



GUINNESS®

HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

CLUICHÍ CEANNAIS IOMÁNA NA hÉIREANN 2007

CORCAIGH v TIOBRAID ÁRANN

CILL CHAINNIGH v LUIMNEACH



CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL LUACH €5.00

Kieran Ó Madadhan

ÁRD-STIURTHÓIR



AIB CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS *BE PART OF IT*



Supporting Clubs.
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HURLING FINALS

CLUICHI CEANNAIS
IOMÁNA NA HÉIREANN

1.30 i.n.

ESB MINOR HURLING FINAL

**CORCAIGH V
TIOBRAID ÁRANN**

3.30 i.n.

GUINNESS ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINAL

**CILL CHAINNIGH
V LUIMNEACH**



Amhrán na bhFiann

Sinne Fianna Fáil,
Atá faoi gheall ag Éirinn,
Buíon dár slua
Thar toinn do ráinig chugainn
Faoi mhóid bheith saor,
Sean-tír ár sinsear feasta
Ní fhágfar faoin tíorán ná faoin tráill.
Anocht a théam sa bhearna baoil
Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil
Le gunna scréach faoi lámhach na bpiléar,
Seo libh canaig amhrán na bhFiann.

DBA

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Teachtairacht an Uachtaráin

Is cúis mhór áthais dom fáilte a fhearadh romhaibh go Páirc an Chrócaigh inniu do chluichí Ceannais Iomána na hÉireann. Fearaim fáilte faoi leith roimh gach duine a tháinig abhaile go hÉireann chun freastal ar chluichí ceannais 2007. Is iontach an méid oibre a dhéanann sibhse ar son ár gluichí agus táimid bródúil asaibh uile. Is fíor a rá go raibh bliain rathúil iomána againn. Tréaslaím leis na himreoirí go léir ar fud na tíre agus thar lear as ucht an taitneamh a thugadar dúinn i rith an t-samhraidh seo. I ndeireadh an lae is iad Tiobraid Árann, Corcaigh, Cill Chainnigh agus Luimneach a bhfuil anseo inniu agus is fada ó chasadh Luimneach agus Cill Chainnigh ar a chéile sa Chluiche Ceannais. Cuirim mo bheannacht leis na réiteoirí atá i bhfeighil na gluichí inniu, Diarmuid Kirwan agus James Owens agus lena gcuid maoir freisin.

Fáilte

On behalf of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael I welcome the Players, Team Mentors, County Board Officials and Supporters from Kilkenny, Limerick, Cork and Tipperary to Páirc an Chrócaigh this afternoon for All-Ireland Hurling Final Sunday. We have enjoyed some incredibly exciting championship hurling this year and here's hoping we get more of the same today. Kilkenny were strongly fancied to be in Croke Park this afternoon, while opponents Limerick were perhaps seen as an outside bet. After the triple-game

drama against Tipperary and the heartbreak of defeat in the Munster final with Waterford, it is to the credit of everyone involved with Limerick that they have reached Croke Park today. Our minor final is a repeat of the Munster Final and Cork and Tipperary can rightly claim to be the two best Under 18 sides around at the moment. I also welcome our referees, umpires, linesmen and fourth officials and I wish them well. Finally, I welcome the representatives of our sponsors, Guinness and the ESB, and I thank them for their on-going support.

ESB All-Ireland Minor Hurling Final – Cork v Tipperary

When these sides last met in the recent Munster Minor Hurling Final, Tipperary emerged deserving winners, but there was very little to choose between the two teams at the finish. The opportunity for revenge will surely be a major motivating factor for Cork this afternoon. The Leesiders had to work extremely hard before getting the better of a gallant Dublin side in their recent All-Ireland Semi-Final. Tipperary also had a close call in their Semi-Final against Kilkenny, where it took a late rally to give the Premier County a deserved win. The form from both teams points to another very close encounter today. As the reigning All-Ireland champions, Tipperary are marginally the more experienced side and the quality in the team shows the tremendous hurling talent which is emerging in the county. Cork

are never far away from the top at minor level and will spare no effort today as they attempt to capture another title. It is a big day for all the players, their families and especially the clubs of the players. What a great honour for any club to have one of their players involved on All-Ireland Final day. Good luck to all the young players on hurling's biggest day.

Guinness All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final – Kilkenny v Limerick

It is all of thirty-three years since Kilkenny and Limerick clashed in an All-Ireland Final and I have vivid memories of the day as I was a substitute on the Kilkenny team. Since that September Sunday in 1974 Kilkenny has enjoyed a wonderfully successful period annexing numerous All-Ireland titles. Limerick's last All-Ireland success in 1973 (ironically against Kilkenny) was expected to herald a new era for hurling in the county, but sadly some heartbreaking defeats in the intervening years means that the Liam McCarthy Cup has not returned there for thirty-four years. The character of the current Limerick side cannot be questioned. After recovering from the first round defeat to Tipperary the team reached new heights via the Qualifiers. Few will forget their recent classic Semi-Final against Waterford. Following that breath-taking encounter it is hardly surprising therefore that the Shannonsiders are approaching today's final in confident mood.

“We have enjoyed some incredibly exciting hurling this year . . .”

As reigning champions Kilkenny enter today's game as favourites, but that tag will have no impact on the scoreboard as the game commences. Most of the Kilkenny players have plenty of experience of playing on All-Ireland Final Sunday and that may well prove an important factor. Only time will tell. Limerick, though, will not be overawed by the Cats this afternoon. Many of the Limerick players already know what it takes to win an All-Ireland Final having experienced much success at Under 21 level. Kilkenny have unquestionably been the best championship team around for the past two years, but today they will meet one of the most fiercely competitive sides around at the moment. It all adds up to what will be an absorbing contest with perhaps only a puck of a ball between the sides. I offer my sincere thanks to all the players and team officials from every county for giving us such a superb hurling championship. The games this year have been fantastic and will remain deep-rooted in hurling history.

Jubilee Team

It will be a rather unusual experience for me today stepping out with the Kilkenny 1982/83 Jubilee Team at a time when I am also Uachtarán. I recall that 1982 final very well. Kilkenny were in some trouble early on but a two-goal salvo from Christy Heffernan saw us take a lead we held until the finish. Cork were favourites on the day and I had the unenviable task of marking a legend named Jimmy Barry Murphy. Thankfully

everything went extremely well for Kilkenny (and myself) on the day. Kilkenny recorded another win over Cork in the 1983 final but I missed out on the early part of that campaign due to injury. Being a substitute in the final was still a great honour. Meeting my former playing colleagues today brings back great memories of days we trained and played together. I know the big Kilkenny attendance will show their appreciation to as fine a bunch of hurlers as ever represented the county.

Hurling Structures

The debate about the structure of hurling competitions seems to be never-ending with one further (and hopefully final) debate taking place shortly to agree a format for at least the next five years. The HDC and the CCCC are currently formulating proposals for consideration relating to both the championship and the league. A tightening up in the schedule (particularly for the league) and “two strikes and you are out” (for the championship) are prerequisites for the future.

GAA Charities for 2007/8

The official G.A.A. charities for 2007/8 are the Hope Foundation and the Temple Street Children's Hospital. Your support no matter how big or small is deeply appreciated. Details of where to send your donations are to be found in this match programme.

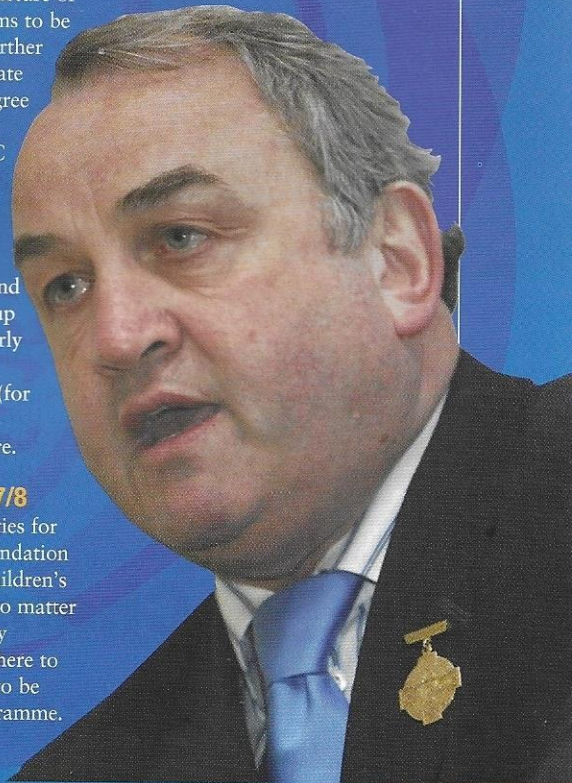
Buiochas

Finally, I wish all our patrons an enjoyable afternoon in Páirc an Chrócaigh. Thanks for your support also and please take special care on your way home from today's games.

Tá lá spórtúil i ndán dúinn. Bainigí taitneamh as agus slán abhaile libh.

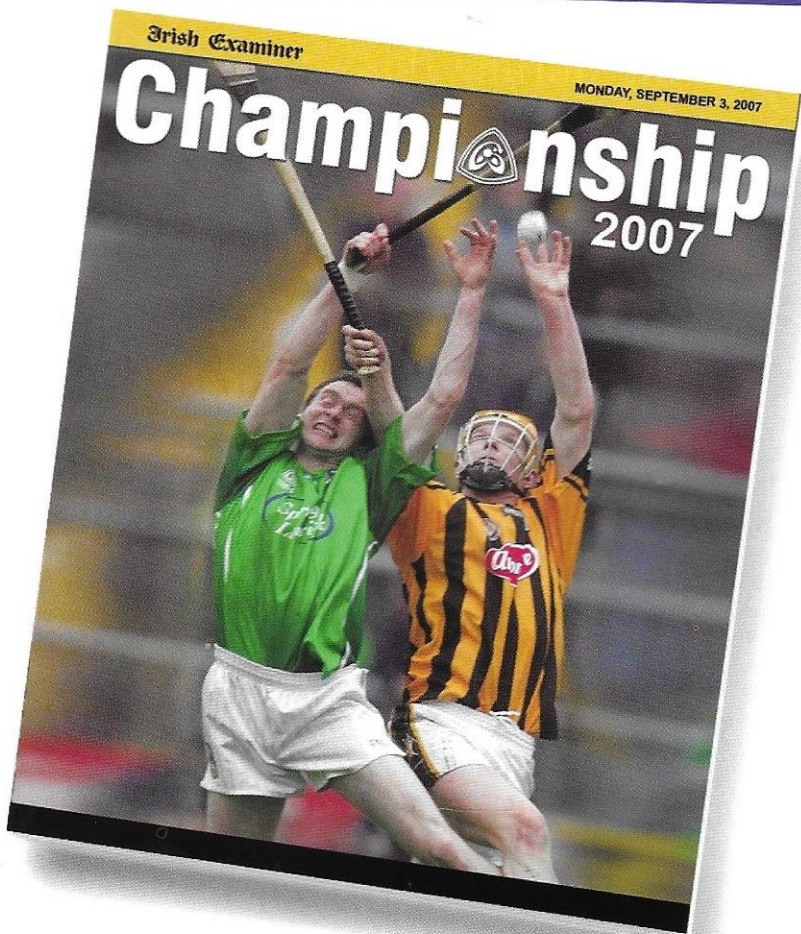
Níoclás Ó Braonáin

Níoclás Ó Braonáin,
Uachtarán,
Cúimann Lúthchleas Gael



TOMORROW

in the *Irish Examiner*



Unrivalled coverage of the All-Ireland Senior and Minor Hurling finals with expert analysis from Donal O'Grady, Tony Considine and our team of leading GAA writers; Michael Moynihan, Diarmuid O'Flynn, Jim O'Sullivan and Brendan Larkin.

Champi  **nship**
2007

A 24-PAGE SPECIAL TOMORROW

For a different view

Irish Examiner

MATCH OFFICIALS

Research

DIARMUID KIRWAN

It is perhaps inevitable that Diarmuid Kirwan would choose a refereeing career as his father Gerry took charge of the 1988 All-Ireland hurling final between Galway and Wexford. Kirwan used two old pennies when he took charge of matches and Diarmuid will flip one of them this afternoon before Kilkenny and Tipperary take the field in the showpiece final. Kirwan (38) lives in Farran, Ovens in County Cork with his wife Breda and their three sons: Brian (12), Paul (10) and David (7). Kirwan is the son of Paddy Kirwan, who was a member of Offaly. Kirwan has lived in Cork since 1988 and is currently employed as a manager for quarrying company John A. Kirwan. He played some junior and intermediate hurling with home club Farran in Offaly and his adopted Éire Óg club before taking up refereeing on a full-time basis in 1995. He has taken charge of a number of high-profile games throughout his career, including the 2006 Allianz National Hurling League final between Kilkenny and Tipperary. Kirwan refereed successive All-Ireland minor finals in 2002 and 2003, the Leinster club final, the 2006 Leinster hurling final between Kilkenny and Wexford and last year's All-Ireland quarter final between Kilkenny and Galway.

A brilliant 2007 for Kirwan began with the All-Ireland club hurling final on St. Patrick's Day between Ballyhale Shamrocks and Loughrea. He followed up with the Allianz National Hurling League semi final clash between Kilkenny and Wexford and took charge of the first instalment of the three-game epic featuring Limerick and Tipperary in the Guinness Munster SHC.

Diarmuid will be assisted this afternoon by 2006 final referee Barry Kelly, who will be the standby referee and linesman, with Michael Wadding patrolling the other touchline. Kirwan's Éire Óg club-mates Brendan O'Leary, Albert O'Riordan, Liam O'Leary and Noel Twomey will serve as umpires. Kirwan said: "It's a thrill without a doubt. I've been refereeing since 1995 and everybody aims to get to the top." Kirwan graduated to the Munster referees panel in 1999 and progressed to the national panel just a year later.

Cork's exit from the 2007 hurling championship opened the door for Kirwan, who was naturally out of the running for hurling's biggest game in recent seasons as the Rebels contested the last three finals. And further glory beckons this afternoon for Kirwan's Éire Óg club as Ciarán Sheehan is a member of the Cork minor hurling panel for the final against Tipperary. And in a fortnight's time, Daniel Goulding will assist the Cork senior footballers as they go in search of a first All-Ireland crown since 1990.



LINESMEN



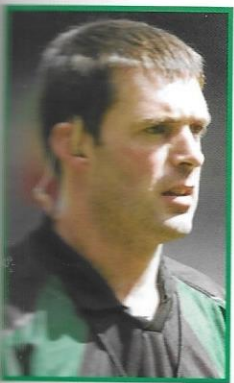
BARRY KELLY
(An Iarabhi)
STANDBY REFEREE



MICHAEL WADDING
(Port Láirge)

Sideline Official: Brendan Sweeney (An Cabhán)

NA RÉITEOIRÍ



Mionúir:
Cocaigh v.
Tobraid Árann

Mionúir

James Owens (Loch Garman)

James makes history today by becoming the first from Wexford to referee an All-Ireland minor hurling final.

He was on All-Ireland duty earlier this year, having taken charge of the Junior club semi-final between Danesfort (Kilkenny) and Kilworth (Cork) at Dungarvan in February, and the Cork-Galway minor quarter-final in July.

Owens has been refereeing since 1998 and is equally adept in hurling and football. He has refereed county senior finals in both codes.

James, who also refereed in the Allianz National League this year, is also very active as an administrator. He is Chairman of his club, Kiltrush-Askamore, and also Chairman of Gorey Coiste na nÓg.

Sideline Official: Fergus Devereux (Cill Dara)

LINESMEN



FERGUS SMITH
(An Mhí)
STANDBY REFEREE



DECLAN MAGEE
(An Dún)

BULLETIN BOARD

SAFETY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

SUPPORTERS ARE ASKED TO RESPECT THE FACT THAT THEY ARE ENTERING AND LEAVING THE STADIUM THROUGH RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

REGULATIONS Páirc an Chrócaigh

1. All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following Regulations and to the Rules and Regulations of Páirc an Chrócaigh. Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all these Rules and Regulations.
2. Fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles and other similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon, are not permitted within the ground, and any persons in possession of such an article or container may be refused entry or ejected from the ground.
3. Spectators are not permitted to bring alcohol into the ground/arena.
4. The climbing of walls, stands or other buildings in the ground is forbidden.
5. Excessive noise such as that from the use of radio sets or other appliances and behaviour likely to cause confusion or nuisance of any kind including foul or abusive language is not permitted in any part of the ground.
6. Under no circumstances is it permitted to throw any objects onto the pitch.
7. Unauthorised persons are not permitted to enter upon the field of play and shall be ejected.
8. Any person who fails to comply with the instructions from a steward may be ejected from the ground.
9. The stadium management reserve the right of admission.
10. The stadium management reserves the right to refuse admission to or to eject any person who refuses to be searched by a member of An Garda Síochána.
11. Any person who remains in a gangway or aisle may be ejected from the ground.
12. Páirc an Chrócaigh reserves the right for its servants or agents to remove from the stadium any person who does not comply with the Ground Regulations or whose presence on the ground could reasonably be construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to other spectators.

BULLETIN BOARD



PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH
THE HOME OF GAELIC GAMES

Public Telephone Locations

Cusack Stand

At Lower Level (Level 3) • Pay Phone at Section 309.

Cusack Premium Level 5 • Pay Phone at Section 508.

Hogan Premium Level 5 • Pay Phone at Section 529.



Safety Notice

In the interests of safety, patrons will not be allowed to enter the playing area after the games.

The policy to prohibit such encroachment in the future has been taken to avoid further injuries and possible fatality and has been taken on the advice and promptings of the safety authorities, namely the Gardaí, Dublin City Council, Fire Brigade and the ERHA.

Supporters are sincerely thanked for their co-operation to date and are asked to continue this co-operation in the future to ensure that games can be enjoyed without recourse to fencing or avoidable obstructions to seeing the action from all vantage points. Together we can ensure that a Croke Park experience is both enjoyable and safe, particularly for the young and vulnerable.

CROKE PARK NOW OPERATES A NO SMOKING POLICY EXCEPT IN DESIGNATED AREAS OF THE GROUND.



Medical Assistance

Cusack Stand Lower: First Aid Centre rear of Section 312.

Canal Stand Upper: First Aid Centre rear of Section 724.

Hogan Stand Lower: First Aid Centre rear of Section 329.

Hill 16: First Aid Centre rear of Section A

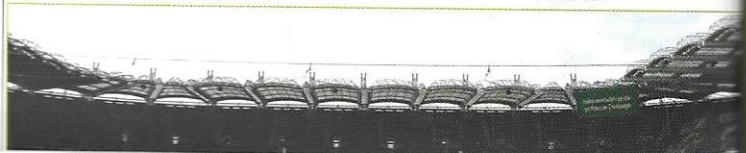
Lower Hogan: Medical Centre

The Site Medical Officer will be situated on the pitch in front of the Cusack Stand. All Treatment Centres are staffed by St. John Ambulance Brigade members.



Lost Children

Lost Children can be collected at the above Medical Centres.



A message from Guinness®

PROUD SPONSORS OF THE GUINNESS ALL IRELAND SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP



On behalf of Guinness, I am delighted to welcome you here today to Croke Park for one of the greatest sporting occasions of the year – the Guinness All-Ireland Hurling Final. Twelve counties were in contention when the Championship began last May. Now, after a sensational 34 provincial, qualifier and All-Ireland games, the 2007 Guinness Hurling Championship is down to the final two, Kilkenny and Limerick.

Limerick's dramatic win over Waterford in the semi-final three

weeks ago really captured the imagination of sports fans all over the country, and allowed the county to book their place in the final against defending champions, Kilkenny. It will be Limerick's first appearance in the final since 1996, whilst Kilkenny will be playing in their 8th final in ten seasons.

It is evident from their displays all summer that both Limerick and Kilkenny share a proud history in hurling. Whatever the outcome, today's game should prove to be a fitting finale to an outstanding summer of hurling.

2007 marks our thirteenth year as sponsors and I am proud to say that since we started out back in 1995, our relationship with the GAA has grown each year as a remarkable and beneficial partnership. We are proud of the excellent partnership with the GAA and the hurling sponsorship has always proved hugely successful and exciting for us.

Hurling is a sport all Irish people can be proud of. It is an

integral part of their history and culture. In marketing the championship, Guinness has always tried to capture the essence of the game. Our advertising campaign for this year - It's Alive Inside - communicates the unique place that hurling has in our lives. Hurling is all about the game, the players and the fans. Each of these facets makes it the special and exceptional game that it is.

On a final note, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the enormous dedication of the players. The championship is all about the players and I would like to wish each and every one of you the very best for today's game. Credit must also go to their support teams; the backroom and coaching staff, and the fans.

A wonderful afternoon of hurling is in prospect.

Michael Ioakimides
Managing Director, Diageo Ireland

I.N.T.O. / G.A.A. Mini-Sevens

KOMÁINT

Team B	Team S
Cill Chainnigh: Dubh agus Ómra Pitch: Defending Hogan Stand, Hill 16 End.	Luimneach: Uaithne agus Bán. Pitch: Defending Cusack Stand, Hill 16 End.
1. Ryan McNulty, St. Colman's PS, Lambeg, Co. Aontroma.	1. Michael Browne, Ballyhea NS, Co. Chorcaí.
2. Conor Shaughnessy, Coolarne NS, Turfoughmore, Co. na Gaillimhe.	2. Darragh Stapleton, Doon CBS, Co. Luimní.
3. Jack Boland, St. Lachteen's NS, Freshford, Co. Chill Chainnigh.	3. Aodhán Harnett, St. John's PS, Middletown, Co. Ard Mhacha.
4. Fionn Maguire, Ballyroan BNS, Baile Átha Cliath.	4. David Conneely, St. Dymphna's NS, Kildalkey, Co. an Mhí.
5. Conor Johnston, St. Colman's PS, Lambeg, Co. Aontroma.	5. Conor Murray, Buscoil Bhóthar na Naomh, Lismore, Co. Phort Láirge.
6. Daniel Cunnane, Tooreen NS, Co. Mhaigh Eo.	6. Conor Nolan, St. Brendan's NS, Birr, Co. Ulbh Fhailí.
7. Andrew Kenny, St. John's NS, Monamolin, Co. Loch Gharraimín.	7. Conor Savage, St. Mary's PS, Portaferry, Co. an Dhuíin.
8. Cormac O'Doherty, St. Patrick's PS, Maghera, Co. Dhoire.	8. Tony Forde, Scoil Mhuire Buachaillí, Castleblaney, Co. Mhuineacháin.
9. Seán Linnane, Coolarne NS, Turfoughmore, Co. na Gaillimhe.	9. Emmet Nolan, St. Brendan's NS, Birr, Co. Ulbh Fhailí.
10. Neil Gorey, St. Patrick's BNS, Hollypark, Baile Átha Cliath.	10. David Mortimer, Camross NS, Co. Laoise.

CAMÓGAÍOCHT



Team T	Team U
Cill Chainnigh: Dubh agus Ómra Pitch: Defending Hogan Stand, Davin Stand End.	Luimneach: Uaithne agus Bán. Pitch: Defending Cusack Stand, Davin Stand End.
1. Gráinne Gavin, St. Peter's NS, Snugboro, Co. Maigh Eo.	1. Shauna Barcoe, Borris Mixed NS, Co. Cheartharlach.
2. Áine Dervan, Tynagh NS, Loughrea, Co. na Gaillimhe.	2. Clara Aarons, Bunscoil Bhóthar na Naomh, Lismore, Co. Phort Láirge.
3. Laura Smyth, Foley NS, Co. Ard Mhacha.	3. Aoife Walsh, Coolderry Central NS, Co. Ulbh Fhailí.
4. Catherine Casey, St. Patrick's PS, Dungannon, Co. Their Eoghain.	4. Claire Fitzpatrick, St. Mary's NS, Ballyhaise, Co. Chabháin.
5. Maria Breheny, Tynagh NS, Loughrea, Co. na Gaillimhe.	5. Sinéad Tuohy, Sixmilebridge NS, Co. an Chláir.
6. Lydia Fitzpatrick, St. Lachteen's NS, Freshford, Co. Chill Chainnigh.	6. Caitriona Murtagh, St. Cremin's NS, Multyfarnham, Co. Iarmhí.
7. Sarah Grant, St. Mary's PS, Maghera, Co. Dhoire.	7. Ciara Berkeley, St. Vincent de Paul GNS, Marino, Baile Átha Cliath.
8. Colleen Clarke, Ballygalget PS, Portferry, Co. an Dhuíin.	8. Megan Ryan, Coolderry Central NS, Co. Ulbh Fhailí.
9. Sarah McCloskey, St. Patrick's PS, Loughguile, Co. Aontroma.	9. Niamh McCarthy, Clogroe NS, Co. Chorcaí.
10. Rachel Boyle, St. Marnock's NS, Portmarnock, Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath.	10. Marie Morrissey, Rathnure NS, Co. Loch Gharraimín.

CLÁR AN LAE

Cluichí Ceannais Iomána na hÉireann 2007



12.00 Ln.	Stíles open Entertainment on Big Screen
01.10 Ln.	Corcaigh amach ar an bpáirc.
01.12 Ln.	Tiobraid Árann amach ar an bpáirc.
01.24 Ln.	Arrival of Uachtarán C.L.G. Níochlás Ó Braonáin agus a bhean; Éirleamh C.L.G., An Dr. Diarmuid Ó Clúmháin, Ardeaspag Caiseal agus Imleach. Salute.
01.27 Ln.	Arrival of An Taoiseach leis an t-Ard Stiúrthóir, Liam Ó Maolmhíchil agus a bhean. Salute.
01.30 Ln.	Craobh Iomána Mhionúir na hÉireann Corcaigh v Tiobraid Árann
02.04 Ln.	INTO/GAA Mini-Games.
02.45 Ln.	End of Minor Hurling Final
02.48 Ln.	Presentation of the Irish Press Cup to the winning captain by An Dr. Diarmuid Ó Clúmháin
02.57 Ln.	Kilkenny Jubilee team of 1982/3 – introduced by Marty Morrissey
03.05 Ln.	Cill Chainnigh amach ar an bpáirc
03.07 Ln.	Luimneach amach ar an bpáirc
03.11 Ln.	Player profiles
03.18 Ln.	Uachtarán na hÉireann introduced. Salute.
03.19 Ln.	An tUachtarán meets the teams.
03.23 Ln.	Paráid na Fóirne
03.28 Ln.	Amhrán na bhFiann sung by Paul Byrom
03.30 Ln.	Craobh Iomána Shínsear na hÉireann. Cill Chainnigh v Luimneach
04.11 Ln.	Entertainment by Frankie Gavin and his band.
04.22 Ln.	Second half begins.
05.00 Ln.	Senior Game ends.
05.03 Ln.	Presentation of The Liam McCarthy Cup to the winning captain by Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Níochlás Ó Braonáin



THE ARTANE BAND PROGRAMME OF MUSIC

Musical Director – **Ronan O'Reilly**
Tenor – **Paul Byrom**

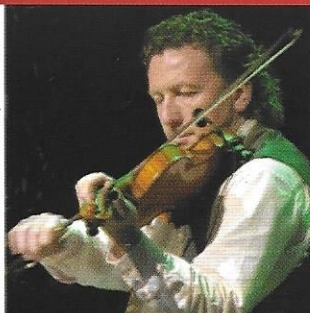
12.30pm	Ambiance Make Way For Melody High School Cadets Take It Up	<i>Wim Laseroms Leon E. Metcalf J.P. Sousa Wim Laseroms</i>
1.24pm	Uachtaran C.L.G. - Salute	<i>R.O'Reilly</i>
1.27pm	Taoiseach Salute	
2.04pm	Play Away	<i>Wim Laseroms</i>
3.00pm	The Rose of Mooncoin	<i>R.O'Reilly</i>
3.18pm	Presidential Salute	<i>A.J. Potter</i>
3.19pm	Star of the County Down	<i>R.O'Reilly</i>
3.23pm	Parade of the Teams God Save Ireland	<i>J. Lynch</i>
3.28pm	National Anthem with Paul Byrom	

Paul Byrom returns to Croke Park today to perform Amhrán na bhFiann having done the honours at last year's Football Final. The 28-year-old has a wealth of experience having performed for many dignitaries including President Mary McAleese and the Japanese Emperor. Having received many accolades for his outstanding vocal talent, his peers have hailed Paul as Ireland's premier young tenor.

HALF TIME ENTERTAINMENT DURING THE SENIOR GAME TODAY WILL BE PROVIDED BY FRANKIE GAVIN & HIBERNIAN RHAPSODY

In just over one month, Frankie Gavin and Hibernian Rhapsody have played at the Leinster Final in a packed to capacity Croke Park, topped the bill at the World Fleadh in Portlaoise alongside Katie Melua, The Proclaimers and Deacon Blue, later performed at Slane Castle as support to international rock stars the Rolling Stones and are back by popular demand to perform at the All-Ireland hurling final in Croke Park today.

Hibernian Rhapsody comprises Carl Hession on keyboards, Damien Mullane on accordion, Eric Cunningham on percussion, Mike Galvin on guitars, Michelle Lally on vocals and special guest Rick Epping on harmonica. Hibernian Rhapsody's new album will be released on the Tara record label (www.taramusic.com) in the coming weeks.



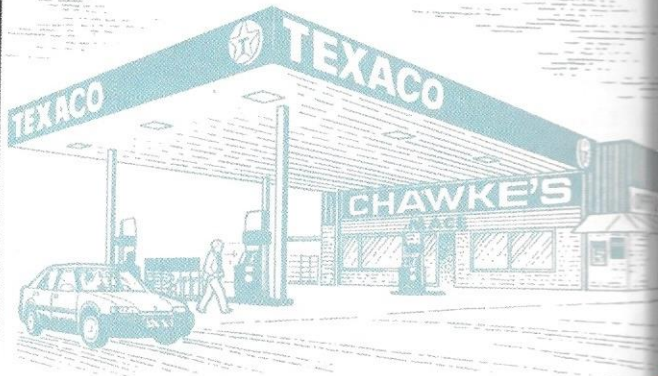
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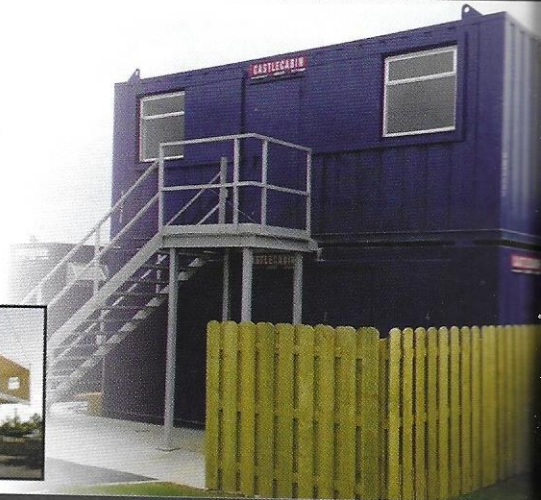
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THE QUEST FOR LIAM

FOUR GAMES TO GLORY

Limerick had four games on their way to their last All-Ireland senior hurling title in 1973 and their first in thirty-three years.

Novel enough opponents along the way were London, who were beaten at Ennis by 1-15 to 0-7 in a semi-final.

The Shannonsiders beat Kilkenny by 1-21 to 1-14 in the main. The conditions were damp, gloomy and most uninviting but an attendance of 58,009 turned up for the game.

Eamonn Cregan played in attack in the earlier games and scored 4-3. However, he was moved back to centre half back for the final, where he had a fine game.

Limerick's goal was scored by centre half forward Mossy Dowling in the second half.

Top scorer for the Munster side was current county team manager Richie Bennis, who hit ten points in the final to boost his record for the entire series to an impressive 2-25 (31 points). He also finished as the leading scorer nationally for that season's championship.

Limerick were captained by Eamonn Grimes from midfield, where he partnered Richie Bennis.

HENDERSON AND KEHER TO THE FORE

A classic display of defensive hurling by Pat Henderson and a scoring tour-de-force by Eddie Keher powered Kilkenny to a revenge win when they renewed All-Ireland senior final rivalry with Limerick in 1974.

Henderson was supremely on his game, playing with poise and

assurance to provide one of the top individual displays in a Liam McCarthy Cup tie.

Keher, who with left full back Jim Treacy missed the final the previous year, helped himself to a superb 1-11.

Kilkenny won by 3-19 to 1-13 before an attendance of 62,071 in what was the last final between these counties.

FIRST MCCARTHY CUP WINNERS

Limerick were the first winners of the Liam McCarthy Cup. The trophy was not presented as the prize for the All-Ireland senior championship until the 1921 season.

Limerick and Dublin qualified for the final, which was not played until early March 1923. Much was expected of the game, but the final did not come up to general expectations.

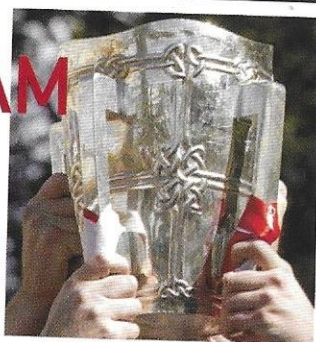
Limerick's defence was unyielding, while up front Bob McConkey and Tom McGrath were prominent. The Muster county led by eleven points at the interval and went on for a resounding 8-5 to 3-2 win.

The game was a personal triumph for McConkey, who scored four goals.

RARE DOUBLE FOR LIAM FENNELLY

A new trophy, also known as the Liam McCarthy Cup, was presented for the 1992 final. Kilkenny beat Cork in the final and their captain and full forward Liam Fennelly completed a rare double.

Apart from being the first to be presented with the new trophy, he also ranks as the last



Kilkenny native to receive the old McCarthy Cup. Fennelly led Kilkenny to their last title of the eighties in 1983 when, amazingly enough, they also beat Cork in the summit.

JOINT TOP

Kilkenny will join Cork on top of the All-Ireland senior hurling championship Roll of Honour if they retain their title. Cork won their 30th title in 2005 and Kilkenny boosted their record to 29 last year.

The Leinster County last made a successful defence of the title in 2003.

LAST DRAWN FINAL

The last drawn senior final was as far back as 1959 when left full forward Tommy O'Connell scored three goals for Kilkenny, but they still had to settle for a draw with Waterford in what was a memorable game.

The Leinster men scored 5-5 as against their opponents 1-17.

In the replay, Kilkenny started like probable winners with a six points lead after ten minutes, but Waterford got their game together after that and collected the title with a 3-12 to 1-10 success.

