

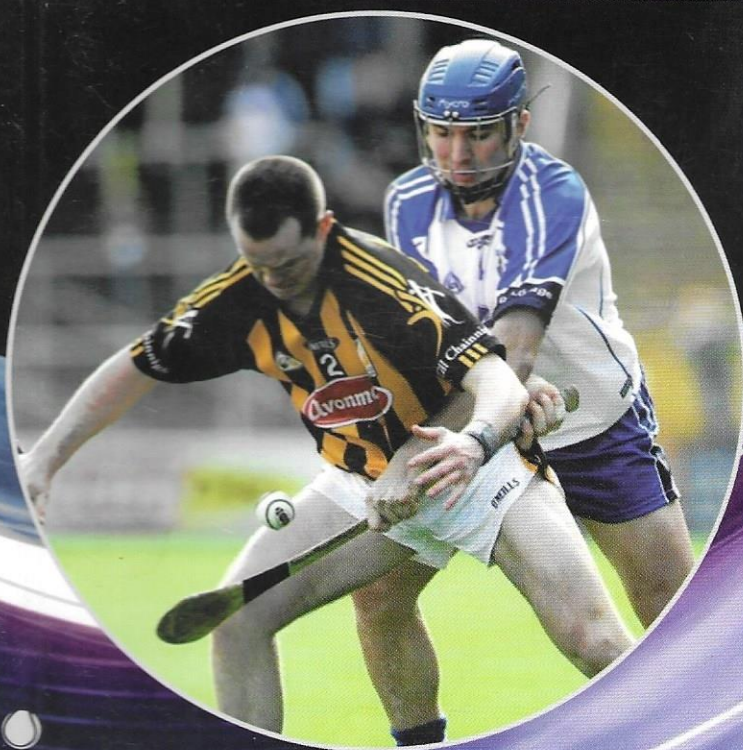
GAA
HURLING
ALL-IRELAND SENIOR
CHAMPIONSHIP



CLUCHE CHEANNAIS IOMÁNA SINSEAR NA hÉIREANN
PORT LÁIRGE v CILL CHAINNIGH
WATERFORD v KILKENNY



CLUCHE CHEANNAIS IOMÁNA MIONÚIR ESB NA hÉIREANN
GAILLIMH v CILL CHAINNIGH / GALWAY v KILKENNY



CLÁR OIFIGIÚIL / OFFICIAL PROGRAMME LUACH €5

Páirc Ó Dwyagh
ÁRD STIURTHÓIR

Páirc an Chrócaigh, 7 Meán Fómhair / Croke Park, 7 September, 2008

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The Sunday Game

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HURLING
ALL-IRELAND SENIOR
CHAMPIONSHIP

PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
7 MEÁN FÓMHAIR 2008

ESB ALL-IRELAND MINOR HURLING FINAL

1.30 PM

CILL CHAINNIGH v GAILLIMH

Reiteoir: Cathal McAllister (Corcaigh)
Linesmen: Johnny Ryan (Tiobraid Árann) STANDBY-REFREEE
Michael O'Connor (Luimneach)
Sideline Official: Pat Casey (Port Láirge)

Umpires: Bernard Butler (Midleton), Charlie McAllister (Midleton),
Killian Looney (Ballinacurra), Danny Looney (Ballinacurra).

ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINAL

3.30 PM

CILL CHAINNIGH v PORT LÁIRGE

Reiteoir: Barry Kelly (An Iarmhí)
Linesmen: John Sexton (Corcaigh) STANDBY-REFREEE
Tommy McIntyre (Aontroim)
Sideline Official: Pat Green (Gaillimh)

Umpires: Seamus O'Brien, Michael Coyle, Noel Nugent and
Anthony Gavin (all St. Oliver Plunkett's Club, Mullingar)

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.

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Dearadh:

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Etihad. Proud sponsor of the GAA Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championship 2008-20

We share a passion for non-stop action. Which is why we're so proud to sponsor your great s

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FROM ABU DHABI TO THE WORLD

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AIRWAYS

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From our Sponsors . . .



ETIHAD
AIRWAYS

Today we reach the end of what has really been a fantastic championship and Etihad Airways is delighted to be here with you as one of the three sponsors.

The 2008 GAA All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship has been an awe-inspiring competition and today's final should prove to be a real thriller, with Kilkenny going for the magical three-in-a-row and Waterford hoping to end a 49-year wait for Liam McCarthy to return to the Déise.

Having launched our service here in Ireland just over a year ago, Etihad Airways has developed a strong affinity with Ireland, with Dublin quickly establishing itself as one of our most popular routes.

We are very proud of our partnership with the GAA and look forward to being a part of this tremendous competition for the next number of years.

James Hogan,
Etihad Airways' Chief Executive



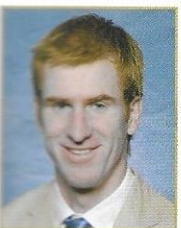
RTÉ SPORT

On behalf of RTÉ Television, Radio and Publishing I would like to welcome you all to what promises to be a truly memorable occasion for several reasons. As Kilkenny go for their "three in a row" and Waterford aim for their first title in 49 years, we in RTÉ are delighted to be involved as one of the sponsors of the GAA Hurling Championship.

This year's Championship has delivered some fantastic games. Waterford v Tipperary in the semi-final and Cork's win over Galway will live long in the memory. From RTÉ's point of view, our first year as sponsors of the GAA Hurling Championship has further enhanced our commercial relationship with the GAA. RTÉ's sponsorship campaign focussed on "the art of hurling" showcasing the enormous skill and artistry of our top intercounty players. In the coming year we hope to build on this across all our platforms by keeping hurling in the public eye well beyond the Championship.

Finally, I just wanted to wish the very best of luck to all of the players for today's final and thank them and the GAA for their help and co-operation all year and I hope everyone has an enjoyable and exciting afternoon.

Geraldine O'Leary, Commercial Director, RTÉ Television



GUINNESS

On behalf of Guinness, I am delighted to welcome you to Croke Park for one of the greatest sporting occasions of the year – the GAA All-Ireland Hurling Final.

And what an historic occasion today's final is.

Kilkenny, looking to make the elusive three-in-a-row, for the first time in almost a century.

Waterford play in their first final since 1963 and are hoping to lift the Liam McCarthy cup for the first time since 1959.

This will be an epic final.

We in Guinness are proud of our involvement with the Hurling championship over the past fourteen years and look forward to continuing to support and enhance the profile of this great game.

For now - a wonderful afternoon of hurling is in prospect – enjoy!

John Kennedy, Managing Director,
Diageo Ireland

Cluichí Ceannais Iomána na hÉireann 2008

01.10 i.n.	An Gaillimh amach ar an bpáirc.
01.12 i.n.	Cill Chainnigh amach ar an bpáirc.
01.24 i.n.	Arrival of Uachtarán C.L.G. Niochlás Ó Braonáin agus a bhean; agus Éirleamh C.L.G., An Dr. Diarmuid Ó Clúmháin, Ardeaspag Caiseal agus Imleach. Salute.
01.27 i.n.	Arrival of An Taoiseach leis an t-Ard Sreathóir, Páraic Ó Dufaigh agus a bhean. Salute.
01.30 i.n.	Craobh Iomána Mhionúir na hÉireann An Gaillimh v Cill Chainnigh
02.04 i.n.	INTO/GAA Mini-Games.
02.45 i.n.	End of Minor Hurling Final
02.49 i.n.	Presentation of the Irish Press Cup to the winning captain by An Dr. Diarmuid Ó Clúmháin
02.55 i.n.	Jubilee team: 1983 All Stars – introduced by Marty Morrissey
03.05 i.n.	Cill Chainnigh amach ar an bpáirc
03.07 i.n.	Port Láirge amach ar an bpáirc
03.17 i.n.	Uachtarán na hÉireann introduced. Salute.
03.18 i.n.	An tUachtarán meets the teams.
03.22 i.n.	Paráid na Fóirne
03.28 i.n.	Amhrán na bhFiann sung by Cara O'Sullivan
03.30 i.n.	Craobh Iomána Shínsear na hÉireann. Cill Chainnigh V Port Láirge
04.11 i.n.	Entertainment by "The High Kings"
04.22 i.n.	Second half begins.
05.05 i.n.	Presentation of The Liam McCarthy Cup to the winning captain by Uachtarán, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Niochlás Ó Braonáin

All Star Hurling Team of 1983 Honoured

Kilkenny defeated Cork in the All-Ireland final of 1983, thus completing a double of titles, having also won in 1982. Both Kilkenny teams were honoured last year so today we are very pleased to welcome the All-Star hurling team of 1983:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Noel Skehan (Kilkenny) | 9. John Fenton (Cork) |
| 2. John Henderson (Kilkenny) | 10. Nicky English (Tipperary) |
| 3. Leonard Enright (Limerick) | 11. Ger Fennelly (Kilkenny) |
| 4. Dick O'Hara (Kilkenny) | 12. Noel Lane (Galway) |
| 5. Joe Hennessy (Kilkenny) | 13. Billy Fitzpatrick (Kilkenny) |
| 6. Ger Henderson (Kilkenny) | 14. Jimmy Barry Murphy (Cork) |
| 7. Tom Cashman (Cork) | 15. Liam Fennelly (Kilkenny) |
| 8. Frank Cummins (Kilkenny) | |

THE ARTANE BAND

Musical Director – **Ronan O'Reilly**
Singer – **Cara O'Sullivan**

PROGRAMME OF MUSIC

12.30pm	Washington Post Band Boys Ambiance	<i>J.P.Sousa Ed CHENNETTE Wim Laseroms</i>
1.24pm	Uachtarán C.L.G.- Salute	<i>R.O'Reilly</i>
1.27pm	Taoiseach Salute	
2.02pm	Candido Play Away	<i>Leon Vargas Wim Laseroms</i>
3.05pm	On The One Road	<i>Traditional</i>
3.17pm	Presidential Salute	<i>A.J. Potter</i>
3.18pm	Star of the County Down	<i>R.O'Reilly</i>
3.22pm	Parade of the Teams God Save Ireland	<i>J. Lynch</i>
3.28pm	Amhrán na bhFiann with Cara O'Sullivan	<i>A.J. Potter</i>

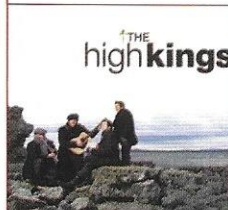


Cork born Cara O'Sullivan is one of Ireland's leading sopranos. She has sung in many of the great opera houses of the world including Paris and Sydney. She is currently in rehearsal for Verdi's Masked Ball with Opera 2005, her first time singing an opera in her native city.

Half Time Entertainment

The High Kings are considered by many to be the most exciting new Irish Ballad Group to emerge in recent years.

Finbar Clancy, Brian Dunphy, Martin Furey and Darren Holden are four outstanding vocalists and instrumentalists, who bring their intricate harmonies and driving rhythm to bear on traditional Irish ballads, infusing them with a refreshing modern sensibility.



The High Kings are embarking on a nationwide tour from mid-October.

GAA COMPETITION

WIN a GAA Hurling All-Ireland Final 2008 Jersey.

Q: Where was the first GAA All-Ireland Hurling final played in 1888?

- A) Birr
- B) Carlow
- C) Ballybofey

How to enter

Text the word GAA followed by your answer (A, B or C), Name and County to 57856 or 81400 from N. Ireland.

Texts from the Republic of Ireland & N. Ireland are charged at your standard network rate. Competition commences 06/09/08 and closes midnight 10/09/08

Summary of Terms & Conditions

Open to residents of N.Ireland & Republic of Ireland, with the exception of employees of Gaelic Athletic Association, their immediate families, agents and anyone else professionally associated with this promotion. • Maximum number of entries per mobile is unlimited. All correct entries will be entered into a draw until the closing date of 10/09/08. One Winner will be randomly selected at the end of the competition. By entering the competition your information may be used in future promotional communications. To stop further promotional communications the recipient may text the words 'GAA STOP' to 81025 from N. Ireland or 57856 from the Republic of Ireland. All winners contacted free of charge. No purchase is necessary to enter. Texts cost your standard network rate from N.Ireland. Texts from the Republic of Ireland will be charged at your standard network rate. Closing date for entries: midnight 10/09/08. Entries from consumer groups not accepted. Terms & Conditions Apply. For full terms and conditions and details of prizes, please visit www.gaa.ie. Service Provider: Servasport Ltd. Supplier Information address is 'Dialogue Communications Ltd, The Workstation, 15 Paternoster Tow, Sheffield, S1 2BX, UK' and our Irish helpline is 180018544.

www.gaa.ie

GAA



Lá na Laethanta

B'hi aird lucht spóirt na tíre dírithe ar Bheijing le tamall anuas agus nach iontach an caitheamh aimsire a bhí againn ag déanamh iontais faid a bhí na lúthchleasaithe is fearr ar domhan ag déanamh a seacht n-úicheall boinn a bhaint do thíortha éagsúla an domhain. Tréaslaímid le dúmálaithe na hÉireann a rinne éadair agus a tháinig abhaile le boinn agus le gach éinne eile a chaith gannsaí na hÉireann ar an ócáid spóirt is mó ar domhan. An deireadh seachtain seo, áfach, beidh lucht leanta spóirt na tíre seo ar pháirc an Chrócaigh áit a thabharfaidh Cait Chill Chainnigh aghaidh ar mhuintir Na Déise ar lá fíor-Ghaelach. Níl lá spóirt ar bith eile sa tír seo nó thar lear inchurtha le lá mór na hiománaíochta.

Ní dócha, ach an oiread, go bhífaid cluiche páirce ar bith inchurtha le sean-chluiche na nGael. Tá luas, neart agus scil ann agus tá sé bunaithe go smíor i dtraidisiúin na hÉireann. Cloiseann daltaí scoile scéalta faoi Setanta agus Cúchulainn agus bíonn gaisce na laochra áitiúla á ríomh i ngach paróiste sa tír. Míunntear na scileanna bunúsacha do dhaltaí nuair a bhíonn siad an-óg. Bíonn bun-mhúinteoirí agus lucht na gclubanna fíor-bhródúil nuair a éiríonn lena nimreoirí óga amórtais áitiúla a bhuachaint nó ionad a bhaint ar fhoireann chontae faoi aois nó bheith tofa dona Mini-Sevens i bPáirc an Chrócaigh i rith an tsamhraidh. Beidh iar-mhúinteoirí agus iar-threanálaithe fíor-bhródúil as laochra an Chrócaigh inniu.

Bíonn borradh faoi leith ar sheindeanna na príomhchathrach lá an chluiche ceannais. Bíonn lucht na mbratacha ag díol a gcuid earraí go gairneach: bíonn na sluaite ag triail ó na stáisiúin éagsúla ó bhreacadh an lae agus bíonn amasfáir faoi leith sa chathair. Ní luonnann agus ócáidí spóirt eile ar fad an domhain, bíonn lucht leanta an dá fhoireann i ndann

bualadh le chéile agus caidreamh a dhéanamh roimh an chluiche agus ina dhiaidh freisin is cuma cé acu a bhuaifadh an corn ar pháirc na himeartha um thráthnóna. Is cinnte go raibh oíche go maidin aréir ag lucht leanta foirne an lae inniu agus iad ag ríomh scéalta faoi sheanlaochra agus ag súil le gaisce na laochra reatha.

Cad faoi chluiche mór an lae? An mbeidh lá stairiúil eile ag na Cait? Tá ríthe na hiománaíochta ar thóir thrí chraobh as a chéile don chéad uair ó na tríochadaí. Tá Na Déisigh sa chluiche ceannais don chéad uair ó 1963. Tá gaisce déanta ag foireann reatha Phort Láirge. Tá craobh Uile-Éireann faoi 21 buaite ag cuid mhaith acu; tá craobh na Mumhan buaite acu fresin agus an tsraith náisiúnta chomh maith. Ní bheidh a lucht leanta sásta, áfach, go mbeidh Corn Mhic Cárthaigh cois na Súire. Os rud é gur comharsana bhéal-dorais a bheidh in adharca a chéile inniu, beidh nímh faoi leith san imirt. Bhuaigh Cill Chainnigh dhá chraobh Uile-Éireann as a chéile in 1982/3, 1992/3

agus i 2002/3 ach theip orthu an tríú ceann a bhaint. Ní bheid easpá ocrais orthu inniu mar sin agus ceaptar go ndéanfaidh an fhoireann iontach seo an bheart. Táimid ag súil le héacht ón dá fhoireann agus ní dócha go mbeidh díomá orainn ag deireadh na himeartha.

Beidh tús-áite ar an gléar ag mionúirí Chill Chainnigh agus Gaillimh a rachaidh chun páirce sa chéad cluiche. Nach méanar dona ghasúir bheith rannpháirteach ar an ócáid is mó i bhféilire na hiománaíochta. Bíonn lucht leanta an chluiche ag súil i gcónaí le réalta an todhchaí a fheiceáil. Ag leatham sa chluiche mionúir beidh deis ag ógánaigh na Mini-Sevens na scileanna a d'fhoghlaim siad ó mhúinteoirí Chumann na mBunscol agus ó threanálaithe sna clubanna a léirí. Sea, seo lá na nóg freisin mar tuigeann Cumann Lúthchleas Gael go bhfuil sé rí-thabachtach an oige a mholadh agus a spreagadh.

Ar an lá is mó tabhacht don iomáint, tá súil againn go mbainfidh gach éinne fíor-spraoi as na cluichí. Go néireoidh leis na foirne is fearr agus go mbeidh scéalta faoi ard-aiscean, scil den scoth agus scóranna glórmhara le ríomh againn go ceann i bhfad.

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.
30: 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, 2007.
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.

