	John O'Brien
13	14	15
Paddy Grace	Eoin Brislane	Willie Ryan

Fir Ionaide

16 Brian Delaney 17 David Kennedy 18 John Boland
 19 Bob Duff 20 Denis Kelly 21 John Delaney
 22 Thomas McCarthy 23 Colm Canning
 24 Ciaran McGrath 25 Conor Delaney 26 Tony Delaney
 27 Bryan Shanahan 28 Jamie Quigley 29 David Nolan
 30 Conor O'Meara 31 Niall McCormick 32 Andrew Ryan (B)
 33 Ciaran Brislane 34 Darren Cuddy 35 Paddy Tuohy
 36 Sean Delaney

Raghnóirei

Manager Billy O'Shea Coach/Selector Ger Cunningham
 Selector Tommy Carroll; Physio Niall Hally



Captain: John O'Brien

North Finals by Ten

20-8-1961 Toomevara 4-14 Borrisokane 3-4 at MacDonagh Park. Toomevara successfully defended their title and became first winners of the Frank McGrath Cup. They overcome a spirited first half rally by Borrisokane to lead by a point at half time, 2-4 to 2-3. Toome took the second half by storm to pile on score after score in the last quarter in front of over 4,000 patrons.

TOOMEVARA: R Mounsey; M Hassett, J J McCormack, J McDonnell; M O'Gara 0-1, N Williams, T Shanahan; John Hough (Capt) 0-1, T Ryan 0-4; J O'Donovan 0-2, P Shanahan 0-3, W Donovan 0-1; F Ryan 1-1, G Hough 1-1, D Cuddy 1-0. Subs: S Guerin 1-0 for Cuddy.

BORRISOKANE: P White; J Morris, D Gardiner, H Slevin; S Fogarty 0-1, T McGarry, R Slevin; P Hogan 1-0, N Morris; J Quigley, V Harte, T McKenna 0-1; J McKenna 1-1, V McKenna 1-0, J Hogan 1-0. Subs: V Duffe for J Morris; S Whelan for Quigley.

Ref- D Nealon, Burgess officiated in his first Senior final.

3-10-71 Roscrea 3-8 Borris-Ileigh 3-5 at Nenagh. Roscrea took their fifth title in a row when they defeated Borris-Ileigh in a pulsating final. Francis Loughnane score 2-7 (all bar two points from play) in front of an enthralled crowd of 4,000. Borris-Ileigh led 1-5 to 1-3 at half time.

ROSCREA: Tadgh Murphy; Michael Hogan, Kieran Carey, Brendan Maher; Patsy Roland, Tadgh O'Connor, Jimmy Crampton; Donie Moloney, Michael Minogue; Francis Loughnane 2-7, Jody Spooner, Liam Spooner 0-1; Joe Tynan, Liam Brussels, Joe Cunningham 1-0.

BORRIS-ILEIGH: Owen Walsh; Pat Maher, T.F. Stapleton, Eddie Loughnane; Pat Fanning, Matt Stapleton, Francis Spillane; Michael Stapleton, Timmy Delaney; Noel Maher, Noel O'Dwyer, Liam Carroll; Liam Devaney, Tommy O'Dwyer, T.J. Burke.

Subs: Tim Ryan and John Loughnane.

Referee- Michael O'Brien, Silvermines.

27-9-81 Borris-Ileigh 1-8 Roscrea 1-6 at MacDonagh Park. Borris-Ileigh overcame a one point half time deficit to overthrow champions Roscrea as two of the most celebrated clubs in the county served up a very disappointing display of hurling. Played in brilliant sunshine, Roscrea led 1-4 to 1-3 at half time.

BORRIS-ILEIGH: Owen Walsh; Michael Ryan, T.F. Stapleton, Timmy Delaney; Gerry Stapleton, Francis Spillane; Pat Ryan, Timmy Ryan; Brendan Kenny, Bobby Ryan, Noel O'Dwyer; Michael Coen, Tommy O'Dwyer, Pat Kavanagh.

Subs: Philip Kenny for T Ryan.

ROSCREA: Joe Roland; Eddie Hogan, Brendan Maher, Jody Spooner; Kevin O'Connor, Tadgh O'Connor, Joe Bergin; Liam Spooner, Richie Dunne; Ger O'Connor, Jackie Shanahan 1-0, Peadar Queally 0-2; Joe Tynan 0-1, Roger Ryan, Francis Loughnane 0-3. Subs: Kevin Brady for Hogan; John Stone for Bergin.

Referee: Donie Nealon, Burgess.

22-9-91 Toomevara 0-12 Nenagh Éire Óg 0-12. Tommy Dunne's equalising point forced a replay in an

exciting affair when Toomevara- Tomas Dunne 0-5; Michael Nolan 0-3 (1f); Pat King 0-2; Tony Dunne, Liam Flaherty and Declan O'Meara 0-1 each.

NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG - Michael Cleary 0-4 (3f); Philip Kennedy (1f) and John Kennedy 0-2 each; Michael Kennedy, Denis Finnerty, Eddie Tucker and Robbie Tomlinson 0-1 each.

29-9-91 Replay Toomevara 2-11 Nenagh Éire Óg 2-7 at Cloughjordan. But the replay was better.

Toomevara had to come from behind at the three quarter mark when George Frend levelled to make 1-8 to 2-5. Liam Flaherty then added his team's second half goal to put them ahead and the Greyhounds pulled away. On hearing the final whistle, the scenes of excitement were almost indescribable after the team had ended a twenty nine year barren run.

TOOMEVARA: Jody Grace; Pat Maher, Liam Nolan, R. Brislane (Capt); George Frend 0-1, Michael O'Meara 0-1 (65), Declan O'Meara; Jimmy Dunne Pat King; Liam Flaherty 1-1, Michael Murphy, Tony Delaney 1-1; Tony Dunne 0-1, Michael Nolan 0-1, Tommy Dunne 0-4 (2f).