NO GOALS

Kilkenny were also involved in the last final that failed to produce a single goal. That was three years ago when they went down to Cork by 0-17 to 0-9.

RECORD DRAWS

Cork is the only county to have been involved in three draws in the one campaign, which was in 1931. In that year's Munster final the Leesiders drew with Waterford (1-9 to 4-0) before winning the replay by 5-4 to 1-3. They had a semi-final engagement but the final turned out to be one of the great demonstrations of hurling history which took three games to decide. On September 6th both Cork and Kilkenny notched 1-6, and October 11th each recorded a total of 2-5. At the third attempt the matter was resolved with Cork winning by 5-8 to 3-4 on November 1st. It was the only All-Ireland final that went to three meetings and Cork are the only side to be involved in three drawn matches in the one campaign. Should Limerick draw with Kilkenny this afternoon that record will be equalled.

THE STAR

There are counties that could beat Kilkenny in five successive championship games would be incredible to present-day hurling fans everywhere; but it did happen more than 80 years ago and remarkably it wasn't regarded as exceptional at the time. The eclipse of the "Cats" was recorded by a county that nowadays would be regarded as having little hope in a direct confrontation with the Leesiders.

The county that defeated Kilkenny in five successive championship meetings was Dublin, although it must be said that at the time the Metropolitans could call on the services of many outstanding players from other counties who gave their allegiance to the capital.

Dublin's run began in 1917 when they defeated Kilkenny in the Leinster final by 5-2 to 4-0. Twelve months later Dublin won their first-round encounter by 5-0 to 4-4 and in 1919 in the final at Wexford Park, the capital again triumphed, this time by 1-5 to 1-2. At Croke Park the following year Dublin retained the upper hand winning by 4-5 to 2-2 and the quintet was completed with a 1921 provincial final on a 4-4 to 1-5 scoreline.

Dublin's great run came to an end in the Leinster final at Croke Park in 1922 when the Noresiders triumphed by 3-4 to 1-2. No Leinster county since has come anywhere near repeating Dublin's feat.

RECORD GOALS

If there was ever a competition for the greatest demonstration of goal-scoring in a hurling championship confrontation at Croke Park, Tipperary would be strong claimants for the top slot as one glorious day (for Tipperary) the wearers of the blue and gold chalked up an incredible 21 goals. This goal fest was on the occasion of the All-Ireland senior and junior semi/finals of 1913.

The senior pairing was a strange one – Roscommon and Tipperary. For the first – and only – time in their history, Roscommon had beaten Galway in the Connacht final, but if they entertained hopes of reaching the final, they were quickly dashed as the Premier county beat them by 10-0 to 0-1.

The curtain-raiser was another disaster for the West as Tipperary had beaten Galway in the junior 'semi' by 11-2 to 2-1, which meant that Tipp had amassed a total of 21 goals in two hours at headquarters.

It may have happened at some other venue, at some other level, but there is no record of a county scoring so many goals in one afternoon at Croke Park.



SIDE LINES

Clabhsúr ar Chraobhchomórt as Iontach

Ní dócha go bhfuil éinne sa tír nár bhain taitneamh as craobhchomórtas iománaíochta 2007 go dtí seo. Bhí aicsean den scoth againn ar pháircceanna na tíre: cluichí sciliúla, spórtiúla: scóranna iontacha i ngach uile cluiche; sluaite oll-mhór i láthair agus aiséirí Luimní chun barr slachta a chur ar chúrsaí ag deireadh an tséasúir. Bhí Ger Loughnanae, Babs agus Richie Bennis againn chomh maith le Tony Considine agus Davy Fitz. Inniu beidh Cait Cody in aghaidh Buaitoirí Bennis agus is cinnte go mbeidh clabhúr faoi Leith againn ar imeachtaí na bliana um thráthnóna i bPáirc an Chrócaigh.

Is cinnte go raibh sé éasca go leor do Chait Chill Chainnigh craobh Laighean an bhaint agus ní raibh stró ró-mhór orthu ach an oiread dul chomh fada le cluiche an lae inniu. Bhí cluiche dian go leor acu, ceart go leor, in aghaidh na Gaillimhe. Ag deireadh an lae, áfach, bhíodar ró-láidir. Níl locht ar bith orthu toisc go raibh cúrsaí mar sin. Rinneadar gach ní a bhí le déanamh le stil faoi leith agus, mar is gnách, tá a luach saothair tuille go maith acu. Ní hamhlaidh a bhí, áfach, i gcúige Mumhan. Bhí iomaíocht ghéar ann agus cuid dena cluichí is fearr le blianta anuas. D'imir an Clár, Tiobraid Arann, Port Láirge agus Luimneach iomáint den scoth agus ag deireadh an lae is iad muintir na Sionainne a tháinig slán trí bhealach an chúl-doras.

Tá seacht gcinn de chraobhacha Uile-Éireann buaite ag Luimneach agus beidh pobal na hiománaíochta ag suil go mbainfidh siad uimhir a hocht um thráthnóna. Ta ceithre chluiche ceannais caillte acu ó na seachtóidí — 1974, 1980, 1994 agus 1996. Léirigh foireann na bliana seo don

saol go bhfuil na scileanna, an neart agus an teach aniar acu chun an Corn Mhic Cárthaigh a bhaint. Bhí ard-choimhlint acu le Tiobraid Árann. Bhí gá le trí chluiche chun iad a scarúint. Nuair a thug siad aghaidh ar Phort Láirge is beag duine a thug seans dóibh na Déisigh a chloí. Bhíodar ar bharr a maitheasa arís agus bhí an lámh in uachtar acu ar Na Déisigh. Tá ard-mheas ag an bpobal ar fhoireann iontach Chill Chainnigh ach tuigeann daoine chomh maith go bhfuil gá la foirne nua chun an iomaint a choimeád beo beathach agus spéis an phobail a chothú.

Cad is féidir a rá nach bhfuil ráite cheana faoi fhoireann Brian Cody. Tá a stíl féin ag an múinteoir bunskoile. Tá foireann múnlaithe aige atá ar na foirne is fearr riamh. Tá gach cluiche craoibhe buaite acu ón gcluiche leathcheannais i 2005. Tá cúlaithé diongbhailte, láidir acu — leithéidí J.J Delaney agus Noel Hickey; fir

lár-pháirce den scoth agus tosaithe le draíocht thar na beartaibh - Shefflin, Comerford agus Brennan ina measc. Is iontach an rud é go bhfuil go leor nach iad atá maith go leor cluiche ar bith a bhuaichint. Is fíor, is dócha, go mbaufadh fir ionaid na gCat ar chuid dena foirne is fearr sa chraobhchomórtas. Tá siad thar a bheith láidir. Tá ceithre chraobh Uile-Éireann ó 2000 buaite acu agus má bhíonn an lá leo inniu beidh siad ar chomhionann le s Na Reibiliúnaigh le 30 chraobh acu aron.

Is lá faoi leith é lá an chluiche ceannais iománaíochta i saol chultúrtha na hÉireann. Beidh na hiománaithe is fearr sa tír ag dul chun páirce i staid glórmhar, galánta. Beidh an áit plódaithe go doras agus Éireannaigh agus eachtannainnigh ar fud na cruinne ag déanamh iontais faoi chluiche luasmhar, bríomhar, sciliúil. Beidh crógacht, neart, fuinneamh agus scil á léiriú ag na himreoirí scafanta. Bimis fíor-bhróduil astu. Tá suil againn go mbainfidh gach éinne ard-spraoi as an ócáid. Go néirí le hógánaigh ó Chorcaigh agus Tiobraid Árann agus leis na himreoirí bunskoile ag bheith ag déanamh a seacht ndícheall ag leatham.

ROLL OF HONOUR and THE LIAM MCCARTHY CUP

All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship

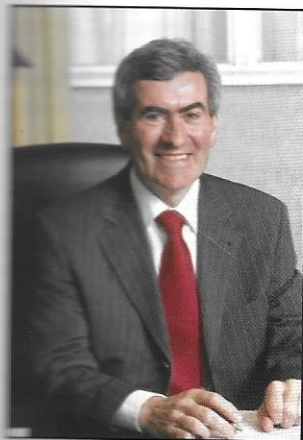
30: Cork:	1890, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1902, 1903, 1919, 1926, 1928, 1929, 1931, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1946, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1966, 1970, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1984, 1986, 1990, 1999, 2004, 2005.
29: Kilkenny:	1904, 1905, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1922, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1939, 1947, 1957, 1963, 1967, 1969, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1992, 1993, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2006.
25: Tipperary:	1887, 1895, 1896, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1906, 1908, 1916, 1925, 1930, 1937, 1945, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1958, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1971, 1989, 1991, 2001.
7: Limerick:	1897, 1918, 1921, 1934, 1936, 1940, 1973.
6: Dublin:	1889, 1917, 1920, 1924, 1927, 1938.
Wexford:	1910, 1955, 1956, 1960, 1968, 1996.
4: Galway:	1923, 1980, 1987, 1988.
Offaly:	1981, 1985, 1994, 1998.
3: Clare:	1914, 1995, 1997.
2: Waterford:	1948, 1959.
1: Laois:	1915. Kerry: 1891. London: 1901.



The old **Liam McCarthy Cup** was replaced by a new trophy for the 1992 All-Ireland senior hurling final, in which Kilkenny, led by Liam Fennelly, beat Cork. The first Cup was presented by Liam McCarthy in appreciation of the work being done by the GAA for the youth and to stimulate greater interest in hurling. He was born in London in 1853. His father came from Ballygarvan, Co. Cork, a famine emigrant, and his mother was a native of Bruff in Limerick. He was first treasurer, and later became President of the London County Board and held that position for a number of years. He died in 1928.

MESSAGE FROM ESB

SPONSORS OF THE ESB ALL-IRELAND MINOR HURLING FINAL



This is the third year of ESB's sponsorship of the All-Ireland Minor Hurling Final and we are very pleased to be back in Croke Park to share the spectacle as Cork and Tipperary challenge for the Irish Press Cup.

All Ireland Final Day is one of the great annual dramas in Irish sport and today we come together to watch a thriller – two Munster counties steeped in the proud traditions of hurling, battling before the largest crowd at any single sporting event in the world.

It is hard to believe that both ESB and the GAA Minor Championships have reached their ninth decade; both were founded in the late 1920s. ESB's sponsorship of two of our national sports at Minor level – where the stars of the future are nurtured – is one of the most appropriate business-sporting alliances in Ireland.

Traditions of excellence and high achievement are shared by ESB and the GAA and this sponsorship is helping to develop these qualities both on the pitch and in the workplace.

ESB's sponsorship of the All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship has a commercial basis outside of the cultural, social and sporting dimension. As one of the few companies with a presence in every parish, indeed in every home and business, it makes perfect sense that ESB should join forces with a sporting organisation that mirrors this deep involvement in Irish society.

I am sure you will enjoy today's encounter and we wish the best of luck to both Cork and Tipperary in another afternoon of great Minor hurling in Croke Park.

Pádraig McManus
Chief Executive ESB

MINORS MEET FOR THE SECOND TIME

Can Cork emulate the achievement last year of Tipperary, who bounced back from a Munster final defeat to win the ESB All-Ireland minor hurling title, or will the Premier County record their first titles double since as far back as a run of three successive title from 1955 to 1957 inclusive?

Cork lost the Munster final to Tipperary in early July but recovered well with wins over Galway and Leinster champions Dublin to earn the county a first final appearance in six years.

Cork did not look too secure when they trailed the Leinster champions by four points after twenty-five minutes at Portlaoise. However, goals in a two minutes spell by Ryan Clifford and Michael

O'Mahony helped them to lead at the interval by 2-5 to 0-8.

They scored five unanswered points after the change of ends, but failed to score after that. Dublin rallied well, but the Leaside defence, with Lorcan McLoughlin, Chris O'Donovan and Killian Murphy leading by example, offered stout resistance and Cork won through by 2-10 to 0-13.

Tipperary beat Cork by four points in the Munster final at Semple Stadium where right half forward Seamus Hennessy capped a fine performance by scoring 0-9.

The teams were level after forty eight minutes when Cork had a defender dismissed by the referee.

However, Tipperary over-all still turned in an impressive performance.

They maintained their winning ways at the expense of Leinster title runners-up Kilkenny in a Croke Park semi-final.

A goal by left full forward Michael Heffernan got the Premier County off to a bright start and they were 1-4 to 0-1 clear after thirteen minutes. However, Kilkenny hit back well and had a goal advantage early in the second half.

But Tipperary raised their game again with some excellent points and finished well-merited winners by 1-19 to 2-12. Hennessy was again very target conscious and finished with seven points.

MINOR FINAL CREATES HISTORY



The trophy presented to the winners of the All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship is the "Irish Press Cup". The company, a leading newspaper publisher, presented the trophy in 1949 and the first winners were Tipperary, who defeated Kilkenny in that year's final. The first All-Ireland Minor Hurling final was played in 1928 and was won by Cork.

The All-Ireland minor hurling final makes history as it is the first featuring counties from the same province.

Tipperary lost last year's Munster final to Cork, but climaxed a splendid come-back by beating Galway in the final to capture their first All-Ireland title since 1996 and their 16th since 1930.

Cork lost this year's Munster final to Tipperary, but found their winning ways again in a quarter-final against Galway and beat Leinster champions Dublin last time out.

The county is appearing in a final for the first time since 2001 when they beat Galway to capture their 18th title since 1928.

They share leadership in the Roll of Honour with Kilkenny.

LAST DRAW

The last drawn final was three years ago when Galway and Kilkenny finished all square a Croke Park at 3-12 for the

Westerners to 1-18.

The replay went on at Tullamore where the Connacht county won by 0-16 to 1-12.

NO GOALS

Tipperary were involved in the last final that failed to produce a single goal. They lost to Galway in 1999 by 0-13 to 0-10.

Galway's win over Kilkenny in the 2004 final replay was also the last time that a county captured the title without scoring a goal. The Westerners were also the last county to win a final, as distinct from a final replay, without finding the net in that 1999 win over Tipperary.

FIRST WINNERS

Although the first All-Ireland minor hurling final was played in 1928, when Cork beat Dublin, the IRISH PRESS Cup was not presented to the winners of the championship until 1949. Tipperary beat Kilkenny in that year's decider. Cork inscribed their name on the trophy for the first time in 1951 after their win over Galway.

LAST MUNSTER DOUBLE

The last time that the All-Ireland minor and senior hurling titles went to Munster in the same year was in 2001 when Cork won the under-18 crown and Tipperary captured their last senior title.

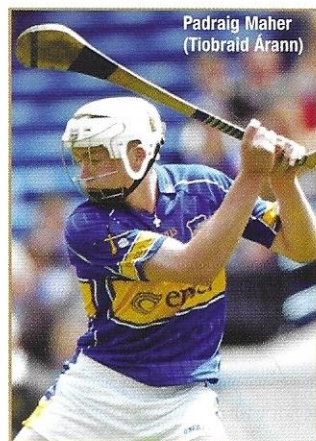
ROLL OF HONOUR

The winners of the All-Ireland minor hurling championship are presented with THE IRISH PRESS Cup. The trophy was first awarded for the 1949 final, won by Tipperary.

ROLL OF HONOUR

18:	Cork:	1928, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1951, 1964, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1974, 1978, 1979, 1985, 1995, 1998, 2001.
18:	Kilkenny:	1931, 1935, 1936, 1950, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1981, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1993, 2002, 2003.
17:	Tipperary:	1930, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1947, 1949, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1976, 1980, 1982, 1996, 2006.
7:	Galway:	1983, 1992, 1994, 1999, 2000, 2004, 2005.
4:	Dublin:	1945, 1946, 1954, 1965.
3:	Wexford:	1963, 1966, 1968.
3:	Limerick:	1940, 1958, 1984.
3:	Offaly:	1986, 1987, 1989.
2:	Waterford:	1929, 1948.
1:	Clare:	1997.

NOTE: The championship was suspended during World War II, 1942 to 1944 inclusive.



Padraig Maher
(Tiobraid Árann)

CORK'S FIRST WIN

1926
Cork 6-5 Tipperary 1-4

Having lost six games to Tipperary already since their first meeting, Cork might have been forgiven if they had come to believe that there was some kind of hoodoo attached to playing the Premier county's under-18 hurlers. But things were about to change and it was appropriate from the Cork point of view that the 'day of deliverance' should bring the counties back to Mitchelstown where the Leesiders' frustrations had begun six years previously.

On the way to this final meeting both counties had recorded expected victories - Tipperary over Kerry and Clare, Cork over Limerick. For a team that was

hoping to record the county's first-ever victory over the Premier county, Cork played with remarkable zest and confidence from the throw in. O'Callaghan had the first goal after just four minutes and three minutes later Buckley added a second.

Some easy chances were missed before Buckley extended the lead with a good point. As Tipperary found their feet, O'Meara shot a great goal, but O'Callaghan replied in kind to leave it 3-2 to 1-1 at the break. Cork restarted on the offensive and the issue was virtually decided when Dineen crashed home goal number four. Two more followed as Cork cruised to a debut victory.

Cork scorers: W.Buckley 1-4, P.O'Callaghan 2-0, R.Dineen, D.O'Mahoney, W.Campbell 1-0 each, G.Atkinson 0-1.

Tipperary scorers: D.O'Meara 1-1, D.Casey 0-2, W.Brussels 0-1.

Cocaigh - M.O'Donovan, M.Prenderville, M.Murphy, P.J.O'Rourke, D.Coughlan, W.Campbell, M.Goggin, C.McSweeney, M.Healy, G.Atkinson, M.Cahill, R.Dineen, W.Buckley, P.O'Callaghan, D.O'Mahoney.

Tiobraid Árann - P.Morris, T.Nyhan, P.Curran, T.Hammersley, J.Quirke, T.Mason, W.Brussels, E.Cooke, J.Norris, D.Casey, M.Griffin, D.O'Meara, D.O'Dwyer, J.Coffey, P.O'Neill.

TIPPERARY'S FIRST WIN

1929
Tipperary 2-1 Cork 0-2

This first-ever meeting of Cork and Tipperary in the recently established under-18 grade was not favoured by suitable weather conditions at Mitchelstown on the third Sunday in November. The conditions were anything but conducive to skilful hurling, but two gallant teams made heroic efforts to serve up a game that was always keenly contested.

Tipperary had first use of the wind but took some time to capitalise on the advantage and the game had entered the second quarter before their first flag was raised when Harney beat custodian Maloney with a stinging shot. Keeping up the

pressure Tipperary had several wides before Wade shot their second goal, which brought a reply from Cork through Quirke. At the break Tipperary led by 2-0 to 0-1.

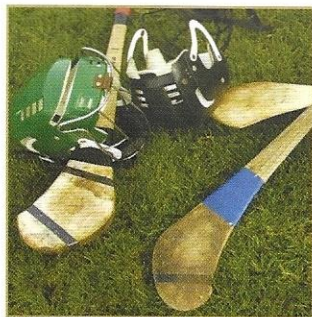
The second half was dominated by defenders on both sides. Cork, now with a greater share of the outfield exchanges, threatened the Tipperary defence on numerous occasions, but their finishing was poor. In 30 minutes of hard hurling each side managed just a single point, and though the hosts fought bravely to the end, the Premier county were worthy winners.

Tipperary scorers: E.Wade 1-1, T.Harney 1-0.

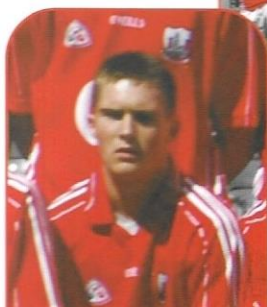
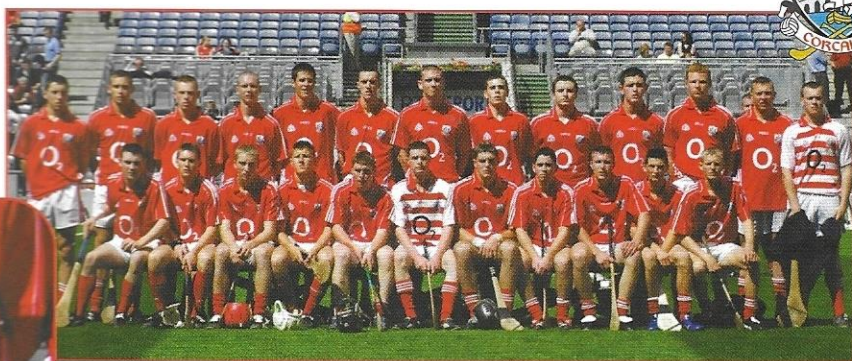
Cork scorers: J.Ring, J.Quirke 0-1 each.

Tiobraid Árann - M.Murphy, J.Ryan, E.Wade, M.Kennedy, J.J.Maher, W.Long, John Coffey, P.Russell, P.Heavey, J.Lanigan, J.Maher, T.Harney, J.Russell, J.Riordan, James Coffey.

Corcaigh - M.Maloney, J.Glavin, R.Daly, F.Cronin, C.Harte, J.Ring, M.Farrell, J.Mackey, W.Deasy, D.Hyde, P.Murphy, J.Cronin, J.Quirke, D.Lynch, M.Twomey.



Other members of the Tipperary panel, but not included on the teamsheet are: Liam Butler (Moyne-Templetuohy), Jonathan Cody (Clonakenny), Kieran McGrath (Toomevara), Patrick O'Brien (Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams), Colm Ryan (Upperchurch-Drombane), Tom Treacy (Doon)



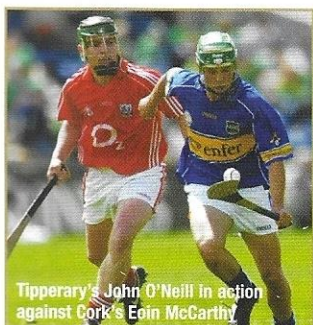
The Cork panel which beat Dublin in the Semi-Final:
Back Row- Glen O'Connor, Kieran Sheehan, Pdraig Gould, Conor Hurley, Rob White, Stephen McDonnell, Michael O'Mahoney, William Egan, Donagh Stack, Alwyn Kearney, Fionan Keane, Maurice Sexton, Cathal Hickey
Front Row- Michael Bowles, Ryan Clifford, Denis O'Sullivan, Jack Herlihy, Seamus O'Farrell, Darren McCarthy, Luke O'Farrell, Lorcan McLoughlin

An Captaen
Ryan Clifford

CORCAIGH

LAST MEETING

2007
Tipperary 0-18 Cork 1-11



Tipperary's John O'Neill in action against Cork's Eoin McCarthy

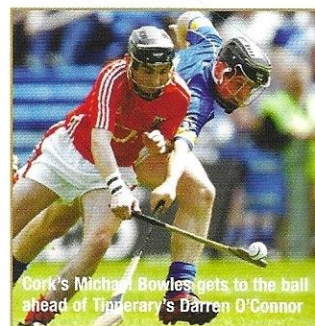
Two months ago Cork and Tipperary clashed in the provincial final and had the Leisiders' Eoin McCarthy not been sent to the line at the 48th minute the outcome might have been entirely different. At that point Cork were playing with the breeze and were on level terms, but in the closing twelve minutes they were unable to prevent Tipperary using the extra man effectively to run out four-point winners.

Such a positive result for wind-aided Tipperary looked unlikely at the end of the first half as they led by just a point – 0-8 to 0-7, and indeed had Cork made the most of their chances they might well have gone into the second period in front. Still, Tipperary regrouped and led by 0-11 to 0-9 when Donagh Stack had the game's only goal. Seamus Hennessy quickly fired over an equaliser but then Cork were reduced to 14 and with it went their chance of victory. Noel McGrath edged Tipperary back in front and there they stayed as they scored five of the last seven points.

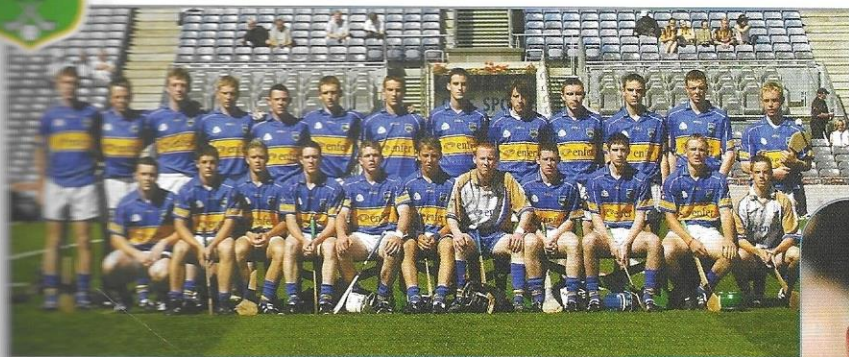
Tipperary scorers: S.Hennessy 0-9, B.Maher 0-3, J.O'Neill, J.Gallagher 0-2 each, N.McGrath, D.O'Brien 0-1 each.
Cork scorers: R.Clifford 0-4, D.Stack 1-1, P.Gould 0-2, R.White, M.Bowles, L.O'Farrell, C.Sheehan 0-1 each.

Tiobraid Árann – J.Logue, K.O'Gorman, Pdraig Maher,

S.O'Brien, D.O'Connor, J.Coughlan, M.Cahill, N.McGrath, J.Gallagher, S.Hennessy, C.Lorigan, B.Maher, M.Heffernan, Patrick Maher, J.O'Neill. Subs – S.Carey (Lorigan), J.Barry (O'Connor), D.O'Brien (Heffernan).
Corcaigh – D.McCarthy, J.Herlihy, A.Kearney, E.McCarthy, L.McLoughlin, C.O'Donovan, K.Murphy, S.McDonnell, D.O'Sullivan, R.White, M.Bowles, P.Gould, L.O'Farrell, D.Stack, R.Clifford. Subs – M.Sexton (McDonnell), C.Sheehan (Stack), R.O'Driscoll (White).



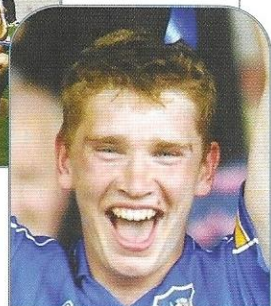
Cork's Michael Bowles gets to the ball ahead of Tipperary's Darren O'Connor



The Tipperary panel which beat Kilkenny in the Semi-Final:

Back row – Paddy Murphy, Peter Acheson, Seamus Hennessy, Brendan Maher (Captain), Sean Carey, Michael Heffernan, John Coghlan, Ciaran Lorigan, Patrick Maher, Kevin O'Gorman, Kieran McGrath, Liam Dwan, Kieran Shelly

Front row – Darren O'Connor, Darragh O'Brien, John O'Neill, Michael Cahill, Padraig Maher, James Barry, James Lague, Sean O'Brien, Joe Gallagher, Noel McGrath, Bill McCormack



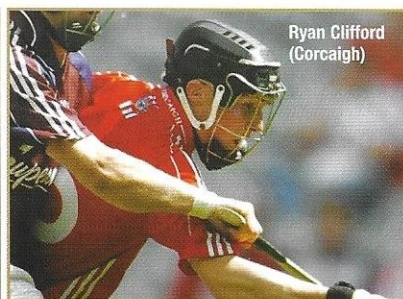
An Captaen
Brendan Maher

TIOBRAID ÁRANN

TOP SCORERS

Whatever the outcome of today's final it is almost certain that Ryan Clifford will emerge as the top scorer for the 2007 senior hurling championship. The Leesider is only a point clear of Lee Murphy, but it is 15 ahead of his closest rival playing today – Seamus Hennessy. Indeed, it is highly likely that the same three players will be in the same positions after today's match. Just two of last year's top ten – Paudie Kehoe (2nd) and Daniel Currams (5th) – reappear in this year's top ten, which currently reads:

		Score	Total
1	Ryan Clifford (Cork)	5-25	40
2	Lee Murphy (Wexford)	2-33	39
3	Seamus Hennessy (Tipperary)	0-25	25
4	Shane Brennan (Kilkenny)	2-16	22
5	Aaron Whelehan (Offaly)	1-18	21
6	Willie Cullen (Wexford)	5-5	20
7	Andrew Collier (Laois)	1-14	17
	Daniel Currams (Offaly)	2-11	17
	Paudie Kehoe (Carlow)	3-8	17
10	John O'Neill (Tipperary)	2-10	16



Ryan Clifford
(Corcaigh)

INDIVIDUAL FEATS

Not surprisingly, when a team scores 10-23 in a championship fixture, there is a high probability that at least one forward will help himself to a high individual total and such was the case this year when Willie Cullen hit 5-4 in Wexford's 50-point demolition of Wicklow. Three days earlier Ryan Clifford hit a fine 3-4 for Cork against Waterford, but this year that return is good enough only for the runners-up spot. In all there were 12 returns (15 last season) of nine points or more in the current campaign and they are:

Willie Cullen (Wexford)	5-4	v Wicklow – 5th May, Arklow
Ryan Clifford (Cork)	3-4	v Waterford – 2nd May, Páirc Uí Chaoimh
Paudie Kehoe (Carlow)	2-6	v Laois – 19th May, Dr Cullen Park
James Mulrooney (Offaly)	3-3	v Wicklow – 21st April, Arklow
Daniel Currams (Offaly)	1-7	v Wicklow – 21st April, Arklow
Aaron Kelly (Derry)	2-4	v Armagh – 13th May, Casement Park
Seamus Hennessy (Tipperary)	0-9	v Cork – 8th July, Thurles
Ryan Clifford (Cork)	0-9	v Clare – 27th June, Thurles
Lee Murphy (Wexford)	0-9	v Offaly – 23rd May, Tullamore
Shane Brennan (Kilkenny)	1-6	v Tipperary – 12th August, Croke Park
Shane Brennan (Kilkenny)	1-6	v Antrim – 28th July, Croke Park
Lee Murphy (Wexford)	1-6	v Carlow – 24th April, Dr Cullen Park

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

53: Tipperary 33 Cork 20

1929 – Tipperary 2-1 Cork 0-2
 1930 – Tipperary 4-3 Cork 3-0
 1931 – Tipperary 5-6 Cork 2-3
 1933 – Tipperary 3-1 Cork 2-2
 1934 – Tipperary 1-3 Cork 1-2
 1935 – Tipperary 4-3 Cork 2-1
 1936 – Cork 6-5 Tipperary 1-4
 1937 – Cork 10-1 Tipperary 3-2
 1938 – Cork 9-1 Tipperary 6-1
 1940 – Cork 3-5 Tipperary 2-2
 1941 – Cork 4-6 Tipperary 3-3
 1945 – Tipperary 6-11 Cork 4-2
 1946 – Tipperary 5-6 Cork 4-2
 1948 – Tipperary 7-9 Cork 1-2
 1949 – Tipperary 3-10 Cork 5-3
 1951 – Cork 2-2 Tipperary 1-3
 1952 – Tipperary 5-7 Cork 2-6
 1953 – Tipperary 5-10 Cork 4-4
 1954 – Tipperary 3-10 Cork 4-5

1955 – Tipperary 3-6 Cork 3-4
 1956 – Tipperary 4-6 Cork 3-8
 1957 – Tipperary 6-6 Cork 4-4
 1959 – Tipperary 2-9 Cork 3-4
 1961 – Tipperary 7-11 Cork 1-6
 1962 – Tipperary 4-11 Cork 4-1
 1963 – Tipperary 6-6 Cork 3-9
 1964 – Cork 2-14 Tipperary 2-9
 1967 – Cork 5-15 Tipperary 2-7
 1969 – Cork 1-12 Tipperary 2-4
 1970 – Cork 3-8 Tipperary 4-4
 1972 – Cork 10-5 Tipperary 2-3
 1973 – Tipperary 1-11 Cork 1-8
 1974 – Cork 3-7 Tipperary 2-10
 replay – Cork 2-11 Tipperary 2-7
 1975 – Cork 3-16 Tipperary 1-7
 1976 – Tipperary 1-13 Cork 2-8
 1978 – Cork 1-14 Tipperary 3-6
 1979 – Cork 1-8 Tipperary 2-4

1981 – Tipperary 1-14 Cork 1-7
 1982 – Tipperary 2-5 Cork 0-10
 1985 – Cork 1-13 Tipperary 1-8
 1986 – Cork 3-10 Tipperary 2-13
 replay – Cork 2-11 Tipperary 1-11
 1987 – Tipperary 2-11 Cork 1-9
 1988 – Cork 5-7 Tipperary 1-2
 1991 – Tipperary 2-9 Cork 1-7
 1992 – Tipperary 1-11 Cork 0-11
 1993 – Tipperary 1-12 Cork 1-9
 1996 – Tipperary 0-16 Cork 1-9
 2001 – Tipperary 1-13 Cork 1-6
 2002 – Tipperary 3-7 Cork 2-7
 2003 – Tipperary 2-12 Cork 0-16
 2004 – Cork 2-13 Tipperary 3-8
 2006 – Cork 2-20 Tipperary 1-15
 2007 – Tipperary 0-18 Cork 1-11



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*Damien Reale, Maurice O'Brien, Gavin O'Mahony, Jackie Tyrell,
 Ciaran O'Rourke, Peter Lawlor, Donal O'Grady, Gary Kirby,
 Eoin Foley, Paudie O'Dwyer and Kevin Tobin.*

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PATHS TO THE FINAL

Corcaigh

2nd May, Páirc Uí Chaoimh:

Cork 3-15; Waterford 0-9

27th June, Thurles:

Cork 1-20; Clare 0-14

8th July, Thurles:

Cork 1-11; Tipperary 0-18

22nd July, Croke Park:

Cork 2-19; Galway 0-8

4th August, Portlaoise:

Cork 2-10; Dublin 0-13

Total Scored 9-75 (102)

Total Conceded 0-62

Average: 1.65

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Ryan Clifford	3-4	0-9	0-4	1-5	1-3	5-25
Donagh Stack	0-4	0-1	1-1	1-1	0-1	2-8
Luke O'Farrell	0-3	0-1	0-1	0-3	—	0-8
Pádraig Gould	—	0-4	0-2	—	0-2	0-8
Michael Bowles	—	—	0-1	0-4	0-2	0-7
Michael O'Mahony	—	—	—	0-3	1-0	1-3
Robert White	0-1	0-2	0-1	—	—	0-4
Denis O'Sullivan	0-2	0-1	—	—	0-1	0-4
Seamus Farrell	—	—	—	0-2	—	0-2
Maurice Sexton	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-1
Eoin McCarthy	—	0-1	—	—	—	0-1
R O'Driscoll	—	0-1	—	—	—	0-1
Ciarán Sheehan	—	—	0-1	—	—	0-1
Jack Herlihy	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-1
Lorcan McLoughlin	—	—	—	—	0-1	0-1
J Gunning (Clare)	—	1-0 (og)	—	—	—	1-0