LOVE EVERY DETAIL

THE IRISH TIMES



An Réiteoir Barry Kelly

Westmeath's Barry Kelly is stepping out today to take charge of his second GAA Hurling All Ireland final in three years having been the man-in-the-middle at the 2006 final when Kilkenny beat Cork. He will be assisted by John Sexton from Cork (stand-by referee and linesman) and Tommy McIntyre of Aontroim (linesman). Galway's Pat Green will serve as substitute official. Umpires on the day will be Michael Coyle, Seamus O'Shea, Noel Nugent and Anthony Gavin. They are all members of the St. Oliver Plunkett's club in Mullingar and have formed a very able and loyal team with Barry Kelly over the years.

30 year old Kelly had a very early introduction to officiating as his father, John, was an umpire on former All-Ireland football final referee, Paddy Collins' "team" and he often travelled to their games. He laughed as he recounted how, in a vital local senior football championship match in Cusack Park, Mullingar in the mid-seventies he had managed, unbeknownst to the officials, to "switch" the umpires flags, and his father signalled a point with a mighty wave of the green flag! "He was nearly lynched by the goalie!" recalls Barry.

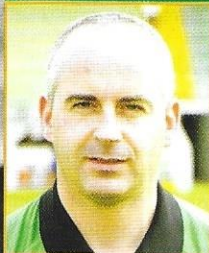
During his teenage years his education continued as he often ran the line at local matches in Cusack Park.

In 1987 he was encouraged by Tommy Glennon, then referees' co-ordinator in Westmeath, and the late Adrian Murray to attend an intercounty referees course. At final stage Barry decided to concentrate fully on refereeing and retired from playing hurling and football with the local St. Oliver Plunkett's and Mullingar Shamrocks clubs.

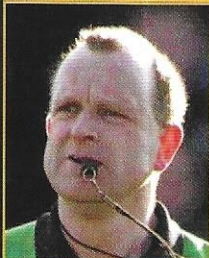
Kelly was appointed to take charge of the Leinster minor hurling final in 1999, his first match in Croke Park. In 2000 he was the man-in-the-middle for the All-Ireland minor final when Galway overcame Cork. He continued on the upward spiral and in 2004 he took charge of the All-Ireland Under 21 final. That same year he refereed Kilkenny and Wexford in the Leinster Senior semi final and Cork's defeat of Wexford in the All-Ireland semi final. In 2005 he took charge of the Munster hurling final when Cork defeated Tipperary. It was in 2006 that Kelly finally reached the pinnacle when he was appointed to take charge of the All-Ireland final when Kilkenny defeated Cork. Barry, who is a teacher in St. Brendan's Community School in Birr, lives in Mullingar with his wife, Catherine and has continued to referee at all levels in Westmeath, including four county senior hurling finals.

Over his refereeing career Barry has had fantastic support from his own clubs, from all goals in Westmeath and, indeed, from the wider GAA family. He gives praise to the great support network which exists for intercounty referees. "Referees are self-critical and with the use of video analysis and refereeing assessment we are kept on our toes. Referees have to be very fit and we undergo fitness tests on a regular basis. However the mental preparation is also vital - unlike a player, as a referee you don't have the opportunity of "the first ball" to settle into the game - you must be on your toes from first whistle to last - a decision made in the 69th minute is as vital as one made in the 1st."

LINESMEN



John Sexton
(Corcaigh)
STANDBY-REFEREE



Tommy McIntyre
(Aontroim)

IT HAPPENED IN THE PROVINCIAL SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

By Owen McCann

NEW ERA IN HURLING

A new era was ushered in up North on 11th May when Fermanagh beat Tyrone, and Monaghan overcame Cavan in the Ulster senior hurling championship. Those games marked the start of a championship which, for the first time, featured all nine Ulster counties, plus London, in the race for the Liam Harvey Cup.

Martin Finn scored a splendid 1-9 for London in their Ulster semi-final at Casement Park but it was not enough to prevent Down from recording a three goal win. Paul Braniff helped to single out that game on the individual scoring chart by finishing as the Mourne County's top marksman with 2-4.

SCORING HEADLINE

Brian Carroll lost no time in setting an impressive scoring headline when he opened his season with a resounding 0-16, eleven points from frees and one from a "65", in a man-of-the-match performance

for Offaly in their winning start in Leinster at the expense of Laois at Portlaoise.

CROWN LOST

Waterford were the only county to lose a provincial crown. They went down in their opening engagement at Limerick to Clare, who had an outstanding sharpshooter in Mark Flaherty, who celebrated his senior championship debut with 1-7 to finish as leading marksman in the game.

The match was also noteworthy on the refereeing front as Dickie Murphy (Wexford) started his 20th season in the man-in-the-middle role.

HOODOO BROKEN

Tipperary ended an 86 year hoodoo when they started their Munster senior campaign with a win over Cork at Páirc Uí Chaoimh in early June in a provincial semi-final.



The 1-19 to 1-13 success was their first victory over the Leesiders in the championships at Cork since 1922. They lost eight games there after that, before the 2008 encounter.

Team captain Eoin Kelly contributed 1-7 to the long-awaited success, which maintained an unbeaten run by Tipperary, the League champions, stretching back to the beginning of the year.

LONG SHOT

It is not often that a right full back scores a goal with a shot from well into his own territory but Clare defender Pat Vaughan did that after 15 minutes against Limerick in a Munster semi-final at Thurles in June.

That goal did much to set the pattern for the Banner County's 4-12 to 1-16 win and a first Munster final outing since 1999.

ONE DRAW

No one at the time could have realised that when Wexford and



CARI
The CARI Foundation

The GAA's official charities for 2008 are the Samaritans and CARI.

SAMARITANS

Samaritans wants fewer people to die by suicide. 24 hour, completely confidential emotional support is provided to anyone experiencing distress, despair or suicidal thought. If it would help to talk, call 1850 60 90 90 (RO) or 08457 90 90 90 (NI), - anytime.

Samaritans has 20 branches throughout Ireland and almost 2,000 volunteers. On average, each year Samaritans support over 315,000 calls via telephone, email, text, face to face and letter. It relies heavily on public donations to maintain its services.

Further information is available from 01 671 0071 or www.samaritans.org/ireland.

CARI's primary aim is to provide professional therapy and support services to children who have experienced or are affected by child sexual abuse and therapy, counselling and support to their non-abusing family members. It aims to do this by providing a range of

professional and child-centred services, which support children and their families at every stage of their traumatic experience.

CARI aims to ensure that the services are accessible to anyone in Ireland in need of support. CARI centres are operated, currently, in Dublin and Limerick and satellite centres in Cork, Navan and Wicklow. CARI aims to provide these professional services to people regardless of their means or situation at minimal or no cost.

For further information contact CARI's National Office on 01-8611240, CARI's National Lo-cal Helpline on 1890 924567, email to helpline@cari.ie or at www.cari.ie

(The GAA will make a donation to the NISPC in the six counties).

Anyone who wishes to make donations to the GAA's official charities can do so by sending their donation to: GAA Official Charities, GAA, Level 6, Croke Park, Dublin 3.

Dublin played a draw at Nowlan Park in a Leinster senior semi-final that the game would in time earn a special place in the entire championship season.

Special because, despite the big quanta of matches that followed, that tie ranks as the only one in the entire season to finish level.

SCORING ACES

Henry Shefflin and Eddie Brennan were aces for Kilkenny as they recorded another good win over Wexford to claim their fourth successive and 65th Leinster crown.

Shefflin hit 1-7, all from placed balls, and Brennan 2-2 as the Nonesiders powered to a resounding 19 points win.

EXCITING TALENT

Joe Canning provided further strong evidence that he is one of the most exciting young talents in the sport when he celebrated his senior championship debut with Galway by highlighting a good all round display with a splendid 2-6 in an All-Ireland Qualifiers first round win over Antrim.

However, it was a somewhat bitter-sweet experience for the teenager from Portumna a few weeks later when he helped himself to 2-12 — a score good enough to win most matches—but still finished on the losing side.

That was against Cork in an All-Ireland quarter-final at Semple Stadium, a game in which the rest of the Galway players managed to record just three points.

HAT-TRICK MAN

Goal-getting performance of the season? The accolade must go to Joe Bergin, whose three goals set the scene for Offaly's All-Ireland Qualifier win over Limerick at Semple Stadium.

UNBEATEN RUN ENDS

Tipperary returned to Croke Park for their first All-Ireland senior semi-final in five years in August bolstered by a proud unbeaten record in competitive hurling from the start of the year.

They got off to a disappointing start against Waterford, who built up a six points lead after only eight

minutes. However, they recovered well, and were on level terms at the interval.

In the second half when Waterford scored their only goal, Tipperary responded in dramatic fashion with a goal immediately afterwards. But Waterford were not to be denied and ended, by two points, a run of five successive semi-final defeats since 1998.

The win had something of a "Famous First" for Waterford as it earned them a return to All-Ireland final action after 45 long years.



WHAT A DEBUT!

And, what a debut to All-Ireland semi-final fare for Davy Fitzgerald—as a manager. Winner of All-Ireland medals with Clare in 1995 and 1997, he took over as the position with Waterford only a few weeks earlier.

Cumann na mBunscol

Port Láirge — Iomáint

Pitch: Defending Cusack Stand, Davin End.

1. Brendan McCarthy, St. Mary's P.S., Kircubbin, Co. Down
2. Stephen Bennett, Bunscoil Bothar na Naomh, Lismore, Waterford
3. David Kenny, Tooreen N.S., Tooreen, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo
4. Colm O'Neill, Gaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna, Co. Dublin
5. Brian Deering, Scoil Mhuire, Swanlinbar, Co. Cavan
6. Shane McGrath, St. Patrick's P.S., Loughiel, Co. Antrim
7. Joseph Henry, Tarmon N.S., Castlerea, Co. Roscommon
8. Peter McKearney, Our Lady & St. Mochu'as, Co. Armagh
9. Shane Brolly, St. Canice's P.S., Dungiven, Co. Derry
10. Vincent Doyle, St. Vincent's N.S., Coolarne, Co. Galway

Cill Chainnigh — Iomáint

Pitch: Defending Hogan Stand, Davin End.

1. Eoghan O'Donnell, St. Fiachra's Sen Sch., Beaumont, Dublin
2. Paul McElroy, Tattagar P.S., Lisbellaw, Co. Fermanagh
3. Colm Stapleton, Killadooley N.S., Ballybrophy, Co. Laois
4. Jack Regan, Dangan, N.S., Co. Meath
5. Stephen Ryan, Doon C.B.S., Doon, Co. Limerick
6. John Flemming, Monaseed N.S., Co. Wexford
7. Adrian Cleary, Clonlisk N.S., Co. Offaly
8. Shane Ryan, St. Michael's, N.S., Holycross, Thurles, Tipperary
9. Kevin Galvin, St. Colman's N.S., Clara, Co. Kilkenny
10. Ciarán Doyle, St. Mary's N.S., Raharney, Co. Westmeath

Port Láirge — Camógaíocht

Pitch: Defending Cusack Stand, Hill 16 End.

1. Aoife Fitzgerald, Ardferd N.S., Ardferd, Co. Kerry
2. Aimee McNally, St. Mary's N.S., Knockbridge, Co. Louth
3. Brona Johnston, St. Patrick's P.S., Loughiel, Co. Antrim
4. Labhaoise Dunbar, Scoil Naisiunta, Dun Aill, Co. Phortlairge
5. Sinéad Kiernan, St. Joseph's P.S., Madden, Co. Armagh
6. Catherine Casey, St. Patrick's P.S., Dungannon, Co. Tyrone
7. Aisling O'Leary, St. Colmcilles S.N.S., Knocklyon, Dublin
8. Róisín Howard, Our Lady of Mercy P.S. Cahir, Tipperary
9. Emma McGuigan, St. Joseph's P.S., Madden, Co. Armagh
10. Áine Murphy, New Row P.S. Castledawson, Co. Derry

Cill Chainnigh — Camógaíocht

Pitch: Defending Hogan Stand, Hill 16 End.

1. Lisa Kehoe, St. Colman's N.S. Clara, Co. Kilkenny
2. Sarah Kelly, Ballintieva N.S., Curraghboy, Co. Roscommon
3. Rachael Kenny, Scoil Mhuire, G.N.S., Lucan, Co. Dublin
4. Amy Kelly, St. Bridget's N.S., Trim, Co. Meath
5. Clara Byrne, St. Coleman's N.S., Clara, Co. Kilkenny
6. Doireann Ní Aonghusa, Gaelscoil Mhichil, Ciosóg, Co. Clare
7. Aileen McHugh, Raharney N.S., Co. Westmeath
8. Amy Stokes, Monageer N.S., Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
9. Ruth Jordan, Tynagh N.S., Loughrea, Co. Galway
10. Cailín Fitzgerald, Carrig N.S., Co. Offaly

REFEREES: Brian and Barry Mannion, Our Lady's NS, Ballinteer. They are members of the Allianz-Cumann na mBunscoil Dublin Primary Whistlers.

SENIOR HURLING SCOREBOARD 2008



LAIGHIN

25th May @ Portlaoise:
Offaly 4-22 Laois 2-12
25th May @ Portlaoise:
Dublin 3-21 Westmeath 0-11
14th June @ Nowlan Park:
Wexford 2-13 Dublin 0-19
15th June @ Portlaoise:
Kilkenny 2-24 Offaly 0-12
22nd June @ Croke Park:
Wexford 2-15 Dublin 1-15*
Final - 6th July @ Croke Park:
Kilkenny 5-21 Wexford 0-17

ULADH

11th May @ Breffni Park:
Monaghan 2-15 Cavan 1-16
11th May @ Lisnaskea:
Tyrone 1-11 Fermanagh 2-7
17th May @ Clones:
Monaghan 1-15 Donegal 1-14
18th May @ Omagh:
London 2-13 Tyrone 1-6
24th May @ Newry:
London 2-23 Armagh 4-16
25th May @ Celtic Park:
Derry 7-23 Monaghan 3-13

1st June @ Casement Park:
Down 4-16 London 1-16
1st June @ Casement Park:
Antrim 2-17 Derry 1-12
Final 15th June @ Casement Park:
Antrim 3-18 Down 2-16

MUMHA

1st June @ the Gaelic Grounds:
Clare 2-26 Waterford 0-23
8th June @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Tipperary 1-19 Cork 1-13
22nd June @ Thurles:
Clare 4-12 Limerick 1-16
Final
13th July @ the Gaelic Grounds:
Tipperary 2-21 Clare 0-19

Phase 3

12th July @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
Cork 1-17 Dublin 0-15
12th July @ the Gaelic Grounds:
Offaly 3-19 Limerick 0-18
Phase 4
19th July @ Thurles:
Waterford 2-18 Offaly 0-18
19th July @ Thurles:
Cork 0-23 Galway 2-15

RELEGATION PLAY/OFF

19th July @ Navan:
Antrim 2-18 Laois 0-16
Relegation/Promotion Play-Off
9th August @ Dr Cullen Park:
Laois 4-18 Carlow 3-11

ALL-IRELAND QUALIFIERS

Phase 1
28th June @ Casement Park:
Galway 6-21 Antrim 1-10
Phase 2
5th July @ Walsh Park:
Waterford 6-18 Antrim 0-15
5th July @ Salthill:
Galway 1-26 Laois 0-9

ALL-IRELAND QUARTER-FINALS

27th July @ Thurles:
Cork 2-19 Clare 2-17
27th July @ Thurles:
Waterford 2-19 Wexford 3-15

ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINALS

10th August @ Croke Park:
Kilkenny 1-23 Cork 0-17
17th August @ Croke Park:
Waterford 1-20 Tipperary 1-18

The GAA Fun Do Learning Resource Pack

Winner of the Digital Media Award Best E-Learning Product or Course 2007

The GAA Fun Do Learning Resource Pack was released to national and international acclaim in October 2007. The pack contains booklets, DVDs and DVD-ROMs aimed at parents, teachers and coaches. Specifically the pack contains:

- ABC/Have a Ball (Nursery) Resource and DVD
- Hurling Resource, DVD and DVD-ROM
- Gaelic Football Resource, DVD and DVD-ROM
- Go Games Resource

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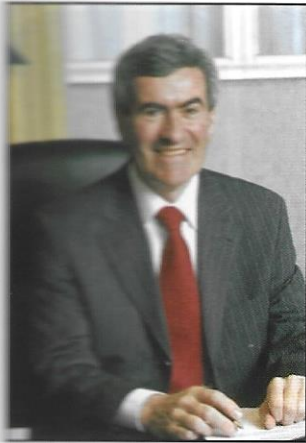


WORLD RECORD

The late Tom Murphy, Three Castles, Kilkenny holds the World record for the longest "lift and strike". He recorded a distance of 129 yards (118 m) in a long puck contest in 1906.

MESSAGE FROM ESB

SPONSORS OF THE ESB GAA ALL-IRELAND MINOR HURLING FINAL



ESB was pleased to renew its sponsorship of the GAA All-Ireland Minor Hurling and Football Championships for 2008 and we are delighted to be back in Croke Park to share the spectacle as Galway and Kilkenny challenge for the Irish Press Cup.

ESB and the GAA share a tradition of excellence and high achievement and this sponsorship helps to develop these qualities on the pitch and in the workplace.

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. As a company 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.

This year I am also very pleased that ESB and the GAA have launched the Cúl Green initiative to make Croke Park a Carbon Neutral Stadium. This is a very significant environmental initiative for the stadium and we can all play a part in supporting it by making a pledge at the www.culgreen.ie website.

All Ireland Final Day is one of the great annual dramas in Irish sport and, today, we come together to watch a thriller between Galway and Kilkenny and I hope you all enjoy today's encounter and we wish both teams the best of luck.