Subs: John Ryan 0-1 for M Nolan, Philip Shanahan for J Dunne.

NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG: Seamus Kennedy; Paul Kennedy, Conor O'Donovan, Donie O'Brien; Denis Finnerty, Frank Moran, John Heffernan 0-2; Philip Kennedy 0-2 (2f), Noel Coffey; John Kennedy, Michael Kennedy 1-0, Eddie Tucker 1-0; Michael Cleary 0-3 (1f), Philip Hennessey, Robbie Tomlinson. Subs: Neillie Corbett for Hennessey, Gerry Hynes for J Kennedy.

Referee for both games- Michael Cahill, Kilruane MacDonaghs.

30-9-2001 Centenary Final Nenagh Éire Óg 1-15 Borris-Ileigh 1-11. Nenagh Éire Óg became Centenary champions after defeating favourites, Borris-Ileigh, to claim their fourth Frank McGrath Cup in the past decade. A 43rd minute goal from Declan O Meara was the decisive score. The right corner forward was man of the match and helped by the breeze in the opening half, he scored four points to help them lead 0-12 to 0-5 at the interval.

NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG: Michael McNamara; Hugh Flanne Noel Coffey, Aidan Quinn; John Slattery 0-1, Richie Flannery, John Kennedy; Rory Flannery, Noel Moloney; Kevin Tucker (Capt) 0-6(4f), Eddie Tucker 0-1, Robbie Tomlinson 0-1; Declan O Meara 1-4, Robbie Foley, Michael Cleary 0-1.

Subs: Brian Darcy for Foley, Michael Hackett 0-1 for Darcy, Hugh Moloney for R Flannery, Shane Connolly for Rory Flannery.

BORRIS-ILEIGH: Darragh Rabbitte; Rory Kinnane, Philip Maher (Capt), Martin Maher; P Ryan, Philip Rabbitte, Owen Stapleton; Tom Stakelum 0-1, Aidan Cowan; John Keane, Seamus Maher 0-1, Angelo Walsh 0-6 (3f & 1=65); Declan Maher, John McGrath, Mark Bourke 1-3. Subs: Sean Maher for Kinnane, Vincent Stapleton for M Maher, Mark Stapleton for D Maher, Aidan Ryan for Stakelum.

Referee - Michael Cahill Kilruane MacDonaghs.



TOOMEVARA NORTH and COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONS 1960 Back row: Sean Ryan, (Selector) Denis Kennedy, (Selector) Paddy Cummins, J.J. McCormack, Jim Delaney, (A/Trainer) Tom Ryan, Phil Shanahan, Third Row: Ossie Bennett, (Trainer) Billy O'Meara, (Selector) Roger Mounsey, Din Tierney, Neil Williams, Martin O'Brien, Tim Cuddihy, Dom Ryan, (A/Trainer) Gerry Hough. Second Row: Tom Shanahan, Dinny Cuddihy, John Hough, William Donovan (Capt.), Jim McDonnell, Matt Hassett, Frankie Ryan, Mikey Browne, Matt O'Gara. Front Row: Seamus Maxwell, Pat Hennessy, Mikey Beavans, Con Ryan, Dinny Galvin, Jimmy Donovan.

Frank McGrath Cup 1961-2011

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the first presentation of the Frank McGrath Cup. The cup replaced the old Murphy Cup (1938-1960) and was introduced in 1961 when John Hough led Toomevara to victory over Borrisokane in that year's North senior hurling final played at MacDonagh Park.

The late Seamus Ó Riain, Moneygall, father of current North Secretary, Eugene Ryan, was North Bord Chairman at the time.

Today we mark those last fifty years with results of the last fifty finals:



Year	Date	Venue	Comp	Team (W)	Score	Team (L)	Score	Referee
1961	20/08/1961	Nenagh	SHC	Toomevara	4.14	Borrisokane	3.04	D. Nealon, Burgess
1962	09/09/1962	Nenagh	SHC	Toomevara	4.09	Kilruane MacDonaghs	5.04	D. Nealon, Burgess
1963	22/09/1963	Nenagh	SHC	Roscrea	2.12	Toomevara	1.80	S. Gleeson, Limerick
1964	27/09/1964	Nenagh	SHC	Nenagh Éire Óg	5.12	Roscrea	2.08	M. Carey, Ballinahinch
1965	22/08/1965	Nenagh	SHC	Kilruane MacDonaghs	3.10	Lorsha & Dorraha	5.02	D. Nealon, Burgess
1966	28/08/1966	Nenagh	SHC	Lorsha	3.11	Toomevara	2.13	P. Ryan, Borrisleigh
1967	20/08/1967	Nenagh	SHC	Roscrea	4.15	Moneygall	3.08	P. Jones, Newport
1968	08/09/1968	Nenagh	SHC	Roscrea	2.15	Borris-Ileigh	3.07	S. O'Meara, Lorsha
1969	17/08/1969	Nenagh	SHC	Roscrea	5.09	Lorsha	2.04	D. Nealon, Burgess
1970	13/09/1970	Nenagh	SHC	Roscrea	3.09	Moneygall	3.03	L. Ryan, Hollycross
1971	03/10/1971	Nenagh	SHC	Roscrea	3.08	Borris-Ileigh	3.05	M. O'Brien, Silvermines
1972	29/10/1972	Nenagh	SHC	Borris-Ileigh	2.09	Lorsha	0.04	M. Spain, Offaly
1973	09/09/1973	Nenagh	SHC	Borris-Ileigh	3.06	Kilruane MacDonaghs	2.08	D. Nealon, Burgess
1974	08/09/1974	Nenagh	SHC	Silvermines	4.07	Roscrea	1.10	S. O'Meara, Lorsha
1975	21/09/1975	Cloughjordan	SHC	Moneygall	2.10	Silvermines	1.11	S. O'Connor, Limerick
1976	24/10/1976	Cloughjordan	SHC	Borris-Ileigh	4.11	Lorsha	3.05	P. McGrath, Toomevara
1977	14/08/1977	Nenagh	SHC	Kilruane MacDonaghs	1.12	Borris-Ileigh	2.07	D. Nealon, Burgess
1978	13/08/1978	Nenagh	SHC	Kilruane MacDonaghs	3.06	Roscrea	1.11	D. Floyd, Newport
1979	19/08/1979	Nenagh	SHC	Kilruane MacDonaghs	1.12	Moneygall	1.09	S. O'Meara, Lorsha
1980	03/08/1980	Nenagh	SHC	Roscrea	1.09	Kilruane MacDonaghs	0.12	D. Nealon, Burgess
1980	31/08/1980	Nenagh	SHC	Roscrea	5.06	Kilruane MacDonaghs	2.12	D. Nealon, Burgess
1981	27/09/1981	Nenagh	SHC	Borris-Ileigh	1.08	Roscrea	1.06	D. Nealon, Burgess
1982	01/08/1982	Borrisokane	SHC	Roscrea	3.08	Nenagh Éire Óg	0.17	S. O'Meara, Lorsha
1983	14/08/1983	Nenagh	SHC	Borris-Ileigh	1.11	Lorsha	2.06	D. Nealon, Burgess
1984	19/08/1984	Nenagh	SHC	Lorsha	4.11	Nenagh Éire Óg	3.09	M. Nolan, Moneygall
1985	08/09/1985	Nenagh	SHC	Kilruane MacDonaghs	2.10	Roscrea	1.10	P. Dunlea, Silvermines
1986	17/08/1986	Nenagh	SHC	Kilruane MacDonaghs	1.12	Toomevara	2.06	D. Nealon, Burgess
1987	20/09/1987	Nenagh	SHC	Kilruane MacDonaghs	2.15	Lorsha	0.13	G. Long, Kgowna and L Hogan
1988	24/07/1988	Nenagh	SHC	Borris-Ileigh	1.14	Roscrea	1.07	M. Cahill, Kilruane MacD
1989	20/08/1989	Nenagh	SHC	Lorsha	1.14	Toomevara	1.12	J. McDonnell, Roscrea
1990	29/07/1990	Nenagh	SHC	Kilruane MacDonaghs	2.07	Toomevara	0.05	G. Long, Knockshewowna
1991	22/09/1991	Cloughjordan	SHC	Toomevara	0.12	Nenagh Éire Óg	0.12	M. Cahill, Kilruane MacD
1991	29/09/1991	Cloughjordan	SHC	Toomevara	2.11	Nenagh Éire Óg	2.07	M. Cahill, Kilruane MacD
1992	30/08/1992	Cloughjordan	SHC	Nenagh Éire Óg	1.18	Lorsha	0.08	M. Lenihan, Ballinahinch
1993	22/08/1993	Cloughjordan	SHC	Nenagh Éire Óg	0.14	Moneygall	0.12	J. McDonnell, Roscrea
1994	14/08/1994	Nenagh	SHC	Toomevara	1.15	Kilruane MacDonaghs	0.07	J. McDonnell, Roscrea
1995	20/08/1995	Nenagh	SHC	Toomevara	0.18	Borris-Ileigh	1.12	G. Hayes, Moneygall
1996	08/09/1996	Nenagh	SHC	Newport	1.09	Lorsha	0.12	T.F. Stapleton, Borrisleigh
1996	15/09/1996	Nenagh	SHC	Newport	2.13	Lorsha	3.06	T.F. Stapleton, Borrisleigh
1997	03/08/1997	Cloughjordan	SHC	Toomevara	1.15	Borris-Ileigh	0.08	J. McDonnell, Roscrea
1998	06/09/1998	Cloughjordan	SHC	Nenagh Éire Óg	1.11	Toomevara	0.11	M. Cahill, Kilruane MacD
1999	22/08/1999	Cloughjordan	SHC	Toomevara	2.19	Nenagh Éire Óg	2.15	M. Cahill, Kilruane MacD
2000	09/09/2000	Nenagh	SHC	Toomevara	3.13	Moneygall	1.10	T.F. Stapleton, Borris-Ileigh
2001	30/09/2001	Nenagh	SHC	Nenagh Éire Óg	1.15	Borris-Ileigh	1.11	M. Cahill, Kilruane MacD
2002	14/09/2002	Nenagh	SHC	Toomevara	0.14	Moneygall	1.07	Johnny Ryan, Boherlahan
2003	07/09/2003	Cloughjordan	SHC	Toomevara	3.12	Nenagh Éire Óg	0.16	John Ryan Bob, Cashel KC
2004	22/08/2004	Nenagh	SHC	Roscrea	0.13	Borris-Ileigh	1.09	B. White, Clonmel
2005	07/08/2005	Nenagh	SHC	Borris-Ileigh	1.12	Nenagh Éire Óg	0.13	S. Bradshaw, Kickhams
2006	30/07/2006	Nenagh	SHC	Toomevara	1.15	Kildangan	0.12	J. McDonnell, Roscrea
2007	09/09/2007	Nenagh	SHC	Borris-Ileigh	0.19	Nenagh Éire Óg	0.16	J. Cleary, Knockshewowna
2008	24/08/2008	Nenagh	SHC	Kildangan	1.17	Burgess	2.12	M. Cahill, Kilruane MacD
2009	23/08/2009	Nenagh	SHC	Nenagh Éire Óg	0.24	Portroe	2.12	T. Ryan, Kildangan
2010	18/09/2010	Nenagh	SHC	Borris-Ileigh	0.13	Toomevara	0.12	T. Ryan, Kildangan

Last North Final win for Kildangan

By Brian McDonnell

Kildangan presented us with yet another parable, a story of stout resistance in 2008 when facing Burgess in the north Tipperary senior hurling final - a wonderful sense of occasion surrounded that decider.