Tiobraid Árann

2nd May, Gaelic Grounds:

Tipperary 3-12 Clare 1-11

24th June, Gaelic Grounds:

Tipperary 3-21 Limerick 0-12

8th July, Thurles:

Tipperary 0-18 Cork 1-11

12th August, Croke Park:

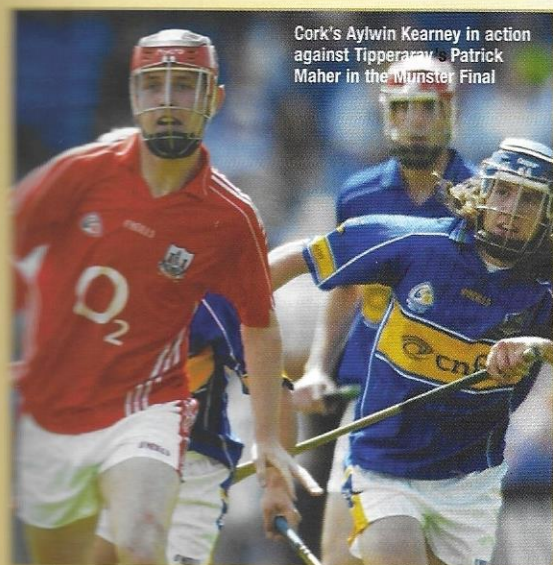
Tipperary 1-19 Kilkenny 2-12

Total Scored 7-70 (91)

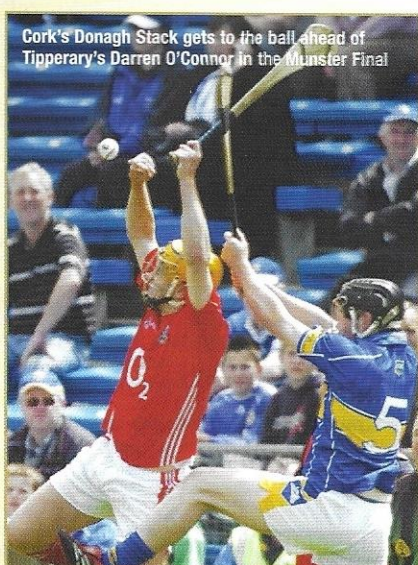
Total Conceded 4-46 (58)

Average: 1.57

	1	2	3	4	Total
Seamus Hennessy	0-5	0-4	0-9	0-7	0-25
John O'Neill	2-0	0-4	0-2	0-4	2-10
Brendan Maher	—	0-7	0-3	0-2	0-12
Michael Heffernan	0-2	0-3	—	1-3	1-8
Patrick Maher	1-0	2-0	—	—	3-0
Noel McGrath	0-3	0-2	0-1	—	0-6
Sean Carey	—	1-0	—	0-2	1-2
Ciarán Lorigan	0-2	—	—	—	0-2
Joe Gallagher	—	—	0-2	—	0-2
James Barry	—	0-1	—	—	0-1
Darragh O'Brien	—	—	0-1	—	0-1
Paddy Murphy	—	—	—	0-1	0-1



Cork's Aylwin Kearney in action against Tipperary's Patrick Maher in the Munster Final



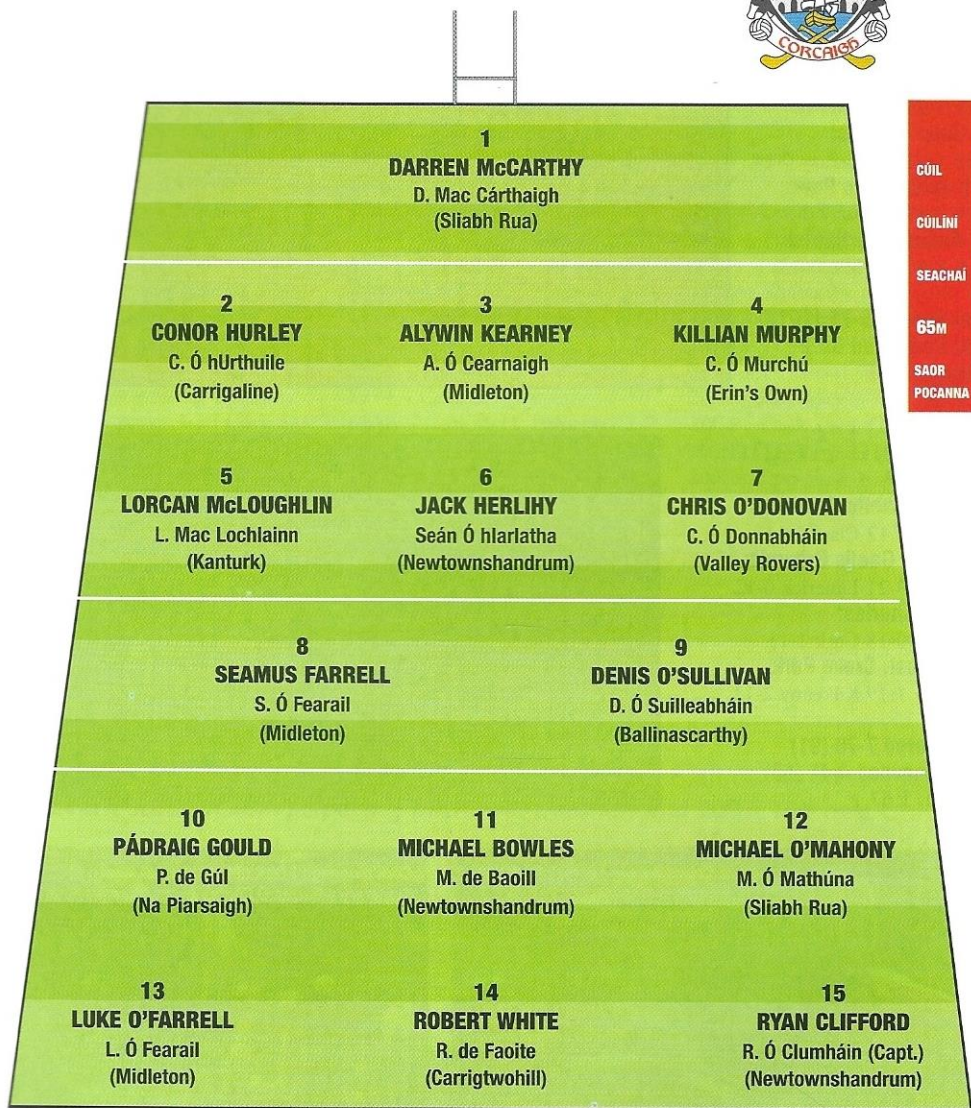
Cork's Donagh Stack gets to the ball ahead of Tipperary's Darren O'Connor in the Munster Final

**MINOR
HURLING FINAL**

CLUCHE CEANNAIS
IOMÁNA NA hÉIREANN

CORCAIGH

DATHANNA: DEARG IS BÁN



1 AD LEAT	
CÚIL	
CÚILÍNÍ	
SEACHAÍ	
65M	
SADR POCANNA	

FIR IONAD

(16) CATHAL HICKEY C. Ó hIcí (Glen Rovers)	(18) STEPHEN McDONNELL S. Mac Domhnaill (Glen Rovers)	(20) EOGHAN Mac CÁRTHAIGH E. Mac Cárthaigh (Na Piarasaigh)	(22) CIARÁN SHEEHAN C. Ó Siocháin (Éire Óg)	(24) CIAN MCCARTHY C. Mac Cárthaigh (Sarsfields)
(17) GLENN O'CONNOR G. Ó Conchúir (St. Finbarr's)	(19) MAURICE SEXTON M. Ó Seasnáin (Kilbrittain)	(21) DONAGH STACK D. de Staic (Buttevant)	(23) FIONNAN KEANE F. Ó Catháin (Newcestown)	

ROIGHNÓIRÍ

Dónal Ó Croinín (Coach), Antóin de Barra, Seán Moirteil, Pádraig Ó Cruaioich, Gearóid Ó Mainle. **Trainer:** Mairtín Mac Shibhne.

TIOBRAID ÁRANN

DATHANNA: GORM IS ÓR

TEAM LINE-OUTS



Time	Date	Result



FIR IONAD

(16) BILL McCORMACK L. Mac Cormaic (Thurles Sarsfields)	(18) DARRAGH O'BRIEN D. Ó Briain (Cashel King Cormacs)	(20) DARREN O'CONNOR D. Ó Conchúir (Roscrea)	(22) CIARÁN HAUGH C. Ó hEachach (Lorrha-Dorrha)	(24) LIAM DWAN L. Ó Duáin (Hollycross-Ballycahill)
(17) JOE GALLAGHER S. Ó Gallachóir (Kildangan)	(19) PADDY MURPHY P. Ó Murchú (Nenagh Éire Óg)	(21) PETER ACHESON P. Acheson (Moyle Rovers)	(23) KIERAN SHELLY C. Ó Sealbhaigh (Ballingarry)	

ROIGHNÓIRÍ

Declan Ryan (Manager), Tommy Dunne, Liam Cahill, Michael Gleeson.

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Limerick wheels keep turning

By Jerome O'Connell

THE Limerick hurlers have every right to feel 'at home' in Croke Park, today. It's not that they are getting carried away with their quarter-final and semi final wins over Clare and Waterford, but its thanks to a man called Frank Dineen.

Dineen was born in the south Limerick village of Ballylanders in 1862. A noted journalist and athlete, Dineen moved to Dublin at the age of 36 and was a prominent member of both the Land League and Fenian movements. He remains the only person to have held both the post of President and General Secretary of the GAA.

However, his lasting legacy is today's Croke Park. The site upon which Croke Park now stands was originally owned by Maurice Butterly in the 1870's and was known as the 'City and Suburban Racecourse'. The GAA became one of the ground's most frequent users and in 1908 Dineen purchased the 14-acre site for the handsome sum of £3,250. The GAA subsequently purchased the site from Frank Dineen in 1913 for £3,500 and immediately renamed the ground Croke Park in honour of the association's first patron, Archbishop Croke of Cashel.

Dineen died in 1916 just four days before the start of the Easter Rising. It was therefore fitting when, last year, then President of the GAA, Seán Kelly, the President elect Nickey

Brennan and the Director General Liam Mulvihill presided at a ceremony in Croke Park to dedicate Hill 16 to the memory of Frank Dineen. That ceremony was arguably Limerick's finest day in GAA Headquarters since the All-Ireland senior hurling final day of 1973.

Today, everyone clad in green and white are hoping that the wheel will come full circle for Limerick. Thirty-four years after the Liam McCarthy Cup last spent a year on Shannonside, the omens are good for a return visit. When Limerick were 1-21 to 1-14 All-Ireland final winners over Kilkenny in 1973, it inspired a new generation of Limerick hurlers. Gary Kirby was an impressionable seven year old in '73 - as was Anthony O'Riordan. Eleven years later, both won All-Ireland minor medals and three years later they won All-Ireland U21 medals. Kirby progressed to win four All-Star awards and captained Limerick in the 1994 All-Ireland senior hurling final. The duo are reunited as selectors on today's Limerick side.

Also reunited are Richie Bennis and Bernie Hartigan, team-mates in 1973, and this quartet along



with Tony Hickey complete Limerick's management team. Just as Bennis and Hartigan in '73 inspired a young Kirby and O'Riordan to hurl, Kirby's generation of the 1990s inspired another new generation. A generation that won three All-Ireland U21 titles in the opening years of the millennium.

Today in the stands and in front of television sets are the next generation. And the structures are in place to ensure that all interest is harvested. Earlier this year, Limerick County Bord na nÓg put in place a new Development Plan. Former county heroes Eamon Cregan, Ger Hegarty, Shane Fitzgibbon, Brian Finn and former Limerick senior coach Ger Cunningham have been enlisted to spearhead the expert coaching of the U14, U15 and U16 teams.

Nothing revolutionary about the approach, but Limerick's underage hurling was in need of a fresh injection. Back in the mid-90s the late Tommy Quaid was instrumental in setting up a previous plan and ultimately that plan produced the members of the hat-trick winning U21 sides. Win or lose today, the wheel keeps rolling, the hope in Limerick is that more success is picked up along the way - starting today.

NA BAINISTEOIRÍ

Brian Cody was born in Sheestown, just outside Kilkenny city, in 1954. He was born into a family that was heavily involved in local GAA, as his father served as chairman of the James Stephens club for 17 years. Cody was educated at his local national school where his interest in the game of hurling developed. Later, at the famed St Kieran's

College, Cody first tasted major hurling success, winning an All-Ireland Colleges medal as captain of the team in 1971. He won a second Leinster Colleges title in 1972.

During a highly-successful club career, Cody won county senior titles in 1975, 1976 and 1981 with James Stephens. 'The Village' landed Leinster club crowns in 1975 and 1981 and following those successes, went on to All-Ireland glory in 1976 and 1982.

At intercounty level, Cody captained the Kilkenny minor hurlers to Leinster and All-Ireland victory in 1972. At U21 level, he won back-to-back All-Ireland medals in 1974 and 1975. Cody captured every conceivable honour in the game during the course of a glittering senior career. He won All-Ireland medals in 1974, 1975, 1982 and 1983 and captured Allstar awards in 1975 and 1982.

Cody was team captain in 1982 and collected the Liam MacCarthy cup for the 22nd time on Kilkenny's behalf. Cody also won five Leinster medals, three National League crowns and a Railway Cup medal with Leinster in 1977 to complete an impressive collection of major awards.

Cody's last game for the Cats was against Westmeath in 1986.

Since taking charge of the Kilkenny senior team in 1999, Cody has guided his teams to four All-Ireland titles (2000, 2002, 2003 & 2006), eight Leinster crowns and four National Hurling League successes. During that time,

Kilkenny players have received no fewer than 40 hurling Allstar awards.

BRIAN CODY

Richie Bennis was born in Patrickswell, County Limerick in 1945. He was born into a large family of seven boys and six girls and from an early age he showed a great interest in the game of hurling. Bennis was educated locally and received his secondary schooling in Limerick. Here, his hurling skills were developed further and in 1961 he captained Limerick city to victory over Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Vocational Schools final.

Bennis played his club hurling with his local Patrickswell team. He enjoyed some success at underage levels, and won his first senior county championship title in 1965.

When Patrickswell won a second consecutive county title in 1966, six Bennis brothers shared the honours – Phil, Richie, Gerry, Pat, Peter and Thomas. Bennis won further back-to-back county medals in 1969 and 1970. He claimed further Limerick titles in the late 1970s.

Bennis had limited success at minor and U21 level with Limerick and became a senior hurler with the county in 1965. Bennis was a member of the Limerick teams which contested four successive National League finals from 1971-74. Limerick won just one, in 1971, but that success proved the springboard for Munster and All-Ireland glory in 1973. Bennis scored a crucial '65' in the last minute of the Munster final to secure Limerick's first provincial crown since 1955. Bennis finished the landmark 1973 season with his his one and only All-Ireland senior medal, and a coveted Allstar award.

In 2006 Bennis was appointed manager of the Limerick senior hurling team following Joe McKenna's resignation. It is now four years since Bennis almost died after a horror work accident. Bennis suffered severe kidney damage and a life-threatening bout of septicemia and was lucky to survive.

RICHIE BENNIS

LIMERICK WIN WOULD FEEL LIKE A FIRST TITLE

Although Limerick have seven All-Ireland senior hurling titles, victory today would still prove on a par with something like a first-ever success.

- The last Liam McCarthy Cup triumph in 1973 is now so far back in the mists of time that many by the Shannonside have still to experience the joys of an All-Ireland senior success.

Unlike in 1973 when Limerick had their first Croke Park outing of the season in that year's final, the current side lines out backed by two successes at headquarters. Not only that, they gave probably their best performance of the season so far last time out when earning a first final appearance in eleven years with a win over their Munster final conquerors of last July, and strongly fancied Waterford.

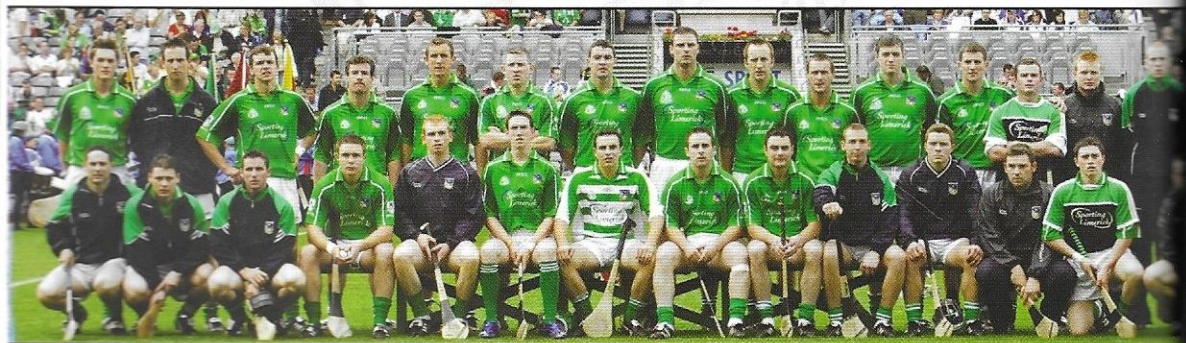
- A great start, a man-of-the-match display by sharpshooter supreme Andrew O'Shaughnessy, and a golden goal in the opening minutes of the second half proved the platform for the Limerick success. They took the game to Waterford right from the throw-in and goals by Donie Ryan and O'Shaughnessy helped them to forge out a 2-7 to 0-3 lead after only twenty-one minutes

- However, Waterford got their game together and were right back in the hunt at the break when they trailed by just four points. But just after the restart the Shannonsiders provided the best possible response to the Munster champions come-back with a goal by Ryan after only a minute and a half.

- That was a crucial score, and it proved a strong bulwark as Waterford powered back well in an effort to save the day. A goal from a penalty by O'Shaughnessy after sixty-five minutes gave Limerick back the initiative and they went on to finish deserving winners by 5-11 to 2-15.

O'Shaughnessy had a game to remember finishing with a superb 2-7. Ryan and Brian Begley also sparked up front, while the defence, prompted by Seamus Hickey, team captain Damien Reale and long serving Mark Foley, and midfielders Donal O'Grady and Mike O'Brien also made vital contributions.

An impressive return, then, by Limerick after a lengthy absence to the showpiece game of the year, and one that leaves little doubt they are worthy finalists.



The Limerick panel which beat Waterford in the Semi Final:

Front L-R: Hugh Flavin, Barry Foley, Mark O'Riordan, Michael Fitzgerald, Kevin Tobin, Seamus Hickey, Brian Murray, Damien Reale, Peter Lawlor, Pat Tobin, Donncha Sheehan, Eoin Foley, Kieran O'Rourke, Niall Moran
Back L - R: Gavin O'Mahony, James O'Brien, Mike O'Brien, Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Ollie Moran, Mark Foley, Stephen Lucey, Brian Begley, Sean O'Connor, Donie Ryan, Brian Geary, Donal O'Grady, David Bulfin, Maurice O'Brien, Wayne McNamara, Paudie O'Dwyer



An Captaen

Damien Reale

Damien has been a very influential figure with his defensive skills and leadership in the Limerick march to the summit.

He made his debut with the county senior side early in this decade and is now a hard-working and dependable defender, who is cool under pressure and places his clearances to good effect.

The Hospital/Herbertstown man has also won his spurs with Munster and collected an interprovincial medal at right half back in 2001.

STAR OF THE PAST

Sean Foley's quality play at left half back in Limerick's march to the 1973 All-Ireland senior title was recognised later that year by the All Stars selectors, who selected him at No. 7.

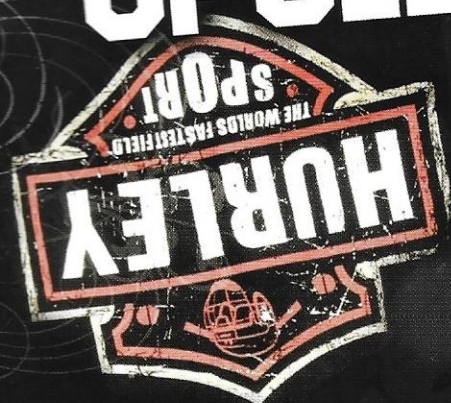
The Patrickswell clubman, who displayed his talents impressively throughout that glory campaign, was also at left half back and captain in the side that lost the 1974 All-Ireland final to Kilkenny.

An All-Ireland Colleges' medal-winner with Limerick C.B.S., he played minor with Limerick for two years and also wore the county colours at under-21.



Damien Reale

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CHALLENGING THE CHAMPIONS

Today Limerick undertake a task that every generation of Shannonside hurlers has experienced – taking on the reigning All-Ireland champions. Like most counties in pursuit of the champions' scalp, Limerick have known mixed fortunes over the years and at one time or another they achieved victory against all their Munster rivals and a few from beyond the borders of that province.

Limerick's first attempt to dethrone the holders was a complete disaster. At Mallow, in the only game played in Munster that year (1893), the mainly South Limerick team had no answer to the wiles and ways of Cork's Blackrock. A final scoreline of 5-3 to nil speaks for itself, though, strange to relate, some newspapers maintained that Limerick had put up a better show than the score would indicate.

The following year Cork were again defending their title when Limerick opposed them at Cork and although the Shannonsiders at least raised a flag on this occasion (2-0) it paled in comparison to the home side's 4-13. And in 1899 Limerick were due to face Tipperary, but conceded a walkover to the All-Ireland champions.

A New Century

The new century brought no change in Limerick fortunes as Cork breezed by them in 1903 at Tralee (4-11 to 3-1), but in the provincial final of 1917 Limerick came close to dethroning Tipperary when they drew 3-4 all at the Cork Athletic Grounds. Alas, the Premier county won the replay at the same venue by 6-4 to 3-1.

Another provincial final loss to Cork followed in 1920, but the following year Limerick finally came good in their struggle with the defending All-Ireland champions as they hammered Dublin in the final

by 8-5 to 3-2. The team that achieved this feat was – R. McConkey, M. Murphy, W. Gleeson, J. Humphreys, D. Lanigan, D. Murnane, W. Houch, J. Keane, W. Ryan, G. Howard, P. McInerney, T. Mangan, M. Mullane, C. Ryan, T. McGrath.

However, the next four clashes with the defending champions were all unsuccessful as Tipperary (1926), Cork (1927), Tipperary again (1931) and Cork again (1932) all resulted in defeats by five points or more. Kilkenny's win in 1933 made it three years in succession that Limerick had lost to the reigning champions, but three years later the Shannonsiders defeated the Noresiders in the final by 5-6 to 1-5.

A New Decade

Limerick were back for another dethronement in 1940 with a 3-7 to 1-7 win over Kilkenny and further wins in that decade were recorded over Tipperary in 1946 and Waterford in 1949. However, three meetings with Cork as defending champions all resulted in defeat ('42, '44 and '47) the middle one of which was on a replay.

The second half of the century began on a bum note as Tipperary defeated Limerick by four goals in the 1950 campaign and further

losses against the defending title-holders followed in 1951 (Tipperary), 1953 (Cork), 1959 and 1962 (both Tipperary). Revenge on the Premier county was eventually achieved in 1966 and further success was achieved with the dethronements of Cork (1971) and Kilkenny (1973).

Over the next 20 odd years Limerick faced the champions five times and each time defeat was their lot as Cork (three times), Galway and Tipperary ended their championship campaigns. However, in 1996 Limerick recorded their most recent dethronement of the reigning All-Ireland champions when they edged out Clare at the Gaelic Grounds by 1-13 to 0-15. The team on that occasion was – J. Quaid, S. McDonagh, M. Nash, D. Nash, D. Clarke, C. Carey, M. Foley, M. Houlihan, Sean O'Neill, Shane O'Neill, G. Kirby, M. Galligan, O. O'Neill, P. Tobin, T.J. Ryan. Subs – E. Carroll, B. Foley, B. Tobin.

Since then Limerick have faced the All-Ireland champions on three occasions without success as Cork (2000), Tipperary (2002) and Cork again last year defeated the Shannonsiders. In total Limerick have opposed the reigning All-Ireland champions on 35 occasions, nine of which they have won.



Charity ball in aid of The Hope Foundation

8th September, 2007 at the Mansion House, Dublin 2.
Champagne Reception 7.30pm ● MC: Alan Stanford
Dinner ● Auction ● Raffle
Live Band 'The Swing Cats' ● DJ til wee hours

Tickets €200 per person.

Contact Patricia on 087 2497949 or pcampbell@ireland.com

CONSISTENCY AND SKILLS TO THE FORE IN KILKENNY'S UNBEATEN RUN

It is a measure of Kilkenny's consistency of late and the high standard of their play that they were able to come out in this final defence of the Guinness All-Ireland senior hurling title with the perfect record from nine championship games since losing to Galway by a goal in 2005 in a semi-final.

- Victory would also give them their first titles double in four years, and remarkably their fifth title of this new century. The Noreiders booked this second successive All-Ireland final appearance with another polished display of hurling skill and power when beating Wexford for the second time in championship play this season. Once more Henry Shefflin was a commanding figure with his leadership and now well-proven finishing powers. His return of 0-14 bettered by a point the entire Wexford total in the semi-final.

- Wexford, well beaten by Kilkenny in the Leinster final in July, started promisingly with three early points, but the All-Ireland champions, with Tommy Walsh and Brian Hogan in the half back line, and Shefflin pioneering the way, stepped up considerably in form and finished the half ahead by 0-11 to 0-6.

The All-Ireland champions continued to set the pace after the change of ends and well into the game had a decisive thirteen points advantage. Wexford, who strove earnestly throughout, were rewarded with a late goal, but it merely reduced the deficit somewhat as Kilkenny underlined that recent successes have not dulled their enthusiasm for more glory by finishing comfortably ahead by 0-23 to 1-10.

- While team captain Shefflin gave a man-of-the-match display, others also made a contribution to the success in exciting fashion. Martin Comerford, who scored two points, and Willie O'Dwyer did well up front and scored a point. James "Cha" Fitzpatrick got through a lot of work in the middle of the park.

- The rearguard presented a solid barrier with Tommy Walsh in his usual splendid form in the half back line. He received good all round support, with his half-back colleagues Hogan and J. J. Delaney particularly to the fore.

The All-Ireland champions, then, bring a proud record as well as good form to this latest hurdle on the road to their quest for another All-Ireland titles double at a time when competition is so keen.



The Kilkenny panel which beat Wexford in the Semi Final:

Back L - R Derek Lyng, Sean Cummins, Peter Cleere, Michael Fennelly, Canice Hickey, James Ryall, Noel Hickey, Richie Power, Jackie Tyrrell, Brian Hogan, Henry Shefflin, T. J. Reid, P. J. Delaney, Richie Mullins, James McGarry, Michael Rice, Martin Comerford, John Dalton, Richard O'Neill, P. J. Ryan.
Front L - R Eoin McCormack, Eoin Larkin, Michael Kavanagh, Tommy Walsh, J. J. Delaney, Eddie Brennan, Willie O'Dwyer, Eoin Reid, Aidan Fogarty, Darragh McGarry, John Tennyson, James Cha Fitzpatrick

An Captaen

Henry Shefflin

Henry is in line today to gain the one major honour that has eluded him so far in a great career—that of captaining an All-Ireland senior intercounty title-winning team.

He has already this year won an All-Ireland medal with his club, Ballyhale Shamrocks, last St. Patrick's Day.

One of the outstanding score-getters in any era, Shefflin was early on the All-Ireland medals standard with St. Kieran's in 1996 and played minor and under-21 with the county.

He helped Kilkenny to their All-Ireland final wins of 2000, 2002, 2003 and last year, and his collection also included provincial championship, National League and interprovincial souvenirs.

STAR OF THE PAST

Liam "Chunky" O'Brien was a goalkeeper with Kilkenny in the minor grade but went on to make his mark with the senior side as a midfielder and in attack.

A hurler of great artistry, pace and competitive spirit, he won his first All-Ireland senior medal in 1973, played in Kilkenny's two finals against Limerick in 1973 and 1974, winning a second medal in the latter year.

O'Brien, who was a superb long range points scorer, won a third senior medal in 1975, all at midfield, and helped his club, James Stephens, to win the All-Ireland club title in 1976.

Hurler of the Year in 1975, he also got among the National League medals.



Henry Shefflin





1 P.J. Ryan

Club: Fenians Johnstown
Age: 30 **Height:** 1.75m/5'9"
Weight: 79kg/12st 7lbs
Occupation: Bricklayer
Joined Panel: 2002
Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SHC,
1 Leinster MHC, 5 Leinster SHC,
1 Leinster U21, 4 NHL,
1 County SHL, 3 Walsh Cup.

The Fenians club man is enjoying his first season between the posts since taking over from veteran James McGarry and has risen to the challenge admirably.

2 Michael Kavanagh

Club: St. Lachtains Freshford.
Age: 28 **Height:** 1.78m/5'10"
Weight: 79kg/12st 7lbs
Occupation: Bank of Ireland Finance
Joined panel: 1998
Honours to date: 4 All-Ireland SHC,
1 All-Ireland U21H, 2 Leinster U21H,
9 Leinster SHC, 4 NHL, 3 Leinster MHC,
2 Fitzgibbon Cus, 1 All-Ireland Colleges,
4 Railway Cups,
1 Oireachtas, 2 All-Stars,
2 Walsh Cup.

A product of St Kierans, he is one of the longest serving members on the team, having made his debut in 1998. In that period, he has accumulated 4 All-Ireland medals and remains as reliable as ever.

3 Noel Hickey

Club: Dunamaggin
Age: 26 **Height:** 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 85.7kg/13st 7lbs
Occupation: Farmer
Joined Panel: 2000
Honours to date: 4 All-Ireland SHC,
1 Leinster Colleges SH, 1 U21H
All-Ireland, 7 Leinster SHC, 4 NHL,
1 Leinster U21H, 2 Leinster MHC,
County SHC, IHC, U21H, MHC, SFC
& U21F, 2 All-Stars, Young hurler of
the year 2000, 2 Railway Cups.

An extremely reliable defender he is in line to win his fifth All-Ireland senior medal for Kilkenny today after yet another solid season at the heart of the defence.

16 James McGarry

Club: Bennetsbridge
Age: 35 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Self employed JCB operator
Joined panel: 1997
Honours to date:
4 All-Ireland SHC,
9 Leinster SHC,
NHL, 1 All-Ireland
JHC, 4 Leinster
JHC, 1 Oireachtas,
3 Railway Cups,
2 Walsh Cups.



17 John Tennyson

Club: Carrickshock
Age: 22 **Height:** 1.87m/6'1"
Weight: 89kg/14st
Occupation: Civil Engineer
Joined panel: 2005
Honours to date:
1 All-Ireland SHC,
3 Leinster SHC,
2 All-Ireland MHC,
2 All-Ireland U21H,
2 NHL, 3 Leinster
SHC, 2 Leinster
MHC, 3 Leinster
U21H, 1 Walsh Cup,
1 All-Ireland senior
colleges, 1 Leinster
senior colleges,
1 County IHC,
2 County MHC.



18 James Ryall

Club: Graigue/Ballycallan
Age: 26 **Height:** 1.9m/6'3"
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Sales Representative
Joined panel: 2002
Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SHC,
5 Leinster SHC,
3 NHL, 1 Leinster
Club SHC,
1 Leinster MHC,
1 Leinster colleges,
1 County SHC,
1 County MHC,
1 County SHL,
1 County U21H,
1 Walsh Cup,
1 Railway Cup.





4 Jackie Tyrrell

Club: James Stephens
Age: 25 **Height:** 1.85m/6'2"
Weight: 89kg/14st
Occupation: Student in LIT
Joined Panel: 2003
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 4 Leinster SHC, 1 Leinster U-21H, 1 Leinster MHC, 1 Senior All-Ireland Colleges, 2 Leinster Senior Colleges, 2 County U21H, 1 County SFC, 1 All-Ireland Club SHC, 2 Leinster Club SHC, 2 Kilkenny SHC, 2 NHL, 2 Fitzgibbon Cups, 1 Railway Cup, 1 Walsh Cup.

Right half back on the James Stephens team that earned All-Ireland club glory, Tyrrell boasts an impressive underage record and has been a key player this year.

5 Tommy Walsh

Club: Tullaroan
Age: 24 **Height:** 1.78m/5'10"
Weight: 76.6kg/12st 1lb
Occupation: Bank of Ireland
Joined Panel: 2002
Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SHC, 4 Leinster SHC, 2 All-Ireland U21H, 3 NHL, 2 Leinster U21H, 1 Leinster MHC, 4 All-Stars, 1 All-Ireland Colleges, 1 County U21H, 1 County MHC, 2 County SHL, 1 Junior Colleges, 2 Railway Cups, 3 Walsh Cups.

Whether used as a defender, in midfield or attack, Walsh is one of the great all round players and his ability in the air belies his diminutive stature.

6 Brian Hogan

Club: O'Loughlin Gaels
Age: 26 **Height:** 1.93m/6'4"
Weight: 87kg/13st 10lbs
Occupation: Medical Representative
Joined panel: 2004
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland SHC, 2 County SHC, 1 Leinster SHC, 1 Senior Colleges All-Ireland, 1 Senior Colleges Leinster, 1 Junior Colleges Leinster, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup with UCD, 1 County MFC, 1 County IFC, 2 NHL, 3 Leinster SHC, 2 Walsh Cup.

Continuing in the tradition of outstanding centre backs who have donned the Black and Amber, Hogan has been pivotal to Kilkenny's success this year.

19 John Dalton

Club: Carrickshock
Age: 22 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 83.9kg/13st 3lbs
Occupation: Student in WIT
Joined panel: 2006
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SHC, 2 Leinster SHC, 2 All-Ireland MHC, 2 Leinster MHC, 2 Leinster U21H, 2 NHL, 2 Walsh Cup, 1 Club IHC, 2 Club MHC.



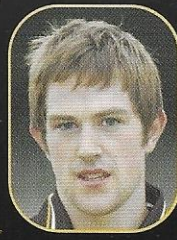
20 P.J. Delaney

Club: Fenians, Johnstown
Age: 23 **Height:** 1.85m/6'2"
Weight: 86.2kg/13st 8lbs
Occupation: Student
Joined panel: 2006
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland MHC, 2 Leinster MHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 2 Leinster U21H, 2 Leinster SHC, 1 NHL, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 Walsh Cup.