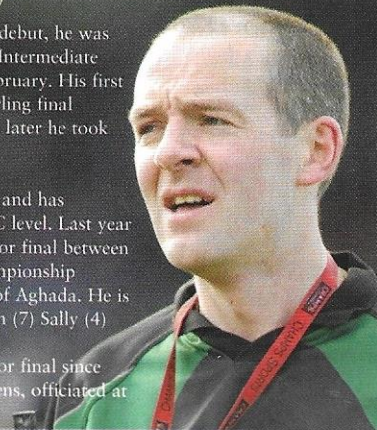
Pádraig McManus, Chief Executive, ESB

An Riteoir: Cathal McAllister (Corcaigh)

Although this is Cathal's All-Ireland minor final refereeing debut, he was already on duty in a national summit at Croke Park in the Intermediate club-decider between Clonkill, and Tommy Larkins last February. His first big game on the local front was the Cork Intermediate hurling final between Youghal and Delaney Rovers in 2000. Three years later he took charge of the county senior final between Blackrock and Nennoowshandrum.

McAllister has been on the intercounty panel since 2004 and has officiated games in the Allianz NHL and at provincial SHC level. Last year he was the man-in-the-middle at the AIB Munster club senior final between Loughmore Castleiney and Tulla. Cathal won juvenile championship medals with Midleton as a forward, but is now a member of Aghada. He is married to Ann Marie, and they have three children, Lauren (7) Sally (4) and Sam (six months).

He is the first Cork referee to control an All-Ireland minor final since Dáirmuid Kirwan, a native of Offaly and now living in Owens, officiated at his second successive decider in 2003.



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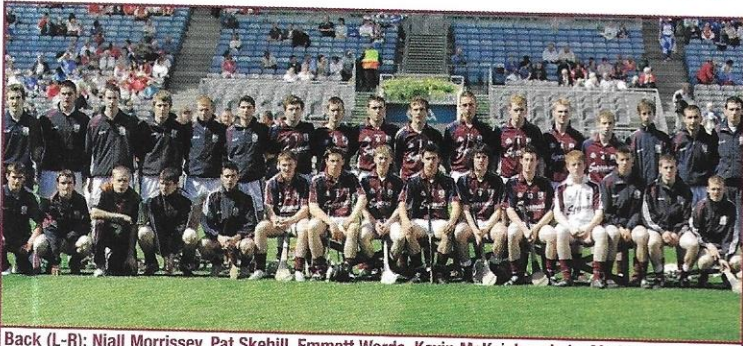
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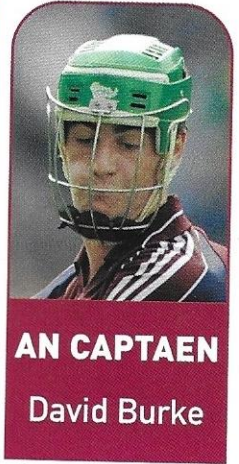
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GAILLIMH



Back (L-R): Niall Morrissey, Pat Skehill, Emmett Warde, Kevin McKeighue, Luke Madden, Martin Dolphin, Rory Fox, Richie Cummins, Donal Cooney, Ronan Burke, Niall Burke, Niall Quinn, Niall Donoghue, Ger O'Halloran, John Cannon, Conor Burke, Owen Fahy.
Front (L-R): Barry Daly, Colm Flynn, Niall Gibbons, Brian Flaherty, James Regan, Bernard Burke, Declan Connolly, Davy Glennon, Davy Burke, Donnie Fox, Alan Dolan, Fergal Flannery, Enna Noone, Michael Cummins, Padraic Landers.



AN CAPTAEN
David Burke

A SUCCESSFUL DECADE FOR GALWAY MINORS

This is proving a very successful decade for Galway in the All-Ireland minor hurling championship. Victory in this appealing summit would give the county a fourth title in the "naughties" to equal their total up to 1999.

Galway, who last won the All-Ireland crown in 2005, have also left little doubt that they

are very worthy finalists. In their opening engagement they were down to 13 players for the final five minutes against Wexford in a thrilling game at Thurles. However, they overcame the handicap with late points from Damien Fox and Niall Quinn to secure a 0-16 to 0-15 win. In their semi-final with Cork at Croke Park, Galway took a handsome revenge for a crushing defeat by the Rebel County in a quarter-final last year.

Richard Cummins played a major role in securing the final ticket. He was clever in general play, scored the only goal of the game, and finished as top marksman for both teams.

The first half was a closely contested affair, with little between the teams at any stage, and finished all square a

0-8 each. The exchanges continued to be keen in the early stages of the second half, but after about fifteen minutes Cummins struck a crucial blow for the Westerners when he expertly collected a fine goal to give his side a six points advantage. Cork did not flinch, however, and went on to hit five points in succession. But the Connacht lads retained their composure and finished deserving winners by 1-18 to 0-17.

While Cummins was the real ace in the Galway pack, he had good all round support. Niall Burke and Niall Quinn also did much to have the forward division moving efficiently.

Team captain David Burke led the side in fine style from midfield and the defence, with Niall Donoghue and Gerard O'Halloran to the fore, held firm.

All in all, an impressive return to the final scene.

NO GOALS

Galway has reached this year's final without conceding a goal, but that is no guarantee of victory this afternoon. Just twelve months ago Cork reached the decider without conceding a goal en-route as Waterford, Clare, Tipperary, Galway and Dublin all failed to raise the green flag against them. Alas, the Premier county found the net three times in the final as they took the title by 3-14 to 2-11.

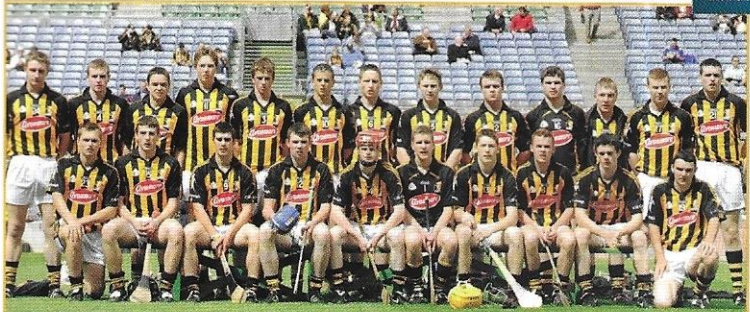
The last Galway side to reach the minor final without conceding a goal was eleven years ago when they defeated Offaly (3-12 to 0-10) and Tipperary (2-9 to 0-14), but like Cork twelve months ago they failed to keep their net intact in the final and lost to Clare by 1-9 to 1-11. The Corribiders' lineout on that occasion was – C.Callanan, E.McDonagh, D.Cloonan, E.Donoghue, J.Cannon, S.Morgan, A.Walsh, N.Lawlor, J.Hession, D.Donohue, D.Tierney, G.Hurney, O.Deeley, K.Hayes, C.Coen. Subs – E.Hyland, K.Daniels, G.Keary.

CILL CHAINNIGH



AN CAPTAEN

Thomas Breen



Back (L-R): Nigel Stanley, Alan Cuddihy, Seán Phelan, Walter Walsh, Michael Walsh, Joe Brennan, Richie Doyle, Conor Fogarty, David Healy, Gary Delaney, Enda Malone, Peter McCarthy, Mark Fitzgerald.

Front (L-R): Aidan Moran, Martin Gaffney, James Gannon, Rory Hickey, Thomas Breen, Eoin Murphy, Mark O'Dwyer, Cathal Kenny, Canice Maher, Danny Purcell. Missing Michael Moloney

CHANCE FOR KILKENNY TO TOP THE RANKINGS

Victory for Kilkenny in the All-Ireland minor hurling final would do more than earn them their first title in five years. It would also give them outright leadership on the Roll of Honour with 19 titles, one more than Cork and Tipperary.

The Noresiders return to the All-Ireland final for the first time since losing to Galway in a replay in 2004. They regained the Leinster title after two years with a workmanlike display, highlighted by a strong second half showing, when beating Wexford at Croke Park. The Noresiders did well in the opening half with a goal by Martin Gaffney in the tenth minute a high point as they built up an interval lead of 1-9 to 0-7. They showed a nice line in points scoring in a polished second half showing that clinched a convincing 1-19 to 0-12 win.

Kilkenny maintained their good form when booking this

final outing at the expense of Munster title runners-up, Tipperary. The points scoring of Joe Brennan and two goals from Walter Walsh were important planks in laying the foundations for the success.

Tipperary led early on by three points, but Walsh's first goal after fourteen minutes steadied Killkenny. Walsh hit his second goal ten minutes before the interval, which arrived with the Leinster champions leading by 2-6 to 0-8.

Kilkenny had much the better of the second half exchanges. Tipperary had a defender dismissed seventeen minutes from the final whistle and it was late in the game before they scored their only goal as Kilkenny finished deserving winners by 3-17 to 1-14. Brennan

had a splendid game and hit eight valuable points. Two-goal scorer Walsh and Martin Gaffney, who recorded his side's other goal, prompted the lively attack in fine style.

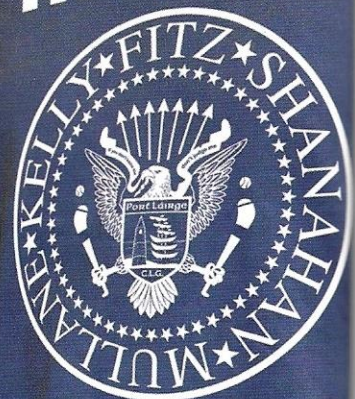
Midfielder Cathal Kenny along with Richard Doyle and Alan Cuddihy in a tenacious rearguard were other key figures in copper-fastening their ticket to final day.

Friday October 3rd 2008

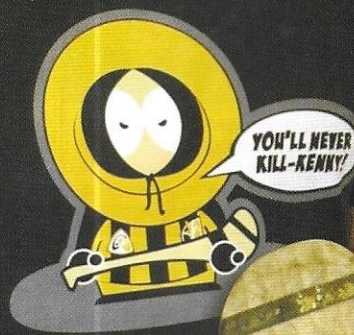
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MINOR HURLING SCOREBOARD 2008

LACHIN



29th March @ Dr Cullen Park:
 Carlow 2-13 Offaly 1-9
 6th April @ Wexford Park:
 Kilkenny 3-12 Wexford 0-15
 6th April @ Arklow:
 Kildare 2-19 Wicklow 0-5
 6th April @ An Uaimh:
 Meath 3-11 Westmeath 0-7
 13th April @ Mullingar:
 Westmeath 9-22 Wicklow 0-0
 13th April @ Mountbolus:
 Offaly 1-10 Dublin 1-10
 13th April @ Freshford:
 Kilkenny 6-17 Laois 1-8
 13th April @ Naas:
 Kildare 1-10 Meath 0-10
 19th April @ Mullingar:
 Kildare 0-13 Westmeath 1-9
 20th April @ An Uaimh:
 Meath 3-13 Wicklow 2-3
 20th April @ Rathdowney:
 Wexford 5-19 Laois 2-11
 3rd May @ Mullingar:
 Westmeath 4-23 Wicklow 0-6
 4th May @ Naas:
 Offaly 4-12 Kildare 1-7

13th May @ An Uaimh:
 Meath 0-13 Laois 1-7
 17th May @ Dr Cullen Park:
 Carlow 0-17 Meath 1-10
 17th May @ Wexford Park:
 Wexford 1-19 Offaly 1-7
 21st June @ Freshford:
 Kilkenny 1-16 Carlow 0-7
 22nd June @ Croke Park:
 Wexford 3-13 Dublin 3-13
 28th June @ Wexford Park:
 Wexford 1-15 Dublin 2-11 *
Final
 6th July @ Croke Park:
 Kilkenny 1-19 Wexford 0-12

ULADH



25th May @ Celtic Park:
 Derry 6-12 Donegal 0-14
 1st June @ Casement Park:
 Down 8-14 Armagh 3-9
 1st June @ Casement Park:
 Antrim 6-20 Derry 1-11
Final
 15th June @ Casement Park:
 Antrim 3-18 Down 0-5

MUMHA



30th April @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
 Clare 2-17 Cork 2-16
 30th April @ Thurles:
 Tipperary 3-21 Limerick 1-12
 30th April @ Killarney:
 Waterford 8-15 Kerry 0-3
 7th May @ Páirc Uí Chaoimh:
 Cork 0-23 Limerick 1-11
 25th June @ Thurles:
 Tipperary 2-12 Clare 1-10
 25th June @ Walsh Park:
 Cork 4-13 Waterford 1-6
Final
 13th July @ the Gaelic Grounds:
 Cork 0-19 Tipperary 0-18

ALL-IRELAND QUARTER-FINALS

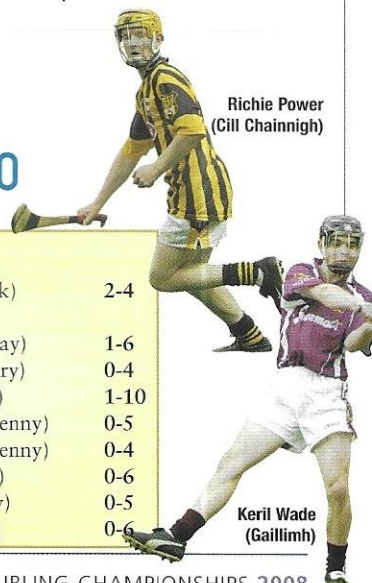
26th July @ Mullingar:
 Tipperary 4-18 Antrim 0-6
 27th July @ Thurles:
 Galway 0-16 Wexford 0-15

ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINALS

10th August @ Croke Park
 Kilkenny 3-17 Tipperary 1-14
 17th August @ Croke Park
 Galway 1-18 Cork 0-17

WINNING-LOSING MINOR FINAL MARKSMEN SINCE 2000

	Winners		Losers	
2000	Ger Farragher (Galway)	0-8	Kieran Murphy (Cork)	2-4
	David Greene (Galway)	2-2		
2001	Kieran Murphy (Cork)	1-5	Ger Farragher (Galway)	1-6
2002	James Fitzpatrick (Kilkenny)	2-2	Willie Ryan (Tipperary)	0-4
2003	Richie Power (Kilkenny)	0-9	Niall Healy (Galway)	1-10
2004	Barry Hanley (Galway)	2-3	Maurice Nolan (Kilkenny)	0-5
replay	Keril Wade (Galway)	0-7	Maurice Nolan (Kilkenny)	0-4
2005	Joe Canning (Galway)	1-3	Eoin Ryan (Limerick)	0-6
2006	Pa Bourke (Tipperary)	1-7	Joe Canning (Galway)	0-5
2007	Sean Carey (Tipperary)	2-1	Ryan Clifford (Cork)	0-6



Richie Power (Cill Chainnigh)

Keril Wade (Gaillimh)

KILKENNY'S LAST WIN...2003

Kilkenny 2-16 Galway 2-15

The reigning All-Ireland champions made the more positive start to lead by 0-7 to 0-3 at the end of the opening quarter, but three points in as many minutes at the start of the second from Niall Healy reduced Galway's deficit to the minimum. Four minutes from the break Healy's goal edged Galway in front, but 60 seconds later Eoin Guinan had a like score at the other end. A sensational opening half finished with another goal from Niall Callanan to leave it 2-8 to 1-10.

The title-holders enjoyed their most dominant spell of the match on the restart with James Fitzpatrick's goal preceding four unanswered points as the Noresiders swept six clear. However, either side of the end of the third quarter Galway hit five points without reply to close the gap to the minimum. Kilkenny added a point before a brace from Donal

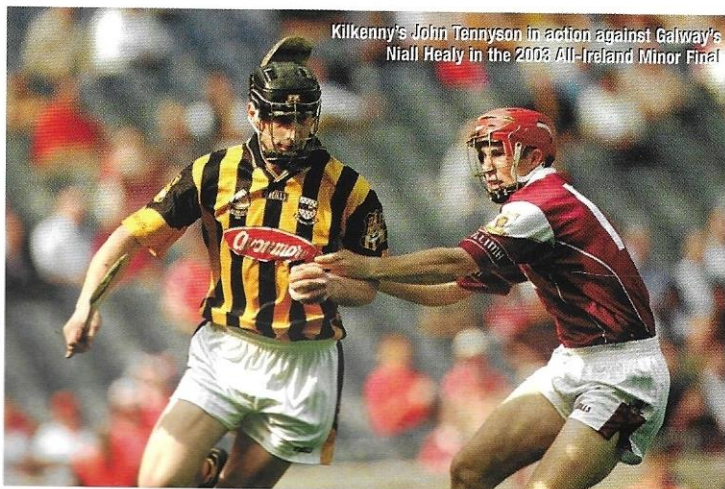
Reilly brought parity. A replay appeared likely but Richie Power's late point saw the title remain by the Nore.

Kilkenny scorers: R.Power 0-9, E.Guinan 1-2, J.Fitzpatrick 1-2, M.Nolan 0-2, D.Cody 0-1.

Galway scorers: N.Healy 1-10, N.Callanan 1-1, D.Reilly 0-2, A.Callanan 0-1, E.Fenton 0-1.

Cill Chainnigh – C.Grant, J.Dalton, J.Tennyson, S.Cadigan, D.Cody, D.Prendergast,

P.O'Donovan, P.Hartley, M.Fennelly, E.McGrath, R.Power, A.Healy, M.Nolan, J.Fitzpatrick, E.Guinan.
Subs – A.Murphy for McGrath, R.Wall for Healy, D.McCormack for Hartley.
Gaillimh – A.Ryan, T.Linnane, G.Mahon, D.Kennedy, D.Ryan, J.Lee, R.Whyte, C.Burke, D.Kelly, N.Callanan, D.Garvey, N.Coleman, D.Reilly, A.Callanan, N.Healy.
Subs – E.Fenton for Burke, K.Hynes for Coleman.