From the start Burgess set about squeezing the life out of Kildangan, one breath at a time. Burgess led 1-10 to 0-7 at the break and with 15 minutes to play the Tony Considine-coached side had extended their lead to eight (2-12 to 0-10) following a Patrick Tucker goal.

But then something happened which felt like a full stop at the end of a sentence: Kildangan had been unlucky with a couple of goal-scoring chances, but following a mix-up in the Burgess full-back line Seáníe Kelly pounced for a vital goal.

Four points followed in quick succession thanks to Eoin Kelly, Ruairí Gleeson, Seáníe Kelly and a monster from Gerry Slattery before centre-back Dan Hackett grabbed a Shane Maher clearance on the hour mark and drove it over the Burgess bar from 100 yards plus - the sides were now level: 1-15 to 2-12.

Michael Cahill allowed for two minutes of injury time and Kildangan took full advantage with Eoin Gleeson and Darragh Egan plundering points which ended Kildangan's 65-year search for the Frank McGrath Cup. It finished 1-17 to 2-12.

Michael Cusack once wrote a glorious description of hurling on the eve of the first inter-county championship in 1887. His words could hardly be bettered: "a hurling match is like a city on fire where the crackling of burning timber and the hissing of the flames swell into the roar of conflagration. We never heard sweeter music than that of the hurling field".

The 2008 decider was a wonderful occasion and if we are treated to anything like it on Sunday hurling fans in north Tipperary won't have much to be complaining about.



Darragh Egan goes to the clouds to gain possession in The Hibernian North SHC semi-final. Photograph: Bridget Delaney

The Kildangan team that day read: Dermot Hogan, Michael Ryan (joint-captain), Liam Kelly, Brian Lawlor, John Slattery, Dan Hackett (0-1), Gerry Slattery (0-1), Brian Kelly (joint-captain), Joe Gallagher (0-1), Paddy Lynch, Eoin Kelly (0-2), Liam Karol Flannery, Seán Gleeson, Darragh Egan (0-8, 0-5 frees), Ruairí Gleeson (0-2). Subs: Martin Minehan for Seán Gleeson, Seáníe Kelly (1-1) for Joe Gallagher, Rory Whelan for Paddy Lynch, Eoin Gleeson (0-1) for Liam Karol Flannery.

Previous Meetings: Toomevara v Kildangan

As far as the records show, this will be the 12th senior championship clash between Toomevara and Kildangan. At the moment it stands 8-3 to Toomevara.

1946 -Aug 11	S/F	Toomevara	5-8	Kildangan	2-0	at Nenagh
1950 - Jul 2		Toomevara	3-8	Kildangan	3-3	at Nenagh
1953-May 3		Toomevara	2-2	Kildangan	7-6	at Nenagh
1956 -May 13		Toomevara	9-13	Kildangan	0-3	at Nenagh
1959 -Jun 21	Q/F	Toomevara	6-12	Kildangan	1-3	at Nenagh
1960 -May 29		Toomevara	6-13	Kildangan	1-2	at Nenagh
1963 -May 12		Toomevara	6-14	Kildangan	2-3	at Nenagh
1972 -May 7		Toomevara	1-5	Kildangan	9-6	at Cloughjordan
2006- July 30	Final	Toomevara	1-15	Kildangan	0-12	at Nenagh
2010- Aug 1	S/F	Toomevara	1-16	Kildangan	1-13	at Nenagh
2011- May		Toomevara	0-15	Kildangan	0-18	at Dolla

In 1980, Toomevara was regraded to Intermediate Hurling ranks where Kildangan had been since 1976. They met four times between 80 and 84

1980 - June 7		Toomevara		Kildangan	a draw	at Cloughjordan
1980- Aug 31	S/F	Toomevara	2-15	Kildangan	3-13	at Nenagh
1982 - July 4		Toomevara	0-9	Kildangan	0-8	at Nenagh
1983 - Aug 31	S/F	Toomevara	2-15	Kildangan	3-13	at Nenagh



Kildangan's Dan Hackett gains possession ahead of Toomevara's Brian McCormack in their clash in the championship earlier in the year. Photograph: Bridget Delaney

The Management Teams



Kildangan management (l to r) Josh Hogan, Seamus Hogan (manager), Dinny Ryan (coach) and Donal Flannery. Photograph: Bridget Delaney



Toomevara management team (l to r) Billy O'Shea, Tommy Carroll and Ger Cunningham. Photograph: Bridget Delaney

KILDANGAN

DATE	ROUND	VENUE	RESULT
10 Apr	Rnd 1	Nenagh	Kildangan 3-16 Lorrha 3-11
23 Apr	Rnd 2	Dolla	Kildangan 0-18 Toomevara 0-15
7 May	Rnd 3	Toomevara	Kildangan 0-15 Moneygall 1-15
15 May	Rnd 4	Nenagh	Kildangan 1-23 Kilruane MacDonaghs 1-12
5 June	Rnd 5	Nenagh	Kildangan 0-13 Burgess 0-16
26 June	QF	Nenagh	Kildangan 4-15 Borris-Ileigh 2-14
22 July	SF	Nenagh	Kildangan 0-17 Templederry 1-13

Total For: 8-117 Average For: 1-17
 Total Against: 8-96 Average Against: 1-14

Scorers: Darragh Egan 1-56 (1-37 frees, 0-3 65s, 0-2 sideline-cut); Ruairí Gleeson 2-11; Sean Kelly 2-8; Tadgh Gallagher 1-10 (0-1 free); Joe Gallagher 0-11; Tommy Connors 1-5; Paddy Lynch 0-5; Gerry Slattery 0-5 (3 frees); Eoin Kelly 1-1; Eoin Gleeson 0-3; Paraic Kelly 0-2.