21 Seán Cummins

Club: Rower/Inistioge
Age: 21 **Height:** 1.85m/6'2"
Weight: 95.3kg/15st
Occupation: Student at UCD
Joined panel: 2006
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 2 Leinster U21H, 2 Leinster SHC, 1 NHL, 2 Dublin Club SH.



**HURLING
FINALS**

CLUICHÍ
CEANNAIS IOMÁNA
NA hÉIREANN

CUIL CHAINNIGH



7 J.J. Delaney

Club: Fenians Johnstown
Age: 25 **Height:** 1.83m/5'11"
Weight: 78kg/12st 4lbs
Occupation: Sales Representative
Joined panel: 2001
Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 6 Leinster SHC, 4 NHL, 1 Leinster MHC, 1 Leinster U21H, 2 Railway Cups, 2 Fitzgibbon Cups, 1 County U21H, 3 All-Stars, 3 Walsh Cup, Hurler of the Year 2003.

A multiple All-Star award winner, he was named hurler of the year in 2003. His father Shem and uncles Billy Fitzpatrick and Pat Delaney are all former Kilkenny stars.

8 Derek Lyng

Club: Emeralds Club Uurlingford
Age: 29 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 85.7kg/13st 7lbs
Occupation: Medical Representative
Joined panel: 2001
Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 6 Leinster SHC, 1 Leinster U21H, 2 Leinster IHC, 4 NHL, 1 County JHC, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, 3 Railway Cup, 2 All-Stars, 1 Oireachtas, 3 Walsh Cup.

A multiple All-Star winner, Lyng is now one of the more experienced players on the Kilkenny team. His father John won All-Ireland U-21 and Minor medals in the 70's.

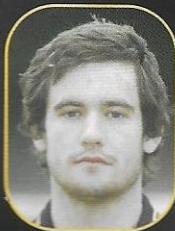
9 James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick

Club: Shamrocks Ballyhale
Age: 22 **Height:** 1.78m/5'10"
Weight: 69.8kg/11st
Occupation: Primary school teaching
Joined panel: 2004
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland SHC, 2 All-Ireland MHC, 2 All-Ireland U21H, 3 Leinster SHC, 2 NHL, 3 Leinster U21H, 1 Senior Colleges All-Ireland, 1 Senior Colleges Leinster, 4 County U21H, 1 Féile na nGael winners 1998, 1 Walsh Cup, 1 All-Ireland Club SHC, 1 Leinster Club SHC, 1 County Club SHC.

'Cha' has been steadily building a huge reputation for himself and after last year's All-Ireland glory with the Cats he added an All-Ireland club medal in March with Ballyhale.

22 Donnacha Cody

Club: James Stephens
Age: 21 **Height:** 1.9m/6'3"
Weight: 89kg/14st
Occupation: Student at UCC
Joined panel: 2006
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland Club SH, 2 Leinster Club SH, 2 County Club SH, 1 Leinster MHC, 1 All-Ireland MHC, 2 Leinster SHC, 1 NHL, 2 Leinster College SH, 2 All-Ireland College SH, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 1 All-Ireland SHC.



23 Michael Fennelly

Club: Shamrocks Ballyhale
Age: 22 **Height:** 1.9m/6'3"
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Bank Official
Joined panel: 2006
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland MHC, 1 Leinster MHC, 2 All-Ireland U21H, 1 Leinster U21H, 1 NHL, 2 Leinster SHC, 1 Walsh Cup, 1 All-Ireland Club SHC, 1 Leinster Club SHC, 1 County SHC, 4 County U21H.



24 Richard Mullally

Club: Glenmore
Age: 29 **Height:** 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 80.7kg/12st 10lbs
Occupation: Farmer
Joined Panel: 2002
Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SHC, 4 NHL, 1 County MFC'A, 5 Leinster SHC, 1 All-Ireland U-21H, 2 Leinster MHC, 2 Leinster U-21H, 1 Leinster Colleges SH, 1 Leinster Colleges JH, 2 Leinster Colleges SF, 1 County SHC, 1 County SFC, 1 County SHL, 3 Railway Cups, 2 Walsh Cup.





10 Eddie Brennan

Club: Graigue Ballycallan
Age: 30 **Height:** 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Garda
Joined panel: 2000
Honours to date: 4 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 1 Leinster U21H, 1 NHL, 7 Leinster SHC, 1 Leinster Club SHC, 2 All-Star, 2 County SHC, 1 County U21H, 2 County MHC, 1 County MFC, 1 County U2F, 1 Oireachtas, 2 Railway Cup, 3 Walsh Cup.

Can always be relied on to provide a goal at the crucial moment. Lightning pace and ferocious finishing power make him a handful for any defender.

11 Henry Shefflin (capt'n)

Club: Shamrocks Ballyhale
Age: 28 **Height:** 1.85m/6'2"
Weight: 87.1kg/13st 10lbs
Occupation: Bank of Ireland Finance
Joined Panel: 1999
Honours to date: 4 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 2 Fitzgibbon Cup, 8 Leinster SHC, 4 NHL, 2 Leinster U21H, 1 Leinster IHC, 2 Leinster MHC, Leinster & All-Ireland Colleges Medals, County IHC and MHC, 6 All-Stars, 1 Oireachtas, 2 Railway Cups, 1 All-Ireland Club SHC, 1 Leinster Club SHC, 1 County Club SHC.

One of the real stars of the game, his scoring exploits over the years have been legendary. Can already boast of four All-Ireland medals.

12 Eoin Larkin

Club: James Stephens
Age: 23 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Soldier
Joined panel: 2005
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland MHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 2 Leinster U21H, 1 All-Ireland Club SHC, 2 Leinster Club SHC, 2 NHL, 3 Leinster SHC, 2 County SHC, 1 Railway Cup, 1 Walsh Cup.

An All-Ireland club championship winner with James Stephen's he comes from a family that is steeped in Kilkenny GAA lore. Has found the net twice this year against Offaly and Galway

25 Richie Power

Club: Carrickshock
Age: 21 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Student Primary School Teaching
Joined panel: 2005
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland MHC, 2 All-Ireland U21H, 2 NHL, 3 Leinster SHC, 3 Leinster MHC, 4 Leinster U21H, 2 All-Ireland senior colleges, 2 Leinster senior colleges, 1 County IHC, 2 County MHC, 1 Walsh Cup, 1 Railway Cup.



26 Michael Rice

Club: Carrickshock
Age: 23 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 76kg/12st
Occupation: Student in UCC
Joined panel: 2005
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland SHC, 2 U21H All-Ireland, 1 All-Ireland MHC, 2 Leinster MHC, 2 Leinster U21H, 1 NHL, 1 Colleges SH, 1 Leinster Colleges SH, 1 County IHC, 2 Leinster SHC, 2 Walsh Cup.



27 Eoin McCormack

Club: James Stephens
Age: 24 **Height:** 1.75m/5'9"
Weight: 76kg/12st
Occupation: PE Teacher
Joined panel: 2005
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland SHC, 2 NHL, 3 Leinster Senior Medals, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 1 Leinster U21H, 1 Leinster MHC, 1 All-Ireland Club SHC, 2 Leinster Club SHC, 2 County SHC, 2 County U21H, 1 County SFC, 1 County JHC, 1 Walsh Cup.





13 Willie O'Dwyer

Club: Mullinavat
Age: 23 **Height:** 1.78m/5'10"
Weight: 85.7kg/13st 7lbs
Occupation: Electrician
Joined Panel: 2003 & 2005
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland MHC, 2 All-Ireland SHC, 2 All-Ireland U21H, 2 Leinster MHC, 3 Leinster U21H, 3 Leinster SHC, 2 NHL, 2 County IHC, 2 Walsh Cups.

In his 2nd season with the Senior team, his 2-3 against Wexford in the Leinster final illustrated his ability to punish teams when given the opportunity.

14 Martin Comerford

Club: O'Loughlin Gaels
Age: 28 **Height:** 1.93m/6'4"
Weight: 89kg/14st
Occupation: Sales Representative
Joined Panel: 2001
Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SHC, 3 All-Stars, 4 NHL, 5 Leinster SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 1 Leinster Club SHC, 2 County SHC, 3 Walsh Cup.

A brother of former All-Ireland medal winning captain Andy, Comerford is a terrific ball winner for the black and amber and can be relied on to weigh in with crucial scores.

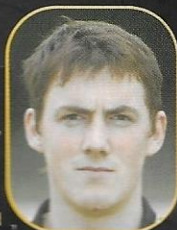
15 Aidan Fogarty

Club: Emeralds, Urlingford
Age: 25 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 76kg/12st
Occupation: Electronics Engineer
Joined Panel: 2003
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 4 Leinster SHC, 2 NHL, 1 U21 Leinster, 1 IH Leinster medal, 3 Walsh, 1 Railway Cup.

His vital goal in last year's final ensures his legacy to Kilkenny hurling. A very exciting talent, he has fought off strong competition to retain his starting place for this year's final.

28 Eoin Reid

Club: Ballyhale-Shamrocks
Age: 22 **Height:** 1.87m/6'1"
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Student in WIT
Joined panel: 2006
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland SHC, 2 Leinster SHC, 1 Felle na Gael All-Ireland, 1 College All-Ireland, 1 Leinster MHC, 1 All-Ireland MHC, 1 U21H All-Ireland, 2 Fitzgibbon All-Irelands, 1 Walsh Cup, 1 NHL, 3 County U21H, 1 All-Ireland Club SHC, 1 County SHC.



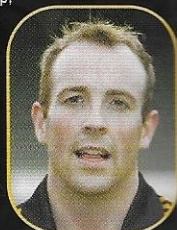
29 Peter Cleere

Club: Blacks & Whites
Age: 24 **Height:** 1.9m/6'3"
Weight: 89kg/14st
Occupation: Portfolio Manager, Bank of Ireland
Joined panel: 2006
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland SHC, 1 Leinster SHC, 2 Leinster U21H, 2 All-Ireland U21H, 1 Leinster IHC, 2 County JHC, 2 Walsh Cup, 1 NHL, 1 Leinster JHC, 1 Leinster SHC.



30 Richie O'Neill

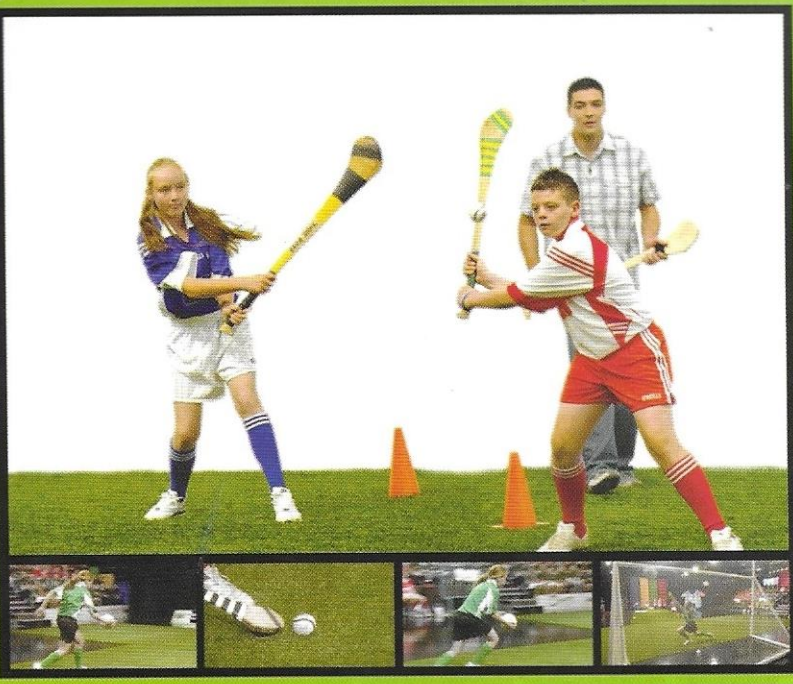
Club: Kilmacow
Age: 24 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Broker Consultant
Joined panel: 2006
Honours to date: 2 Leinster SHC, 1 NHL, 2 Walsh Cup, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 1 Leinster U21H, 3 Leinster IHC.



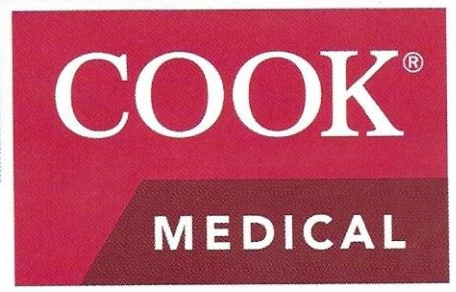
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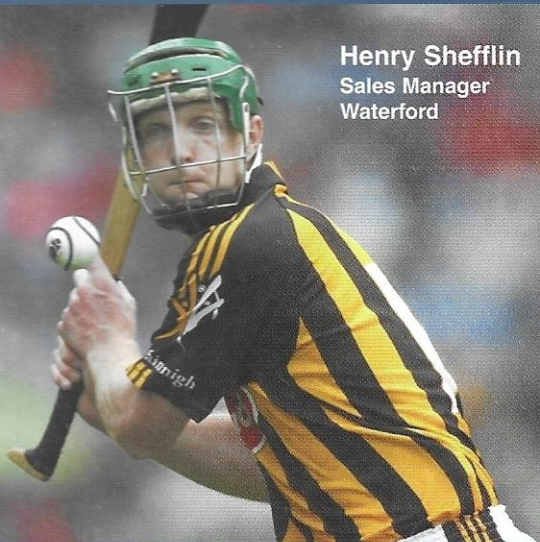
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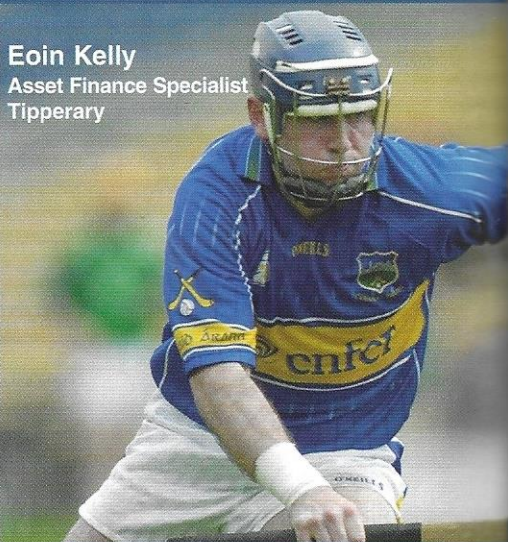
Bank of Ireland



Finance

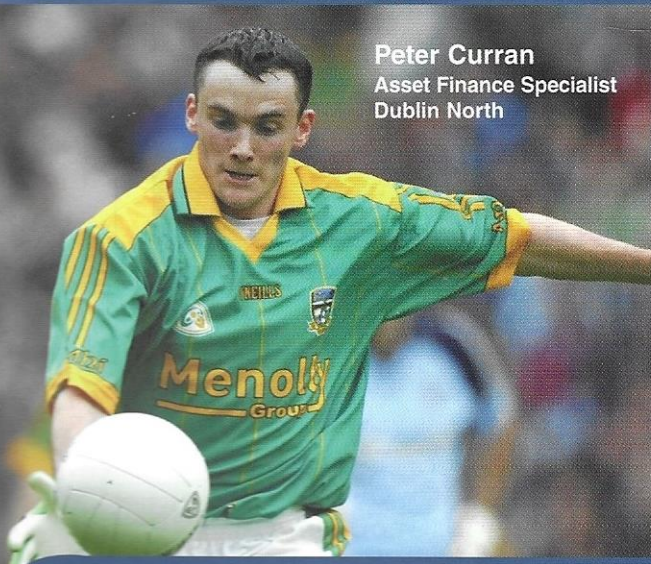


Henry Shefflin
Sales Manager
Waterford

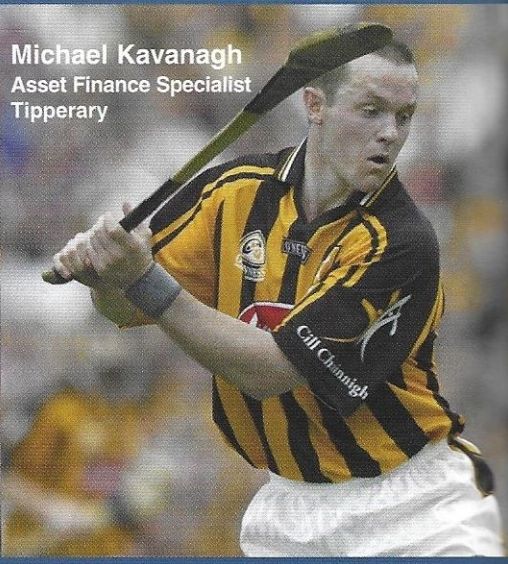


Eoin Kelly
Asset Finance Specialist
Tipperary

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Peter Curran
Asset Finance Specialist
Dublin North



Michael Kavanagh
Asset Finance Specialist
Tipperary

2007 SENIOR HURLING SCOREBOARD



LUGHN

17th May, Tullamore:
 Offaly 1-26 Laois 0-10
 16th June, Nowlan Park:
 Wexford 2-14 Dublin 3-10
 16th June, Portlaoise:
 Kilkenny 1-27 Offaly 1-13
 Final – 1st July, Croke Park:
 Kilkenny 2-24 Wexford 1-12

MUNHA

17th May, Thurles:
 Cork 1-18 Clare 1-11
 16th June, the Gaelic Grounds:
 Limerick 1-19 Tipperary 1-19
 replay
 16th June, Thurles (aet):
 Limerick 1-24 Tipperary 2-21
 17th June, Thurles:
 Waterford 5-15 Cork 3-18
 2nd replay
 19th June, Gaelic Grounds (aet):
 Limerick 0-22 Tipperary 2-13
 Final – 8th July, Thurles:
 Waterford 3-17 Limerick 1-14

ALL-IRELAND QUALIFIERS SECTION A

16th June, Casement Park:
 Clare 3-21 Antrim 2-15
 16th June, Portlaoise:
 Galway 3-20 Laois 1-14
 7th July, Ennis:
 Clare 2-10 Galway 0-14
 7th July, Casement Park:
 Antrim 1-23 Laois 1-13
 19th July, Portlaoise:
 Clare 2-14 Laois 1-11
 19th July, Salthill:
 Galway 2-31 Antrim 1-9
Clare 6pts, Galway 4pts, Antrim 2pts, Laois 0pts.

ALL-IRELAND QUALIFIERS SECTION B

30th June, Thurles:
 Tipperary 2-17 Offaly 2-13
 30th June, Parnell Park:
 Cork 3-20 Dublin 0-15
 7th July, Thurles:
 Tipperary 1-20 Dublin 1-11
 7th July, Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
 Cork 1-27 Offaly 0-11
 14th July, Tullamore:
 Offaly 2-25 Dublin 2-13
 14th July, Thurles:
 Tipperary 2-16 Cork 1-18
Tipperary 6pts, Cork 4pts, Offaly 2pts, Dublin 0pts.

ALL-IRELAND QUARTER-FINALS

28th July, Croke Park:
 Kilkenny 3-22 Galway 1-18
 Wexford 3-10 Tipperary 1-14
 29th July, Croke Park:
 Limerick 1-23 Clare 1-16
 Waterford 3-16 Cork 3-16
 replay
 5th August, Croke Park
 Waterford 2-17 Cork 0-20

ALL-IRELAND SEMI/FINALS

5th August, Croke Park:
 Kilkenny 0-23 Wexford 1-10
 12th August, Croke Park:
 Limerick 5-11 Waterford 2-15

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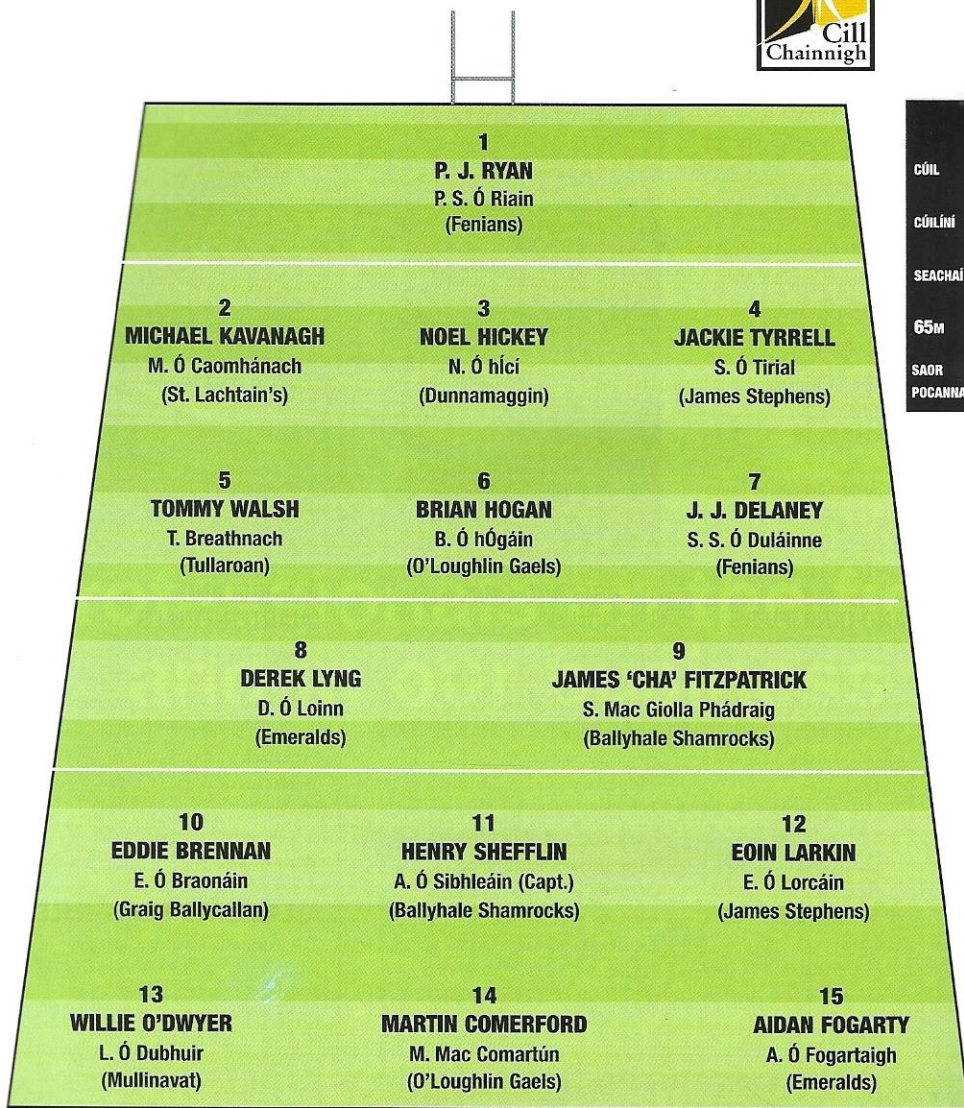


HURLING FINAL

CLUICHE CEANNAIS
IOMÁNA NA hÉIREANN

CILL CHAINNIGH

DATHANNA: **DUBH IS OMRA**



1	1
CÚIL	
CÚILÍNÍ	
SEACHAÍ	
65M	
SAOR	
POCAMNA	

FIR IONAD

(16) JAMES McGARRY S. Mac Fhearaigh (Bennettsbridge)	(19) JOHN DALTON S. Ó Daltún (Carrickshock)	(22) DONNCHA CODY D. Mac Órda (James Stephens)	(25) RICHARD POWER R. de Paor (Carrickshock)	(28) EINO REID E. Ó Maoildeirg (Ballyhale Shamrocks)
(17) JOHN TENNYSON S. Tennyson (Carrickshock)	(20) P. J. DELANEY P. S. Ó Duláinne (Fenians)	(23) MICHAEL FENNELLY M. Ó Fionnalaigh (Ballyhale Shamrocks)	(26) MICHAEL RICE M. Rís (Carrickshock)	(29) PETER CLEERE P. de Cléir (Blacks & Whites)
(18) JAMES RYALL S. Ó Riall (Graig Ballycallan)	(21) SEÁN CUMMINS S. Ó Colmáin (Power-Inistioge)	(24) RICHIE MULLALLY R. Ó Maolalaidh (Glenmore)	(27) EINO McCORMACK E. Mac Cormaic (James Stephens)	(30) RICHARD O'NEILL R. Ó Néill (Kilmacow)

ROIGHNÓIRÍ

Brian Cody (Manager), Martin Fogarty, Michael Dempsey.

LUIMNEACH

DATHANNA: UAITHNE IS BÁN



1 BRIAN MURRAY B. Ó Muiri (Patrickswell)		
2 DAMIEN REALE D. Ó Roghail (Capt.) (Hospital/Herbertstown)	3 STEPHEN LUCEY S. Ó Luasaigh (Croom)	4 SEAMUS HICKEY S. Ó hÍcl (Murroe/Boher)
5 PETER LAWLOR P. Ó Leathlobhair (Croom)	6 BRIAN GEARY B. Ó Gadhra (Monaleen)	7 MARK FOLEY M. Ó Foghlú (Adare)
8 DONAL O'GRADY D. Ó Gráda (Granagh/Ballingarry)		9 MIKE O'BRIEN M. Ó Briain (Glenroe)
10 MICHAEL FITZGERALD M. Mac Gearailt (Doon)	11 OLLIE MORAN O. Ó Moráin (Ahane)	12 SEÁN O'CONNOR S. Ó Conchúir (Ahane)
13 ANDREW O'SHAUGHNESSY A. Ó Seachnasaigh (Kilmallock)	14 BRIAN BEGLEY B. Beaglaioich (Mungret)	15 DONIE RYAN D. Ó Riain (Garryspillane)

FIR IONAD

(16) DAVE BULFIN D. Bulfin (Mungret)	(19) EÓIN FOLEY E. Ó Foghlú (Patrickswell)	(22) JAMES O'BRIEN S. Ó Briain (Bruree)	(25) GAVIN O'MAHONY G. Ó Mathúna (Kilmallock)	(28) DONNACHA SHEEHAN D. Ó Siocháin (Adare)
(17) HUGH FLAVIN A. Ó Flaithimhín (Croom)	(20) WAYNE McNAMARA U. Mac Conmara (Adare)	(23) MAURICE O'BRIEN M. Ó Briain (Garryspillane)	(26) MARK O'RIORDAN M. Ó Riordáin (Croom)	(29) KEVIN TOBIN C. Ó Tobín (Murroe/Boher)
(18) BARRY FOLEY B. Ó Foghlú (Patrickswell)	(21) NIALL MORAN N. Ó Moráin (Adare)	(24) PAUDIE O'DWYER P. Ó Dubhuir (Kilmallock)	(27) KIERAN O'ROURKE C. Ó Ruairc (Bruree)	(30) PAT TOBIN P. Ó Tobín (Murroe/Boher)

ROIGHNÓIRÍ

Richie Bennis (Manager), Bernie Hartigan, Antony O'Riordan, Tony Hickey. *Coach:* Gary Kirby. *Trainer:* Dave Moriarty.

THE PATHS TO THE SUMMIT

18th June, Portlaoise:

Wick 1-27 Offaly 1-13

1st July, Croke Park:

Wick 2-24 Wexford 1-12

18th July, Croke Park:

Wick 3-22 Galway 1-18

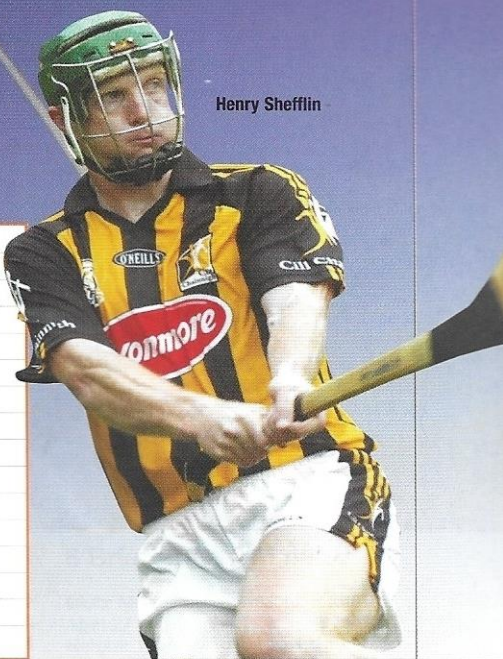
8th August, Croke Park:

Wick 0-23 Wexford 1-10

Cill Chainnigh

Total Scored 6-96 (114)
Total Conceded 4-53 (67)
Average 1.7

	1	2	3	4	Total
Henry Shefflin	0-12	0-9	0-8	0-14	0-43
Martin Comerford	0-3	0-5	0-2	0-2	0-12
Eddie Brennan	0-2	0-1	2-3	—	2-6
Eoin Larkin	1-0	0-2	1-2	0-2	2-6
James Fitzpatrick	0-3	0-2	0-3	0-2	0-10
Willie O'Dwyer	—	2-3	—	0-1	2-4
Aidan Fogarty	0-2	—	0-1	0-1	0-4
Derek Lyng	0-1	—	0-2	—	0-3
Richie Power	—	—	0-1	0-1	0-2
Tommy Walsh	0-1	—	—	—	0-1
J J Delaney	0-1	—	—	—	0-1
Michael Fennelly	0-1	—	—	—	0-1
Eoin Reid	0-1	—	—	—	0-1
Brian Hogan	—	0-1	—	—	0-1
Michael Rice	—	0-1	—	—	0-1



Henry Shefflin

Luimneach

18th June, Gaelic Grounds:

Limerick 1-19 Tipperary 1-19

18th June, Thurles (aet):

Limerick 1-24 Tipperary 2-21

18th June, Gaelic Grounds:

Limerick 0-22 Tipperary 2-13

8th July, Thurles:

Limerick 1-14 Waterford 3-17

29th July, Croke Park:

Limerick 1-23 Clare 1-16

12th August, Croke Park:

Limerick 5-11 Waterford 2-15

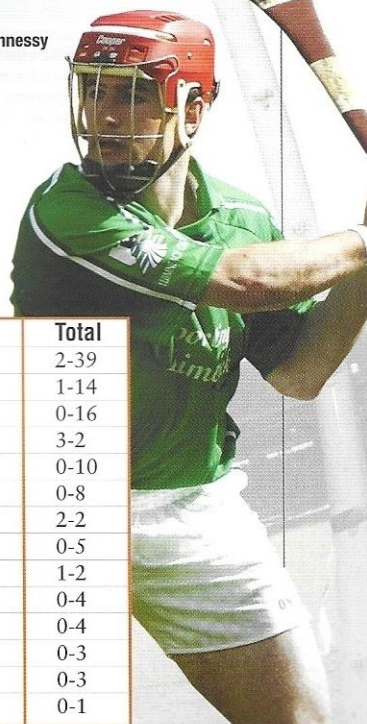
Total Scored 9-113 (140)

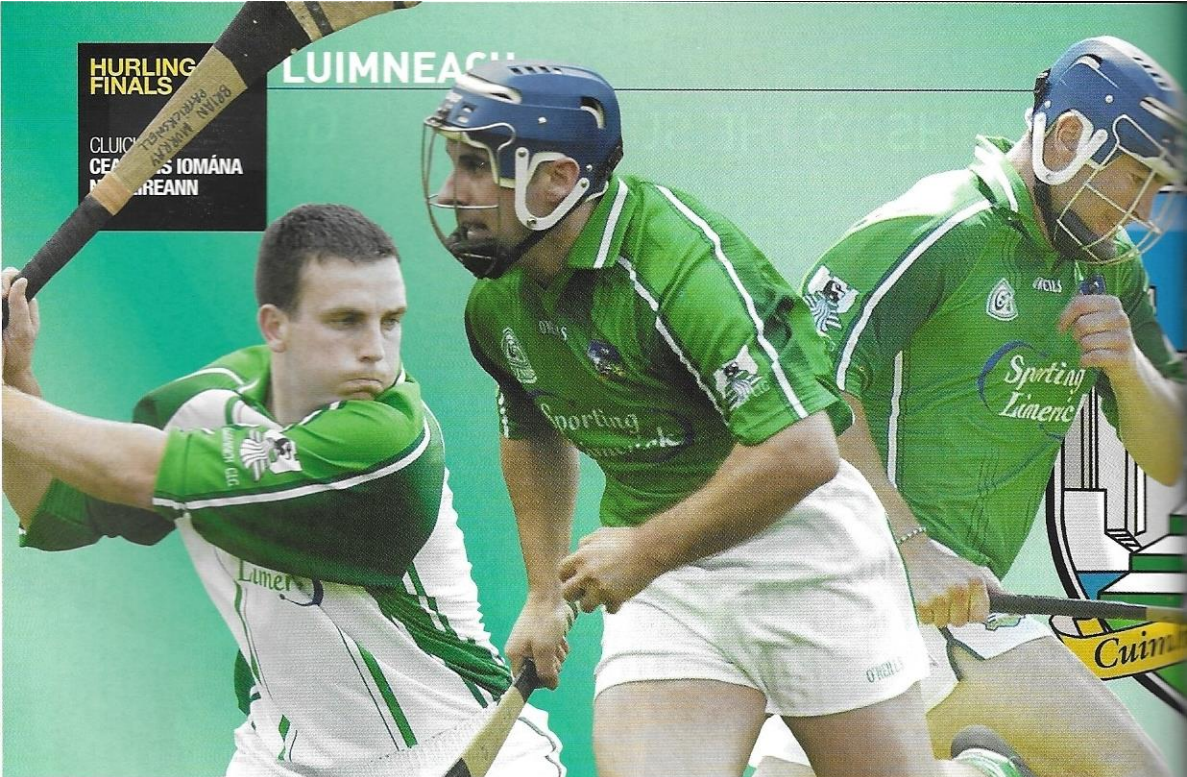
Total Conceded 11-101 (134)

Average: 1.04

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Andrew O'Shaughnessy	0-6	0-6	0-6	0-3	0-11	2-7	2-39
Michael Fitzgerald	0-1	1-4	0-2	0-3	0-4	—	1-14
Ollie Moran	0-5	0-4	0-3	0-1	0-1	0-2	0-16
Donie Ryan	—	—	—	—	1-2	2-0	3-2
Niall Moran	0-2	0-3	0-5	—	—	—	0-10
Kevin Tobin	—	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	—	0-8
Brian Begley	—	—	—	1-2	—	1-0	2-2
Brian Geary	—	0-2	0-3	—	—	—	0-5
Patrick Tobin	1-1	—	—	0-1	—	—	1-2
Mike O'Brien	0-2	—	—	0-1	—	0-1	0-4
John O'Brien	—	0-2	—	—	0-1	0-1	0-4
Barry Foley	0-2	—	—	—	0-1	—	0-3
Donal O'Grady	—	—	0-1	0-1	0-1	—	0-3
Mark Foley	—	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-1

Andrew O'Shaughnessy





1 Brian Murray

Club: Patrickswell
Age: 22
Height: 1.74m/5'8"
Weight: 76kg/12st
Occupation: Courier
Honours to date: 2 County SHC, 4 Olo Cups, Divisional Underage medals.