Kilkenny's John Tennyson in action against Galway's Niall Healy in the 2003 All-Ireland Minor Final

PREVIOUS MEETINGS 27

Kilkenny 19 Galway 8

1931 Kilkenny 4-7 Galway 2-3 <i>Final</i>	<i>Final</i>	1993 Kilkenny 1-17 Galway 1-12 <i>Final</i>
1935 Kilkenny 11-7 Galway 2-2	1974 Kilkenny 8-18 Galway 2-9	1994 Galway 1-14 Kilkenny 2-9
1937 Kilkenny 9-8 Galway 0-3	1976 Kilkenny 6-17 Galway 0-6	1996 Galway 3-16 Kilkenny 1-14
1939 Kilkenny 5-9 Galway 2-3	1978 Kilkenny 3-13 Galway 1-8	1998 Kilkenny 2-10 Galway 1-12
1949 Kilkenny 4-2 Galway 1-1	1981 Kilkenny 1-20 Galway 3-9 <i>Final</i>	1999 Galway 1-18 Kilkenny 3-9
1951 Galway 6-2 Kilkenny 5-5	1982 Galway 2-6 Kilkenny 1-8	2002 Kilkenny 2-13 Galway 2-11
Galway 6-3 Kilkenny 4-6 *	1984 Kilkenny 2-10 Galway 2-9	2003 Kilkenny 2-16 Galway 2-15 <i>Final</i>
1956 Kilkenny 2-8 Galway 1-4	1988 Kilkenny 3-15 Galway 1-6	2004 Galway 3-12 Kilkenny 1-18 <i>Final</i>
1958 Galway 4-5 Kilkenny 3-5	1990 Kilkenny 2-10 Galway 1-12	<i>Final</i>
1972 Kilkenny 7-9 Galway 2-8	1992 Galway 1-16 Kilkenny 1-16	Galway 0-16 Kilkenny 1-12 *
1973 Kilkenny 4-5 Galway 3-7	Galway 3-12 Kilkenny 1-10 *	



GALWAY'S LAST WIN...2004

Galway 0-16 Kilkenny 1-12

An absorbing contest seven days earlier had seen the sides doublecrossed – 3-12 to 1-18 – and the replay at Tullamore saw that high standard exceeded with Galway surviving Kilkenny's late onslaught to deny the Noresiders a third successive title. Before an attendance of 8,500, Galway had first use of the breeze with Joe Canning firing them ahead inside 15 seconds, but it took three unanswered points just

before the break to haul them level (0-9 to 1-6).

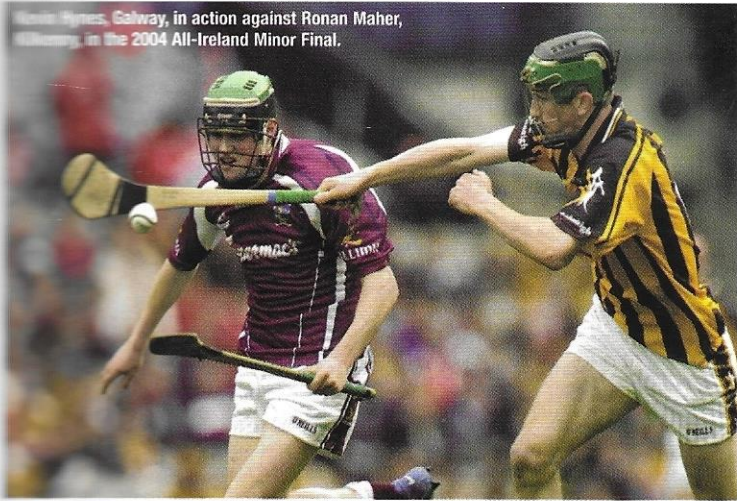
However, the Corribiders restarted impressively and another hat-trick of points (two from Keril Wade and a single from Kevin Hynes) saw them push three clear inside six minutes. By the dawn of the fourth quarter Galway were still three to the good and points by Wade and Finian Coone had them five in front with as many minutes remaining. The

inevitable Kilkenny fight-back yielded four points, but a couple of chances to force extra time were wasted.

Galway scorers: K.Wade 0-7, J.Canning 0-4, K.Hynes 0-2, F.Coone 0-2, K.Kilkenny 0-1.
Kilkenny scorers: M.Nolan 0-4, E.Guinan 1-1, P.Hogan 0-3, N.Prendergast 0-1, M.Ruth 0-1, E.O'Donoghue 0-1, R.Hogan 0-1.

Gaillimh – M.Herlihy, P.Loughnane, G.Mahon, C.O'Donovan, M.Ryan, J.Lee, J.Hughes, A.Keary, D.Kennedy, K.Kilkenny, K.Hynes, F.Coone, K.Wade, J.Canning, B.Hanley.
 Sub – D.White for Ryan.

Cill Chainnigh – L.Tierney, J.Maher, K.Joyce, P.Cahill, N.Prendergast, R.Maher, S.Prendergast, P.Hartley, P.Hogan, G.Nolan, M.Nolan, N.Kenny, R.Hogan, E.Guinan, M.Ruth.
 Sub – E.O'Donoghue for Kenny.



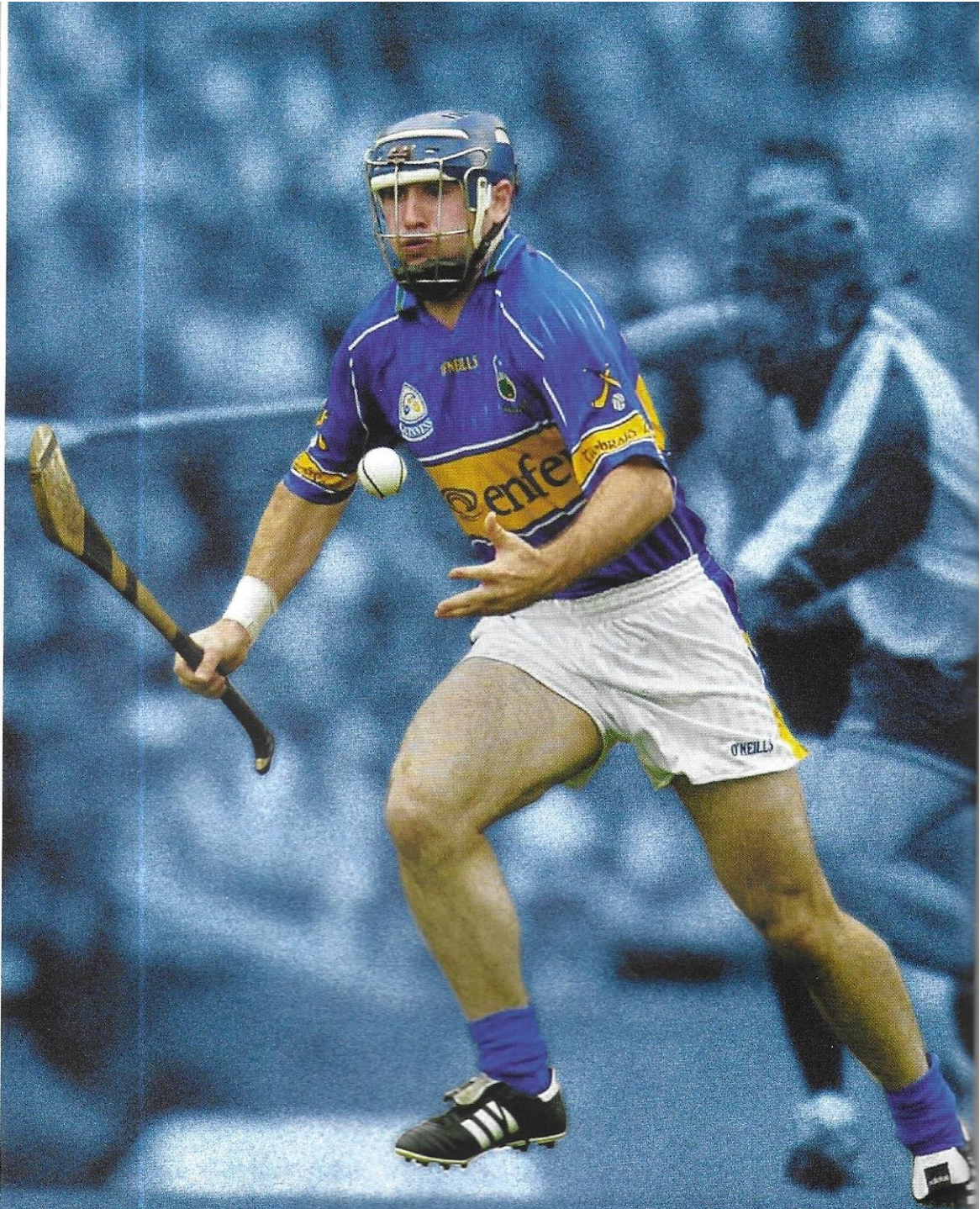
Ronan Hynes, Galway, in action against Ronan Maher, Kilkenny, in the 2004 All-Ireland Minor Final.

THE TOP THREE

Today, for the just the second time in their history, Kilkenny has the opportunity to lead the way on their own in the minor hurling roll of honour. When the county won their first title in 1931 Cork and Tipperary already had one title to their credit and by their second in 1935, the Premier county had won four titles. The Noresiders trailed Tipperary until 1991 when their 15th

crown brought them level with both Cork and Tipperary. Kilkenny won their 16th title to take the lead on their own in 1993, but two years later the Leesiders joined them and wins in 1998 and 2001 pushed them two ahead. Kilkenny's back-to-back titles in 2002/03 again had them joint leaders and Tipp's wins in 2006/07 saw them make it a three-way tie at the top.

Cork (18) 1928, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1941, 1951, 1964, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1974, 1978, 1979, 1985, 1995, 1998, 2001.
Kilkenny (18) 1931, 1935, 1936, 1950, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1981, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1993, 2002, 2003.
Tipperary (18) 1930, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1947, 1949, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1959, 1976, 1980, 1982, 1996, 2006, 2007.



**PROVEN
WHEN
TESTED**



TOP SCORERS

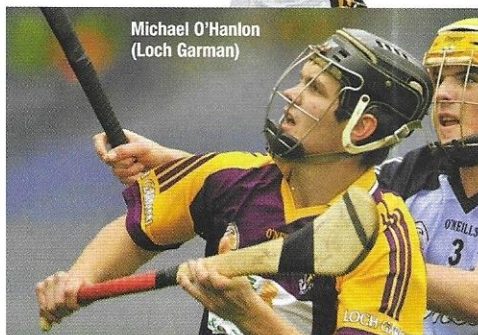
Barring a draw in today's minor decider, it appears inevitable that Michael O'Hanlon of Wexford will take the top scorers' position for the 2008 minor hurling championship. The Slaney sides is 17 points clear of Kilkenny's Joe Brennan who would almost certainly require two hours to close that gap.

However, the Noresider requires just a couple of points this afternoon to overtake Simon O'Brien and Noel McGrath who currently are tied for the runners-up spot. The last Wexford player to win the overall title was Richard Flynn in 2002. The top ten currently reads:



Joe Brennan (Cill Chainnigh)

	Score	Total
Michael O'Hanlon (Wexford)	3-36	45
Simon O'Brien (Cork)	1-26	29
Noel McGrath (Tipperary)	1-26	29
Joe Brennan (Kilkenny)	0-28	28
Thomas Carroll (Offaly)	3-13	22
Dermot Carty (Meath)	0-21	21
Dennis Murphy (Carlow)	0-20	20
Neil Foyle (Laois)	2-14	20
Barry O'Meara (Westmeath)	3-11	20
Kieran Morris (Tipperary)	3-11	20



Michael O'Hanlon (Loch Garman)



Kildare minor captain, Seán Whelan.

All Ireland Minor 'B' Hurling Championship final Kildare take hurling title

by John Ryan

KILDARE turned in a magnificent second half performance in Semple Stadium, Thurles yesterday week to capture the county's first minor hurling title at national level since 1970.

At half-time, however, Don McSweeney's young Lilywhites had trailed a much fancied Westmeath outfit by 1-7 to 0-5 following a performance that was stifled by big-day nerves.

But they returned for the resumption a much changed outfit and two goals in 60 seconds by the 40th minute from Ross Kelly and a rather fortuitous strike from distance from Martin Fitzgerald moved a resurgent Kildare side 2-8 to 1-8 ahead.

From there until full-time, last year's beaten finalists always held their destination in their own hands and when Fitzgerald pointed a '65 and substitute Philip Cocoman raised another white flag almost instantly in the 52nd minute, Westmeath were staring at a second defeat to Kildare following a 0-13 to 1-9 home loss during the Leinster championship back in April.

The midlanders, managed by Seamus Qualter, registered only two points during the second half yet to their credit they did rally late on but substitute Stephen Boylan saw his 59th minute penalty denied by the foot of a post while Kildare's defence comfortably blocked away Stephen Bardon's resulting 21 yard free.

The final score was Kildare 2-12, Westmeath 1-9.

Kildare scorers: Martin Fitzgerald 1-7 (0-2

'65); Ross Kelly 1-0; Eoin Doyle 0-2; Johnny Byrne, Michael Purcell and Philip Cocoman 0-1 each.

Westmeath scorers: Barry O'Meara 1-4 (0-2f, s/l); Stephen Bardon (Castlepollard) 0-4 (3f, '65); Killian Murphy (0-1).

Kildare: Sean Whelan (Capt, Naas), Darracha MacDonncha (Naas), Eanna O'Neill (Coill Dubh), Ryan McGrath (Clane), Donal McSweeney (Naas), Stephen Piggott (Naas), Michael Purcell (Naas), Johnny Byrne (Coill Dubh), Brian Ahern (Naas), Conor Kenny (Celbridge), Ross Kelly (Naas), Paraic Cullen (Ros Glas), Conor O'Hehir (Naas), Marcus Kinsella (Celbridge), Martin Fitzgerald (Ardclough). Subs: Eoin Doyle (Naas) for Kinsella 21 mins; Philip Cocoman (Naas) for O'Hehir h/t; Gavin Sunderland (Moorefield) for Kenny h/t; Danny Butler (Celbridge) for Cullen 56 mins; Mark Lynam (Ardclough), David Keegan (Celbridge), Eanna Doyle (Celbridge), Paul Sullivan (Naas), John Dunne (Naas), David O'Neill (Confey), Ross Doyle (Kill), Piaras O'Midheach (Ardclough), Diarmuid Carr (Ardclough), Fiacra Lohan (Maynooth), Niall Devane (Ardclough), Luke O'Reilly (Coill Dubh).

Manager: Don McSweeney (Naas).

Selectors: Ger Buggle (Ardclough), John Geoghan (Naas).

INDIVIDUAL FEATS

Although it is six years since Wexford last asserted the overall scoring title, it is just twelve months since they took the individual feats award with Willie Cullen's 5-4 against Wicklow in May last year winning out. Again, it was in the earlier stages of the Leinster campaign that yielded the highest individual total this term with Michael O'Hanlon's 1-10 against Laois leading the way. Eoin Ryan of Limerick was the last player to do the overall/individual double in 2005 and it looks likely that the Slaney youth will emulate that achievement.

The Kilkenny minor panel included the following who are not included on today's teamsheet: *Kilkenny* - Tom Ryan (Clare), Danny Kenny (Dicksboro), Geoff Brennan (St. Patricks), Cormac Daly (Monacooin), Paddy Dowling (St. Warrens), James Cassin, Liam Lacey (St. Patricks), David Glynn (Dicksboro)



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THE DEFENCE FORCES



HOW THEY REACHED THE FINAL

Cill Chainnigh

Kilkenny are appearing in their first All-Ireland minor hurling final since 2004 when they played a draw with Galway – 1-10 to the Westerners’ 3-12. Galway won the replay 0-16 to 1-12.

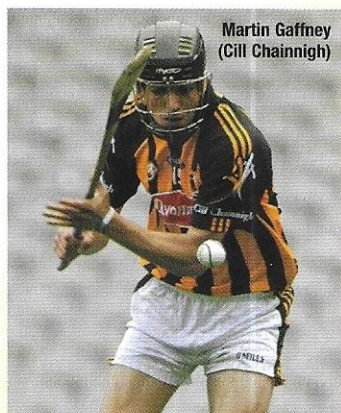
Their last final win was forged

out at the expense of Galway in 2003 – 2-16 to 2-15. The Nonesiders make their sixth appearance of the championship season in this game:

- 6th April. Wexford Park:** Kilkenny 3-12; Wexford 0-15.
- 13th April. Freshford:** Kilkenny 6-17; Laois 1-8.
- 21st June. Freshford:**

- Kilkenny 1-16; Carlow 0-7.
- 6th July. Croke Park:** Kilkenny 1-19; Wexford 0-12.
- 10th August. Croke Park:** Kilkenny 3-17; Tipperary 1-14.
- TOTAL SCORED:** 14-81 (123 points).
- TOTAL CONCEDED:** 2-56 (62 points).
- AVERAGE:** 1.98

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Joe Brennan	0-2	0-3	0-8	0-7	0-8	0-28
Mark O'Dwyer	0-1	3-2	1-2	—	—	4-5
Thomas Beeen	0-2	0-4	0-1	0-5	0-2	0-14
Michael Moloney	0-4	0-5	0-2	0-1	—	0-12
Conor Maher	1-0	2-1	—	—	—	3-1
Martin Gaffney	—	1-0	—	1-1	1-0	3-1
Danny Purcell	1-1	—	0-1	0-2	—	1-4
Cathal Kenny	0-1	—	0-2	0-1	0-3	0-7
Walter Walsh	—	—	—	—	2-1	2-1
James Gannon	—	0-1	—	0-1	0-1	0-3
Peter McCarthy	1-0	—	—	—	0-1	1-1
Rory Hickey	—	—	—	0-1	0-1	0-2
G. Brennan	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-1
David Healy	—	0-1	—	—	—	0-1



Martin Gaffney (Cill Chainnigh)

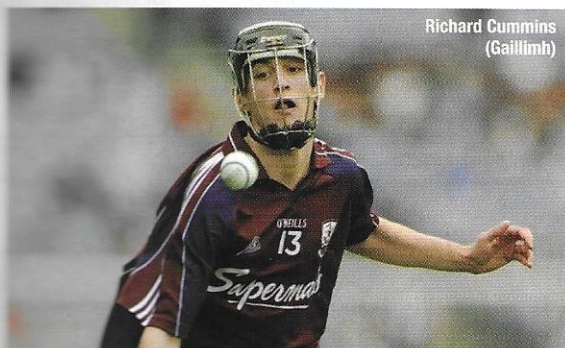
Gaillimh

Galway were bidding for a rare triple of All-Ireland minor hurling titles when they met Tipperary in the 2006 decider – their last appearance in the

showpiece game. However, they lost by 2-18 to 2-7. This game marks their third championship appearance of the season.