TOOMEVARA

DATE	ROUND	VENUE	RESULT
9 Apr	Rnd 1	Cloughjordan	Toomevara 1-24 Moneygall 1-9
23 Apr	Rnd 2	Dolla	Toomevara 0-15 Kildangan 0-18
8 May	Rnd 3	Nenagh	Toomevara 1-13 Burgess 0-7
16 May	Rnd 4	Cloughjordan	Toomevara W/O Lorrha Scr
5 June	Rnd 5	Dolla	Toomevara 2-20 Kilruane MacDonaghs 0-15
	QF	Bye	
23 July	SF	Dolla	Toomevara 0-18 Nenagh 0-16

Total For: 4-90 Average For: 1-17
 Total Against: 1-65 Average Against: 0-14

Scorers: Ken Dunne 1-38 (0-25 frees, 0-2 65s); Joey McLoughney 0-12; John O'Brien 1-5; Paddy Grace 0-6; Eoin Brislane, Willie Ryan 0-5 each; Brian McCormack, Bill Duff 1-2 each; Francis Devaney, David Young 0-4 each; Darren Delaney 0-2; Benny Dunne 0-3; Bob Duff 0-1.

Profile on Joe Gallagher, Kildangan

Joe Gallagher played his first senior game with Kildangan in 2007 against Borrisokane. He lined out at midfield partnering Brian Kelly when Kildangan defeated Burgess in the 2008 North senior final. Joe played Minor for Tipperary in 2007/2008 and with Tipp Under 21s.

Name: Joe Gallagher

Club: Kildangan

Height: 6'1"

Weight: 12 st.

Honours: One Munster and All-Ireland U-21 Hurling 2010

One Munster and All-Ireland Minor Hurling 2007

One North SH Medal 2008

One North Jun B Hurling Medal 2006

One County Jun B Hurling Medal 2006

Two North U-21 B Hurling 2008, 2010

One County U-21 B Hurling 2010

One North Minor A Football 2008

One North U-16 A Hurling 2006

One North U-14 A Hurling 2004

One North U-14 A Football 2004

One County U-14 Feile

One North U-12 C Hurling 2001

One County U-12 C Hurling 2001

One U-16 Hurling Arrabawn Tournament 2006

One Tony Forristal Hurling 2004

Two U-14 Peadar Cummins

Two U-16 Garda Cup Medals

Who are your sporting heroes? Ken McGrath, Waterford.

You could play with a player from another era, who would it be? John Leahy, Mullinahone and Tipperary

Three opponents, club and county, you admire most? Aidan Walsh Cork; Brian O'Meara, Kilruane; Paddy Murphy, Nenagh Eire Og

Most memorable game, both club and county? The North Senior Hurling Final victory in 2008 of course.

Biggest influence in your career? Parents and many members of the club



Joe Gallagher in action against Moneygall

What is the toughest part of your sporting career? Winter training

Do you have a nickname? Not that I know of.

Are you currently in a relationship? Yes. My girlfriend's name is Jane Hannigan

Away from sport, who do you most admire? None stand out. I Like them all.

What hobbies or interests do you have? A lot of reading. Watching a good film.

Favourite ground? Semple Stadium.

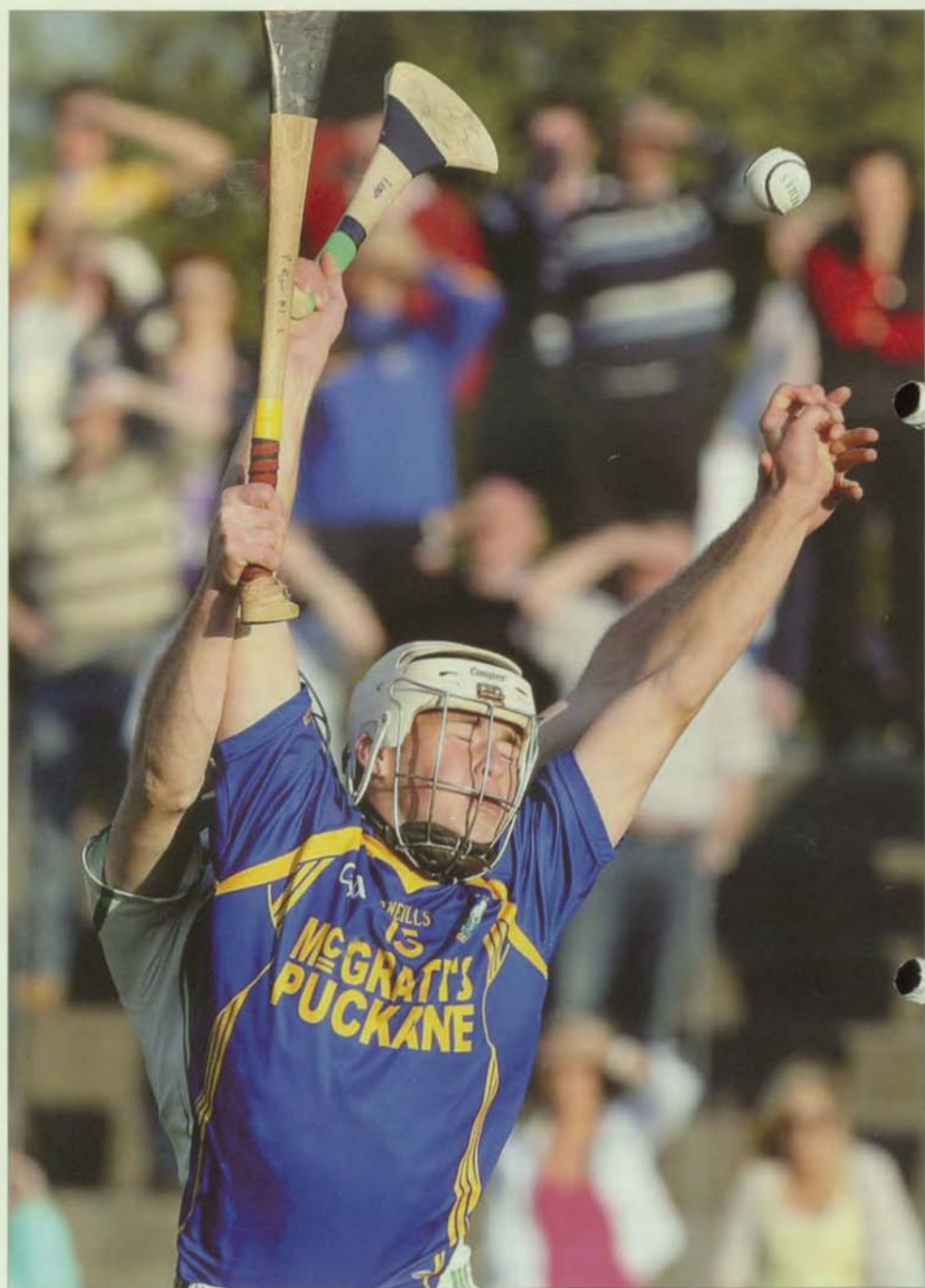
Favourite food? Steak and chips.