An outstanding goalkeeper who's shot stopping abilities have been vital in Limerick's advance to their first final in eleven years. Sure to be in the final shake up for an All-Star Award.

2 Damien Reale

Club: Hospital/Herbertstown
Age: 26
Height: 1.75m/5'9"
Weight: 76kg/12st
Occupation: Health & Safety Officer
Honours to date: 3 Munster U21H, 3 All-Ireland U21H, 1 Railway Cup, County IHC, County J "A" HC.

Captain of the Limerick team, he has led by example with some terrific performances at corner back in this year's championship. Holder of 3 All-Ireland U-21 Medals.

3 Stephen Lucey

Club: Croom
Age: 27
Height: 1.85m/6'2"
Weight: 89.8kg/14st 2lbs
Occupation: Medical Doctor
Honours to date: 2 U21 Munster & All-Ireland Hurling, 1 U21 Munster Football, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, 3 McGrath Cup, 2 County Minor Hurling, 1 U21 County Hurling, 1 County Intermediate Hurling, 3 Dublin Senior Hurling, 1 Dublin Senior Football, 3 Dublin U21 Football, 1 Dublin U21 Hurling.

Winner of two All-Ireland medals at U21 level, Lucey has also starred for the footballers over the years. A powerful influence at full back.

16 David Bulfin

Club: Mungret
Age: 27
Height: 1.75m/5'9"
Weight: 78.5kg/12st 5lbs
Occupation: Primary School Teacher
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland U21H, 2 Munster U21H, 1 County JHC.



17 Hugh Flavin

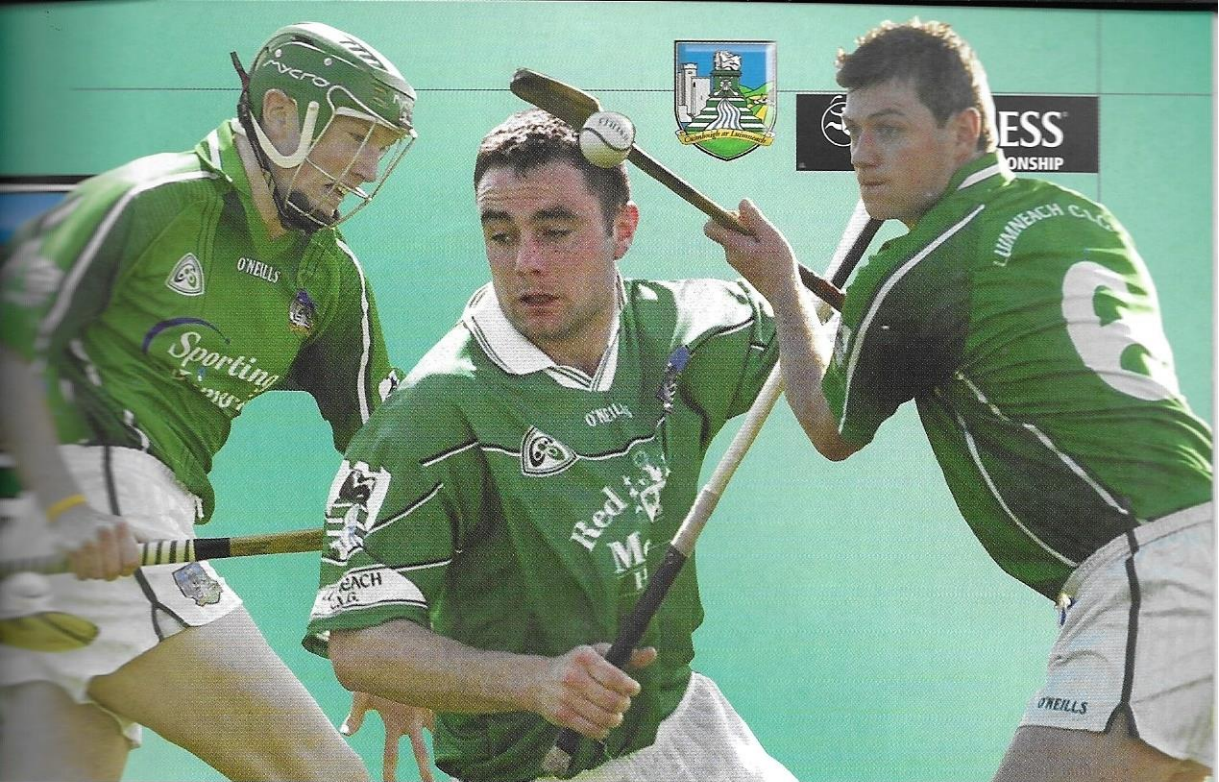
Club: Croom
Age: 27
Height: 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Teacher
Honours to date: 1 Dr. Harty Cup, 1 All-Ireland Colleges, 3 County MHC, 1 U21H.



18 Barry Foley

Club: Patrickswell
Age: 30
Height: 1.78m/5'10"
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Fabricator
Honours to date: 1 NHL, 1 Munster SHC, 6 County SHC, 1 County MHC, 2 County U21H.





4 Seamus Hickey

Club: Murroe/Boher
Age: 19
Height: 1.83m/6'
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Studying at the University of Limerick
Honours to date: 2 Harty Cups, 1 All-Ireland Colleges, 1 Higher Education League.

The Murroe/Boher clubman has belied his youth with some outstanding performances. Made his senior championship debut in 2006 when coming on as a sub against Tipperary.

5 Peter Lawlor

Club: Croom
Age: 25
Height: 1.87m/6'1"
Weight: 85.7kg/13st 7lbs
Occupation: Electrician
Honours to date: 2 Munster U21H, 2 All-Ireland U21H, 1 County U21H.

Partnered Stephen Lucey at centre field when Limerick won the 2001 All-Ireland U21 final and was captain of the team a year later as Limerick completed the three-in-a-row.

6 Brian Geary

Club: Monaleen
Age: 27
Height: 1.9m/6'3"
Weight: 92.5kg/14st 8lbs
Occupation: Sales Executive
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland U21H, 2 Munster U21H, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 Harty Cup, 1 All-Ireland Colleges, 1 Railway Cup, 1 Club IHC, 2 Club SFC.

An All-Ireland college's medallist with St. Flannan's, he is another graduate from the successful U21 sides. A good performance from Geary will be crucial to Limerick's hopes today.

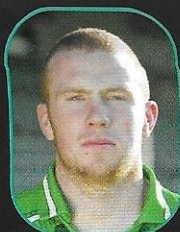
19 Eoin Foley

Club: Patrickswell
Age: 25
Height: 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 89kg/14st
Occupation: Security Sales Adviser
Honours to date: 2 Munster & All-Ireland U21H, 2 County MHC, 3 County SHC, 7 U21 Divisional.



20 Wayne McNamara

Club: Adare
Age: 21
Height: 1.83m/6'
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Electrician
Honours to date: County U16H, Colleges SH, Various Divisional & Underage.



21 Niall Moran

Club: Ahane
Age: 24
Height: 1.85m/6'2"
Weight: 89kg/14st
Occupation: Teacher
Honours to date: 2 Munster U21H, 2 All-Ireland U21H, 2 County SHC, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 Harty Cup.



**HURLING
FINALS**

**CLUICHÍ
CEANNAIS IOMÁNA
NA hÉIREANN**

LUIMNEACH



7 Mark Foley

Club: Adare
Age: 32
Height: 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 89kg/14st
Occupation: Publican
Honours to date: 1 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 2 Railway Cup, 1 County SHC.

A survivor from the Limerick team defeated by Wexford in the 1996 All-Ireland final, he has a wealth of experience at the top level and is a steady influence at crucial times.

8 Donal O'Grady

Club: Granagh/Ballingarry
Age: 26
Height: 1.83m/6'
Weight: 76kg/12st
Occupation: Sales Representative
Honours to date: 1 Munster U21H, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 1 County IHC.

A hard working midfielder who generally pops up for a score at some point in the game. Will have to be at the top of his game against a powerful Kilkenny midfield today.

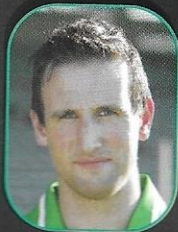
9 Mike O'Brien

Club: Glenroe
Age: 29
Height: 1.83m/6'
Weight: 78.5kg/12st 5lbs
Occupation: Farmer
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland, 1 Munster IHC, Club Junior "A" Hurling.

Made his championship debut in 2000 and is one of the hardest working players on the team. Will constantly forage around the middle, picking up breaks and setting up attacks.

22 James O'Brien

Club: Bruree
Age: 26
Height: 1.85m/6'2"
Weight: 85kg/13st 6lbs
Occupation: Student Nurse
Honours to date: 1 Munster U21H, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 1 County SHC, 1 Ryan Cup.



23 Maurice O'Brien

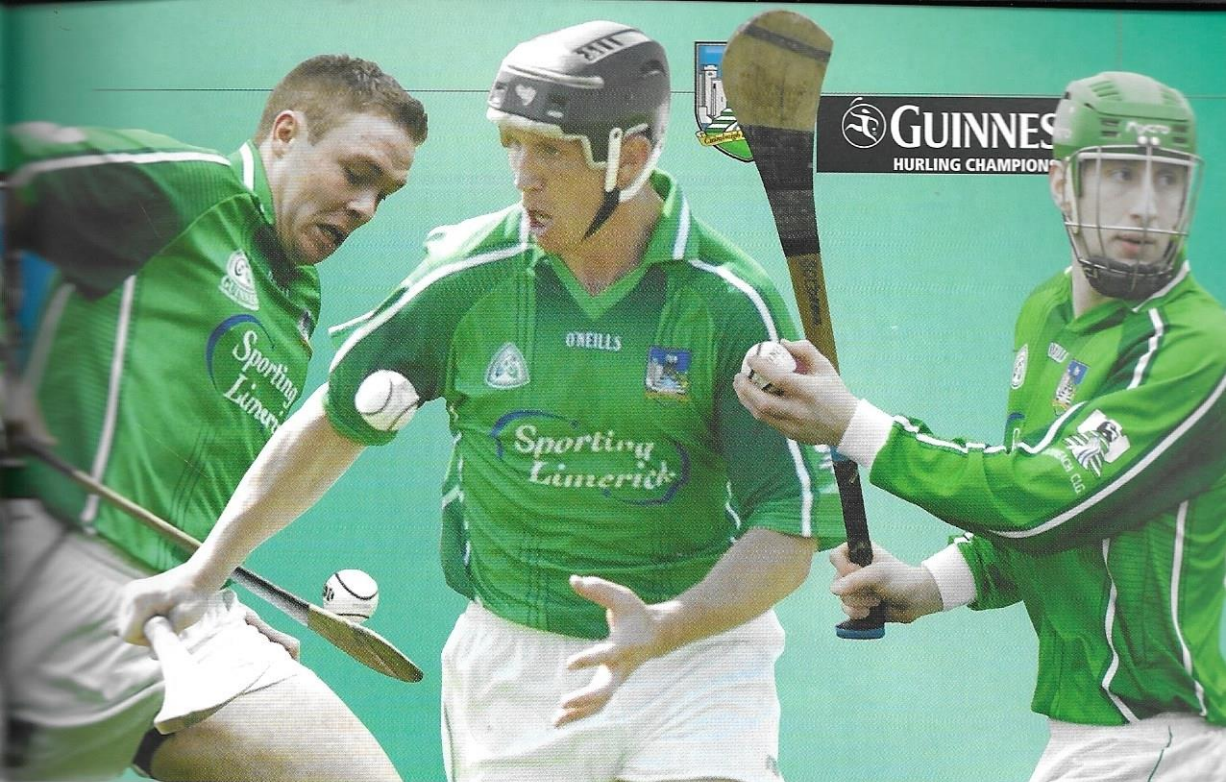
Club: Garryspillane
Age: 23
Height: 1.78m/5'10"
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Student Quantity Surveyor
Honours to date: 2 Munster U21H, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 County SHC, 1 County U21H, 2 Harby Cups, 2 All-Ireland Colleges.



24 Paudie O'Dwyer

Club: Kilmallock
Age: 24
Height: 1.93m/6'4"
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Electrician
Honours to date: 1 Munster U21H, 1 All-Ireland U21H, County U14, U16, Minor & U21 Hurling.





10 Michael Fitzgerald

Club: Doon
Age: 20
Height: 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Garda
Honours to date: 1 County MHC, 1 County U21H, 1 Ryan Cup.

Fitzgerald has been one of the real stars of the Shannonsider's march to the All-Ireland final scoring 1-14 en route including 1-4 in the second game with Tipperary.

11 Ollie Moran

Club: Ahane
Age: 31
Height: 1.85m/6'2"
Weight: 92kg/14st 7lbs
Occupation: Financial Adviser
Honours to date: 1 NHL, 2 Fitzgibbon Cup, 4 Railway Cup, 3 Shinty International caps, 3 County SHC, 1 County MHC, 1 County MFC.

A first cousin of Eoin and Paul Kelly of Tipperary, he excelled during the three game Munster Championship saga against the Premier and has been a solid performer ever since.

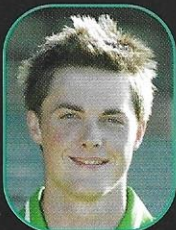
12 Sean O'Connor

Club: Ahane
Age: 26
Height: 1.9m/6'3"
Weight: 89kg/14st
Occupation: Construction worker
Honours to date: 2 Munster U21H, 2 All-Ireland U21H, 3 County SHC, 6 Senior Divisional Hurling.

An early season injury has curtailed his appearances for Limerick this year, but there can be no doubting his value to the team when fit.

25 Gavin O'Mahony

Club: Kilmallock
Age: 20
Height: 1.9m/6'3"
Weight: 79kg/12st 7lbs
Occupation: Civil Engineering Student
Honours to date: 4 County MHC, 1 MFC, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, 2 County U21H.



26 Mark O'Riordan

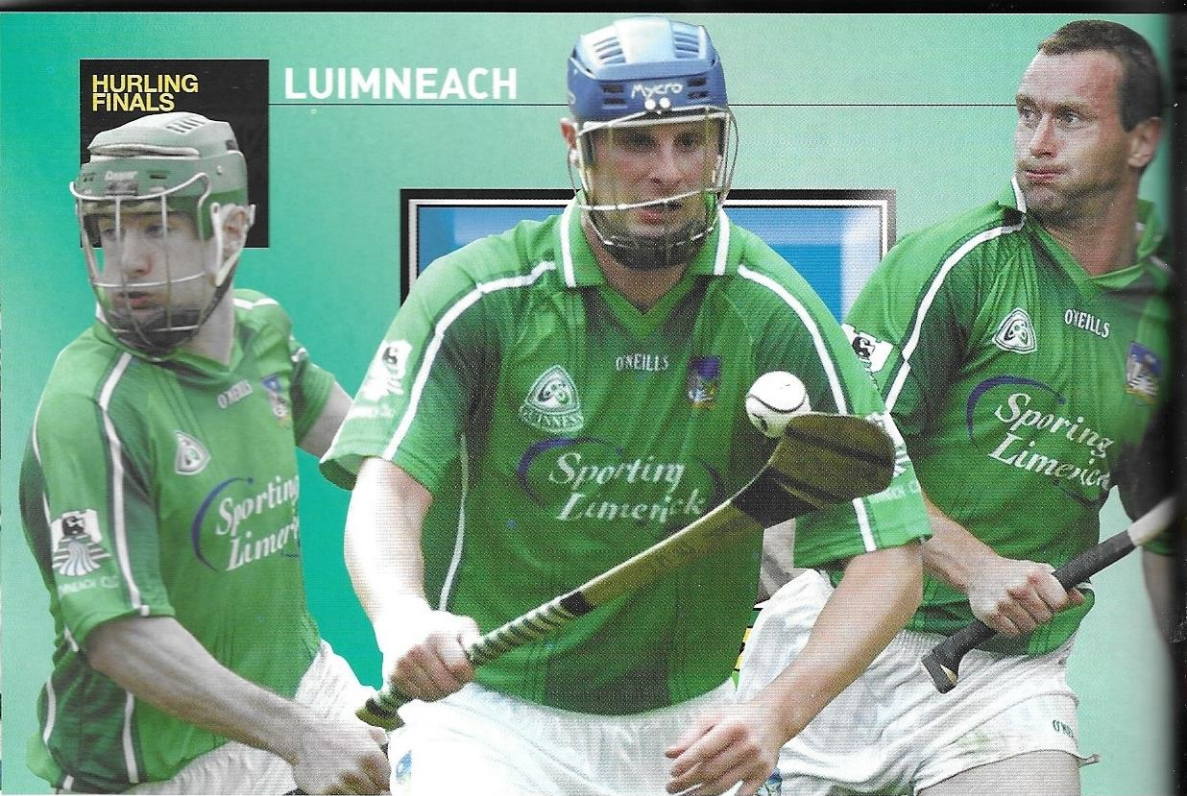
Club: Croom
Age: 26
Height: 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 83.5kg/13st 2lbs
Occupation: Carpenter
Honours to date: 2 Munster U21H, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 1 Munster U21F, 3 McGrath Cup.



27 Kieran O'Rourke

Club: Brurea
Age: 20
Height: 1.74m/5'8"
Weight: 79kg/12st 4lbs
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: 1 County SHC, Colleges Freshers All-Ireland Football, 1 County MHC.





13 Andrew O'Shaughnessy

Club: Kilmallock
Age: 22
Height: 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 85kg/13st 6lbs
Occupation: Defence Forces Officer
Honours to date: 2 Munster U21H, 2 All-Ireland U21H, 2 All-Ireland Colleges, 3 Harty Cup, U16 Ten Pin Bowling Champion.

Finally re-discovering the form that marked him out as one to watch during his minor and U-21 days, his 2-7 in the semi-final was one of Limerick's main highlights.

14 Brian Begley

Club: Mungret
Age: 27
Height: 1.96m/6'5"
Weight: 101.5kg/16 st
Occupation: Garda
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland U21H, 1 Munster U21H & F, 1 County IFC, 1 JH "A" Club.

Provides an excellent target man for the team and has been most effective in providing opportunities for those around him this year. Scored a great goal in the semi-final.

15 Donie Ryan

Club: Garryspillane
Age: 30
Height: 1.78m/5'10"
Weight: 78.5kg/12st 5lbs
Occupation: Farmer
Honours to date: 1 County SHC, 1 County U21H, 1 County IHC, 1 All-Ireland Sevens.

A brother of T.J. Ryan who was a fixture on Limerick teams for many years, Donie is a livewire forward who can punish the opposition when the opportunity arises.

28 Donncha Sheehan

Club: Adare
Age: 27
Height: 1.72m/5'7"
Weight: 74.8kg/11st 11lbs
Occupation: Biochemist
Honours to date: 1 Munster U21H, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 County SHC.



29 Kevin Tobin

Club: Murroe/Boher
Age: 26
Height: 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 83.5kg/13st
Occupation: Sales Representative
Honours to date: 3 Munster U21H, 3 All-Ireland U21H, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 Club IHC.



30 Pat Tobin

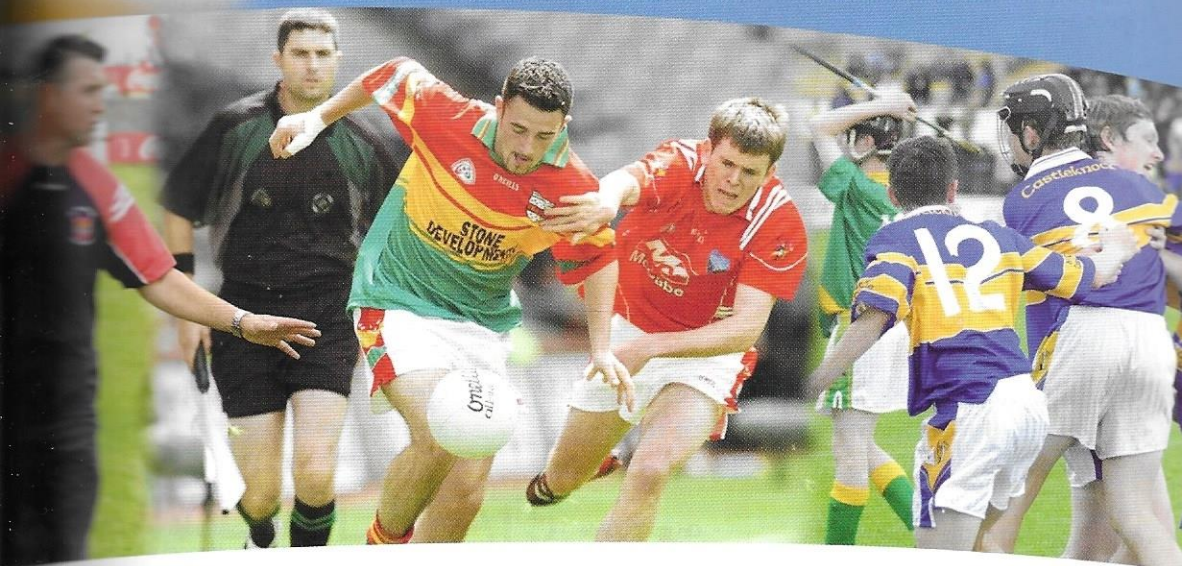
Club: Murroe/Boher
Age: 24
Height: 1.75m/5'9"
Weight: 76kg/12st
Occupation: Car Sales Executive
Honours to date: 2 Munster U21H, 2 All-Ireland U21H, County U21 "B", Senior Divisional Hurling, County IHC, 2 U21 "A" Divisional Hurling.



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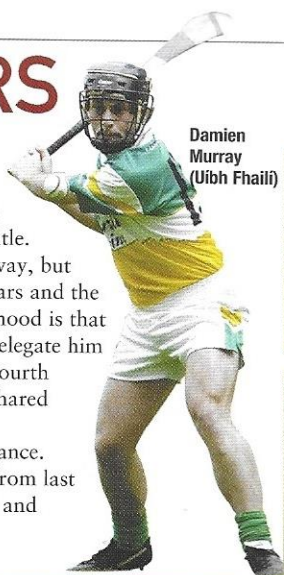


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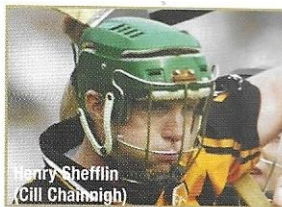
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TOP SCORERS

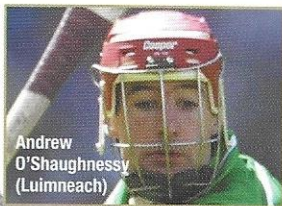
For the ninth season in succession Henry Shefflin appears in the top ten scorers chart and the Noresider looks likely to battle it out with Andrew O'Shaughnessy for the overall title. Offaly's Damien Murray currently leads the way, but with the Shannonsider just two points in arrears and the Kilkenny ace a couple more behind, the likelihood is that both will overtake the Midlander today and relegate him to third position. Shefflin is in pursuit of his fourth crown to go with the titles he won in 1999 (shared with Joe Deane), 2004 and last year while O'Shaughnessy makes his first top ten appearance. Besides the Noreside ace others to re-appear from last year are Eoin Kelly (2nd), James Young (3rd) and Deane (5th).



Damien Murray (Uíbh Fhailí)



Henry Shefflin (Cill Chainnigh)



Andrew O'Shaughnessy (Luimneach)

		Score	Total	Games	Average
1	Damien Murray (Offaly)	3-38	47	5	9.4
2	Andrew O'Shaughnessy (Limerick)	2-39	45	6	7.5
3	Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)	0-43	43	4	10.75
4	Eoin Kelly (Tipperary)	1-38	41	6	6.83
5	James Young (Laois)	2-32	38	4	9.5
6	Dan Shanahan (Waterford)	8-12	36	5	7.2
7	Joe Deane (Cork)	0-35	35	7	5.0
8	Ben O'Connor (Cork)	0-34	34	7	4.86
9	Willie Ryan (Tipperary)	3-19	28	7	4.0
10	Neil Ronan (Cork)	4-13	25	7	3.57

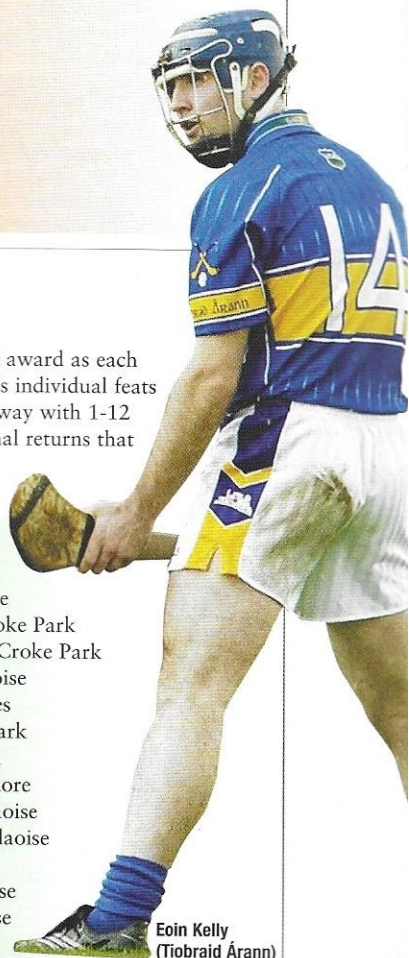
INDIVIDUAL FEATS

Twelve months ago Henry Shefflin and James Young shared the individual feats award as each recorded a personal haul of 1-13 in the 2006 campaign. It looks likely this year's individual feats award will also be shared as Eoin Kelly and Damien Murray currently lead the way with 1-12 apiece, but both Shefflin and Andrew O'Shaughnessy showed with their semi/final returns that the Premier/Faithful duo are not guaranteed pole position. In all, there were 14 double-digit returns (11 last year) in the 2007 campaign and they are:

Eoin Kelly (Tipperary)
 Damien Murray (Offaly)
 Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)
 Andrew O'Shaughnessy (Limerick)
 Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)
 Dan Shanahan (Waterford)
 Andrew O'Shaughnessy (Limerick)
 Keril Wade (Galway)
 Brian Carroll (Offaly)
 James Young (Laois)
 Brian Murray (Offaly)
 Willie Ryan (Tipperary)
 Eugene Cloonan (Galway)
 James Young (Laois)

1-12
 1-12
 0-14
 2-7
 0-12
 3-3
 0-11
 0-11
 1-8
 1-8
 1-8
 0-10
 0-10
 1-7

v Offaly – 30th June, Thurles
 v Laois – 27th May, Tullamore
 v Wexford – 5th August, Croke Park
 v Waterford – 12th August, Croke Park
 v Offaly – 10th June, Portlaoise
 v Limerick – 8th July, Thurles
 v Clare – 29th July, Croke Park
 v Antrim – 14th July, Salthill
 v Dublin – 14th July, Tullamore
 v Galway – 30th June, Portlaoise
 v Kilkenny – 10th June, Portlaoise
 v Dublin – 7th July, Thurles
 v Laois – 30th June, Portlaoise
 v Clare – 14th July, Portlaoise



Eoin Kelly (Tiobraid Árann)

EVEN Derek Lyng admits that he was sucked in by talk of a Kilkenny-Waterford All-Ireland senior hurling final. The Kilkenny midfielder left Croke Park four weeks ago to the day harbouring thoughts of a repeat meeting with the Déise following the National League final clash between the two sides in April. Lyng had just helped Kilkenny to an eighth All-Ireland final in ten seasons before settling down to watch Waterford defeat Cork in an epic quarter-final replay. The Emeralds star recalled: "I was coming out of Croke Park thinking 'Jeez, we're playing Waterford in an All-Ireland final' but then it dawned on me 'Hold on, they have to play Limerick yet'.

"Limerick were coming away from the TV firing themselves up and psychologically, they were hungry and ready for it. It's half the battle – if you're going out as hungry as the other team, it will bring you a long way in a match. If we can't match Limerick's hunger, we'll be in trouble. The ball's not going over the bar by itself, nobody can make the ball talk and you have to get stuck in."

Waterford certainly hadn't bargained for a scintillating semi-final display by Limerick but before the game, Lyng had a feeling that an upset was on the cards.

He insisted: "I just had a feeling that Limerick were really going to put it up to them. From the minute the ball was thrown in, you could see that Limerick had an intensity about them and they blew Waterford off the field. Waterford never recovered enough during that game to get back into it. We know we have to be flying from the first minute."

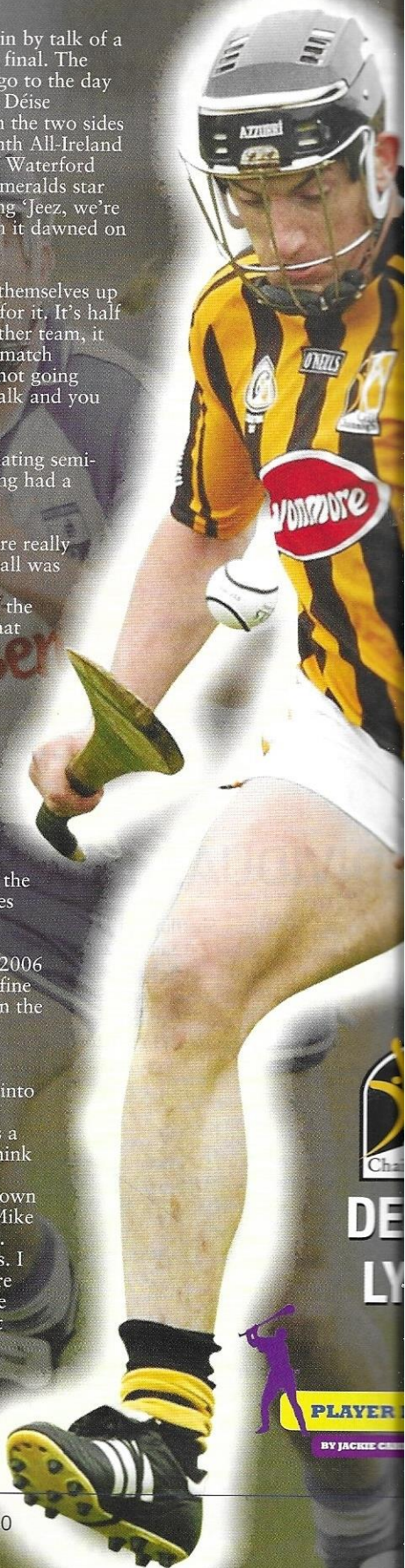
But Lyng knows all about All-Ireland finals. A three-time medallist, he's been a part of the Kilkenny senior panel since 2001 and was blooded in 2002 as Brian Cody introduced a wave of fresh young talent following the previous year's All-Ireland semi-final defeat against Galway. Lyng, who has captured six Leinster senior medals and two Allstar awards, has been a driving midfield force for the Cats and the 29-year-old is raring to go alongside sidekick James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick.

The two players complement each other well and 2006 Young Hurler of the Year Fitzpatrick has been in fine form again during the summer after he was tried in the forwards during the National League campaign.

Lyng reflected: "It was early in the year and Brian wanted to try out a few things. 'Cha's gone back into the middle and he's flying. It probably is his most natural position – he's able to pick up breaks, he's a fantastic hurler and he has great wrists. I like to think we complement each other well."

Lyng and Fitzpatrick are braced for a huge showdown with Limerick midfield duo Donal O'Grady and Mike O'Brien, renowned for sheer industry and tenacity. Lyng nodded: "They're after having fantastic years. I thought they were outstanding the last day. They're very hard-working, tough and mobile and can take their scores. They work all day and they're very fit and hungry".

"Any match we play against Limerick is always a tough match and one sure thing is that we'll be sore after it."



1957 Leathchead bliain ó shin

The Junior Clubs' only Senior All Ireland



Kilkenny's All Ireland win in 1957 was significant in many ways. It was the county's first in 53 years. It maintained the county's tradition of winning an All Ireland in every decade since the inaugural win in 1904, and it was the county's 14th title win, thus enabling Kilkenny to close the gap in the Roll of Honour with Cork (19) and Wexford (16).

The win would also be the only one that junior clubs would provide the majority of the starting fifteen of an All Ireland winning team. The inaugural county championships of 1887 comprised of only four teams. There was no Parish Rule in existence so that the senior clubs were able to select players from any part of the county, irrespective of where they lived and the standing of their local clubs. Ability to play at the top level and the ability to travel were the only boundaries.

From 1904 to 1947 all Kilkenny's winning All Ireland teams comprised players who were playing at senior club level. Most of the county's top players enjoyed this freedom of

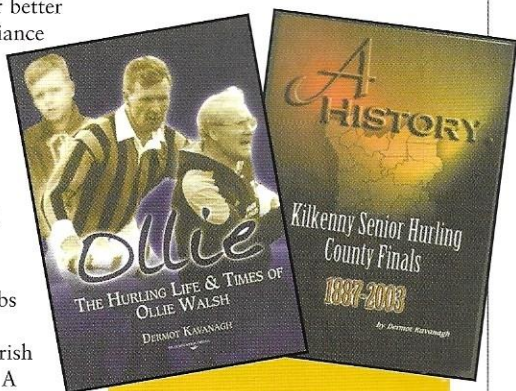
movement. Jack Rochford (1904 to 1913), Paddy Larkin of the 1930's era and Dan Kennedy, the 1947 captain, all won county titles with three separate clubs. The junior clubs were the real losers under the prevailing system. No sooner had one of their players showed promise than he was available to play for whatever senior club that took his fancy. Thus it was difficult for any junior club, when promoted, to break the dominance of the more successful senior clubs.

My own club, The Rower, won the junior title in 1944 but by 1946 they were back in that grade as most of their better players changed allegiance to nearby senior clubs. Despite nearly always providing excellent county finals, the Senior Championship was becoming boring and predictable. Thus to narrow the selection base of the senior clubs the County Board introduced a three Parish Rule system in 1953. A difficult to enforce

residential qualification made the application of the new system almost unworkable so that for the 1954 championships a strict Parish Rule was introduced for all adult teams. Immediately the effect became noticeable. Some senior clubs like Carrickshock and Éire Óg went into decline while newly promoted clubs like Bennettsbridge and Slieverue won senior titles with home produced players. Also with a vibrant junior club scene in progress, it was no surprise that Kilkenny won the 1956 All Ireland Junior title.