- 27th July. Semple Stadium:** Galway 0-16; Wexford 0-15

- 17th August. Croke Park:** Galway 1-18; Cork 0-17.
- TOTAL SCORED:** 1-34 (37 points).
- TOTAL CONCEDED:** 0-32.
- AVERAGE:** 1.16



Richard Cummins (Gaillimh)

	1	2	Total
Richard Cummins	—	1-5	1-5
Niall Burke	0-4	0-3	0-7
Niall Quinn	0-3	0-3	0-6
David Burke	0-3	0-3	0-6
Bernard Burke	0-1	0-2	0-3
Domhnaill Fox	0-1	0-1	0-2
David Glennon	0-1	0-1	0-2
James Regan	0-1	—	0-1
Alan Dolan	0-1	—	0-1
Luke Madden	0-1	—	0-1

	1 ADH	2
DÚIL		
DÚILÍNÍ		
SEACHAI		
65M		



FIR IONAD

- | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| (16) GARY DELANEY
G. Ó Dúláinne (Cloneen) | (18) CANICE MAHER
C. Ó Meachair (St. Martin's) | (20) SEÁN PHELAN
S. Ó Faoláin (Lisdowney) | (22) ENDA MALONE
E. Ó Maoileoin (Dicksboro) | (24) NIGEL STANLEY
N. de Stainléigh (Galmoey) |
| (17) MARK O'DWYER
M. Ó Dubhúir (Carrickshock) | (19) DANNY PURCELL
D. Puirseil (Mooncoin) | (21) MARK FITZGERALD
M. Mac Gearailt (Mooncoin) | (23) AIDAN MORAN
A. Ó Moráin (Erin's Own) | |

ROIGHNÓIRÍ

Richie Mulrooney (Manager), Tom O'Hanlon, Brendan O'Sullivan, Brian Ryan (Coach).

CILL CHAINNIGH

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	



1
Fergal Flannery
 F. Ó Flannabhra
 (Pádraig Pearsa)



2
Declan Connolly
 D. Ó Conghale
 (Kilmordaly)



3
Ronan Burke
 R. de Búrca
 (Turroughmore)



4
Gerard O'Halloran
 G. Ó hAlluráin
 (Craughwell)



5
Niall Donoghue
 N. Ó Donnchú
 (Michael Cusacks)



6
Donal Cooney
 D. Ó Cuana
 (St. Thomas)



7
Rory Foy
 R. Ó Fiaich
 (Ballindereen)



8
David Burke
 D. de Búrca (Capt.)
 (St. Thomas)



9
Domhnall Fox
 D. Ó Sionnacháin
 (Cammore)



10
Alan Dolan
 A. Ó Doláin
 (Cappataggle)



11
Niall Quinn
 N. Ó Coinn
 (Sarsfields)



12
Niall Burke
 N. de Búrca
 (Oranmore-Maree)



13
Richard Cummins
 R. Ó Cumáin
 (Gort)



14
Bernard Burke
 B. de Búrca
 (St. Thomas)



15
David Glennon
 D. Ó Gleannáin
 (Mullagh)

FRÍONAD

(18) **INTRICK SIEHILL**
 P. Ó Siobhail
 (St. Thomas)

(18) **BARRY DALY**
 B. Ó Dálaigh
 (Clarinbridge)

(20) **JAMES REGAN**
 S. Ó Riagáin
 (St. Thomas)

(22) **BRIAN FLAHERTY**
 B. Ó Flaithearta
 (Abbeyknockmoy)

(24) **JOHN CANNON**
 S. Ó Cannáin
 (Clarinbridge)

(17) **EMMA NOONE**
 E. Ó Nuadháin
 (Wexford)

(19) **CONOR BURKE**
 C. de Búrca
 (Athenry)

(21) **LUKE MADDEN**
 L. Ó Maidín
 (Athenry)

(23) **MARTIN DOLPHIN**
 M. Ó Dóilín
 (Portunna)

MANAGAIRÍ

Mattie Murphy (Manager), Michael Haverly, Michael Fogarty.

GAILLIMH



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LUIMNIGH

Best of luck to **Davy Fitzgerald** and **Jackie Tyrrell** and to all involved in today's All Ireland hurling finals. **Limerick Institute of Technology** has a proud GAA ethos and over the last number of years has had numerous successes including - **Fitzgibbon Cup Champions 2005 and 2007, Senior Hurling league Champions 2008, Fresher Hurler Champions 2004 and Fresher Hurling League Champions 2008.**



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CHALLENGING THE CHAMPIONS



Today Waterford face the reigning All-Ireland champions for the 27th time in their history and should the Decies prevail this afternoon it will be just the fourth occasion they have dethroned the title-holders. Waterford first faced the reigning champions in 1901 when they opposed Tipperary at Cork but it was a total disaster as they failed to score in response to the Premier county's 7-12.

Over the next half century Waterford faced the champions on a further twelve occasions, but defeat was their lot each time and in a number of cases by a considerable margin. However, in 1959 they faced a Tipperary side that had defeated them by 16 points in the previous year's provincial final and at the Cork Athletic Grounds the Decies gained revenge on a 9-3 to 3-4 scoreline.

Another loss to Tipp followed

in 1962 but twelve months later Waterford dethroned the Premier county in the provincial final at Limerick. However, Waterford suffered another five losses to the champions before they dethroned the title-holders for a third time with a 2-23 to 3-12 win over Tipperary in the 2002 provincial final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Since that win Waterford has faced the champions on four occasions without success.

DISMAL DEBUTS

Such is Kilkenny's pre-eminence in hurling nowadays it is hard to believe that the county's debut in the hurling championship was an occasion they would rather forget. In the opening rounds in 1887 the Nonesiders received walkovers from Cork and Limerick and when Tullaroan (the county representatives) finally took to the field they enjoyed the home advantage of Urfingford for the clash with Tipperary. Alas, the home side failed to reply to the visitors' 4-7 and thus became the first side to fail to score in a championship match.

Waterford failed to muster for the 1887 championship but the Decies did take part in the following year's campaign and, like Kilkenny, they enjoyed home advantage (Dungarvan) for their debut outing...a meeting with Cork. But equally like the Nonesiders Waterford failed to score on their debut as the Rebels won by 2-8 to nil.

CARDIAC SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

The Medical Welfare Committee of the GAA recommends that in the context of cardiac screening all participants over the age of 14 should complete a cardiac screening questionnaire. Anyone answering **yes** to any of the questions should discuss the findings with their family doctor.

Of all the cardiac screening tools, the best predictor of sudden death risk is a positive questionnaire. There is a lack of scientific consensus on the overall value of further screening. Those who choose to pursue further screening however should be aware of the following:

- Testing should be done in a centre where ECGs/ECHOs are being reported by experienced sports cardiologists.
- There is a significant percentage that will have an abnormality which may require further evaluation.
- A small percentage may end up uncertain as to whether it is safe for them to participate or not.

1. Has a doctor ever advised you not to participate in sport due to a heart problem?
2. Do you have any heart conditions?
3. Are you taking any drugs for your heart?
4. Have you ever fainted/been dizzy during or after exercise?
5. Have you ever had chest pains during or after exercise?
6. Do you tire more quickly than your friends during exercise?
7. Have you ever been told that you have:
a) High Blood Pressure? b) Heart Infection? c) Heart Murmur?
8. Have you ever had heart tests carried out by a doctor?
9. Have you ever had very rapid heart beating that has begun and ended for no apparent reason?
10. Has anyone in your family died before the age of fifty from a heart condition for which no cause was found?

IF YOU ANSWER YES TO **ANY** OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR GP



www.medicalwelfare.gaa.ie

SPARKLING DISPLAY ENDS A LONG WAIT FOR WATERFORD

A new name will not be added to the All-Ireland senior hurling championship Roll of Honour following this novel final. Nevertheless, a Waterford win would still have something of that special magic for supporters of a first-time success.

After all, it is 49 long years since the county last sipped at the sweet cup of an All-Ireland senior title. And that was also only Waterford's second title win.

An All-Ireland senior final outing in September looked a forlorn dream back on the first day of June when the county lost their Munster crown following a disappointing performance when going down to Clare.

But they regrouped through the All-Ireland Qualifiers and finally wiped away the memory of five All-Ireland semi-final defeats since 1998 by giving one of their best performances in some time when inflicting the first competitive defeat of this year on much fancied Tipperary last time out.

A lively start and a good finish proved the framework of the

long-awaited win. They also refused to buckle when a morale-boosting second half goal was cancelled out almost immediately by a Tipperary goal.

Waterford's bright start had them ahead after eight minutes following six unanswered points. Tipperary recovered well and by half-time were well in the hunt with the score tied at 0-10 each.

Fortunes fluctuated in the second half. Tipperary went two points clear and were moving well, but Stephen Molumphy kept Waterford firmly in touch with a fine point.

Eoin Kelly looked to have turned the scales in Waterford's favour when he goaled after 56 minutes but almost before supporters cheers had died down Tipperary had the ball in their opponents net.

That gave the Munster and National League champions a one point lead and when they increased their advantage to two points the game seemed to be slipping away from Waterford.

However, the Déise men refused to concede defeat and produced a grand stand finish that yielded

five points, as against just one by the opposition, to earn a well-merited win by 1-20 to 1-18

Not for the first time Waterford owed much to the finishing powers of Eoin Kelly, who scored a splendid 1-10 and also did well in general play.

Tony Browne, Ken McGrath and Kevin Moran formed a staunch half back line for Waterford, while Michael Walsh played a captain's role at midfield, and Eoin McGrath and Molumphy, in particular, were strong aids to Kelly in a smart-moving forward division.

All in all, a performance worthy of the special occasion it has created for Waterford today with this first final outing since 1963.

LAST FIVE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

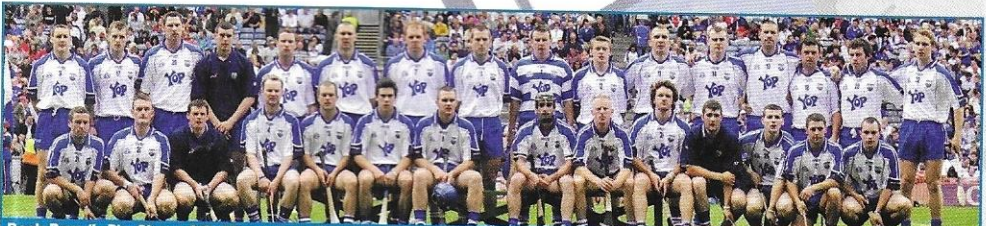
2008: Waterford 1-20;
Tipperary 1-18.

2008: Waterford 2-19;
Wexford 3-15.

2008: Waterford 2-18;
Offaly 0-18.

2008: Waterford 6-18;
Antrim 0-15.

2008: Waterford 0-23;
Clare 2-26.



Back Row (L-R): Shane O'Sullivan, Jack Kennedy, Gary Hurney, Bryan Phelan, Eoin Murphy, Declan Prendergast, Kevin Moran, Ken McGrath, Clinton Hennessey, Stephen Molumphy, Seamus Prendergast, Eoin Kelly, Dan Shanahan, Paul Flynn, Pat Fitzgerald, Richie Foley.

Front Row (L-R): Dave Bennett, Tom Feeney, Shane Walsh, Aiden Kearney, Eoin McGrath, Jamie Nagle, Michael Walsh (Capt), Tony Browne, John Mullane, James Murray, Adrian Power, Wayne Hennessey, Denis Coffey, Pa Kearney.



Michael Walsh
(Perf. Large)

An Captaen

Michael Walsh

Michael has played a major role in the Waterford success story of recent times. Last year he led the county in expert style from midfield to a memorable double—a first National League Division I title win in 44 years and a third Munster championship of the present decade.

Walsh has also been a very influential figure in the comeback that has brought Waterford from the ashes of a losing start against Clare in the Munster championship in June to this first All-Ireland senior final appearance since 1963.

The Stradbally clubman had an outstanding game at centre half forward in Waterford's Munster final win over Cork in 2004 and displayed his talents to good effect when leading the county from midfield to that last provincial final success last year.

He brings plenty of big game experience as well as class to this All-Ireland senior final debut.

A GOLDEN MEMORY FROM THE ALL-IRELAND FINALS

Waterford and Kilkenny provided an exciting game when they played a memorable draw in the 1959 All-Ireland senior hurling final. Seamus Power grabbed a late, late goal to earn Waterford a second chance—1-17 to Kilkenny's 5-5.

In the replay Waterford, backed by a strong breeze, were six points in arrears after ten minutes, but then hit a golden spell with goals from Mick Flannelly, Tom Cunningham and Tom Cheasty.

They continued to hold the initiative after that and finished deserving winners by 3-12 to 1-10 before 77,285 spectators.

Cheasty, who scored 2-2, Frankie Walsh 0-8 and Flannelly were the chief architects of the success.

BY JACKIE CAHILL



PLAYER
PROFILE

KEN McGRATH

OVER a cup of tea on the Monday morning after Waterford had defeated Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final, Pat McGrath urged his sons Ken and Eoin to enjoy All-Ireland final day.

Pat, a legendary former hurler with the Déise, never got the chance to feel the Croker sod beneath his feet on the first Sunday in September. And he began to doubt whether his sons would either after witnessing the acute despair which followed semi-final defeats.

But all of that heartache was washed away in a flood of tears on August 17 as Waterford finally got over the line after losing five semi-finals since 1998.

Ken reflected: "Myself and Eoin go up on the Monday after every game for a cup of tea. The Monday after the Tipp game, the mother and father were over the moon. They're after seeing their two sons devastated for years but they're delighted for us now. Dad would have loved to play in an All-Ireland final. He told us to enjoy it and soak it all in."

Frankie Walsh said the very same. Walsh, Mount Sion clubmate of the McGraths, was captain of the last Waterford team to win an All-Ireland senior hurling crown in 1959.

Ken never gave up hope but after so many setbacks, his spirit was crushed.

"Every January we come to training with a new, fresh hope but after the Clare game this year, you'd wonder would we ever get back to the big time, never mind a semi-final."

Waterford left Limerick's Gaelic Grounds with their tails between their legs after a heavy Munster championship defeat against Clare. Just as McCarthy departed as manager, Davy Fitzgerald took over the reins and decided that McGrath needed to switch from centre to full back.

30-year-old McGrath moved without protest but centre back is his favoured position and after three games away from 'home', he produced a *tour de force* on his return to the 'forty' against Tipperary.

Of course, experience counts for a lot and remarkably, the Clare tie on June 4 was the first time in 43 seasons since making his senior intercounty debut in 1996 that an injured McGrath did not feature for the Déise in a championship match. Since bursting onto the scene as a promising teenager, McGrath has operated on every line for the Waterford seniors, except goalkeeper.

The general perception is that McGrath would love to return to centre forward but he reveals: "I'd rather centre back now at this stage. When I was in school I played centre back and with the club underage for a bit. My father was in the backs so maybe it's in my blood. I'm after playing my best hurling back there."

Few would doubt that assessment after witnessing some of the player's performances in recent years. An elusive Celtic Cross would be a fitting reward for his talents...

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3. When shaving, pull your skin tight with your fingers and don't press down on the blade too hard. In between strokes, rinse the blade thoroughly in warm water. Do not wipe the blade as this can damage the fine shaving edge.

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*O'Nolan, 52 w/e 24th February 2008



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QUALITY PERFORMANCE EARNS FINAL TICKET

Can Kilkenny, who have already won five titles in the present decade, go one better than in 2004 when their bid for a rare treble of All-Ireland senior hurling titles was ended in the final by Cork?

That's one of the many intriguing questions surrounding this final hurdle between the Noresiders and their first sequence of three All-Ireland senior titles in succession since 1911-1913.

Kilkenny go into this final backed not only by an unbeaten championship record since losing to Galway in a 2005 semi-final but with a high quality display of hurling and points scoring when beating Cork last time out.

A performance that ranks as their best in a long time and one that also underlines their credentials to end that long wait for a modern three-in-a row.

A goal by Eoin Larkin after twenty-eight minutes really set the defending All-Ireland champions on their way. Cork were well in the hunt up until that stage, but Kilkenny stepped up a gear after that and powered impressively to an interval lead of 1-12 to 0-7.

The champions maintained the pressure after the restart with a brace of points from Henry Shefflin, but Cork responded in fine style, and boosted their hopes with five unanswered points.

However, the Noresiders reasserted their dominance and ran out very convincing winners by 1-23 to 0-17.

They had many giants throughout the field. Noel Hickey and Tommy Walsh prompted the back division superbly into a tight and disciplined unit.

Derek Lyng was masterly at

midfield, while Henry Shefflin, who was in sparkling form all through and finished with nine points, goal-getter Larkin and Eddie Brennan cleverly spearheaded a lively and creative attack.

Much, then, to encourage Kilkenny as they bid to succeed where a number of teams from the county failed in the past.