Favourite music? Bruce Springsteen.

Sporting ambition? To win a county medal with my club.

If you could change three rules in the GAA what would they be? Use the advantage rule. Allow thirty players on a panel. Take away the small square for both hurling and football.

Best piece of advice you have received during your hurling career? Keep your two hands on the hurl.



Ruairi Gleeson in action for Kildangan against Templederry in the Hibernian North SHC semi-final.
Photograph: Bridget Delaney

Tribute to the late Gerry Slevin

By Liam Hogan

On Saturday July 9th the news that Gerry Slevin had passed away brought sadness to many in North Tipperary and beyond.

The news was sudden. We all knew that Gerry had been ill for a few months but we had confidence that he would battle it. Even on the Tuesday before he died there were fresh signs of improvement.

Once we heard he had passed away, the memories of his great life came flooding back. On a personal note, I had many telephone conversations with him and often called to his house where his wife Lily would entertain.

This time of the year, the phone calls would increase in frequency. "I need a piece on the North Final programme" I would request. "No problem," he would answer. And we would list possible candidates for review.

Past players like Ciaran Carey, Roscrea; Tony Reddin and Jimmy Kennedy were three players recalled frequently. They were Gerry's idols, especially Tony Reddin where Gerry would recall vividly the sight of young followers cramming the goal line to watch their goalkeeping hero at play. When the teams changed ends at half time, the young and eager followers would follow Reddin to the other end of the field for the second half.

Recalling the deeds of so many great players in the past shortened many a journey with Gerry as a passenger on route to games in Kilkenny, Croke Park, Ennis or Pairc Uí Chaoimh.

On heading to Nowlan Park we would always stop off at a pub for a cup of tea just outside the city. Tullamore was always the quieter route to Dublin especially when Cork and Kilkenny played in the senior decider. Gerry had lived in Tullamore when working with the *Midland Tribune* and we used to pass his former residence.

Gerry has left us with so many memories. In his work with the *Nenagh Guardian* he explored different angles on hurling, gaelic football and camogie. He usually got people talking about the content of his 'Off the Cuff' column, covering all

kinds of everything. His books *Through Memories Haze* and *Years of Plenty* were entertaining and informative.

In the '70s, during Gerry's first tenure with *The Guardian* he initiated Player of the Week and covered every grade in hurling and football. Later he introduced the Hurler and Footballer of the year awards.

As the years passed, the number of pages devoted to the GAA increased. Other sports had improved coverage also.

Over the years, Gerry introduced GAA writers to report on all the games.

I recall the evening when he asked me to cover my first full match report for *The Guardian*. It was the 2001 All-Ireland minor hurling semi-final between Tipperary and Galway. I still have the letter of accreditation in my files.

The reports continued over the years and so did the visits to *The Guardian* especially at North final time. In later years, there were many visits to his house in Gortlandroe where Gerry and his wife Lily were extremely hospitable.

Last September my club Shannon Rovers met Borrisokane in the North Intermediate hurling final at Nenagh. The press box had Gerry in one corner shouting for his native Borrisokane. I was in the other with neutrals egging us on. Rovers won on the day much to my delight. Gerry was first to congratulate me on the win.

My last visit to Gortlandroe was last February. We discussed many topics including Wayne Rooney's fantastic goal against Manchester City when he used the overhead bicycle kick.

Sadly that was the last time I saw him. A few phone calls occurred in the meantime. As usual he asked me to visit. I never got around to it much to my disappointment.

Gerry will be missed but always remembered especially in the days leading up to a big games like the North senior hurling final.

Our sympathy goes to his wife Lily, son Brian, daughters Laura and Niamh and their families. To his brothers and sister and extended families.



Snippets for North Final 2011

Three North final Wins

Kildangan has won three North Senior Hurling Finals so far.

In 1938 they defeated Roscrea by 7-2 to 3-4. Five years later, they overcome Roscrea again by 6-2 to 5-04 before defeating Burgess in the 2008 decider 1-17 to 2-12.

Kildangan Kilbarron

Kildangan-Kilbarron formed a great combination in the mid 1930s. They won the North Intermediate title in 1930 and went on to further honours in Jubilee Year, 1934 when finishing level with Roscrea in the final game. The final score read Kildangan-Kilbarron 5-6 Roscrea 4-9. The championship was run on a league basis and the draw was sufficient for the Combo to become champions.