Thus when Kilkenny won in 1957 the ratio of junior club representation was 8 to 7 in their favour. By 1963, Kilkenny's next All Ireland win the ratio had swung back to 12 to 3 in the senior clubs' favour. By then, however the Parish Rule was in full force and the clubs had to depend on whatever nature provided to put teams on the field. The men of '57 were record makers in more ways than they realised.

By Dermot Kavanagh



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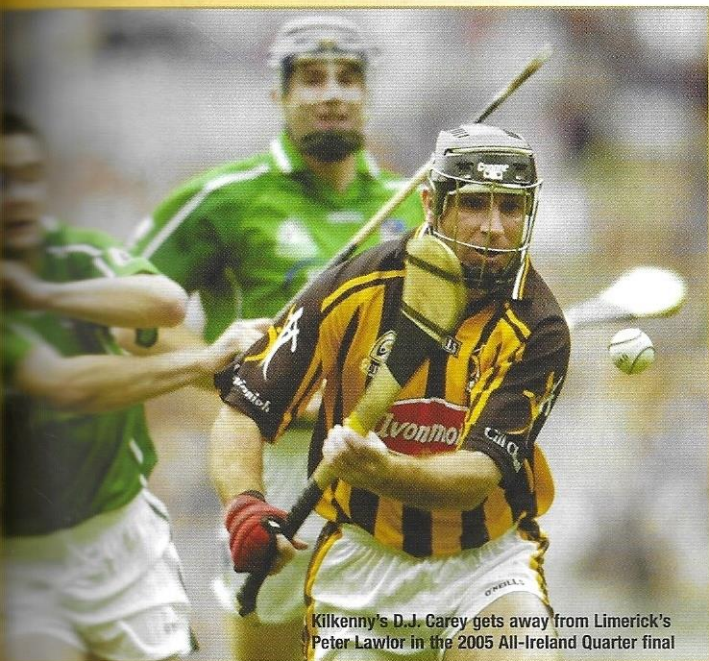
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WHEN LAST THEY MET

Cats win on points in only non-title contest

 **GUINNESS**
HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

2005- Kilkenny 0-18 Limerick 0-13



Kilkenny's D.J. Carey gets away from Limerick's Peter Lawlor in the 2005 All-Ireland Quarter final

The most recent meeting of Kilkenny and Limerick was the only one in which the title itself was not on the line as the counties clashed in a quarter/final encounter at Croke Park two years ago. The final scoreline suggests that it was a close enough contest, but in truth the Noresiders always looked the more likely victors and appeared capable of pulling away if the occasion demanded it.

Heavily favoured after taking the Leinster title with ease, Kilkenny opened briskly and moved into a 0-4 to 0-1 lead before a couple of Limerick points reduced their advantage to the minimum. Unperturbed, Kilkenny upped the pace and seven unanswered points – one a gem from Henry Shefflin – had them 0-11 to 0-3

in front approaching the interval. Points by T.J.Ryan (free) and Andrew O'Shaughnessy closed the first half scoring, but with six points in hand and apparently playing well within themselves a close second period looked unlikely.

On the restart T.J.Ryan and D.J.Carey traded points, but then Limerick enjoyed their best spell of the match and five unanswered points – including lovely efforts by Niall Moran and Paul O'Grady – reduced the Shannonsiders' deficit to the minimum (0-11 to 0-12). But just as the crowd began to move towards the edge of their seats, Kilkenny pushed them firmly back into them with points by Carey and Shefflin (2).

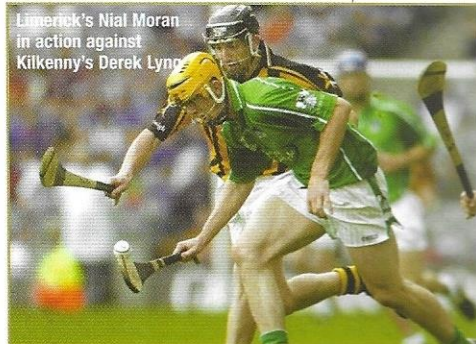
Ten minutes from time Kilkenny were awarded a penalty when Shefflin was fouled and although Carey goaled the award, he was forced by referee Ger Harrington to retake it and his second effort was slightly too high. In truth it didn't matter as it was clear by this point that Limerick were incapable of bridging the gap.

Kilkenny scorers: H.Shefflin 0-9, D.J.Carey 0-3, T.Walsh, M.Comerford 0-2 each, B.Barry, D.Lyng 0-1 each.

Limerick scorers: T.J.Ryan 0-6, P.Lawlor 0-3, A.O'Shaughnessy, J.O'Brien, P.O'Grady, N.Moran 0-1 each.

Cill Chainnigh – J.McGarry, M.Kavanagh, J.Tennyson, J.Ryall, R.Mullally, P.Barry, J.J.Delaney, B.Barry, D.Lyng, M.Comerford, E.Larkin, T.Walsh, R.Power, D.J.Carey, H.Shefflin. Subs – E.Brennan (Power), E.McCormack (B.Barry), J.Hoyne (Larkin).

Luimneach – T.Houlihan, D.Reale, S.Lucey, M.Foley, O.Moran, B.Geary, P.Lawlor, P.O'Grady, N.Moran, D.Ryan, J.O'Brien, M.Cahill, P.Kirby, T.J.Ryan, A.O'Shaughnessy. Subs – A.O'Connor (Cahill), P.Tobin (Kirby).



Limerick's Niall Moran in action against Kilkenny's Derek Lyng

BRIAN Murray was just three years of age when he was first introduced to hurling, drafted in to make up the numbers at an U10 training session. Brian's revered father Terence, inducted this year into the Referees Hall of Fame, was manager of the team but found himself short a player for a training game. And there began Brian Murray's career which reaches its latest pinnacle this afternoon when he lines out in his very first All-Ireland senior final.

It's been hurling all the way for Murray since his mid-teens, when he last played Gaelic Football competitively. He had the build of a scrum-half and could have played rugby but the oval ball didn't interest him and he only dabbles in soccer during the winter months to keep fit. "It's hurling through and through," explained Murray, who made the switch from attack to goalkeeper at U15 level with Limerick.

He recalled: "Things weren't going right for the goalkeeper in there and we were asked if anybody was interested. I said I'd love a crack, I had a good tournament and since then I've loved being in goals."

Murray continued to play outfield with Patrickswell and he was a senior player with the club before he first kept goal for them. It proved a sound move and Murray's impressive form earned him a call-up to the Limerick senior panel. Under Joe McKenna, the Shannonsiders contested the 2006 National Hurling League final against Kilkenny, losing narrowly, but the wheels came off in the championship and a 17-point hammering against Clare in Ennis was a massive low-point. Murray was substituted at half-time but when club-mate Richie Bennis headed up the new management team, he was back between the sticks.

Bennis coached Murray at U16 level and was well aware of his capabilities as a hurler. That respect was reciprocated by Murray, who grew up on a diet of stories centred on Bennis and the other heroes who captured the county's last All-Ireland senior hurling crown in 1973. Murray said: "Richie often talks about the 1973 final (against Kilkenny) but he said that this would mean so much to him, that it would be worth more than the medal he has at the moment. He's the very same person now as when I first met him. He'll drive a player on and he's fair to everyone."

Murray and Limerick stand just 70 minutes from bridging a 34-year gap and, despite losing the Munster final against Waterford on July 8, Murray always believed that this team could achieve something big.

He reflected: "Once we got over Clare in the quarter final we really believed in ourselves that we could overturn the result in Thurles that (Munster final) day. We had learned our lesson against Waterford and we overturned the result of Ennis last year."

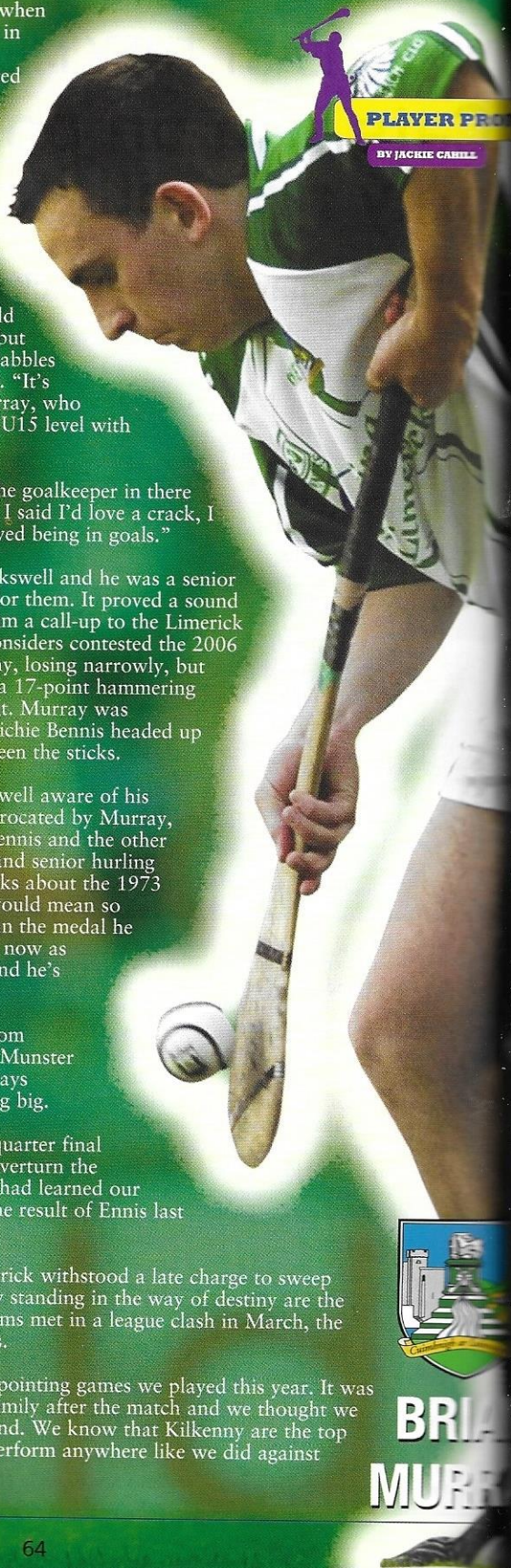
What followed was simply sensational as Limerick withstood a late charge to sweep past Waterford when the sides met again. Now standing in the way of destiny are the men in black and amber and when the two teams met in a league clash in March, the Cats ran out comfortable 2-17 to 0-12 winners.

Murray said: "That was one of the most disappointing games we played this year. It was down in Nowlan Park. I met supporters and family after the match and we thought we were going nowhere but it's really turned around. We know that Kilkenny are the top team in the country at the moment but if we perform anywhere like we did against Waterford, we're in with a great shot."



PLAYER PROFILE

BY JACKIE CARROLL



BRIAN
MURRAY

CHAMPIONS CRASH

At the beginning of each championship year there is always speculation as to the likelihood of how counties will fare in the coming season. It is not unusual for the reigning champions to be tipped to retain their crown – Kilkenny this season for example – and it is rarely suggested that they will suffer a heavy reverse.

But it has happened in the past that the holders not alone made an early departure from the race, but were on the receiving end of a heavy defeat (by 12 points or more). And this has happened to all the leading counties at one time or another.

Dublin were the first champions to experience an early departure when they lost their 1890 provincial semi-final to Wexford by 12 points (0-1 to 4-1) at Clonturk Park. Seven years later the Metropolitans were joined by Tipperary as Cork hammered the Premier county by 4-16 to 0-2, and Limerick joined the club the following season as Cork – who they had defeated by 4-9 to 1-6

twelve months previously – crushed them by 6-6 to 0-2.

A NEW CENTURY

Cork were again the bane of the holders when they overwhelmed London by 3-13 to 0-0 in 1902 and four years later Kilkenny, in search of a third successive title – lost to Dublin by 0-5 to 1-14 at Wexford Park.

Clare joined the fallen champions in 1915 when Cork beat them by 8-2 to 2-1 in the provincial final at Markets Field, and in 1921 Limerick deposed Dublin to the tune of 18 points (8-5 to 3-2). Galway's first-ever win over Kilkenny was by a margin of 13 points (5-4 to 2-0) in 1923 and then came an exchange of heavy defeats for the holders when Dublin beat Cork by 4-8 to 1-3 in 1927, a decision that was emphatically reversed a year later when Cork trounced the capital by 16 points (5-3 to 0-2) in the semi-final at Nowlan Park.

Limerick, too, experienced the good and the bad; in 1936 when beating Kilkenny by 13 points

(5-6 to 1-5) was most definitely the good while disappointment came in 1941 when they lost to Cork by 23 points (3-2 to 8-10).

A LONG GAP

There was not a heavy defeat for the champions again until 1957 in which year Wexford went down to Kilkenny by 16 points (1-5 to 5-9). The 1959 demolition of Tipperary by Waterford (9-3 to 3-4) was perhaps the most remarkable defeat of the champions in recent times, though Kilkenny's failure to Wexford in the 1976 Leinster final by 17 points (1-6 to 2-20) was almost as sensational.

In all there have been heavy defeats for the reigning champions on no fewer than 18 occasions with all the major powers having that experience with Cork's 26-point demolition of Tipperary in 1897 the heaviest of all. But surprisingly, Kilkenny have been the most persistent heavy losers as they have suffered four heavy defeats as champions, with Dublin and Limerick each sustaining three.

THE SHORTEST REIGN

The dubious distinction of having the shortest reign as All-Ireland champions belongs to Kilkenny, whose reign after winning their second title lasted exactly a fortnight. This extraordinary situation arose due to two factors. Not alone was the 1905 championship running late – it was April 14th 1907 before Kilkenny and Cork faced each other in the final at Tipperary town – but when Cork won, the losers lodged an objection which resulted in the Central Council ordering a replay that took place at Dungarvan on June 30th. Kilkenny reversed the verdict of the first meeting to take the title for the second time, but by now the 1906 campaign was well under way. In fact, with victories over Wexford and Laois, the "Cats" had already qualified for the 1906 provincial final with Dublin, which was staged at Wexford Park on July 14th...two weeks after Kilkenny's triumph.

With three changes – which were not reckoned to have weakened the team – Kilkenny were warm favourites to win their fourth successive provincial crown, but Dublin, who included no fewer than eight Tipperary men, created a big shock by winning easily by 1-14 to 0-5. Thus Kilkenny's All-Ireland celebrations were hardly under way before they were among the championship 'also rans'.



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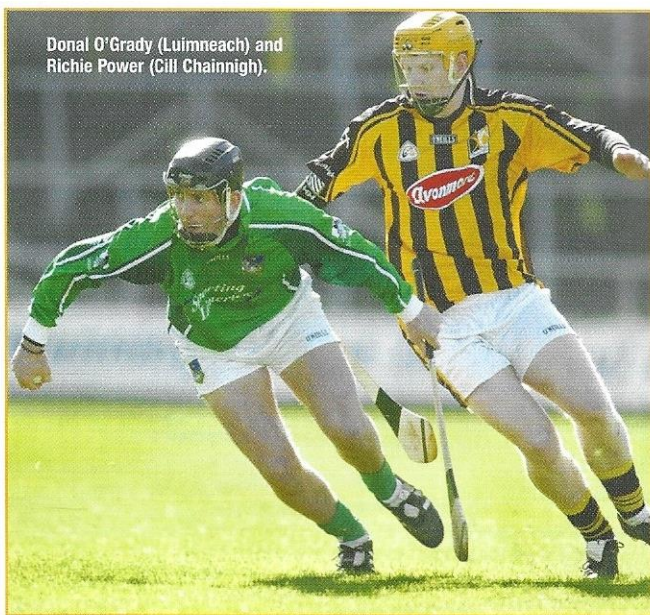
Kilkenny get moving after slow League opening



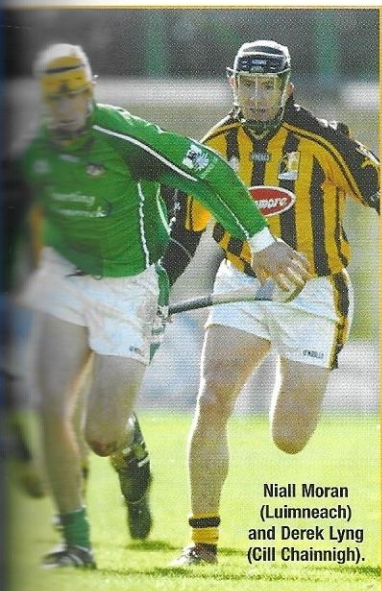
Kilkenny 2-17; Limerick 0-12

Kilkenny had made a slow start to their league title defence (a draw with Dublin and a loss to Tipperary), but at Nowlan Park they showed their intent with a thorough dismissal of Limerick. Playing with the wind Kilkenny notched four of the first five points and Martin Comerford's goal at the end of the opening quarter made it 1-4 to 0-1. The game continued in much the same vein in the second quarter and a second goal by Derek Lyng just before the break effectively ended the game as a contest – 2-10 to 0-4.

With the wind in the second period it was expected that the visitors might make some



Donal O'Grady (Luimneach) and Richie Power (Cill Chainnigh).



Niall Moran (Luimneach) and Derek Lyng (Cill Chainnigh).

inroads into the deficit but in the third quarter they were outscored by five points to three. At the 57th minute Eddie Brennan made it 2-16 to 0-7 and the leaders relaxed in the closing ten minutes to concede five scores knowing the points had long been made safe. Limerick may have fielded a weakened side, but an 11-point loss was still a disappointing performance.

Kilkenny scorers: R.Power 0-6, M.Comerford 1-2, E.McCormack 0-3, D.Lyng 1-0, M.Rice 0-2, P.Cleere, E.Brennan, A.Fogarty, E.Larkin 0-1 each.
Limerick scorers: A. O'Shaughnessy 0-5, N.Moran 0-4, K.Tobin, Mike O'Brien, M.Fitzgerald 0-1 each.

Cill Chainnigh – P.J.Ryan, N.Hickey, B.Hogan, J.J.Delaney, J.Tyrrell, P.J.Delaney, T.Walsh, D.Lyng, M.Rice, P.Cleere, M.Comerford, R.Power, E.McCormack, E.Brennan, A.Fogarty. Subs – J.Dalton (Tyrrell), E.Larkin (Fogarty), M.Murphy (McCormack), W.O'Dwyer (Larkin).

Luimneach – B.Murray, D.Reale, S.Lucey, Maurice O'Brien, P.O'Dwyer, W.McNamara, P.Lawlor, D.O'Grady, K.Tobin, N.Moran, Mike O'Brien, C.Fitzgerald, A.O'Shaughnessy, S.O'Connor, B.Foley. Subs – J.O'Brien (Fitzgerald), S.Hickey (O'Dwyer), D.Ryan (Foley), M.Fitzgerald (O'Grady).

LAST year's All-Ireland winning captain Jackie Tyrrell has warned his Kilkenny teammates that they must shackle a red-hot Limerick forward line to retain their crown this afternoon. Tyrrell is the man with the responsibility of marking dangerman Andrew O'Shaughnessy, who has 2-39 to his credit in the current championship campaign.

But the James Stephens clubman is impressed with not only O'Shaughnessy, but the Limerick forward line as a unit. Tyrrell said: "There's danger all over the place but the big thing with Limerick this year is that their forwards are scoring.

"Andrew O'Shaughnessy is in the form of his life, Brian Begley is lethal on the edge of the square, Mike Fitzgerald is getting great scores and bringing Ollie Moran out of defence into the forwards has strengthened them up too. Their forwards have come on in leaps and bounds and they're running up big scores. "That will be a vital aspect of the game, it's up to us to get on top of them but we'll have our hands full."

Many pundits are surprised that it's Limerick, and not Waterford, who provide the opposition for Kilkenny in today's final. But Tyrrell has noted the steady upward curve on the Limerick graph which has brought them to a first final since 1996.

He said: "They've definitely improved hugely since their first match (against Tipperary). They bring a huge intensity and a phenomenal work-rate to their game. They're a confident team and playing well, they have some serious hurlers and Andrew O'Shaughnessy is on fire."

This afternoon, Limerick and Kilkenny will meet in a national final for the second year running. Kilkenny triumphed comfortably in the 2006 National League final, running out 3-11 to 0-14 winners, and Tyrrell believes that Limerick have improved beyond all recognition since then.

He said: "It was only with ten minutes to go that we pulled away. We're two completely different teams now. They're a more serious outfit and have totally reshaped their team. They're hurling with confidence and dangerous."

However, nothing beats experience and having finished 2006 on a high with a fine performance in last year's final, Tyrrell has put together a series of consistent displays this year to nail down a defensive slot.

The 25-year-old reflected: "Captaincy can affect people in different ways. I saw it as another role for me, as a leader, but we're all leaders in the Kilkenny team and I'm sure Henry (Shefflin) has noticed that this year. I'm a year wiser and more mature now so maybe the captaincy process and winning last year has given me the confidence to go on this year."

In the background, Tyrrell's club-mate Brian Cody has fuelled another onslaught on the major honours with a ferocious, insatiable appetite for success. Cody took charge ahead of the 1999 campaign and today will be his seventh final in charge, a phenomenal record.

Tyrrell, who joined the Kilkenny senior panel in 2003, agreed: "Brian has a huge hunger but we're driving ourselves on and bringing in new lads every year shoves us all on again."



**JACKIE
TYRELL**



PLAYER PROFILE

BY JACKIE CAHILL

FINAL ENCOUNTERS

GUINNESS
HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

LIMERICK 4, KILKENNY 3



Limerick captain, John Foley and Kilkenny captain, Nickey Orr, pictured with referee, John Moloney, before the start of the 1974 All-Ireland Final.

1897 Limerick 3-4 Kilkenny 2-4

In the ten years since the first All-Ireland final was played neither county had made an impression in the championship, but when the Kilfinane-backed squad and the Tullaroan-dominated team lined out at Tipperary town for this first final meeting, they were there on merit. Kilkenny had the better of the first-half exchanges and led by 2-4 to 1-1 at the break. The Limerick deficit would have been much greater but for the superb goalkeeping of Jim Reidy. Limerick took over in the second half and, despite Noreside resistance, eventually edged in front, but the issue was in doubt to the very end.

Luimneach – D.Grimes, S.Hanley, M.Flynn, P.Flynn, M.Finn, P.O'Brien, T.Brazil, J.Condon, J.Catteral, J.Hynes, P.Butler, J.Flood, P.Mulcahy, M.Downes, J.Reidy, J.Finn, P.Buskin.

Cill Chainnigh – Jack Walsh, J.Doheny, P.Maher, M.Dalton, E.Teehan, M.Lawlor, John Lawlor, James Lawlor, Jim Walsh, M.Merry, J.Quinn, P.Fielding, P.Ryan, E.Dunne, P.Malone, J.Grace, John Walsh.

1933 Kilkenny 1-7 Limerick 0-6

This first championship meeting in 36 years produced a game of great intensity with a dynamic first half during which scores were level three times...the third being at half time when both sides had four points on the board. An exchange of points immediately after the restart maintained parity but the vital blow was eventually struck by the Noresiders when Mattie Power hit a magnificent goal. Limerick didn't give up though, and it required a superb effort by the Kilkenny defence to deny the Mackeys, Clohessys and Ryans the scores they so avidly sought in a desperate finish.

Cill Chainnigh – J.Dermody, P.Larkin, P.O'Reilly, P.Phelan, P.Byrne, E.Doyle, E.Byrne, L.Meagher, J.Walsh, Martin Power, T.Leahy, J.Dunne, M.White, Mattie Power, J.Fitzpatrick. Subs – S.Duggan, J.O'Connell.

Luimneach – M.Fitzgibbon, P.Scanlan, T.Ryan, J.Mackey, M.Mackey, M.Cross, T.McCarthy, P.Clohessy, D.Clohessy, E.Cregan, M.Ryan, P.Ryan, J.Roche, G.Howard, C.O'Brien. Sub – W.O'Donoghue.

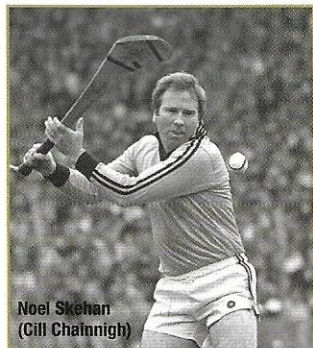
1935 Kilkenny 2-5 Limerick 2-4

If ever there was a supreme test of hurling and hurling men this was it. The game started in a downpour but the record crowd showed no inclination to depart the scene at any stage. Limerick, wearing the mantle of All-Ireland and National League champions were favourites and after Kilkenny had opened the scoring they moved smoothly into a 1-2 to 0-1 lead. Kilkenny swept back and Jack Duggan's goal gave them an interval lead of 1-3 to 1-2. Mick Mackey levelled four minutes after the restart, but again Kilkenny responded; they went five points clear before a late Limerick surge reduced the deficit to the minimum.

Cill Chainnigh – J.O'Connell, P.Larkin, P.O'Reilly, P.Blanchfield, E.Byrne, P.Byrne, P.Phelan, L.Meagher, T.Leahy, J.Walsh, J.Duggan, M.White, J.Dunne, L.Byrne, M.Power. Sub – L.Duggan.

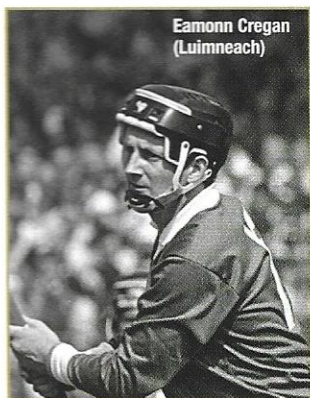
Luimneach – P.Scanlan, E.Cregan, T.McCarthy, M.Kennedy, M.Cross, P.Clohessy, G.Howard, T.Ryan, M.Ryan, J.Mackey, M.Mackey, J.Roche, J.O'Connell, P.McMahon, J.Close.

Continued overleaf



Noel Skehan
(Cill Chainnigh)

Continued from previous page



Eamonn Cregan
(Luimneach)

1936
Limerick 5-6 Kilkenny 1-5

The record crowd of 51,235 saw a first half that was brimful of

good hurling and reflected in many ways the excitement of the '33 and '35 finals, but they could not have envisaged the manner in which Kilkenny eventually surrendered their All-Ireland crown. This encounter brought out the best in Limerick although it was really only after the change of ends that they stamped their authority on proceedings. At the break the challengers led by 2-3 to 1-4 but when Mick Mackey opened up, his example was followed by Dave Clohessy, Jackie Power and Timmy Ryan to devastating effect. In a rush of goals only Eddie Byrne, Phelan and Jimmy Walsh performed up to par; a 13-point winning margin tells the story.

Luimneach – P.Scanlan, T.McCarthy, P.O'Carroll, M.Kennedy, M.Cross, P.Clohessy, G.Howard, T.Ryan, M.Ryan, J.Mackey, M.Mackey, J.Roche, D.Clohessy, P.McMahon, J.Power.
Cill Chainnigh – J.O'Connell, P.Larkin, P.O'Reilly, P.Blanchfield, P.Byrne, L.Byrne, P.Phelan, L.Meagher, T.Leahy, J.Walsh, M.White, J.Duggan, J.Dunne, "Locky" Byrne, M.Power. Sub – W.Burke.

1940
Limerick 3-7 Kilkenny 1-7

Kilkenny were defending the crown they had won in dramatic circumstances the previous year while Limerick were back in the

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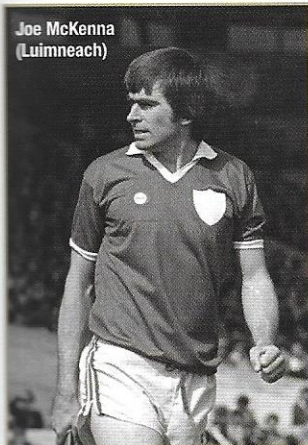
*"Chosen for the All-Ireland Senior Finals '05 & '06
'for distance and accuracy'"*
- SUNDAY SPORT



final for the first time since their 1936 triumph. The early stages favoured Kilkenny and they were not flattered by an interval lead of 1-4 to 1-2. The Nonesiders still looked to be on course to retain their title in the opening minutes of the second half, but then the Limerick mentors made a couple of switches that turned the game in their favour. The moving of Mick Mackey was the crucial change and from a position of setting the pace, Kilkenny were soon defending desperately and the Shannonsiders quickly grabbed a lead that they comfortably kept to the final whistle.

Luimneach – P.Scanlan, J.McCarthy, M.Hickey, M.Kennedy, T.Cooke, P.Clohesy, P.Cregan, T.Ryan, J.Roche, J.Mackey, M.Mackey, R.Stokes, E.Chawke, P.McMahon, J.Power. Sub – A.Herbert.

Cill Chainnigh – J.O’Connell, P.Grace, P.Larkin, P.Blanchfield, R.Hinks, W.Burke, P.Phelan, J.Walsh, J.Kelly, J.Langton, T.Leahy, J.Gargan, J.Mulcahy, S.O’Brien, J.Phelan.



Joe McKenna
(Luimneach)

**1973
Limerick 1-21 Kilkenny 1-14**

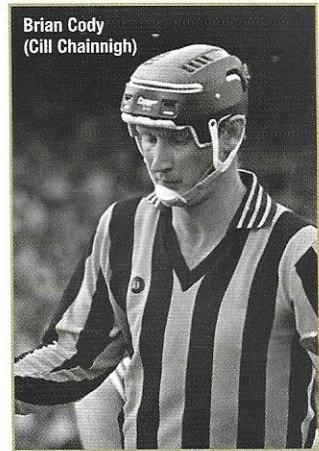
Limerick had returned to the All-Ireland scene after a lapse of more than 30 years while Kilkenny were in the familiar role of defending champions. In the ordinary course of events Kilkenny would have been favourites for this final, but the absence of four leading players left them a somewhat weakened side and the Shannonsiders were not slow to make the best use of their chances. From early on the scores flowed for Limerick with Richie Bennis and Ned Rea repeatedly on the mark despite some sterling work by Pat Henderson, “Fan” Larkin and Noel Skehan. At the break it was 1-12 to 1-7 and though Kilkenny did get on terms shortly after the resumption, Limerick took it up again and pulled away for a seven-point victory.

Luimneach – S.Horgan, W.Moore, P.Hartigan, J.O’Brien, R.Bennis, E.Cregan, S.Foley, R.Bennis, E.Grimes, B.Hartigan, M.Dowling, L.O’Donoghue, F.Nolan, E.Rea, J.McKenna. Sub – T.Ryan.

Cill Chainnigh – N.Skehan, P.Larkin, N.Orr, P.Cullen, P.Lawlor, P.Henderson, B.Cody, F.Cummins, L.O’Brien, C.Dunne, P.Delaney, P.Broderick, M.Crotty, J.Lynch, M.Brennan. Subs – K.Purcell, W.Harte, J.Kinsella.

**1974
Kilkenny 3-19 Limerick 1-13**

Kilkenny supporters were not the only ones to wonder if their team could reverse the verdict of the previous year. That was especially the case when the



Brian Cody
(Cill Chainnigh)

Shannonsiders recorded the first four scores of the match. However, on this occasion Kilkenny had no injury worries and goals by Keher and Brennan soon had them flying and they turned over leading by 3-7 to 1-9. Limerick’s second-half efforts produced by Grimes, Pat Hartigan and Richie Bennis, gallant though they were, failed to halt the ever-widening gap. By the three-quarters stage it was obvious that only a miracle could save Limerick, but it never materialised as Kilkenny avenged the defeat of twelve months previously.

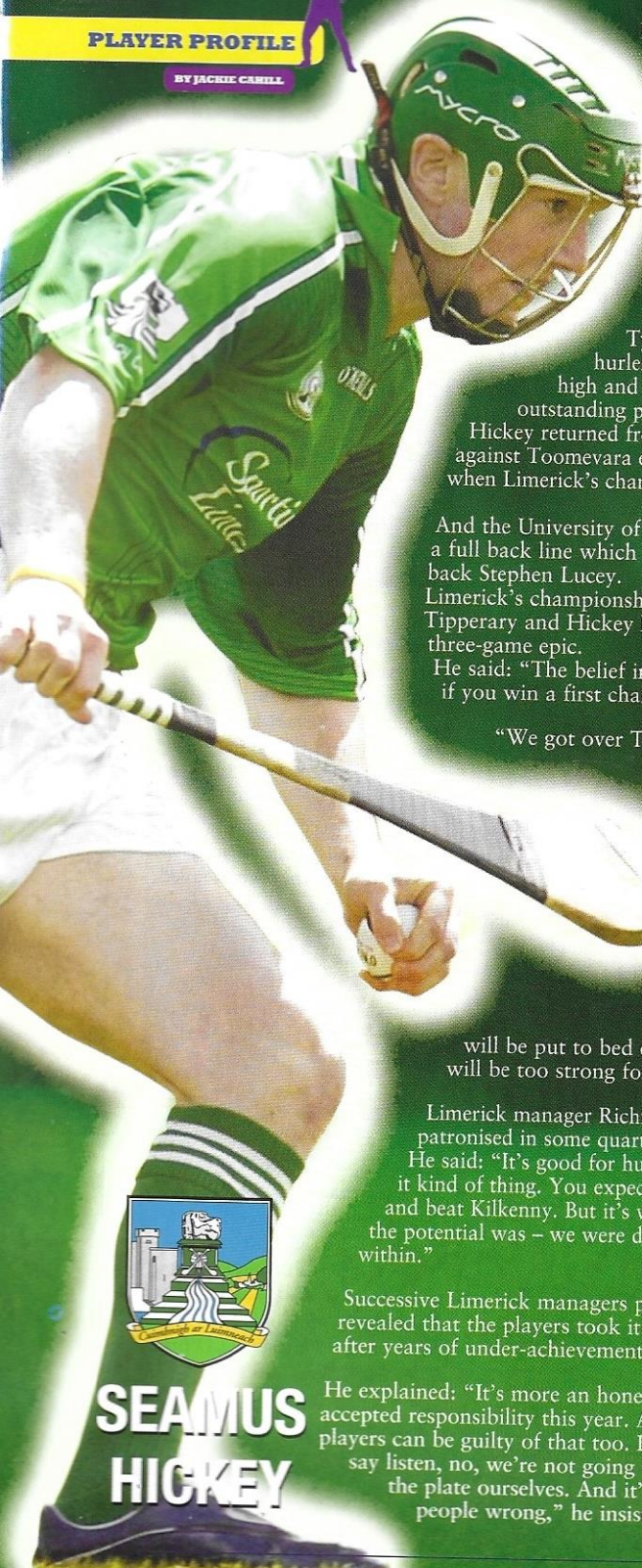
Cill Chainnigh – N.Skehan, P.Larkin, N.Orr, J.Treacy, P.Lawlor, P.Henderson, T.McCormack, L.O’Brien, F.Cummins, M.Crotty, P.Delaney, W.Fitzpatrick, M.Brennan, K.Purcell, E.Keher.