LAST FIVE SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

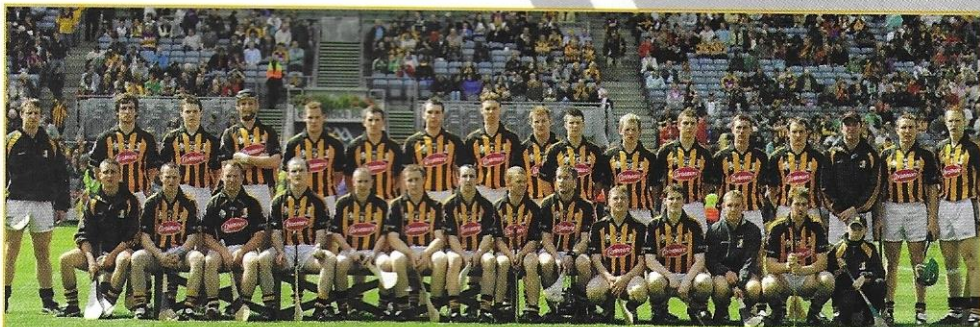
2008:
Kilkenny 1-23;
Cork 0-17.

2008:
Kilkenny 5-21;
Wexford 0-17.

2008:
Kilkenny 2-24;
Offaly 0-12.

2007:
Kilkenny 2-19;
Limerick 1-15.

2007:
Kilkenny 0-23
Wexford 1-10.



Back Row (L-R): John Tennyson, Donnacha Cody, T.J. Reid, Martin Comerford, Jackie Tyrrell, Derek Lyng, P.J. Delaney, Brian Hogan, Richie Power, Michael Rice, Damien Fogarty, Eoin Mc Grath, Richie Mullally, Willie O'Dwyer, James Mc Garry, Eddie Brennan, Henry Shefflin.

Front Row (L-R): David Herity, Michael Kavanagh, P.J. Ryan, Canice Hickey, James "Cha" Fitzpatrick (Capt), John Dalton, Eoin Larkin, Tommy Walsh, J.J. Delaney, Aidan Fogarty, Eoin Reid, Richie Hogan, Sean Cummins, Darragh Mc Garry.



James Fitzpatrick
(Cill Chainnigh)

An Captaen

James Fitzpatrick

James, like so many more in the county, graduated from the minor grade, where he won two All-Ireland senior medals, to the senior intercounty ranks. He joined the senior panel in 2004 and two years ago played a big part in bringing the All-Ireland senior title back to Kilkenny after an interval of three years.

Fitzpatrick also starred at midfield in the side that retained the All-Ireland crown last September with a win over Limerick. He had a hand in creating each of Kilkenny's two goals in that game

A clever and wholehearted hurler, he also has two All-Ireland Under-21 championship medals, two National League souvenirs, and helped his club, Ballyhale Shamrocks, to capture the All-Ireland championship last year.

James has been a very influential hurler with his quality play and leadership in the march that has brought Kilkenny this opportunity to record a first All-Ireland senior title treble since the early years of the last century.

A GOLDEN MEMORY FROM THE ALL-IRELAND FINALS

The excellent finishing technique of Eddie Keher was a key factor in earning Kilkenny victory against goal scoring Waterford in the 1963 All-Ireland senior hurling final before 73,123 spectators. He finished with 0-14.

Kilkenny led by 3-6 to 1-5 at the interval and looked to be firmly on the road to success when on the restart Keher with a point and Tom Walsh with a goal strengthened their grip on the exchanges.

However, Waterford hit back with two great goals to present the Leinster men with a real test of character. They proved equal to the challenge, with Keher to the forefront in points scoring and finished winners by 4-17 to 6-8.

Although Ollie Walsh was beaten six times he still brought off some magnificent saves. Tom Walsh, who scored two goals, and defenders Phil "Fan" Larkin and Seamus Cleere, a superb captain, were other key figures for Kilkenny.

BY JACKIE CAHILL



MICHAEL KAVANAGH

PLAYER PROFILE

KILKENNY county board secretary Ned Quinn sits and chews the fat at All-Ireland final press night. The press packs are circulated and one of Michael Kavanagh's statistics sticks out a mile. The St. Lachtain's clubman has pocketed 10 Leinster senior medals since joining the senior panel in 1998. Closer inspection reveals that this afternoon he'll line out in his ninth All-Ireland senior final. Only the great Eddie Keher and Pat Henderson, who tasted action in ten finals, can boast better appearance records on hurling's greatest day.

Quinn informs us that Kavanagh is one of five Kilkenny players gunning for a sixth All-Ireland senior medal this afternoon, along with James McGarry, Noel Hickey, Henry Shefflin and Eddie Brennan. Those records are a testament to the longevity and incredible dedication of these modern day heroes to their craft.

Selector Martin Fogarty remarks: "I hear people talking about sacrifices but this is where they want to be. Some lads are on the golf course, others fishing but these guys want to hurl. Of course, success makes it easier to enjoy."

Kavanagh's not 30 yet but it seems that he's been around forever. A sticky corner back, few inside forwards have come away from Kavanagh's patch with a hatful of scores. In the All-Ireland semi-final against Cork, the evergreen Kavanagh found himself up against an emerging star, Patrick Horgan, and conceded just one point from play. Going by numbers, it seems that John Mullane will wander in his territory this afternoon. It's a prospect to savour.

Kilkenny may be built up as red-hot favourites but Kavanagh is wary of the Déise threat. "They said there was nobody there to beat Dublin either in the football this year," he mused. "Waterford are a serious side. They have strength in depth, Allstars in every line, the hurler of the year (Dan Shanahan) and a potential hurler of the year (Eoin Kelly). Davy Fitzgerald will have them built up and they will have savage hunger. We have a huge task in front of us to get over them."

Kavanagh won't be found wanting when the bell rises and he admits that Kilkenny's experience in finals should be an advantage but he warns: "Waterford are no strangers to Croke Park on big days and a lot of these players have played big games. Waterford beat Kilkenny in the league final last year so they will have no fear."

Perhaps the last word on Kavanagh should be left to Fogarty, who has watched the player up close and personal in recent years.

Fogarty says: "He's very modest, dedicated to the game and loves it. There's nowhere else he wants to be and as long as his form is good, he gets picked. He looks after himself and trains hard."

CILL CHAINNIGH



1 P.J. Ryan

Club: Fenians, Johnstown.
Age: 31 **Height:** 1.75m/5'9"
Weight: 79kg/12st.7lbs.
Occupation: Bricklayer.

Honours to date: 4 All-Ireland SHC, 1 Leinster MHC, 6 Leinster SHC, 1 Leinster U21, 4 NHL, 1 Minor 'B' County championship medal, 1 U-21 'B' County, 1 County senior league, 3 Walsh Cup

Became Kilkenny's regular net-minder last year and his superb form has continued this season. Ryan has not conceded a goal in this year's campaign.

2 Michael Kavanagh

Club: St. Lachtain's, Freshford.
Age: 29 **Height:** 1.78/5'10"
Weight: 79kg/12st.7lbs
Occupation: Finance Consultant.

Honours to date: 5 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21, 2 Leinster under 21, 10 Leinster SHC, 4 NHL, 3 Leinster MHC, 2 Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 All-Ireland Colleges, 4 Railway Cup, 1 Oireachtas, 3 All-Stars, 2 Walsh Cup (capt. of the 2006 Walsh Cup Team.)

Kavanagh, from the St. Lachtain's club in Freshford, has been consistency personified in the Kilkenny defence. Last year he earned his fourth All-Star award and he is chasing his sixth All-Ireland medal today.

3 Noel Hickey

Club: Dunamaggin.
Age: 27 **Height:** 1.78/ 5'11"
Weight: 85.7kg/13st.7lbs
Occupation: Farmer.

Honours to date: 5 All-Ireland SHC, 1 Leinster senior colleges, 1 All-Ireland Agricultural Colleges, 1 under 21 All-Ireland (Capt. of that team), 8 Leinster SHC, 4 NHL, 1 Leinster under 21, 2 Leinster MHC, County SHC, IHC, U21,MHC, SFC, & U21F, 2 All-Stars, Young hurler of the year 2000, 2 Railway Cups.

Returned from injury to play in the semi-final win and immediately showed that he was back to his best form. The Dunamaggin clubman is another who holds five All-Ireland medals at senior level.

FIRIONAD

16 James McGarry

Club: Bennetsbridge.
Age: 36 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 83kg/13st.
Occupation: Self employed JCB operator.
Honours to date: 5 All-Ireland SHC, 10 Leinster SHC, 4 NHL, 1 All-Ireland JHC, 4 Leinster JHC, 1 Oireachtas, 3 Railway Cup, 2 Walsh Cup.



17 John Dalton

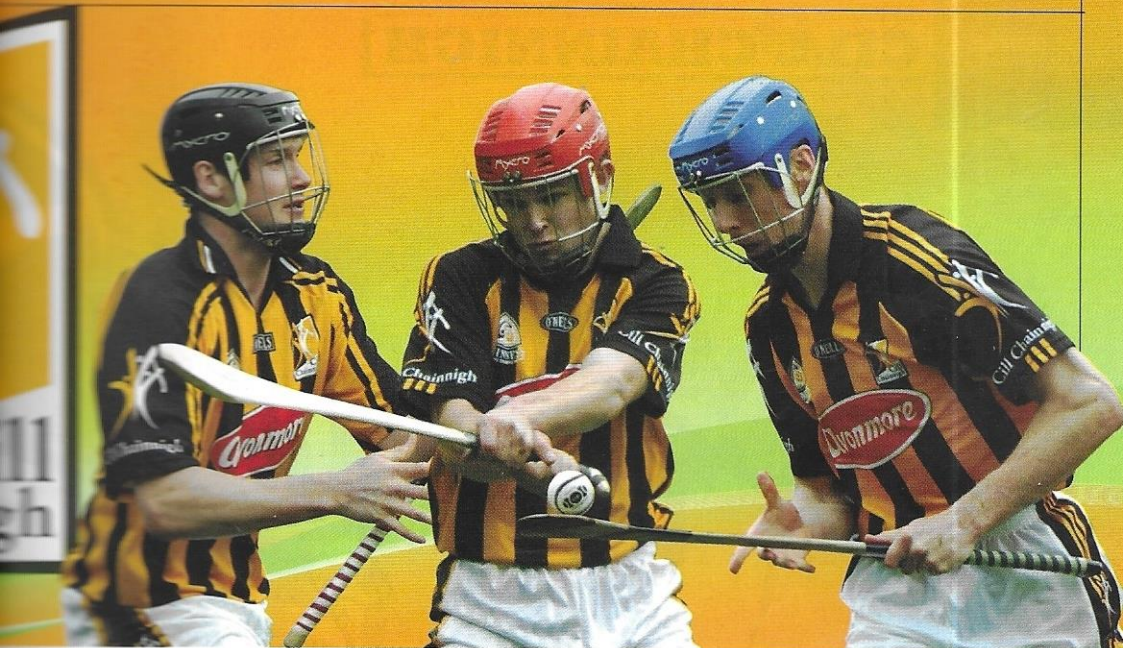
Club: Carrickshock
Age: 23 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 83.9/13st.3lbs.
Occupation: Student WIT.
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SHC, 3 Leinster SHC, 2 All-Ireland MHC, 2 Leinster MHC, 2 Leinster U21, 1 NHL, 2 Walsh Cup, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup-WIT, 2 All-Ireland Agri. College, 1 U16 Nenagh Co-op, 1 Club IHC, 2 Club MHC.



18 P.J. Delaney

Club: Fenians, Johnstown
Age: 24 **Height:** 1.85m/6'2"
Weight: 83.9kg/13st.8lbs.
Occupation: Student.
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland MHC, 2 Leinster MHC, 1 All-Ireland U21, 2 Leinster U21, 3 Leinster SHC, 1 NHL, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 Club Minor B, 2 All-Ireland SHC, 1 Walsh Cup.





4 Jackie Tyrell

Club: James Stephens
Age: 25 **Height:** 1.85m/6'2"
Weight: 89kg/14st
Occupation: Student in LIT
Honours to date: 3 All Ireland SHC, 1 All Ireland U21, 5 Leinster SHC, 1 Leinster U21H, 1 Leinster MHC, 1 Senior All-Ireland Colleges, 2 Leinster Senior Colleges, 2 County U-21H, 1 County SFC, 1 All-Ireland Club SHC, 2 Leinster Club SHC, 2 Kilkenny SHC, 2 NHL, 2 Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 Railway Cup, 1 Walsh Cup, 1 All Star.

Jackie Tyrell was an All-Star for the first time last year and his ultra-consistent play will surely have him in the frame again this year. A product of the St. Kieran's College nursery winning a Croke Cup medal in 2000.

5 Tommy Walsh

Club: Tullaroan.
Age: 25 **Height:** 1.78m/5'10"
Weight: 76.6kg/12st.1lbs
Occupation: Bank Official.
Honours to date: 4 All Ireland SHC, 5 Leinster SHC, 2 All-Ireland U21, 3 NHL, 2 Leinster U21H, 1 Leinster MHC, 5 All Stars, 1 All-Ireland colleges, 1 County U21H, 1 County MHC, 2 County SHL, 1 Junior Colleges, Féile na nGael, 2 Railway Cups, 3 Walsh Cups.

One of the most versatile players of the modern era having excelled for Kilkenny in defence, midfield and attack although he has settled as an outstanding right half back in the last two years.

6 Brian Hogan

Club: O'Loughlin Gaels
Age: 27 **Height:** 1.93m/6'4"
Weight: 87kg/13st 10lbs
Occupation: Medical Representative.
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SHC, 2 County SHC, 1 Leinster Senior club SHC, 1 Colleges All Ireland SHC, 1 Colleges Leinster SHC, 1 Junior Colleges Leinster, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 County MFC, 1 County IFC, 2 NHL, 4 Leinster SHC, 2 Walsh Cups

Another from the St. Kieran's College stable who has become an outstanding centre half back for Kilkenny. A member of the O'Loughlin Gaels club he was on the team which won the Leinster Club championship in 2003.

19 James Ryall

Club: Graigue/Ballycallan.
Age: 27 **Height:** 1.9m/6'3"
Weight: 83kg/13st
Occupation: Sales Representative.
Honours to date: 4 All-Ireland SHC, 6 Leinster SHC, 3 NHL, 1 Leinster club SHC, 1 Leinster MHC, 1 Leinster colleges, 1 SHC, 1 County MHC, 1 County SHL, 1 County U21H, 1 Walsh Cup, 1 Railway Cup.



20 John Tennyson

Club: Carrickshock
Age: 23 **Height:** 1.87m/6'1"
Weight: 89kg/14st.
Occupation: Civil Engineer.
Honours to date: 2 All Ireland SHC, 2 All Ireland MHC, 2 All Ireland U21H, 2 NHL, 4 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.



21 Canice Hickey

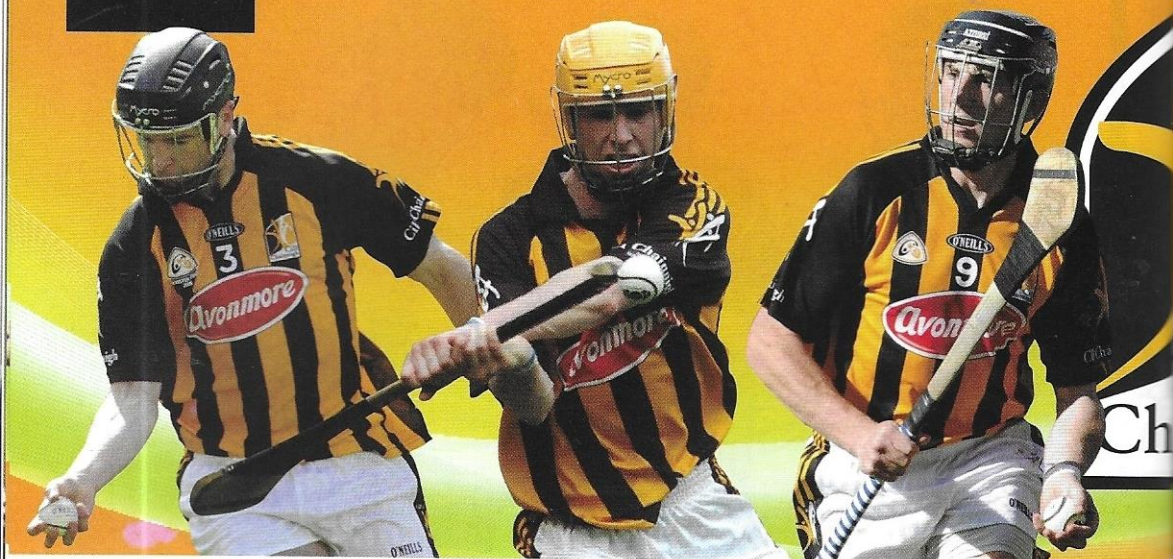
Club: Dunnamaggin
Age: 26 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 87.2kg/13st.11lbs.
Occupation: Secondary Teacher.
Honours to date: 2 Leinster SHC, 1 All Ireland U21H, 1 Leinster U21H, 2 Leinster MHC, 1 County IHC, 2 County MHC, 1 Leinster Colleges.



HURLING FINALS

CLUICHÍ CEANNAIS
IOMÁNA NA hÉIREANN

CILL CHAINNIGH



7 J.J. Delaney

Club: Fenians, Johnstown.
Age: 26 **Height:** 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 78kg/12st.4lbs.
Occupation: Sales Representative.
Honours to date: 4 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All Ireland U21, 7 Leinster SHC, 4 NHL, 1 Leinster MHC, 1 Leinster U21, 2 Railway Cup, 2 Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 U21 County, 1 U21 North County Club, 1 U16 North County Club, 2 Leinster senior schools, 2 U16 Leinster, 3 All Star awards, Hurler of The Year 2003, 3 Walsh Cup.

J.J. is the holder of four All-Ireland senior medals, was named hurler of the year in 2003, and has also won three All-Stars. He is one of the outstanding defenders of modern times, his versatility seeing him slot into the No. 3 jersey earlier this year.