Forty-Three Finals

Toomevara has played in 43 North Senior Hurling Finals, winning 32, drawn 1 and losing 10.

Last Six

Toomevara has won their last six North Final appearances.

1999	Toomevara	2-19	Nenagh Éire Óg	2-15
2000	Toomevara	3-13	Moneygall	1-10
2002	Toomevara	0-19	Moneygall	1-7
2003	Toomevara	3-12	Nenagh Éire Óg	0-16
2006	Toomevara	1-12	Kildangan	0-15
2010	Toomevara	1-12	Borris-Ileigh	0-13

Last Quarter

In the last 25 years, Toomevara won ten North finals.

Top Class

Toomevara head the Roll of Honour with 32 North final wins.



All eye on the ball at The Hibernian North SHC semi-final at Nenagh (l to r) Ger Slattery (Kildangan), Timmy Minogue (Templederrey), Martin Minihan (Kildangan) and Brian Stapleton (Templederrey). Photograph: Bridget Delaney

Snippets for North Final 2011

Brothers in Arms

Brian and Sean Kelly
Joe, Paddy and Tadgh Gallagher
Eoin, Eanna and Ruairi Gleeson
Eoin and Liam Kelly
Dan and Seanie Hackett
Tommy and Gearóid Connors
James and Hugh Flannery

Cousins

Brothers, Liam and Eoin Kelly are cousins of
midfielder, Paraic Kelly.
Connors, Tommy and Gearóid are second
cousins of Dan and Seanie Hackett.

Wing Back

Kildangan wing back, Jack Loughnane, is a
nephew of Joe Loughnane, the former Borris-
Ileigh star in the eighties and nineties. Jack is a
cousin of Borris-Ileigh hurlers, Brendan, Martin,
Declan and Sean Maher.

Selector, Joss Hogan is an uncle of Dan and
Seanie Hackett and also an uncle to Dermot
Hogan

Tipp U-21 team 2011

Joe Gallagher, Ruairi Gleeson and Cian Hayes
were part of the Tipperary U-21 panel this year.

Do You Know

That Daragh Egan played with the Irish U-17
Compromise Rules football team in 2003 and
2004. Ireland won the series 2-1 in Ireland
travelled to Australia the following year to win by
Darragh won an All-Ireland Senior Hurling
medal with Tipperary last year to add to his
Munster minor medal in 2003 and one Munster
U-21 medal in 2006. He also won a National
Hurling league medal in 2008.

Well known

Senior footballers, Paul Kerrigan and Fintan Gould
plus Brendan Quigley, Laois and Kevin Reilly,
Meath featured in this year's All-Ireland senior
football championship played with Darragh Egan
in the 2003 and 2004 U-17 Compromise Rule
series.

Captains

Brian Kelly and Michael Ryan were co-captains
when Kildangan won the 2008 North Senior
Hurling final.

Team manager

Kildangan team manager, Seamus Hogan, won a
Munster and All-Ireland senior hurling medal with
Tipperary in 1971.

Brothers in arms

Barry, Terry, Benny and Ken Dunne
Ciaran and James McGrath
Andrew and Willie Ryan
Conor and John Delaney

Cousins

Paddy Grace is a cousin of Ciaran and James
McGrath
Bob Duff and Conor O'Mearas
Jamie Quigley is a cousin to Bob Duff
David Kennedy is a cousin to both Jamie Quigley
and Bob Duff
Niall McCormack and Brian McCormack
Paddy Tuohy and the Dunne brothers

Father and son

Tony and Sean Delaney

Toomevara 1957-1966

Toomevara appeared in eight North finals, 1957
to 1966 inclusive. They won four, defeating
Kilruane MacDonaghs in 1958 and 1960. They
overcome Borrisokane in 1961 while defeating
Kilruane in 1962. They lost to Eire Og Nenagh,
Kilruane in '59, Roscrea in '63 and Lorrha in '66.

Kildangan In the 1940s and 1950s

Kildangan reached seven North finals in the years
1936 to 1945. They won two in 1938 and '43
defeating Roscrea each time. Between 1951 and
1955, they reached the North Senior hurling semi
final four times. In 1951 they lost narrowly to
Roscrea. Two years later they were denied by
Borris-Ileigh who went on to win the final.
Moving on to 1954, Borris-Ileigh were to deny
them with Roscrea destroying their dreams in the
1955 semi.

Where do they rank

When the dust settles on this evening's Senior Hurling Championship, either Toomevara or Kildangan will be crowned champions and thus considered the best team in the division. However in many other sports a ranking system is used to rate teams. For instance despite the fact that South Africa won the rugby world cup in 2007, they go into this world cup ranked No.3 behind New Zealand and Australia. Ireland have spent most of the year ranked No.4 in the world, but England (No.5) won the six nations.

Spain & Netherlands lead the soccer world ranking, but Brazil are as low as 5th behind Germany & England.

Golf, Tennis, Snooker & Boxing to name but a few sports also have their world rankings.

With this in mind, the question arose as to whether we could apply a similar type ranking to hurling. Tipperary and Kilkenny would be ranked as the top two teams at the moment, but who third – Galway, Dublin, Waterford and Limerick would all have a case.

What about club hurling and more specifically the North Tipp senior hurling championship. Well an attempt has been made and here it is.

First of all we explain the criteria for allocating ranking points.