Luimneach – S.Horgan, W.Moore, P.Hartigan, J.O’Brien, T.Ryan, E.Cregan, S.Foley, B.Hartigan, E.Grimes, J.McKenna, R.Bennis, M.Ruth, L.O’Donoghue, E.Rea, F.Nolan. Subs – P.Bennis, P.Kelly, P.Fitzmaurice.



PLAYER PROFILE

BY JACKIE CARRILL



SÉAMUS Hickey returns to Croke Park this afternoon for his second All-Ireland final in three seasons – but this time as a senior hurler.

Hickey was a member of the Limerick minor team beaten by four points against Galway in 2005 but he's back just two years later to sample the glamour of a senior showpiece.

Hickey made his senior debut for Limerick aged just 18 in 2006 when he appeared as a substitute against Tipperary in the Munster SHC defeat. A few short weeks later, he was handed his first start against Clare in the qualifiers but the Shannonsiders collapsed in Ennis and lost by a whopping 17-point margin.

Typically, Hickey was one of the few Limerick hurlers who emerged from that game with his head held high and his stock has risen considerably with a string of outstanding performances this year.

Hickey returned from a serious injury sustained in a challenge match against Toomevara earlier in the year and was fully fit and raring to go when Limerick's championship campaign began in earnest.

And the University of Limerick student has been a tower of strength in a full back line which also contains team captain Damien Reale and full back Stephen Lucey.

Limerick's championship campaign began with a notable victory over Tipperary and Hickey has spoken of a 'snowball' effect following that three-game epic.

He said: "The belief in Limerick was always that things will snowball if you win a first championship match and I think that holds true.

"We got over Tipperary after three serious efforts, didn't do ourselves justice in the Munster final but once we got to Croke Park, it was easy to get going."

Limerick bounced back from their Munster final heartbreak against Waterford to see off the challenge of Clare before they produced their best performance in many years to thunder past Waterford when the sides met again.

But there's still a perception out there, which will be put to bed one way or another this afternoon, that Kilkenny will be too strong for Limerick when push comes to shove.

Limerick manager Richie Bennis reckons that his team have been patronised in some quarters and Hickey is inclined to agree.

He said: "It's good for hurling for Limerick to be there but they won't win it kind of thing. You expect that but we have to believe that we can go out and beat Kilkenny. But it's very understandable for people not to see where the potential was – we were down so low last year and it had to come from within."

Successive Limerick managers paid the price for poor results but Hickey revealed that the players took it upon themselves this year to make an impact after years of under-achievement.

He explained: "It's more an honesty factor among the players. The players have accepted responsibility this year. A lot of people put onus on management and players can be guilty of that too. But we took the initiative among ourselves to say listen, no, we're not going to take this anymore, we're going to step up to the plate ourselves. And it's been more to satisfy ourselves than to prove people wrong," he insisted.



SEAMUS HICKEY

Tackling the discipline maze

Seán Moran (Irish Times) takes us through the procedures



For anyone who feels that the alphabetical blizzard of all the new discipline committees – CCCC, CHC and CAC – sounds more like a heavy morning’s computer programming than streamlined administration, let’s go back to the turn of this decade and look at the structures then.

Basically you had a Games Administration Committee whose job it was to do virtually everything the title suggested: make fixtures, impose suspensions, conduct investigations, level charges and hear cases. You could appeal to Central Council but that was the limit of the process.

The trouble with the old GAC was that it was a legal time bomb and its multi-tasking gave ample scope for the aggrieved to take decisions off to the high court for injunctions. On constitutional grounds it was too questionable to have the one body investigating, charging and judging.

What exists now tries to tackle the situation on a few levels. Firstly the Central Competitions Control Committee has no power to impose suspensions or punishments. It simply suggests what it believes is an appropriate response to a referee’s report or an investigation.

Video evidence can be used by the CCCC to deal with an incident that the referee hasn’t noticed. If the referee has taken action there is still a possibility that video can be used.

In the controversial circumstances of an official having taken the wrong action, eg showing a yellow card for what is clearly a red-card offence the referee can be approached and asked to review the video. If he is

still satisfied with the yellow card the matter rests; if not the CCCC is free to pursue the matter and suggest a suspension.

It’s up to the individual involved to decide whether they’ll take their medicine and accept the suggestion or fight the matter further.

This is a bit like pleading guilty or not guilty. In the first instance the individual accepts the charge and doesn’t believe it worthwhile to pursue things farther. In the second, the desire is for a hearing during which the person or unit charged can attempt to establish that they didn’t breach any rules or that they don’t deserve to be punished.

An example of the first instance would be Meath’s Brian Farrell, who accepted his four weeks for a sending off against Kildare and didn’t look for a hearing.

Examples of the second instance are all around us, as players and units rarely believe that a hearing isn’t worth a try. If a hearing is requested the matter goes to the Central Hearings Committee (CHC) and the CCCC act like a prosecution, making the case for their suggested suspension while the player or unit charged defend themselves.

APPEALS

Should that hearing uphold the CCCC case, the next remedy for whoever’s suspended or otherwise punished is to take an appeal to the Central Appeals Committee.

There is often reference made to people getting off on a ‘technicality’ but to be fair to the CAC the only grounds on which they can make a decision are procedural or technical. The CAC

don’t get to decide on the facts of the case, only the application of rule. The committee rarely watch video evidence for instance because it’s not its function to re-adjudicate the facts of the matter.

If the CAC’s decision still isn’t to the liking of one of the parties the only remaining option is the Disputes Resolution Authority. The DRA was set up as an independent tribunal to tackle the situation whereby the High Court was being used to get players eligible for big matches.

The tactic was simple: get a temporary injunction to lift the suspension for just long enough to play in a particular match. The reasons didn’t have to be cast iron, merely sufficient to convince the court that the matter should be looked at and that it would be unfair if the player couldn’t play because if he were to win his case there would be no way of making it up to him later.

Inevitably the full cases were never heard and lapsed, as the purpose of freeing the player for a specific occasion had been served. The DRA combines legal expertise and knowledge of the GAA and often hears cases fully in advance of specific matches.

Despite the Official Guide’s stipulation that members aren’t allowed take the GAA to court, anyone is constitutionally entitled to do so but if the High Court sees that the applicant has already been given an independent hearing, it is less likely to award interim injunctions.

Since the DRA came into operation in May 2005 the GAA has only once had an injunction awarded against it and that was immediately overturned in Court.

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AG FÉACHAINT SIAR

Fifty Years Ago — 1957 —

Cork's first defence of their Munster title saw them down Clare by 4-10 to 2-6 at Limerick while the Tipperary-Kerry game at Tralee was almost a farce as the Premier county beat the locals by 8-8 to 2-2. Limerick's 5-5 on their first outing failed to match Waterford's 4-12 at the Athletic Grounds and in the other 'semi' Cork defeated Tipperary by 5-2 to 1-11 at the Gaelic Grounds. There was a surprise in the final at Thurles with Waterford beating Cork by 1-11 to 1-6.

The lesser lights opened the Leinster campaign with Offaly beating Laois by 5-7 to 3-6 and Westmeath edging out Meath by 3-7 to 4-2. Offaly defeated Westmeath by 4-5 to 1-3 to qualify for the 'last four' where they gave a reasonable account of themselves before losing to Wexford by 3-3 to 5-10. Dublin almost toppled Kilkenny in the other half of the draw (1-11 to 2-8) with the Noresiders winning the replay by 4-8 to 2-8. Kilkenny caused a big shock in the final as they ousted the defending champions by 5-9 to 1-5.

Coming in cold to tackle the Munster champions was too great an assignment for Galway whose brave effort fizzled out (0-11 to 4-12). The All-Ireland final was a hectic and brilliant affair which looked like ending in a draw until Kilkenny hit an injury-time winner to defeat Waterford by 4-10 to 3-12.

Seventy-Five Years Ago — 1932 —

Meath failed to score in the opening round at An Uaimh in response to Kilkenny's 4-6 and Dublin had an uncertain hour before beating Wexford by 4-2 to 2-5 at Enniscorthy. Birr was of little assistance to Offaly when they took on neighbours Laois who finished comfortable winners by 6-8 to 5-2. Subsequently Portlaoise did little for the O'Moore county as they fell to Kilkenny by 2-5 to 4-12. It wasn't nearly so easy for the "Cats" in the final as Dublin made a great bid before conceding the verdict by 3-5 to 4-6.

Limerick survived a stiff Tipperary challenge at Cork finally winning by 4-2 to 1-5. Cork's first defence of their Munster and All-Ireland crowns saw them comfortable winners over Waterford 5-6 to 1-5 while Clare were easy winners over Kerry (8-3 to 2-2) at the Gaelic Grounds. A tremendous battle at Thurles ended with Cork five-point winners over Limerick (5-4 to 3-5), but the Leesiders reign came to an end when Clare won a topsy-turvy final by 5-2 to 4-1.

In an amazing All-Ireland semi/final with Galway at Limerick, Clare trailed by 15 points at one stage of the second half, before staging a remarkable recovery to win by 9-4 to 4-14. However, in the final Kilkenny bridged a ten-year gap as they defeated the Banner by 3-3 to 2-3.

One Hundred Years Ago — 1907 —

After their shock defeat of the previous year, Kilkenny's cautious approach was reflected in their 2-17 to 1-3 demolition of Wexford at Jones's Road, but Dublin had a hard fight to hold off Laois at Portarlinton by 3-8 to 1-10. Kildare's venture into senior competition was a disaster as Offaly overwhelmed them at Athy by 7-15 to 0-3. At Tuillamore the semi/final between Kilkenny and Offaly was a close encounter for three-quarters of the hour before the Noresiders pulled away for a 3-8 to 1-6 win. In the final at Athy Kilkenny exacted sweet revenge for the previous year's defeat with a 4-14 to 1-9 win over Dublin.

In Munster, Limerick were trounced (8-15 to 1-6) by Cork at Tipperary while at the Markets Field Kerry defeated Clare by 1-12 to 2-5. Only one semi/final was played in which Tipperary held off a strong Waterford challenge by 3-15 to 3-5. Cork had a walkover against Kerry and regained the provincial crown with a 1-6 to 1-4 win over Tipperary at Dungarvan.

Antrim hammered Derry in the Ulster final by 4-17 to 1-6, but at Dundalk were always struggling against Dublin and eventually succumbed by 2-5 to 5-10. The Cork-Galway semi/final at Limerick was unfinished with the Leesiders leading by 2-8 to 1-7 and, after a meeting of the Central Council, the Munster champions were awarded the game. The All-Ireland final at Dungarvan was an epic with Kilkenny taking their third title on a 3-12 to 4-8 scoreline.

Goggles, Bangers and Fast Eddie

Brian Finnegan

The subject of hurling nicknames brings to mind the familiar story of how Setanta (no, not the Fijian version) was given the moniker of Cúchulainn after he killed a hound that prevented him from entering his uncle's palace. The accuracy and power of his shot, rammed down the dog's throat, was not matched until Andrew O'Shaughnessy ended Waterford's dreams in the closing minutes of this year's semi-final.

Players with nicknames have followed in Cúchulainn's footsteps by shining in all-Ireland hurling finals since the earliest days of the GAA. "Bossie" Cantillon and "Fields" Maher won medals in the 1890s for Cork and Tipperary respectively. Kilkenny fans will happily recount the exploits of "Drug" Walsh of Mooncoin, who won the third of his seven medals in 1907, 100 years ago.

Known for singing "Clare's Dragoons", his tendency to sing "Drugoons" meant that few Kilkenny folk know of the exploits of Richard Walsh.

As the popularity of the GAA increased in the early years of the 20th century, names like Jim "Hawk" O'Brien and Pat "Wedger" Meagher entered Tipperary's hurling folklore. Pat "Fox" Maher sealed the 1904 title for Kilkenny when he made a dramatic late save. Brothers Mick "Gah" and Pat "Balty" Aherne were among the Rebel stars of the famous Cork-Kilkenny trilogy of 1931. John Joe "Goggles" Doyle is remembered as the captain of the valiant Clare team that fell to Kilkenny in the final of 1932, a team that also included "Tull" Considine and "Fowler" McNerney.

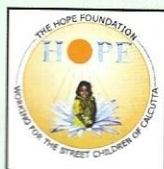
One of Kilkenny hurling's darkest hours was the Killarney final of 1937, when they were

beaten by 17 points by the Tipperary team of Jimmy "Butler" Coffey and Denis "Bunny" Murphy. The Ryan brothers, "Mutt" and "Sweeper", won medals with Tipperary in 1945. MJ "Inky" Flaherty and John "Jobber" McGrath toiled in vain for Galway and Westmeath, respectively, in the 1940s and 1950s. This was the era of Nicky Rackard's great battles with Pat "Diamond" Hayden and Jim "Link" Walsh. Donal "Duck" Whelan featured on many of Waterford's finest days around this period, winning an all-Ireland medal in 1959. Managers, too, are sometimes known by nicknames – Jim "Tough" Barry and Michael "Babs" Keating (the youngest of three Michael Keatings in his local school) are two examples of bainisteoirí who have led their native counties to all-Ireland glory.

GAA's Official Charities

The GAA's official charities for 2007 are the Hope Foundation and Temple Street Children's Hospital.

The Hope Foundation (HOPE) was set up in 1999 to help restore basic human rights to the street children of Calcutta. Through providing formal and non-formal education, a nutrition programme and health care, HOPE aims to protect these children from exploitation and danger and give them back their right to a childhood. Further information is available from HOPE on 021-4292990 or at www.hopefoundation.ie



Temple Street University Children's Hospital provides an acute paediatric service and specialist paediatric health care for children from all over Ireland. As the hospital provides increasingly specialised services, the demand on limited resources continues to grow. The Hospital's priorities are to enhance, develop and fund new equipment, new technologies and new medical specialities within all areas of the hospital. Further information is available from 01 8784200 or at www.childrenshospital.ie Anyone who wishes to make donations to the GAA's official charities can do so through a special Bank account:
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GAA Charitable Donations Account
Bank: AIB, Drumcondra, Dublin 9
Sort Code: 93-21-08. Account: 03432098

Gaelic Telecom National Awards:

A Limerick Connection!



Gaelic Telecom, an official partner of the GAA, undertook the sponsorship of Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta National Award Scheme in 2006. The awards are given in recognition to schools and counties that have excelled in the promotion of Gaelic games. The Pat Trainor Memorial Award is dedicated to the memory of our late treasurer and is awarded to a teacher who has made a significant contribution towards Gaelic games in our schools. The recipient of this special award in 2006 was Tom Garry, retired principal teacher of Guardian Angels' N.S. Newtownpark Avenue, Dublin. Tom, a native of Castleconnell, served as secretary, treasurer, chairman and central council representative for many years while he was a member of Cumann na mBunscol Áth Cliath. Tom was also one of the founding figures of Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta in the early 1970s.



Tom receiving his award from Minister for Education, Mary Hanafin TD.

Limerick and Kilkenny fans will recall some of their nicknamed heroes of more recent years. Liam "Chunky" O'Brien won three all-stars in a row for the Cats between 1973 and 1975. Mick "Cloney" Brennan scored crucial goals for the Noresiders in the 1974 and 1979 finals, and Michael "Titch" Phelan did likewise in the 1992 final. Pat "Beefy" Heffernan and "Iron Mike" Houlihan are associated with the great Limerick team of the mid-1990s, which beat the Clare team of Ger "Sparrow" O'Loughlin and Christy "Rusty" Chaplin in the Munster final of 1994. Having lost to Offaly in that year's all-Ireland final, Limerick were again denied in 1996, this time by the Wexford team of Larry "Brother" O'Gorman.

The most celebrated Kilkenny hurler of recent times was DJ "Dodger" Carey, whose nicknamesake Donal "Dodger" O'Grady lines out for Limerick in today's final. Along with his midfield colleague Mike "Bangers" O'Brien, the Shannonside Dodger will be trying to subdue last year's young hurler of the year, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick just as he did to Waterford's Michael "Brick"

Walsh in last month's semi-final. Martin "Gorta" Comerford (apparently brother Andy ate all the spuds!) turned the 2003 final with a famous goal at the Canal End – Mark "Rashers" Foley will be one of the Limerick backs trying to prevent a similar outcome today. The star forwards on either team are known by less imaginative nicknames – which of "King Henry" and "Shocks" will be celebrating when Diarmuid "The Ref" Kirwan blows the final whistle later this afternoon.

A feature of all-Ireland hurling finals over recent years has been the emergence of unlikely heroes – "lesser lights" who have come to the fore on hurling's biggest day. The most recent example was of course Aidan "Taggy" Fogarty, who produced a man-of-the-match display against Cork last year. His goal, pilfered when the sliothar broke off Cork's full-back Diarmuid "the Rock" O'Sullivan, set Kilkenny on the way to their 29th all-Ireland title. Perhaps someone with a nickname will emerge to change the game in similar fashion today – how about Niall "Rooster" Moran or "Fast Eddie" Brennan?

AN ALL STAR TEAM OF NICKNAMES!

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Damien "Fitzy" Fitzhenry | | |
| 2. Aidan "Ringo" Kearney | 3. Diarmuid "The Rock" O'Sullivan | 4. Brian "Bull" Phelan |
| 5. Diarmuid "Gizzy" Lyng | 6. Declan "Skippy" Ruth | 7. Mark "Rashers" Foley |
| 8. James "Cha" Fitzpatrick | 9. Mike "Bangers" O'Brien | |
| 10. "King Henry" Shefflin | 11. Michael "Brick" Walsh | 12. Martin "Gorta" Comerford |
| 13. "Fast Eddie" Brennan | 14. Kieran "Fraggy" Murph | 15. Andrew "Shocks" O'Shaughnessy |

Manager: Michael "Babs" Keating



Kilkenny All Ireland Hurling champions of 1982 and 1983 Honoured

When Kilkenny take to the field today to try and retain their All Ireland title, they will be supported from the stands by the great Kilkenny teams that won the All Ireland hurling titles of 1982 and 1983, who are special guests at today's games. Twenty-five years ago, Kilkenny defeated Cork by 3-18 to 1-13 to win their 22nd All Ireland title and twelve months later, they also annexed the 1983 crown when they defeated the Rebels by 2-14 to 2-12.

The 1982 campaign had started for Kilkenny in Croke Park on June 20th with a facile victory over Westmeath when the Cats managed to raise seven green flags in a comfortable win. Reigning Leinster and All Ireland Champions, Offaly, provided the opposition in the Leinster final and, in a close game, Kilkenny edged out winners on a scoreline of 1-11 to 0-12.

The semi-final brought the Cats into contact with a fancied Galway side but, racking up a winning score of 2-20 Kilkenny returned to the All Ireland decider for the first time since 1979. While the attendance at the final had slipped to under 60,000 for the first time since the War, there was little to choose between the sides before Christy

Heffernan scored a brace of goals just before half time to leave it 2-11 to 0-7 at the interval. Cork rallied in the second period, but Kilkenny were clearly the better side and ran out comfortable 3-18 to 1-11 winners. The Captain of that side was one Brian Cody, who today leads Kilkenny in their quest for a 5th All Ireland title under his guidance.

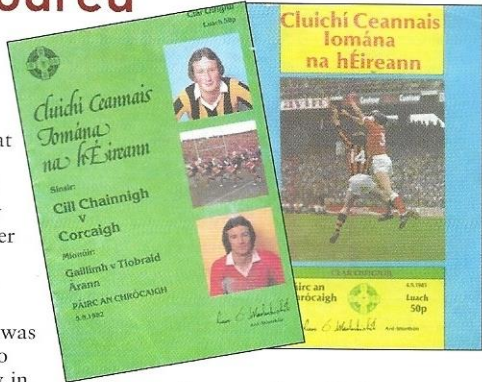
Kilkenny's defence of their title in 1983 began in uninspired fashion in a Leinster semi-final against Wexford. At one point, they trailed the Slaneysiders by seven points, but two goals from Liam Fennelly and one each for Billy Fitzpatrick, Kieran Brennan and Christy Heffernan ensured an eventual 5-13 to 3-15 victory.

The Leinster Final with Offaly was another tight affair and, like the previous year, a single goal proved crucial. It came from the stick of Christy Heffernan and with Billy Fitzpatrick scoring five points, Kilkenny were Leinster Champions and straight through to the All Ireland final where Cork again waited.

This time, it was a lot closer, as a very strong second half

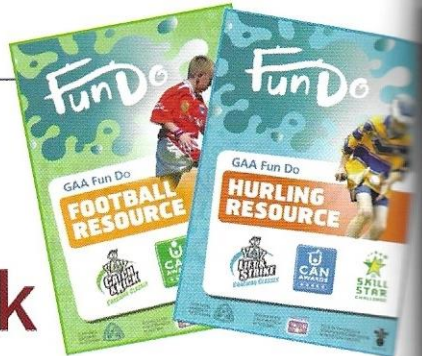
performance from Cork saw them pare back what was at one stage a nine point deficit but Kilkenny held their nerve to record a narrow victory – 2-14 to 2-12 – and deliver the county's 23rd All Ireland title

The players from those great Kilkenny teams who will be honoured today are: Brian Cody (Captain 1982), Liam Fennelly (Captain 1983), Mick Cloney Brennan, Kieran Brennan, Nickey Brennan, Frank Cummins, Ger Fennelly, Kevin Fennelly, Sean Fennelly, Billy Fitzpatrick, Christy Heffernan, Ger Henderson, John Henderson, Joe Hennessy, Frank Holohan, Michael Kelly, Paudie Lennon, Dinny McCormack, Tom McCormack, Paddy Neary, Dick O'Hara, Richie Power, Paddy Prendergast, Billy Purcell, Matt Ruth, Gordon Ryan, Harry Ryan, Noel Skehan, Eamonn Wallace, Billy Walton.



The Kilkenny team which won the All-Ireland in 1982:
Front L-R: Richie Power, Noel Skehan, Brian Cody (captain), Kieran Brennan, Ger Fennelly, Ger Henderson, Paddy Prendergast.
Back L-R: Dick O'Hara, Christy Heffernan, Frank Cummins, Tom McCormack, Liam Fennelly, Billy Fitzpatrick, Nicky Brennan, John Henderson.

GAA Fun Do Learning Resource Pack



When we see the top stars of Hurling and Football line out on an All-Ireland final day, generally it is our brightest talents performing at the peak of their careers. But those brilliant players only reach the pinnacle after a lifetime of development that can be traced back to the very first day they held a hurley or kicked a football.

The secret to developing any young player is getting it right at the start but often the people who first introduce youngsters to our games are not necessarily certain what they should be doing. It is regularly left to parents of young players or schoolteachers who may not have had much knowledge of the game to carry the responsibility of facilitating those vital first steps.

However, on October 1st, the GAA will launch an exciting new learning resource pack. The GAA Fun Do Learning Resource Pack will provide Coaches of all levels with the tools to enable young players from nursery age right up to the end of primary school level, in the basic skills of Football and Hurling.

The GAA Fun Do Pack contains a state-of-the-art interactive DVD, which combines the latest technology with a practical resource that will make it user-friendly to even the least techno-minded individual. Linking up with the GAA's Ú Can Skill Awards Passport, the Fun Do interactive DVD sets out an array of activities, which enable coaches to effectively plan and carry out child-friendly training sessions according to best practice.

This Resource Pack is the result of meticulous planning and preparation by the Association and compares favourably with anything that has ever been produced by any other sport in the world. Filmed by professional cameramen in various locations around the country, the quality of the footage is remarkably good and the user will find it very easy to utilize the various aspects of the content.

"We wanted a Resource Pack for people who are coaching kids," explains Pat Daly, Director of GAA Games. "We decided to fuse technology, sport, education and health and bring them all together in a manner that would ensure children were being introduced to the games in a quality way."

He continued: "There are over four hours of top class video footage on the DVD Rom. This footage is integrated with over 1,000 activities between Hurling and Football all of which are complemented by a series of written manuals. What we are trying to do is to facilitate people who are involved in coaching kids and thus ensure they're doing the best job possible."

"The activities included are referenced to childhood needs. We have differentiated between children at nursery level right through to those in sixth class so this is programmed for children from the start right up to the end of primary school, whether they are in schools or clubs."

"For instance in a nursery context, we have set out a generic

programme that will provide the underpinning basic motor skills (agility, balance, coordination) which will enable children to move onto the sports specific skills which are broken down into under-8's, under 10's and under 12's. In addition to the actual skills we then provide key tips surrounding games because this is all pitched in the context of 'Play and Stay with the GAA'.

"At the end of the day kids want to play a game and the game has to be appropriate to childhood needs. It is also essential that children acquire the basic skills of Hurling and Football be they technical, tactical, or team-play - in the most spontaneous and enjoyable manner possible and we are confident that the GAA Fun Do Learning Resource Park will play no small part in bringing this to fruition.

In the final analysis, the GAA Fun Do Learning Resource Park bears out the old Irish proverb "tús maith leath na h-oibre" – A good start is half the job.

Each GAA Fun Do Learning Resource Pack is tailored for either Gaelic Football or Hurling depending on the coach's needs. In total each resource pack contains an interactive DVD Rom, a Skills DVD, a Nursery DVD in addition to supplementary manuals on GAA Go Games, catch and kick Coaching Classes or lift and strike Coaching Classes, a Coach Handbook and a Nursery Manual.

For further information on the GAA Fun Do Learning Resource Pack visit www.gaa.ie.

Croke Park pitch withstands demanding schedule

ONE of the many fascinations of attending games in Croke Park over the past month has been the remarkable condition of the pitch which has come in for glowing praise from players, managers and media alike.

Despite an incredibly heavy schedule, a surface that has regularly hosted six games in little over twenty-four hours remains in superb condition for hurling and football. There's almost certainly no other big stadium in the world with such a busy programme of games in a 5/6 week period and it's a tribute to all concerned that after a few years of mixed reviews the Croke Park surface is now in such excellent condition.

Concerns over the hardness and traction were expressed last year, leading to a promise by Uachtarán Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Nickey Brennan that the problems would be sorted out for this year's championship. To that end, the GAA appointed Joe Bedford, Past President of both the Irish and European Golf Greenkeepers' Associations and

Golf Course Manager in Hollinstown, Dublin to undertake an examination of the Croke Park pitch and to make recommendations as to ways of improving it.

Arising from his findings and recommendations, the GAA appointed a renowned turfgrass consultancy firm, The Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) early this year to work on the pitch. STRI provided a team of dedicated specialists to deal specifically with Croke Park under the direction of project manager and lead consultant, Richard Hayden, B Agr.Sc, C Sc. M.Eng.

Richard is a native of Graignamanagh, Co.Kilkenny and works internationally on similar projects with the STRI team. Under the direction of Peter McKenna, Croke Park Stadium Director, the groundstaff, Robert Ellis (head groundsman) and his assistants Paddy Walsh and Marcel Bentea embraced the exciting challenge which lay ahead.

In order to explain exactly what work was carried out, it's

necessary to outline the precise nature of the pitch. It's made up of 12 inches of a sand rootzone, overlying a porous drainage layer with plastic fibre strands providing stability to the surface. This is combined with air ventilation, hot water piped heating and irrigation systems to control growing conditions on the pitch. A series of initial tests were carried out to determine and compare pitch performance with standardised criteria for similar pitch constructions and as a result the GAA set a number of performance improvement targets for this year.

In late April, a series of intensive maintenance works were carried out by Harris Turf Improvements, Co. Kildare and Clive Richardson Ltd, Armagh. Initially, this involved the scalp mowing of the sward, followed by intensive scarification and removal of dead material and algae growth.

Several mechanical aerators were used for the removal of the small cores. Carefully selected sand was brushed into these holes to enhance the pitch surface. Top varieties of Ryegrass were oversown into the surface, followed by specialised fertilising. A germination blanket was used in conjunction with the undersoil heating and irrigation systems to quickly germinate the seed. This meant that the pitch was playable again in just four weeks after the renovation which was quite remarkable.



Subsequent performance tests indicated dramatic improvements to the pitch, leading to very positive feedback from players, managers, media and supporters. Meanwhile, similar performance tests were carried out at selected GAA grounds around the country and this information was combined with the data collected at Croke Park and used for benchmarking the performance of the pitch.

This included measurement of grass height, species composition, pitch make-up, hardness, traction, stud penetration, rooting depth, water infiltration and ball bounce. This data will be used to set standard



performance criteria for Croke Park and other natural turf pitches in the future.

Meanwhile on this, one of the great days in Irish sport as the country's hurlers showcase their skills, it's rewarding for 82,300 GAA supporters to look out on the Croke Park pitch, knowing that it's in its best ever condition. It has taken some time to get it to this stage but the wait has been worth it and now the players can enjoy playing on a surface that's true and reliable, whatever the weather. What's more it's well able to stand up to the demanding schedule which the modern-day GAA championships present.

An tAos Óg

Is minic a chloisimid daoine ag trá as Béarla, "That lad is a born hurler." Ní dóigh liom áfach go bhfuil sé sin fíor ar chor ar bith. I mo bharúil féin, is é i mbroinn na timpeallachta a ghintear iománaithe agus sa timpeallacht sin, creidim-se féin, gurab iad na bunscoileanna agus na múinteoirí na tionchair is mó éifeachta. Dá bhrí sin, is mithid dúinn go léir aitheantas a thabhairt do na mílte múinteoirí ar fud na tíre as an méid atá déanta acu thar na blianta fada chun an iománaíocht a chothú agus a spreagadh i measc aos óg na hÉireann. Tá an CLG go mór faoi chomaoin ag na múinteoirí sin, ag na Bráithre agus ag na sagairt a lean ar aghaidh leis an dea-obair le díogras, le dílseacht agus, ar ndóigh, saor in aisce.

Ba mhaith liom inniu aitheantas ar leith a thabhairt do chisteoir Chumann na mBunscoileanna, an Bráthair Jim Dormer, atá in a mhúinteoir i mBunscoil na mBráithre i nDún Bleisce, Co Luimnigh. I measc na n-imreoirí i bPáirc an Chróchaigh inniu

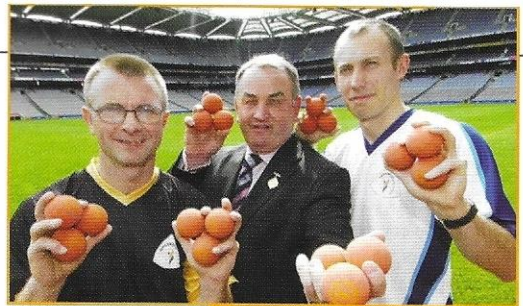
beidh tríúr ar a laighead a raibh sé de rath acu teacht faoi thionchar an Bhráthair seo – Michael Fitzgerald (Luimneach), Tom Tracey (Tiobrad Árann) agus gasúr óg ó Scoil na mBráithre i nDún Bleisce, Darragh Stapleton. Áit ar bith ina raibh an Bráthair Dormer lonnaithe, rinne sé a sheacht ndéichead chun an iománaíocht a chur ar aghaidh. Nach bhfuil sár-aithne againn go léir ar Dan Shanahan, laoch mór Phort Láirge? Iar-scoláire eile de chuid an Bhráthair é Dan. Tá a chion déanta aige fosta chun cuidiú le fás na hiománaíochta ins na « contaethe laga ». Thug sá triall ar na mallaibh, i dteannta le sgaipte iománaithe óga ón a scoil féin, ó thuaidh go hArd Mhacha, an áit clúiteach sin as a dtáinig an t-íománaí a b'fhearr a mhair riamh in Éirinn, Cúchulainn féin!

Gura fada buan thú, a Bhráthair, agus gura fada buan baill uilig na mBunscoileanna. Go gcúití Dia daoibh go léir bhur saothar ar son na hiománaíochta agus ar son aos óg na tíre seo.



Pictured at Croke Park (l-r): Ciaran Byrne (PRO), Paul Duggan (Chairman), Nickey Brennan, Br Dormer (Treasurer) and Margaret Cunningham (Secretary).

Minor Issue for Handball



Ducksy Walsh – still making headlines at 41: The Kilkenny handballer last night contested the All-Ireland Senior Singles title against Dublin's Eoin Kennedy in a bid to win his 17th All-Ireland singles title.

MD

Limerick and Kilkenny meet, not only in this year's All-Ireland hurling decider, but also in the M DONNELLY All-Ireland 60x30 Minor Singles and Doubles handball finals played over the two All-Ireland weekends at handball headquarters in Croke Park. Limerick's CJ Fitzpatrick, from the Broadford club, had his first encounter with Kilkenny's Ciarán Neary yesterday afternoon, but they talented pair will meet again in the Minor Doubles final in two weeks time. "I'm really looking forward to the double final," said CJ, a promising handballer who takes part in his first All-Ireland minor final this year. In the Minor Doubles All-Ireland CJ will be joined by Seamus O'Carroll from Cappagh when the pair take on singles finalist, Ciarán Neary, from the famed club of

Talbots Inch in Kilkenny, and his partner, Keith Bourke. This fine home of handball is where legendary handballer, Michael 'Ducksy' Walsh, has been preparing for his All-Ireland Singles Final in recent weeks.

Neary is delighted to be contesting both the Minor Singles and Doubles finals. "It's incredible to be on the same line-up as Ducksy, Eoin Kennedy and the likes of Eddie Burke," said Neary. "I love playing 60x30 and winning one, if not both, of these finals is very important to me."

Both CJ and Ciarán are rising stars in the game and in future years are likely to follow in the footsteps of county greats such as Clare's Pat Kirby, Louth's Joey Maher and Kilkenny's living legend, Ducksy Walsh.

M DONNELLY 60x30 All-Ireland Finals

Irish Handball Centre, Croke Park, 15th September 2007, 3pm

MINOR DOUBLES:

Ciarán Neary and Eamonn Foley (Kilkenny) v CJ Fitzpatrick and Seamus O'Carroll (Limerick)

INTERMEDIATE SINGLES:

Paul Mullins (Tipperary) v Ollie Cassidy (Mayo)

SENIOR DOUBLES:

Eoin Kennedy and Egin Jensen (Dublin) v Dessie Keegan and Joe McCann (Mayo)

LADIES FOOTBALL

Six Players aiming for six All-Irelands in three years

The Rebelettes are chasing their third Senior All Ireland title in three years which is some achievement when you consider they made their first appearance in a senior final in 2005. Cork will become the first team since the famous Kerry team of the 1980s achieved it.