8 James Fitzpatrick

Club: Ballyhale Shamrocks
Age: 23 **Height:** 1.78m/5'10"
Weight: 69.8kg/11st.
Occupation: Primary Teaching Student.
Honours to date: 2 All Ireland MHC, 2 All Ireland U21 (Capt. '04), 4 Leinster SHC, 2 NHL, 3 Leinster U21, 1 Senior Colleges All-Ireland (as captain), 1 Senior Colleges Leinster (as captain), 2 Juvenile Colleges Leinster, 4 County U21, 1 U16 Nenagh Co-Op Tournament, 1 Féile na nGael, 2 All Ireland SHC, 1 Walsh Cup, 1 All Ireland Club, 1 Leinster Club, 1 County Club, 1 All Star.

"Cha" has been outstanding for both Ballyhale Shamrocks and Kilkenny in the past few years. Today he leads Kilkenny in their three-in-a-row bid.

9 Derek Lyng

Club: Emeralds, Urlingford.
Age: 30 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 85.7kg/13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Medical Representative.
Honours to date: 4 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21, 7 Leinster SHC, 1 Leinster U21, 2 Intermediate Leinster, 4 NHL, 1 County JHC, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, 3 Railway Cup, 2 All-Stars, 1 Freshers All-Ireland, 1 Oireachtas, Various club medals, 3 Walsh Cup.

An outstanding contributor to the Kilkenny cause since he joined the panel in 2001, Derek is the holder of four All-Ireland medals. He follows in the footsteps of his father, John, who won All-Ireland medals at underage level in the seventies.

FIR IONAD

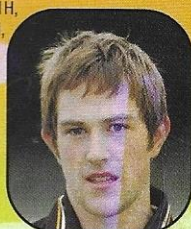
22 Donnacha Cody

Club: James Stephens
Age: 22 **Height:** 1.9m/6'3"
Weight: 89kg/14st.
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: 1 All Ireland Club SH, 2 Leinster Club SH, 2 County Club SH, 1 Leinster MHC, 1 All-Ireland MHC, 3 Leinster SHC, 1 NHL, 2 Leinster College SH, 2 All Ireland College SH, 1 All Ireland U21H, 2 All Ireland SHC.



23 Seán Cummins

Club: Power-Inistige
Age: 22 **Height:** 1.85kg/6'2"
Weight: 95.3kg/15st.
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: 2 All Ireland SHC, 1 All Ireland U21H, 2 Leinster U21H, 3 Leinster SHC, 1 NHL, 1 Leinster IHC, 2 Dublin Club SH.



24 Michael Fennelly

Club: Shamrocks Ballyhale
Age: 23 **Height:** 1.9m/6'3"
Weight: 83kg/13st.
Occupation: Bank Official
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland MHC, 1 Leinster MHC, 2 All Ireland U21H, 1 Leinster U21H, 1 NHL, 3 Leinster SHC, 1 Walsh Cup, 1 All Ireland Club SHC, 1 Leinster Club SHC, 2 County SHC, 1 All-Ireland Féile, 4 County U21H.





10 Martin Comerford

Club: O'Loughlin Gaels
Age: 29 **Height:** 1.93m/6'4"
Weight: 89kg/14st
Occupation: Sales Representative.
Honours to date: 4 All-Ireland SHC, 3 All-Ireland U-21, 1 Leinster SHC, 2 County SHC, 3 Walsh Cup.

Alternates between the 'forty' and the edge of the square, Comerford's strength and ball winning ability are vital to the Kilkenny team. Also the holder of four All-Ireland medals.

11 Richie Power

Club: Carrickshock
Age: 22 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 83kg/13st.
Occupation: Primary Teaching Student.
Honours to date: 2 All Ireland SHC, 2 All Ireland MHC, 2 All Ireland U21, 2 NHL, 4 Leinster SHC, 3 Leinster MHC, 4 Leinster U21, 2 All Ireland senior colleges, 2 Leinster senior colleges, 1 County IHC. 2 County MHC. 1 Nenagh Co-op, 2 County U16, 1 Walsh Cup, 1 Railway Cup.

Son of the great Richie Power, he hopes to add to his tally of two All-Ireland senior medals. Another member of the panel who has come through the St. Kieran's College ranks, having won two All-Ireland Colleges' medals in 2003 and 2004.

12 Eoin Larkin

Club: James Stephens
Age: 25 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 83kg/13st.
Occupation: Soldier
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All Ireland MHC, 1 U21 All-Ireland, 2 U21 Leinster, 1 All Ireland Club, 2 Leinster Club, 2 NHL, 4 Leinster SHC, 2 County SHC, 1 Railway Cup, 1 Walsh Cup.

A member of the renowned Larkin family, the James Stephens' clubman is having an outstanding year, having returned 1-9 in their three games to date this year.

25 Richie Mullally

Club: Glenmore.
Age: 30 **Height:** 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 80.7kg/12st.10lbs
Occupation: Farmer.
Honours to date: 4 All-Ireland SHC, 4 NHL, 1 County MC J, 6 Leinster SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 2 Leinster MHC, 2 Leinster U21H, 1 Leinster colleges SH, 1 Leinster colleges JF, 1 Leinster juvenile, 2 Leinster colleges SFC, 1 County SHC, 1 County SFC, 1 County SHL, 2 Railway Cup, 2 Walsh Cup.



26 Michael Rice

Club: Carrickshock
Age: 24 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 76kg/ 12st.
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SHC, 2 All-Ireland U21H, 1 All-Ireland MHC, 2 Leinster MHC, 2 Leinster U21H, 1 NHL, 1 Snr Colleges, 1 Leinster Colleges SHC, 1 County IHC, 3 Leinster SHC, 2 Walsh Cups



27 Willie O'Dwyer

Club: Mullinavat
Age: 24 **Height:** 1.78m/5'10"
Weight: 85.7kg/13st. 7lbs.
Occupation: Electrician
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland MHC, 3 All-Ireland SHC, 2 All-Ireland U21H, 2 Leinster MHC, 3 Leinster U21H, 4 Leinster SHC, 2 NHL, 2 County IHC, 1 County MH Roinn B, 2 Walsh Cups.



CILL CHAINNIGH



13 Eddie Brennan

Club: Graigue Ballycallan.
Age: 29 **Height:** 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 83kg/13st.
Occupation: Garda.
Honours to date: 5 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21, 1 Leinster U21, 4 NHL, 8 Leinster SHC, 1 Leinster SH club, 3 All Stars, 2 County SHC, 1 County U21 hurling, 2 County MHC, 1 County MFC, 1 County U21 football, 1 Oireachtas, 2 Railway Cup, 1 All-Ireland Inter Firms, 2 Leinster Inter Firms, 3 Walsh Cups.

Man of the Match in last year's final when his early goal rocked Limerick. His speed and skill make him a handful and constant threat to any defence.

14 Henry Shefflin

Club: Ballyhale Shamrocks
Age: 29 **Height:** 1.85m/6'2"
Weight: 87.1kg/13st.10lbs.
Occupation: Finance Consultant.
Honours to date: 5 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21, 2 Fitzgibbon Cup, 9 Leinster SHC, 4 NHL, 2 Leinster U21, 1 Leinster IHC, 2 Leinster MHC, Leinster and All-Ireland Colleges, 7 All-Stars, 1 Oireachtas, 2 Railway, 1 All-Ireland Club SHC, 1 Leinster Club SHC, 2 County SHC.

Henry, with his prolific scoring rate, is one of the modern-day stars of the game. Has recovered from a serious injury suffered in last year's final and has continued where he left off on the scoring stakes.

15 Aidan Fogarty

Club: Emeralds, Uringford
Age: 26 **Height:** 1.83m/6'
Weight: 76kg/12st.
Occupation: Electronics Engineer
Honours to date: 3 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 5 Leinster SHC, 2 NHL, 1 U21 Leinster, 1 Leinster IHC, 1 County Minor A, 1 County JHC, 3 Walsh Cup, 1 Railway Cup.

A vital member of the Black and Amber full-forward line, Fogarty continues to show a fantastic eye for goal. Scored 0-4 in their semi-final win over Cork.

FIR IONAD

28 T.J. Reid

Club: Ballyhale Shamrocks
Age: 20 **Height:** 1.85m/6'2"
Weight: 77.5kg/12st.13lbs.
Occupation: Student.
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland SHC, 2 Leinster SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 2 Leinster U21H, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, 2 County SHC, 1 All-Ireland Club SH, 1 Leinster Club SH, 4 U21 County Club SH, 1 Féile medal, 1 All-Ireland Colleges SH, 2 Leinster College SH.



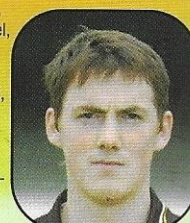
29 Richie Hogan

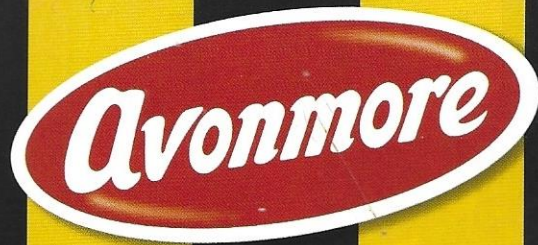
Club: Danesfort
Age: 20 **Height:** 1.75m/5'9"
Weight: 77.5kg/12st.3lbs.
Occupation: Student Teacher.
Honours to date: 1 All-Ireland SHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 1 Leinster SHC, 2 Leinster MHC, 2 All-Ireland Colleges SH, 2 Leinster Colleges SH, 1 All-Ireland Club JHC, 1 Leinster Club JHC, 1 County JHC, 1 Handball World Championship, 15 Handball All-Ireland Underage medals.



30 Eoin Reid

Club: Ballyhale-Shamrocks
Age: 23 **Height:** 1.87kg/6'11"
Weight: 83kg/13st.
Occupation: Student.
Honours to date: 2 All-Ireland SHC, 3 Leinster SHC, 1 Féile na nGael, 1 All-Ireland College, 1 Leinster MHC, 1 All-Ireland MHC, 1 All-Ireland U21H, 2 Fitzgibbon All-Irelands, 1 Walsh Cup, 1 NHL, 3 County U21H, 1 All-Ireland Club SHC, 2 County SHC.





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PATHS TO THE FINAL

Cill Chainnigh

15th June @ Portlaoise:

Kilkenny 2-24 Offaly 0-12

16th July @ Croke Park:

Kilkenny 5-21 Wexford 0-17

10th August @ Croke Park:

Kilkenny 1-23 Cork 0-17

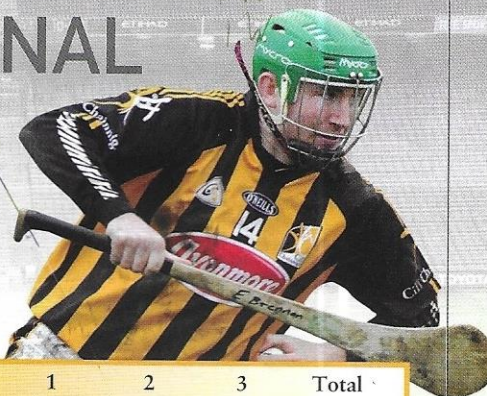
Total Scored: 8-68 (92)

Total Conceded: 0-46

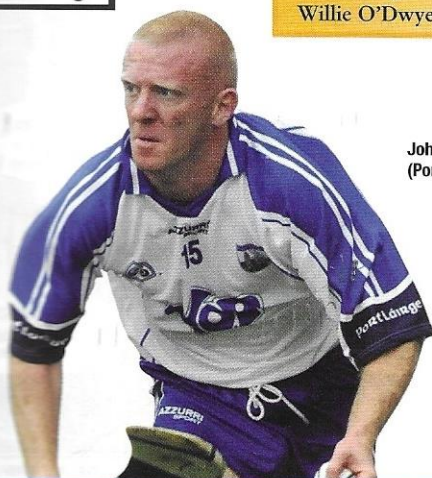
Average: 2.00



Eddie Brennan
(Cill Chainnigh)



	1	2	3	Total
Henry Shefflin	0-11	1-7	0-9	1-27
Eddie Brennan	0-2	2-2	0-4	2-8
Eoin Larkin	0-4	0-3	1-2	1-9
Aidan Fogarty	1-0	1-1	0-4	2-5
James Fitzpatrick	0-1	0-4	0-1	0-6
Martin Comerford	1-1	0-1	—	1-2
Richie Power	—	1-2	—	1-2
Michael Rice	0-2	—	—	0-2
T J Reid	0-1	—	0-1	0-2
Derek Lyng	—	0-1	0-1	0-2
Michael Fennelly	0-1	—	—	0-1
Richie Hogan	0-1	—	—	0-1
Willie O'Dwyer	—	—	0-1	0-1



John Mullane
(Port Láirge)



Port Láirge

1st June @ the Gaelic Grounds:

Clare 2-26 Waterford 0-23

5th July @ Walsh Park:

Waterford 6-18 Antrim 0-15

19th July @ Thurles:

Waterford 2-18 Offaly 0-18

27th July @ Thurles:

Waterford 2-19 Wexford 3-15

17th August @ Croke Park:

Waterford 1-20 Tipperary 1-18

Total Scored: 11-98 (131)

Total Conceded: 6-92 (110)

Average: 1.19

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Eoin Kelly	—	2-3	2-13	1-8	1-10	6-34
John Mullane	0-8	2-2	0-2	0-3	0-3	2-18
Eoin McGrath	0-1	0-5	0-1	0-4	0-2	0-13
Dave Bennett	0-10	0-1	—	—	—	0-11
Dan Shanahan	—	0-4	—	1-1	—	1-5
Stephen Molumphy	0-1	1-0	0-1	0-1	0-2	1-5
James Nagle	—	0-2	—	0-1	0-1	0-4
Gary Hurney	0-1	1-0	—	—	—	1-1
Seamus Prendergast	0-1	—	0-1	0-1	—	0-3
Denis Coffey	0-1	—	—	—	—	0-1
Paul Flynn	—	0-1	—	—	—	0-1
Michael Walsh	—	—	—	—	0-1	0-1
Jack Kennedy	—	—	—	—	0-1	0-1



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W1

3.30



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FIR IONAD

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| (16) JAMES McGARRY
S. Mac Fhearaigh (Bennettsbridge) | (19) JAMES RYALL
S. Ó Riail (Graig Ballycallan) | (22) DONNACHA CODY
D. Mac Uda (James Stephens) | (25) RICHIE MULLALLY
R. Ó Maolalaidh (Glenmore) | (28) T. J. REID
T. S. Maoileirg (Ballyhale Shamrocks) |
| (17) JOHN DALTON
S. Ó Daitton (Carrickshock) | (20) JOHN TENNYSON
S. Tennyson (Carrickshock) | (23) SEÁN CUMMINS
S. Ó Coimin (Rower-Inistoge) | (26) MICHAEL RICE
M. Ris (Carrickshock) | (29) RICHIE HOGAN
R. Ó hÓgáin (Danesfort) |
| (18) P. J. DELANEY
P. S. Ó Duláinne (Fenians) | (21) CANICE HICKEY
C. Ó hÍcí (Dunnamaggin) | (24) MICHAEL FENNELLY
M. Ó Fionnaláigh (Ballyhale Shamrocks) | (27) WILLIE DWYER
L. Ó Dubhuir (Mullinavat) | (30) EOIN REID
E. Ó Maoileirg (Ballyhale Shamrocks) |

ROIGHNÓIRÍ

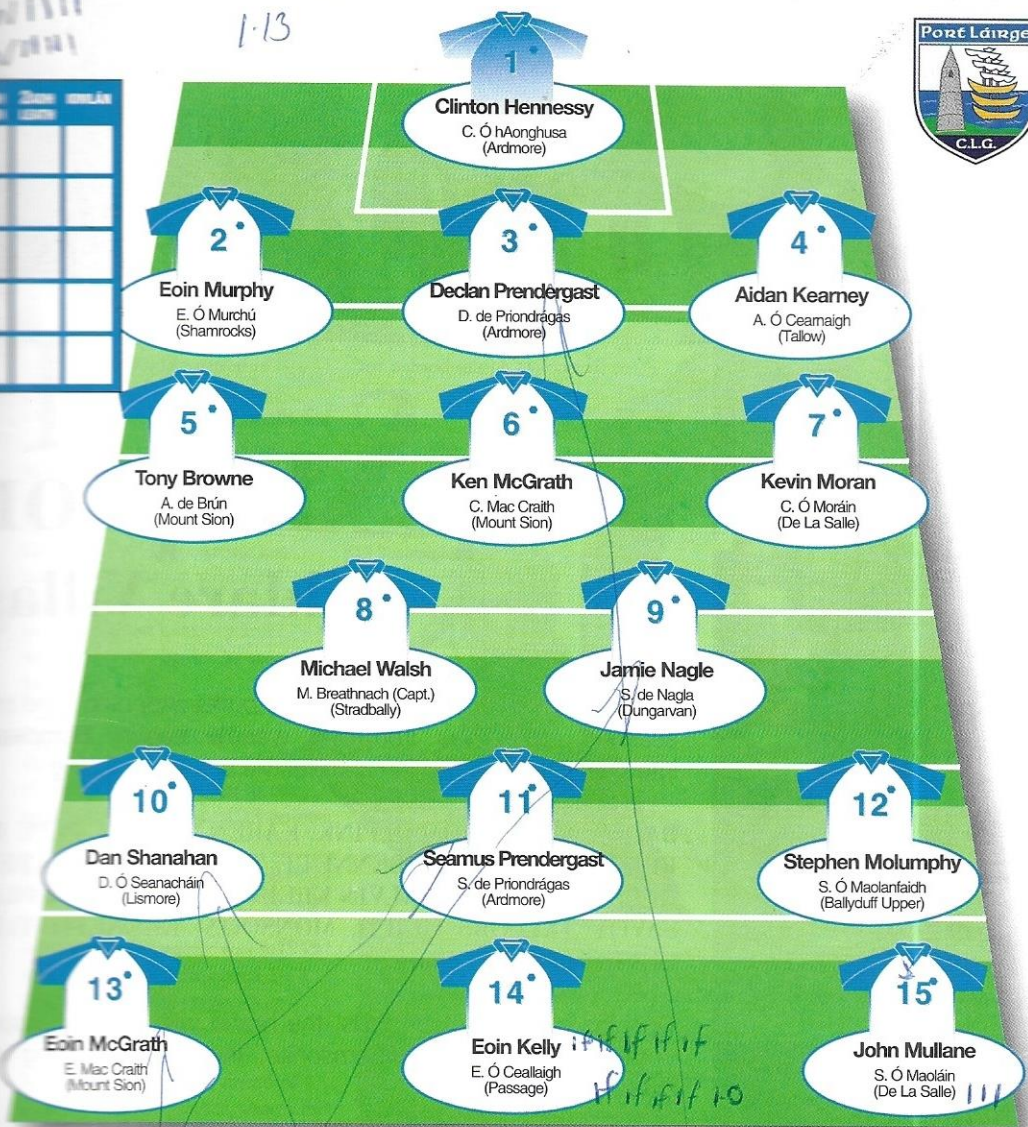
Brian Cody (Manager), Martin Fogarty, Michael Dempsey.