- Only games in the North Tipperary senior hurling championship were included
- Teams were allocated points as follows
 - o Total League points in Group stages divided by number of games
 - o 2 extra points for reaching the Semi-finals
 - o 2 extra points for reaching the Final
 - o 2 extra points for winning the Final
 - o 1/2 point was given to the County intermediate champions
- Three years results were taken into account. So the rankings for the end of 2010, were based on 2008, 2009 and 2010 results. However since 2010 would be more relevant than 2009 and 2008, the years were weighted as follows
 - o Points earned in year of ranking were multiplied by 3
 - o Points earned in year prior to ranking were multiplied by 2
 - o Points earned in previous year were multiplied by 1

That was the criteria put in place and the results are below. Toomevara, Nenagh, Borris-Ileigh and Kildangan occupy the top 4 spots and that is hardly surprising. A good year for Templederm reflected in them jumping from 10th place to 5th place, pushing Burgess back into 6th place.

While the facts don't lie, the use of them can lead to many different results. Maybe a year more or a year less would shove a team up or down. Similarly a different points system would probably result in a different outcome. This is not an exact science just a small bit of maths.

Could these be used for anything, probably "No" On the other hand maybe a manager might set one of their targets out at the beginning of the year as to "break into the top 6" or "move up two places in the ranking". For others it might be bragging rights over a neighbour to say we're ranked higher than you.

Would it be interesting to spread these rankings to an all-county basis? Who would be the top 4 in the County? Who would be in the top 10? How would you calculate the rankings? Would the team ranked No. 32 end up being the team relegated?

Maybe there will be debate somewhere & these will either answer the question or throw up

more controversy. Whatever happens this evening the Frank McGrath Cup will rest in the parish that has the best team in 2011 and rankings will count for very little.

After 2011 Quarter Finals		2010 Rankings	
1.	Toomevara	38.85	1st (32.45)
2.	Kildangan	27.00	3rd (22.30)
3.	Nenagh Éire Óg	25.20	4th (17.50)
4.	Borris-Ileigh	24.95	2nd (25.00)
5.	Burgess	16.10	5th (15.25)
6.	Templederry Kenyons	13.10	10th (4.30)
7.	Portroe	12.00	6th (12.45)
8.	Kilruane MacDonaghs	7.80	7th (7.15)
9.	Roscrea	5.20	8th (6.40)
10.	Moneygall	3.70	9th (4.75)
11.	Borrisokane	3.30	11th (1.50)
12.	Lorrha	1.80	12th (1.53)

Team	Points 2008	Points 2009	Points 2010	Points 2011
Borris-Ileigh	1.50	2.75 (Semi-final)	6.00 (Runners-Up)	1.40 (4) 11.65
Borrisokane			0.50 (Co. IHC)	0.60 (12) 1-10
Burgess	5.25 (Runners-Up)	0.50	3.00 (Semi-final)	1.20 (5) 8-95
Kildangan	7.50 (Champions)	1.40 (Semi-final)	4.00	3.20 (Semi-final) (2) 16-10
Kilruane MacDonaghs	0.25	1.20	1.50	1.20 (9) 3-15
Lorrha	0.33	0.60	0.00	0.40 (11) 1-33
Moneygall	0.75	0.50	1.00	0.40 (10) 2-65
Nenagh Éire Óg	0.00	8.00 (Champions)	0.50	3.40 (3) 10-90 (Semi-final)
Portroe	1.25	5.60 (Runners-Up)	0.00	0.80 (6) 7-65
Roscrea	3.00 (Semi-final)	0.80	0.60	0.40 (8) 4-8
Templederry Kenyons	0.50 (Co. IHC)	0.40	1.00	3.40 (7) 5-3 (Semi-final)
Toomevara	3.75 (Semi-final)	3.25 (Semi-final)	7.40 (Champions)	3.60 (1) 18 (Semi-final)

Kildangan All-Ireland Intermediate Hurling Champions 2004



Back left to right: James Minehan, James Flannery (M), Willie Seymour, Art Flannery, Aidan Ryan, Brian Kelly, Pat Lynch, Conor Hayes, Liam Kelly, Darragh Egan, Karl Hogan, Enda Nolan, Patrick Coen, Tommy Connors, Eoin Kelly, Sean Gleeson, Eddie Fogarty, Liam Karl Flannery. Front: Roger Gleeson (selector), Seamie Gleeson, John Slattery, Gerry Slattery, John Maher, Dermot Hogan, Michael Ryan, High Flannery, Brian Lawlor, Dan Hackett, Colm McGrath, Brian McLoughlin, Eamon Kelly (manager), Tom Freeman (selector), Seamus Hogan. Mascots: Ciaran and Ben Banaghan.

North Tipp. SHC roll of honour

Pre-Parish Rule 1901-1934

Toomevara (17)	1910, '11, '12, '13, '16, '17, '18, '19, '22, '23, '25, '26, '27, '28, '29, '30, '31
Lahorna De Wets (7)	1901, '02, '03, '04, '06, '07, '08
Lorrha (3)	1905, '14, '24
Kilbarron/Kildangan (1)	1934
Borrisokane (1)	1933
Newport (1)	1932
Nenagh (1)	1915
Youghalarra (1)	1909

After Parish Rule

Roscrea (16)	1936, '37, '39, '41, '42, '45, '49, '54, '63, '67, '68, '69, '70, '71, '80, '04.
Toomevara (15)	1946, '58, '60, '61, '62, '91, '94, '95, '97, '99, '00, '02, '03, '06, '10.
Borris-Ileigh (14)	1947, '50, '51, '52, '53, '55, '72, '73, '76, '81, '83, '88, '05, '07.
Kilruane MacDonaghs (11)	1940, '44, '59, '65, '77, '78, '79, '85, '86, '87, '90
Nenagh Éire Óg (7)	1957, '64, '92, '93, '98, '01, '09.
Lorrha (5)	1948, '56, '66, '84, '89
Kildangan (3)	1938, '43, '08.
Newport (2)	1935, '96
Moneygall (1)	1975
Silvermines (1)	1974

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

from

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