Cork have dominated the women's game for the past three years, losing just one game in their last 39 outings. Six of the current Cork squad are on track to pick up their sixth All Ireland medal in three years – a phenomenal achievement and a first in female sport in this country.

Briege Corkery, Rena Buckley, Mary O'Connor, Angela Walsh,

Cork Go For Three-in-Row

Regina Curtin and Catriona Foley have won the Ladies Football and Camogie All-Ireland double with Cork for the last two years running. Cork face Wexford in the Camogie next week before a final date in the Ladies game on the 23rd of September.

This year, all three Ladies Football Championship finals, Senior, Intermediate and Junior, will take place in Croke Park on the 23rd September.

This year also witnessed the introduction of the first ever Golden Boot Award for Ladies Football. Each week the player who scores the most number of points is featured in the Sunday Tribune and the overall points scorer, the eventual winner of the inaugural Comverse Golden Boot, will be announced on September 30th.

So far the weekly winners have included Cora Staunton (Mayo), Helen Hughes (Galway), Niamh Kindlon (Monaghan), Gemma Begley (Tyrone), Niamh Hegarty (Donegal) and Valerie Mulcahy (Cork).

Mayo's Cora Staunton leads the way on the overall leaderboard with Cork's Valerie Mulcahy and Tyrone's Gemma Begley hot on her heels.



Cork's Geraldine O'Flynn, left, and Regina Curtin celebrate victory.

CAMÓGAÍOCHT

On the Road to Croke

While the hurlers take centre stage today in Croke Park, the camogie players of Clare, Cork, Derry and Wexford will feature here on Sunday next in the Gala Junior and Senior Finals. The U21 Hurling Final, Dublin v Galway, will also be staged as part of a triple-header. Derry and Clare were both beaten in recent finals at the hands of the Dubs who are now in senior ranks. It promises to be a game that will go down to the wire.

Wexford will make their first appearance in an All Ireland since 1994. Current Team Manager Stella Sinnott played that day at corner back as Wexford were beaten by Kilkenny. Wexford last won in 1975. The captain was Gretta Keohé who is aunt to current wing back Áine Codd. Ursula and Helena Jacob are sisters to hurlers Rory and Michael.

Cork are bidding for three in a row. Captain Gemma O'Connor's brother Glenn is on the Cork minor panel today. This is a composed Cork team but Wexford are flying fit. Wexford will need to upset the Cork pattern of play if they are to lift the O'Duffy Cup.

Limerick camogie has made a big comeback since former super hurler Ciarán Carey took over as Manager. He has brought discipline and focus to the panel. They won the Senior B League in some style and are into the All Ireland semi-final against Galway. A link with the Limerick hurlers is Niamh and Claire Mulcahy, daughters of former player Ger and grandchildren of the late Mick Mackey.

Kilkenny minor camogie team won their second successive All Ireland title last month when they defeated Cork. Kilkenny will soon be a real power in senior ranks in a couple of years. Camogie needs Kilkenny competing at the highest level. Tipperary Coillte Development squad visited Croke Park recently with squads from Louth. Two hundred and forty young players had a wonderful day here. The Field of Dreams was alive with the clash of the ash.

GAA Announce Significant Investment for Grassroots

At the August meeting of Central Council the GAA approved a proposal from its Management Committee of new and very significant investment at grassroots level. This investment, in the region of €38 million, will take place over three years and the cost will be met in large part from the revenue realised from the playing of Soccer and Rugby Internationals in Croke Park. The expenditure will be in addition to the Association's ongoing investment in Coaching, Games Development, infrastructure and player welfare and its primary aim is to provide enhanced and new facilities for players at all levels and in all areas.

The investment includes €8.5 million for County Boards specifically for Club associated development projects. In addition and because of rapid demographic changes, special urban initiatives will be funded, as will new hurling development initiatives. Between ten and fifteen floodlit synthetic and all weather pitches to regulation GAA scale will be developed at centres throughout the country, which will enhance and supplement facilities for Clubs, Colleges and Counties. There will also be special investment in the overseas sector, Gaeltacht areas and affiliated units.

Mr. Nickey Brennan, the President of the GAA, emphasised that this is a once off investment additional to funding made available on an annual basis from the GAA's traditional income sources. He said that the decision is consistent with the

commitment given that any associated finance that would accrue from the rugby and soccer games at the stadium would be invested at grassroots level.

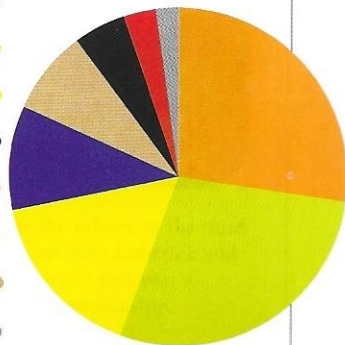
Mr. Brennan also explained that while the investment is on a stand-alone basis, it has been integrated and is complementary to the overall development vision for the Association. He said that this is a hugely significant initiative for the Association at local level and he anticipated that the proposal would receive Government support.

The process of implementation will now proceed through consultation and discussion with Provincial Councils and County Committees.

HOW GAA REVENUES ARE USED

Have you ever wondered how revenue's generated during the championships are used by the Association? Below we carry an example based on a family of two adults and two children attending an All Ireland Semi-Final in 2007.

Combined Ticket Prices	€100
<i>Additional Income</i>	
Commercial & Other	€52
Croke Park grant repayment	€23
State Funding	€14
Total Income	€189
Total Expenditure	€186
<small>Re-cycled within the Association See Chart below</small>	
Surplus	€3



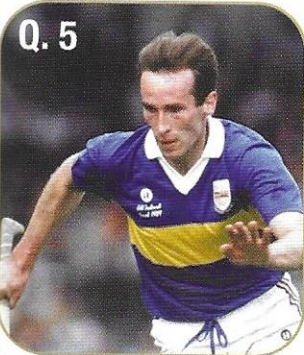
FICHE CEIST

ALL-IRELAND FINAL CAPTAINS

1. Name the only Galway hurler to lead the county twice to All-Ireland senior final glory.



2. Who captained Offaly to their first Liam McCarthy Cup triumph?
3. In what year did Noel Skehan lead Kilkenny to the All-Ireland senior title?
4. Who captained Limerick in their last Liam McCarthy Cup outing?
5. Who was the last hurler presented with the old Liam McCarthy Cup following a final win?



ALL-IRELAND SENIOR FINALS

6. In what year did Antrim last appear in a final?
7. What county lost twice to Cork during the Rebel County's run of three titles in succession from 1976 to 1978 inclusive?
8. Michael Conneally brought

off some superb saves as Galway beat what county to regain the All-Ireland title after a long, long interval?

9. Name the hurler who returned from New York where he had been living for some months to play a big role in his county's 1987 All-Ireland senior final win over Kilkenny?



10. What county provided the opposition to Cork in the Centenary Year All-Ireland senior final?

THE MINORS

11. Who refereed last year's All-Ireland Minor final?



12. What is the name of the trophy awarded to the winners of the All-Ireland final?
13. What is unique about this year's final?
14. When did Limerick last appear in the summit?

15. Tipperary did not lose a single game on their way to last year's title. True or false?

REFEREES

16. Who refereed this year's Ulster senior final—Barry Kelly (Westmeath), James McGrath (Westmeath) or Brian Gavin (Offaly)?
17. Dickie Murphy (Wexford) made his All-Ireland senior hurling refereeing debut in 1992. True or false?



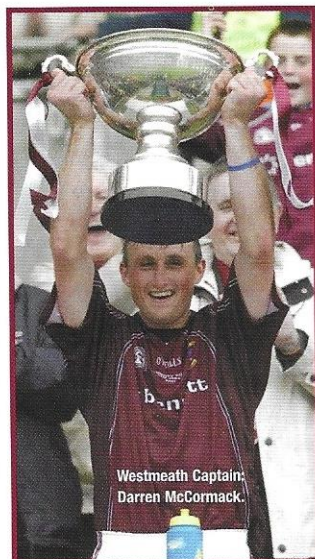
18. Willie Barrett (Tipperary) or Pat O'Connor (Limerick) took charge of the 2000 final. Your choice.
19. Who refereed the Leinster senior decider in early July?



20. Name the referee in the third game between Limerick and Tipperary in this year's senior championship.

Champions in 2005, Westmeath didn't make the greatest of starts to this year's competition as they were held to a draw by Meath at An Uaimh on their first outing. A narrow win over Down at Mullingar second time out along with Meath's easy win over Mayo meant that the neighbours already looked potential semi/finalists. In the other section last year's Nicky Rackard champions Derry made a winning start against London, but then lost to Kildare and Carlow to end their interest in knock-out action. The Lily Whites and the Barrowsiders eventually joined Westmeath and Meath in the semi/finals.

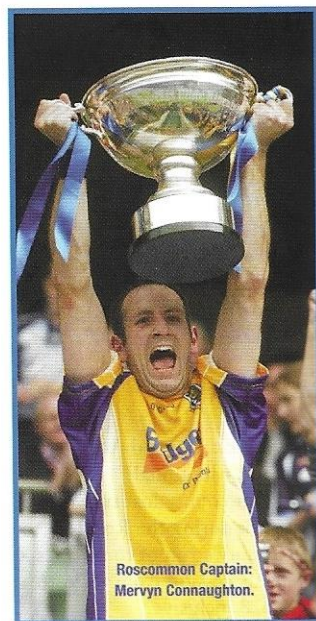
O'Connor Park in Tullamore was the chosen venue for the penultimate clashes. Meath led Kildare by two points at half time in their clash, but the Lily Whites dominated the second period and but for some woeful shooting would have been more than the minimum in front at full-time (1-14 to 1-13). Westmeath appeared to be cruising into the final when they led Carlow by 3-9 to 0-7 at the change of ends, but the leaders failed to score in the third quarter and eventually just held on for a two-point win (4-11 to 2-15). The final at Croke Park was a disappointment with Westmeath turning over leading by ten points (2-7 to 0-3) before eventually winning by 2-15 to 0-13.



NICKY RACKARD CUP

Having been relegated from the Christy Ring Cup the previous year Roscommon were widely tipped for Nicky Rackard glory and they emphasised as much first time out as they hammered Fermanagh by 39 points (7-27 to 1-6). Armagh, Louth and Longford all won on that opening weekend as did 2006 runners-up Donegal when they made their first appearance seven days later. Fermanagh, Cavan, Leitrim and Sligo failed to make the 'last eight' where all four home sides advanced to the semi/finals as Roscommon defeated Monaghan at Athleague, Louth hammered Warwickshire at Dundalk, Donegal eased by Longford at Letterkenny and Armagh had a double scores win over Tyrone at Keady.

The Orchard county continued to enjoy home advantage for their semi/final clash with Donegal but they hardly needed it as they romped to a 3-28 to 2-10 win over Donegal with Declan Coulter grabbing an impressive individual haul of 3-8. Dundalk was the venue for the other 'semi', but it availed the Wee county little as Roscommon cruised to a 2-13 to 0-5 win. Armagh started the final at Croke Park the better to lead by 0-5 to 0-2, but Roscommon were on terms by the change of ends - 0-6 apiece. Gary Fallon's goal was the game's crucial score and it gave the Connacht side a 1-8 to 0-8 lead and try as they might Armagh could never bridge the gap. In the end Roscommon took the title by 1-12 to 0-13.



CHARLIE REDMOND & LIAM HASSETT EMERGE AS WINNERS OF THE GUINNESS HURLING BOOTCAMP

Thursday, 2nd August saw the final episode of the Guinness Hurling Bootcamp air on TV3. Dublin football legend, Charlie Redmond emerged as the overall winner of the skills competition in the final programme, while Kerry All Star, Liam Hassett was voted as the public's number one choice. Both Charlie and Liam walked away with €25,000 each for their respective charities, Cystic Fibrosis Ireland and Mental Health Ireland.

Commenting on his win, Charlie Redmond said "Cystic Fibrosis is a charity that is really close to my heart and I know the money will be put to very good use. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I am delighted with the win. I faced stiff competition from the likes of



Pictured left to right: Liam Hassett, Pamela Selby of Guinness and Charlie Redmond.

Liam Hassett and Peter Clohessy. We had great fun throughout the course of the bootcamp. I really didn't expect to make friends as a result of taking part, but I have, which is a bonus".

Liam Hassett emerged as the very deserving winner of the public vote. He is Chairman of the Killorglin Branch of Mental Health Ireland and was thrilled

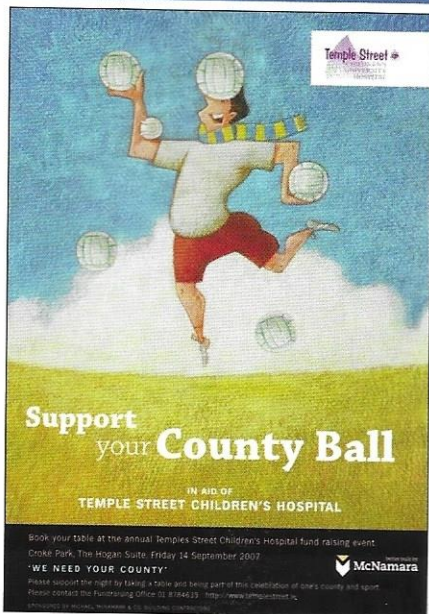
with his win. "This money will put a dent in the loan we took out to pay for our local mental health resource centre in Killorglin. I would like to thank all those who voted for me throughout the series. I may never play hurling in Croke Park, but I definitely have a greater appreciation for the game and it's certainly not as easy as it looks!"

IN...AND OUT

When Kilkenny lined out against Galway in the 1923 All-Ireland semi/final at Croke Park, they were already out of the 1924 title race. The date of the 1923 semi/final was May 18th 1924...a fortnight after the Nonesiders had failed to Dublin in the opening round of the 1924 campaign at Portlaoise.

42 MATCHES

Kilkenny and Limerick have met eight times (excluding Kilkenny's walkover in 1887) in the championship with each side recording four wins. However, their league relationship is much more intense and last March's meeting at Nowlan Park was their 42nd in a series which is as old as the competition itself. Of those 42 head-to-heads Limerick has won 21, Kilkenny 16, while five have been drawn. Incidentally, the sides' only league meeting at Croke Park was in the 1947 final, which resulted in a draw (4-5 to 2-11) with Limerick winning the replay by 3-8 to 1-7.



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McNamara

Heavenly Hurling

By Liam Cahill (An Fear Rua)



Whenever your time comes, I hope you'll take the chance to mosey round to that perennially sun-dappled corner of Heaven where the hurling people gather.

True, you may be tempted along the way by the opportunity to shake the hand of the great Abe Lincoln and chat about his Gettysburg Address or spend endless hours with a truculent Bonaparte as he – yet again – pores over the map of a little Flemish village called Waterloo and wonders where it all went wrong. Sipping cool white wine by the banks of a babbling brook with Helen of Troy, no doubt, has its attractions as indeed might a few sessions with Grace O'Malley as she recalls her latest military exploits against the invader.

Still, if it has to be for an eternity, wouldn't it be better to spend it pucking around a sliothar, coaching an Under Fourteen side to success in Féile or discussing the relative merits of, say, Ring and Mackey with the great men themselves?

It won't be too hard to find that hurling corner. You'll probably hear the distinctive 'tick ... tock' of ash on leather through the still warmth of evening air. The intermittent shouts from beyond the high hedgerows. Sometimes of approval or encouragement. Occasionally, with a hint of derision.

If there's a game on, there may be an oul lad at the gate, with a bit of

a limp, a heavy overcoat and a flat cap thrust close to his pate, even though the sun is splitting the proverbial rocks nearby. More than likely, he'll be standing beside a kitchen chair with a Jacobs 'Marietta' tin box plonked on it and a few forlorn notes and coins nestling in its silvery bosom. However, if it's your first time there, and you're a new face, he'll likely wave you through the gate without charging you at all. Some days, you might pass a few bedraggled kids sporting battered hats made of crepe paper and waving a tattered flag or two.

Don't worry. Wizened, undernourished unofficial

programme sellers will not accost you. For truth to tell, unless they mended their ways afterwards, most of them headed down below. At least to Purgatory, if not even further down.

It won't be long before you'll start to pick out a few familiar faces and famous figures. Maybe men you played beside yourself. Or against. Or you saw them playing or heard the old men telling tales about their exploits in the long nights after *Samhain*. Or heard the ethereal voice of Micheál O'Hehir exclaiming about them through the valves of an old battery 'wireless' as family and neighbours crowded round in the kitchen on the first Sunday in September.

Along the sideline, you'll see familiar sights again. Lads sweltering in thick, woolly, grey Order of Malta uniforms touting huge white canvas bags full of carefully rolled cotton bandages, disinfectant and smelling salts. Hoping to God (Who's never too far away. He is, after all, the President for all eternity of *Cumann Luthchleas Gael Neamh*) that the worse they will be called on to minister to will be a touch of cramp or a bit of a scratch on the hand.

The subs will be there, draped in long belted overcoats, picking distractedly at oranges and looking as disgruntled as ever. No one is ever happy to be a mere sub, even on a hurling team in Heaven. Among the crowd, behind the familiar wire fence,



continued overleaf

Heavenly Hurling

CONTINUED

hawkers, musicians and balladeers ply their wares among the distracted spectators. 'Big brother' bottles of Kia Orange and Dwans red lemonade to beat the band and all carefully maintained at that tepid temperature so beloved of the seasoned connoisseur.

If it's just training or a bit of a puck around that's on, you'll get to meet the men and chat with them. The Mackey brothers, John and Mick, always ready with a big smile, a wink and a shouted 'G'wan 'Ahane!'. Sim, Jim, Drug and Lowry will be there too, pucking the sliothar back and forth between them, always a Cats' conspiracy. Jack, too, will be as courteous as ever. A man of steel behind a velvet cloth. Ringey. Well, he hasn't really changed, you know. Ringey will glance at you and pass some little comment that'll put you in your box in jig time. If you're lucky, maybe he'll just enquire if you're a 'Glen man'.

Occasionally, if it's only training, and there are no major theological rows or disputations going on somewhere else (for they love these) some of the Irish saints will come round and tog off. Finbarr of Cork, as you might imagine, is a tight, wiry little hurler. He never gives up. Never knows when he is beaten and can dish and take punishment with the best of them. So, too, are Canice of Kilkenny and the great Munchin of Limerick is a wristy player, as such.

And Patrick? Ah, poor Patrick. Great apostle and preacher and all that. Even gave his name to Patrickswell in the county of Limerick, a parish that produced many a fine hurler over the years. But, Ringey often says the great man would do well to win his place as a sub on some Junior C team up in Offaly or over in

Carlow. Of course, they didn't play much hurling in his Welsh childhood (those vital formative years for good hurlers) nor was there much chance of a puck around while herding sheep as a youth on Slemish Mountain in county Antrim.

Heaven is still a place where a star player who is having an off day and is being marked out of it will have his reputation salvaged by an urgent hiss from the sideline: 'Lie down! You're injured. We want to bring on a sub!' This whole thing about using panels and tactical substitutions, blood substitutes and so on has yet to catch on up there.

After a game, there's always great craic in the clubrooms. The usual strong, hot tea and thick, meat sandwiches made with slabs of white bread. Later on, when the crowd has cleared and only a few of the true hurling men remain, Jack will produce a bottle of his favourite whiskey – the one with the map of Ireland and the four provinces on the label. 'We'll drink it as far as Tullamore', he'll offer, as he used to say to the civil servants as he wound down with them after many a late night negotiation beyond in Brussels. Then, they will talk of great men, of great games and great scores; debating and arguing the merits and demerits of one over the other. They never reach agreement. It just goes on eternally.

One of the great things about hurling in Heaven is the way they often recreate great games. It could be the '36 final when Limerick powered past Kilkenny by 5 – 6 to 1 – 5. Or 1940 when they again beat the Black-and-Amber. You could whistle up Kilkenny's first ever title, a hundred and nine years ago, when they defeated Clare.

You can even ask the powers that be up there to change the ending for you, if it makes you feel better. So, for a change, Kilkenny might lose the famous 'Thunder and Lightning' final of '39 by what Jack used to call 'the usual point'.

If you've a mind to, you can tog out yourself in the re-run of any of those famous games. Don't worry if you never got beyond Junior or Intermediate level or gave up the hurling after ye lost that Minor championship. Generous, decent men like John Keane of Waterford or Mick Herbert of Limerick will be on hand to carry you, cover for you, so that you'll enjoy the experience. You'll get to know what it's really like to ascend those steps, plastered in sweat, your hair sticking out at all angles, a few teeth missing, blood streaming from an eyebrow before hoisting the bit of silver and joining that elite group who have uttered – or even, muttered – the words '*Is mór an onóir dom an Corn seo a ghlacadh*' Then, roaring rather than singing, the first few bars of the county song into the microphone.

For my part, I'll be content if it's always just a sweltering Summer Sunday in June or July at a provincial final. Our half-time lead has been meticulously hauled in. A minute to go, we're two points down against last year's All Ireland champions and the packed terraces and stands hold their breath. Then, a stocky, barrel-chested man breaks through, clad in a familiar jersey. He lets fly and the net is dancing before the backs or goalie have even moved a muscle.

Ah, yes. *That* would be hurling Heaven.

Liam Cahill is Editor of the popular fans' website 'An Fear Rua – The GAA Unplugged!' www.anfearrua.com

Croke Park

For Business and Pleasure



CROKE PARK
CONFERENCE CENTRE

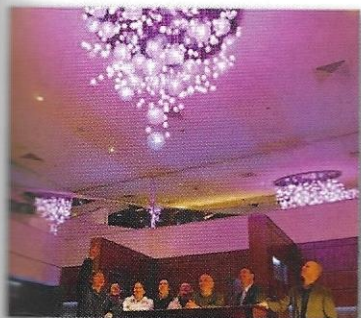
Attracting event organisers from Ireland and overseas, Croke Park provides the perfect backdrop for your next conference, meeting or exhibition in Dublin. The Croke Park Conference Centre offers large adaptable conference rooms and intimate meeting rooms all overlooking the majestic pitch and stadium. The venue also caters for gala events, award ceremonies, training courses and seminars. Facilities include broadband, WiFi, business services and free car parking. Accommodation is available at Jurys Croke Park Hotel.



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www.crokepark.ie

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REFEREEING MATTERS IN 2007

Seamus Gardiner (Spokesman for Referees)



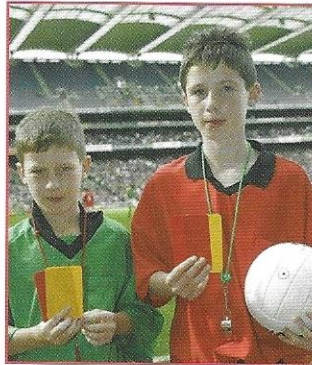
Hurling Championship 2007

There is general agreement that it has been a good year for hurling. The Tipperary v Limerick sagas, the Cork v Waterford brilliant games, the class of Kilkenny - all have brought a new, appreciative audience to the game of hurling. In the Liam McCarthy Cup, to date 33 games have been played and 23 in the Christy Ring Cup and 19 in the Nicky Rackard Cup - in all 75 games.

Approximately 35 referees have been used in these games and credit should be given to them too for their contribution.

Positives from the Year

The Uachtarán Nickey Brennan launched a Recruitment Campaign last November and the number of new referees in the counties who completed these courses was 454. So, that's good news. The Referee Tutor Group, under Chairman Muiris O'Sullivan of Kerry, had a very active year. They enhanced the training courses for referees by their publication of Umpire Education Course (Jan.2007), Referee Foundation Course Logbook (Feb. 2007), Assessor Education Programme (May 2007). They also organised the Inter-County Referee Seminars and also four courses for Intercountry referees and their umpires at which 728 people attended. Two very important initiatives now becoming available are The Young Whistler Programme and The Club Referee In-Service Programme.



The Young Whistler Programme

The Young Whistler Programme, a Primary classroom resource, introduces and guides the young whistler through the challenging role of refereeing. The programme is available countrywide from the beginning of this school year. Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta has commissioned the work in response to a demand from Primary teachers. Under the direction of the teacher the pupils will gain practical experience through class mini-games in the P.E. context. At the heart of the Young Whistler initiative is the key concept of RESPECT - respect for oneself and respect for others.

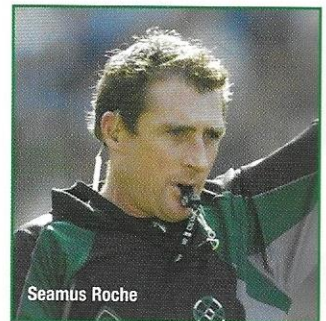
Club Referee In-Service Programme

The National Tutor Workgroup has devised an exciting Referee Education Resource for Club referees. The two-session programme for serving match officials includes up to date information on rules,

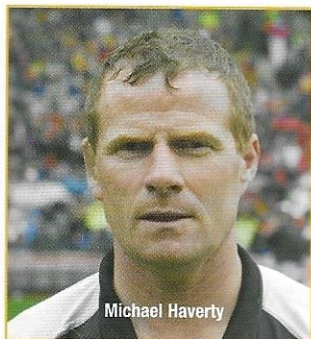
clarifications and interpretations. The inclusion of video clips from the current championships adds a fresh dimension to a fine product. The National Referee Tutors look forward to delivering this programme in the autumn. This is a practical initiative aimed at the Club referees to achieve consistency in their performance and higher standards of refereeing overall.

Inter-County Referee Seminars

These seminars were jokingly and, maybe, sceptically referred to as 'The Athlone Academy'! Basically, they are a determined effort to improve referee performances through study of video clips from the championships where good performances and mistakes are studied and analysed. This Summer, experts such as Prof. Niall Moyna of DCU on physical fitness and diet etc. and Canice Kennedy, Sports Psychologist, on mental preparation and concentration were invited to speak at the seminars. Also the video clips chosen by the Tutor Group and



Seamus Roche



Michael Haverly

decided on by the Referee Committee were of higher quality due to the expertise of Bernard Smith of Croke Park.

What about the Problems?

As referees are human there will always be some mistakes and the purpose of all this training, assessing and monitoring of referees is to lessen human error. The main talking points in hurling this year were: The Throw-In Ball, Lying on the Ball, Taking more than 4 Steps, Umpires decisions on Points, Puck-Out from the Small Rectangle, Noting for Certain Offences, Speed of Game re Fitness of Referees.

For our games to progress further there will always be need for an open mind on what might improve our games further. Some matters for consideration might be:

- (a) Introduction of some form of Sin Bin
- (b) Use of Video Technology re scores and wides
- (c) More power for linesmen, now intercounty referees themselves
- (d) Relieve the Referee of the task of Time-Keeping

In considering any of these topics it must be accepted that the game of hurling is not in need of many changes. This summer alone has given us tremendous games so that very little tinkering with rules is advisable. In the past, in the framing of rules, the practice

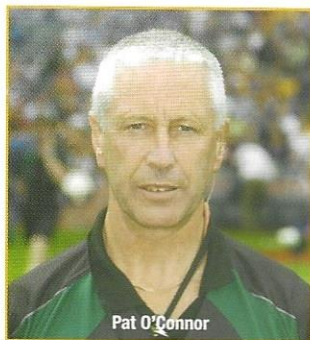
was to have the rules of hurling and football very similar. But there is a growing acceptance now that they are very different games. Modern day football has changed very radically from what it was years ago.

What about Refereeing?

The training and courses for referees are much improved. The fitness test each year is now a must and it is intended to see if a better fitness programme and test can be introduced in 2008. The seminars for intercounty referees are more professional and there is a very ready willingness by the referees themselves to contribute and accept the positive critique of their mistakes. The assessment of referees has to be a component of modern training. Again consistency among those assessing has to be improved. The Appointments Committee, chosen by the President, is a much fairer and objective system than the previous system where counties had a say and bargained over an appointment. The work to improve is ongoing and, I suppose, being human, absolute perfection is never attainable. Intercounty refereeing today is definitely more challenging than it ever was because of a number of factors - increased television coverage, the presence of numerous camera angles, the advent of detailed play-back analysis, the pressure on managers to succeed. But one area in which we all must improve at all levels of the association - RESPECT for



REFEREES. The President, Nickey Brennan, has highlighted this on many occasions. Respect will not just involve a question of rules and penalties. It will involve a whole change of attitude - in one way, a crusade. This will mean coaches at all levels, particularly with under age teams, stressing the absolute respect to be shown to referees both by themselves and by their players. Will it happen? Certainly not unless there is an acceptance of its need and the will to make the effort.



Pat O'Connor

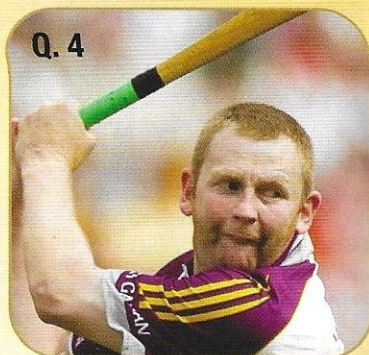
Focal Scoir

Thanks to all who made it a great hurling summer - players, coaches, managers, selectors and, of course, referees.

CÚINNE NA nÓG

Tráth na gCeist

1. What county lost to Dublin in this year's Leinster minor hurling final?
2. Name the two counties who will contest this month's All-Ireland Under-21 hurling decider.
3. Who captained Waterford in this season's senior hurling championship campaign?
4. Who captained Wexford against Kilkenny in last month's All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final?
5. Galway beat Clare in the Liam McCarthy Cup series of games this season. True or false?
6. Who won the Nicky Rackard Cup this year?



1. I play club hurling with Lismore and I won an All-Star last year at right half forward. I have still to win an All-Ireland senior medal. I play in attack with my county and have a gift for scoring goals.



3. Last year my hopes of winning a third All-Ireland minor hurling medal in succession were dashed by Tipperary in the final. I won an All-Ireland club medal with Portumna and earlier this year I helped Limerick I.T. to win the Fitzgibbon Cup.



What's My Name

2. My club is Na Piarsaigh. I am better known as a hurler, but I have also played senior football with my county and for Ireland against Australia. A defender in hurling, I recently joined the ranks of All-Ireland senior title-winning captains.



4. I am a well-known senior intercounty goalkeeper and I played in five All-Ireland senior hurling finals in the past seven years and won three medals. My club is Cloyne and last year I won my second All-star.



5. I was a leading marksman for my county and played in their last two All-Ireland senior final outings in the nineties, but did not win a medal. A Patrickswell clubman I am now a backroom member of my county's senior team.



Other Games

1. What two counties will contest next Sunday's Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final?
2. Who was the opponent of Michael Walsh (Kilkenny) in the All-Ireland senior softball single final in handball last night at Croke Park?
3. Cork will be bidding for their second, third or fourth successive title in the up-coming TG4 All-Ireland Ladies football final. Your choice!
4. Who beat Tipperary in an All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final last month?

Spotlight On The Minors

1. Shane Brennan scored 1-6 for what county in the All-Ireland minor hurling semi-final between Tipperary and Kilkenny at Croke Park last month?
2. Barry O'Rourke captained what county to a provincial minor hurling title earlier this season?
3. Cork completed a Munster titles double in hurling and football this season. True or false?
4. Name Galway's captain for their last All-Ireland minor hurling title win two years ago from this trio—Joe Canning, Andrew Keary or John Green.

ÉIREAGRAÍ

Tráth na gCeist 1. Kilkenny. 2. Galway and Dublin. 3. Michael Walsh. 4. Damien Fitzhenry. 5. False. Clare beat Galway at Ennis in round two. 6. Roscommon. What's My Name 1. Dan Shanahan (Waterford). 2. Sean Óg O hAilpín (Cork). 3. Joe Canning (Galway). 4. Donal Óg Cusack (Cork). 5. Gary Kirby (Limerick). Other Games 1. Cork and Wexford. 2. Eoin Kennedy (Dublin), the defending champion. 3. Third. 4. Cork. Spotlight On The Minors 1. Kilkenny. 2. Dublin. 3. False. They won the hurling title but lost the football title. 4. Anthony Keary.

IT'S ALIVE INSIDE



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Roinn: **HILLA3**
Sraith: **G62**
Suíochán: **99**
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Cluichí Ceannais Iomána na hÉireann

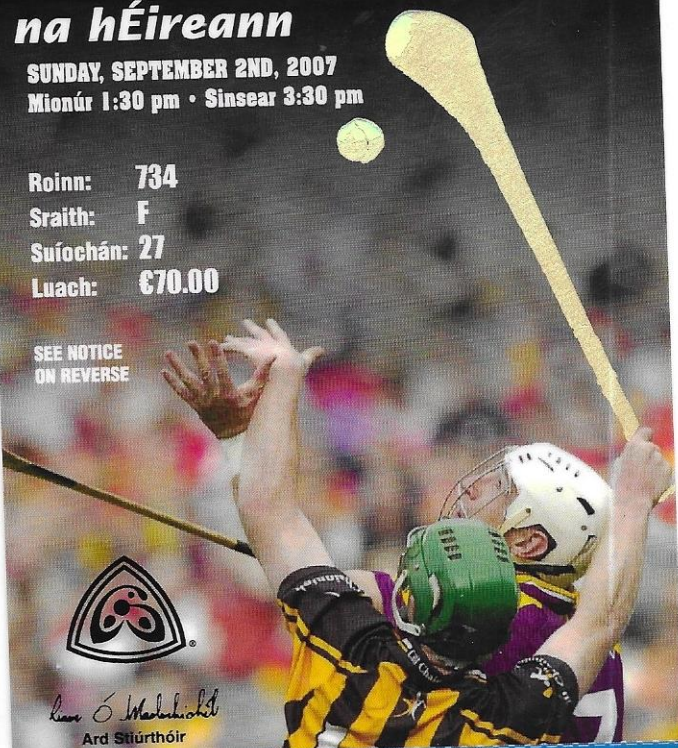
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2007
Mionúr 1:30 pm • Sinsear 3:30 pm

Roinn: **734**
Sraith: **F**
Suíochán: **27**
Luach: **€70.00**

SEE NOTICE
ON REVERSE



Seán Ó Maduigín
Ard Stiúrthóir



Roinn: **734**
Sraith: **F**
Suíochán: **27**
Luach: **€70.00**



963628543334

HOGAN STAND UPPER TIER
Entry via Jones's Road, Turnstiles F-G