CILL CHAINNIGH



1-13

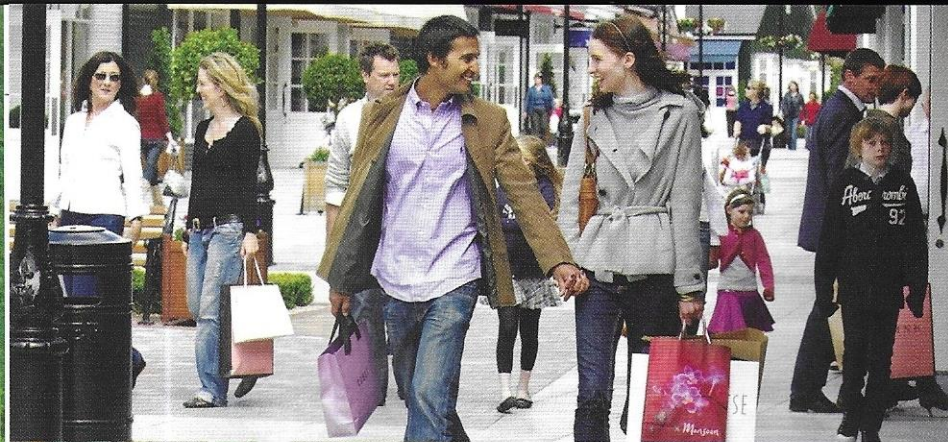


FIR IONAD

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| (16) ADRIAN POWER
A. de Paor (Ballyduff Upper) | (19) SHANE O'SULLIVAN
S. Ó Suilleabháin (Ballygunner) | (22) RICHIE FOLEY
R. Ó Foghlú (Abbeyside) | (25) TOM FEENEY
T. Ó Fiannaí (Ballyduff Upper) | (28) PAT FITZGERALD
P. Mac Gearailt (Ballyduff Lower) |
| (17) JACK KENNEDY
S. Ó Omáide (Ballyduff Lower) | (20) GARY HURNEY
G. Ó hUraí (Abbeyside) | (23) BRYAN PHELAN
B. Ó Faoláin (De La Salle) | (26) WAYNE HUTCHINSON
U. Mac Uistín (Ballygunner) | (29) PA KEARNEY
P. Ó Cearnaigh (Ballyduff Upper) |
| (18) PAUL FLYNN
P. Ó Foinn (Ballygunner) | (21) DAVE BENNETT
D. Ó Beinéid (Lismore) | (24) JAMES MURRAY
S. Ó Muirí (Tallow) | (27) SHANE WALSH
S. Breathnach (Fourmilewater) | (30) DENIS COFFEY
D. Ó Cofaigh (St. Mary's) |

BOIGHNÓIRÍ Davy Fitzgerald (Manager), Peter Queally, Maurice Geary.

PORT LÁIRGE



Shop & Explore

Kildare Village

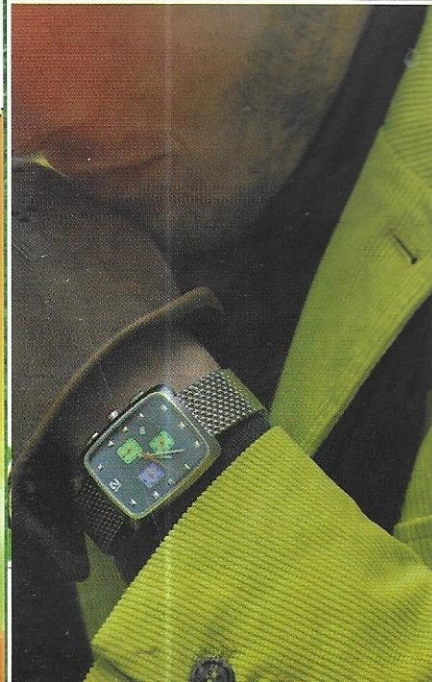
Discover the charm of Kildare Village outlet shopping. Find pre-seasons' collections from the world's leading European international luxury fashion and lifestyle brands including

BALLY, NIKE, THOMAS PINK, KAREN MILLEN, PEPE JEAN REISS, TOG 24, L.K. BENNETT, TED BAKER, LE CREUSOT, REEBOK, CLARKS, CALVIN KLEIN UNDERWEAR, WOLFORD, SAVOY TAYLORS GUILD, MONSOON, KENNETH COLE, LEVIS® and many more.

Opening soon are Jack Wills, the brand with clothing inspired by vintage sportswear and Samsonite, the world's leading luggage brand.

This autumn the gallery at Kildare Village hosts an exhibition of the best imagery from official agency Sportsfile of this season's GAA championships. Running from 20th August to 30th September. Admission is free.

Getting there couldn't be easier. Kildare Village is a stone's throw from exit 13 for Kildare town on the M7 Motorway. Parking is free. Irish Rail operates a daily service from Dublin Heuston station to Kildare town station. Trains are met by a complimentary shuttle service. www.KildareVillage.com



KILDARE  VILLAGE

OUTLET SHOPPING

TOP SCORERS

EOIN KELLY BRIDGES A LENGTHY GAP FOR WATERFORD

Eoin Kelly (Waterford) is already assured of ranking as the ace marksman nationally for this season's senior hurling championship.

He was joint top scorer with Joe Canning (Galway) starting last month's All-Ireland semi-final against Tipperary and comfortably assured himself of the premier ranking for the season by scoring a handsome 1-10.

That boosted the Waterford sharpshooter's total to 6-34 (52 points) in four games at the superb match average of 13 points.

Kelly bridges a long, long gap for Waterford on top of the chart. The last year a hurler from the county led the way nationally was in 1959 when Frankie Walsh scored 2-28 (34 points) in five games at an average of 6.8 points.

Kelly is thirteen points ahead of Canning, who, however, shares the top match average ranking with Kelly. The Galway man scored 4-27 in three games.

Kelly's only rival in the Top Ten as far as the finalists are concerned is Henry Shefflin, but he is well down the field with 1-27 (30 points) in his

three outings with Kilkenny for a good match average of ten points.

The leading scorers starting the All-Ireland final are:

Henry Shefflin
(Cill Chainnigh)

Eoin Kelly
(Port Láirge)

Points	Score	Frees*	Games	Average
52	Eoin Kelly (Waterford)	6-34 1-25	4	13.0
39	Joe Canning (Galway)	4-27 2-12	3	13.0
38	Brian Carroll (Offaly)	0-38 0-25	4	9.5
37	David O'Callaghan (Dublin)	2-31 0-19	4	9.25
35	Ben O'Connor (Cork)	1-32 0-18	5	7.0
32	Martin Finn (London)	1-29 1-13	3	10.66
30	Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)	1-27 1-22	3	10.0
24	Steven Lambert (Monaghan)	1-21 0-18	3	8.0
24	Eoin Kelly (Tipperary)	1-21 0-15	3	8.0
24	Niall Gilligan (Clare)	1-21 0-12	4	6.0

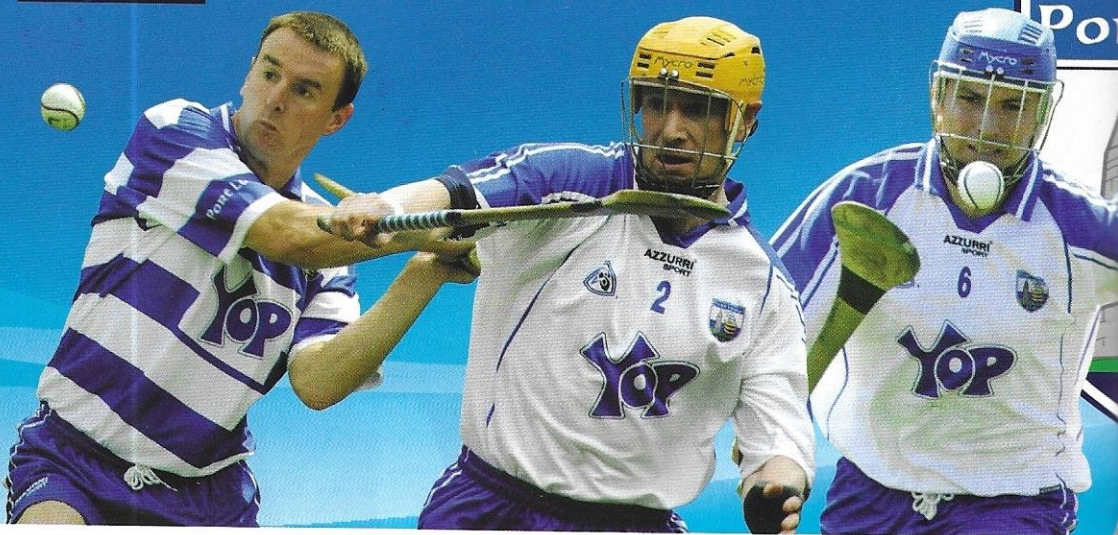
*Frees includes scores from 65s and penalties.

Give touts the Red Card!

The GAA is anxious to stamp out ticket touting and you can help. If you paid above face value for your tickets please email the details to tickets@gaa.ie or contact the GAA Ticket Office on 01 8658657 – include the seat number and as much details as you can regarding where you got the ticket. We will use the information to help prevent touts getting their hands on any tickets again. Go raibh maith agaibh.



CLUICHÍ CEANNAIS
IOMÁNA NA hÉIREANN



1 Clinton Hennessy

Club: Ardmore
Age: 31
Height: 1.87m/6'1"
Weight: 85.7kg/13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Painter & Decorator
Honours to date: 1 Munster SH , 1 NHL.

Clinton has made the goalkeeping spot on the Waterford team his own in the past couple of years winning National Hurling League and Munster championship medals last year.

2 Eoin Murphy

Club: Shamrocks
Age: 29
Height: 1.78m/5'10"
Weight: 79kg/12st.7lbs.
Occupation: Medical Representative
Honours to date: 3 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 2 Railway Cup, All-Star Hurling award, 1 County IHC, 1 Harty Cup.

From the Shamrocks club, Murphy has been an excellent and consistent defender, winning an All-Star award in 2006. He is the holder of 3 Munster championship medals.

3 Declan Prendergast

Club: Ardmore
Age: 27
Height: 1.87m/6'1"
Weight: 89kg/14st.
Occupation: Agricultural Contractor
Honours to date: 3 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 1 County U21H, 2 County MHC, 3 County U21"A" SFC, 2 County MFC.

Full Back on the side which annexed Munster titles in 2004 and 2007 as well as the National League title in 2007, Prendergast has alternated between the full back line and half back lines this year to excellent effect.

16 Adrian Power

Club: Ballyduff Upper
Age: 20
Height: 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 82.5kg/13st.
Occupation: Civil Engineering Student
Honours to date:
1 All-Ireland Fitzgibbon Cup,
1 All-Ireland Vocational Schools,
1 County SHC,
1 Munster Poc Fada Champion 2008.



17 Jack Kennedy

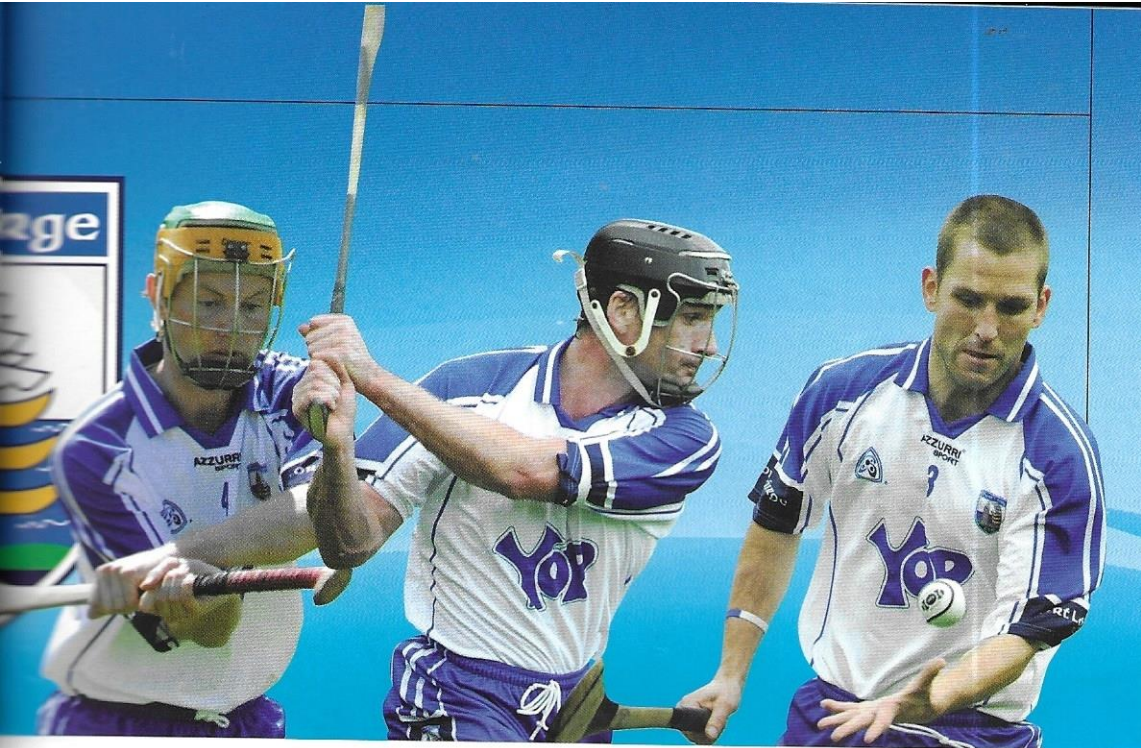
Club: Ballyduff Lower
Age: 26
Height: 1.83m/6'
Weight: 85.75kg/13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Electrician
Honours to date:
1 NHL,
2 Munster SHC,
1 Club County IHC.



18 Paul Flynn

Club: Ballygunner
Age: 33
Height: 1.78m/5'10"
Weight: 89kg/14st.
Occupation: Company Director
Honours to date:
3 Munster SHC,
1 NHL,
1 Munster U21H, 1 All-Ireland U21H,
1 Munster MHC,
4 Railway Cup,
1 All-Star award, 28 Championship goals scored,
7 County HC, 1 Munster Club Hurling.





4 Aidan Kearney

Club: Tallow
Age: 24
Height: 1.83m/6'
Weight: 73kg/11st.7lbs.
Occupation: Salesman
Honours to date: 3 Harty Cup, 2 Dean Ryan, 2 Croke Cup, 1 NHL, 1 Munster SHC, 2 U21 "A" County Hurling, 2 U21 "A" Western Hurling, U16 County Hurling.

Tallow clubman Aidan Kearney had an outstanding year in 2007, winning National League and Munster championship medals.

5 Tony Browne

Club: Mount Sion
Age: 35
Height: 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 78kg/12st.4lbs.
Occupation: Sales Consultant
Honours to date: 7 County SHC, 3 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 3 All-Star awards, Hurler of the year 1998, 5 Railway Cup, U21 All-Ireland Hurling, 2 Munster U21 Hurling, 1 Munster Club Hurling.

Veteran Browne bids today to add an All-Ireland honour to his 3 Munster championship medals. He is a wonderful servant to his county and to the game of hurling.

6 Ken McGrath

Club: Mount Sion
Age: 30
Height: 1.85m/ 6'1"
Weight: 89kg/14st.
Occupation: Sports shop Owner
Honours to date: 6 County SHC, 1 Munster Club, 3 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 3 All-Star awards, 2 Railway Cup.

A colossus at the heart of the Waterford team, McGrath has moved seamlessly to full back earlier this year, outlining his versatility. Won All-Star awards in defence, midfield and attack.

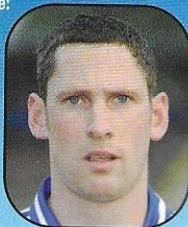
19 Shane O'Sullivan

Club: Ballygunner
Age: 22
Height: 1.83m/6'
Weight: 82.5kg/13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Company Director
Honours to date: Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup, County Minor, U21 & Senior Hurling, 2 County MFC, County U21 & Minor hurling Captain.



20 Gary Hurney

Club: Abbeyside
Age: 27
Height: 1.93m/6'4"
Weight: 98kg/15st.6lbs.
Occupation: Electrician
Honours to date: 1 Waterford Senior Football (Capt) 2008, 1 Waterford Senior Football medal 2007, 1 Waterford Club Footballer of Year 2007.



21 Dave Bennett

Club: Lismore
Age: 31
Height: 1.75m/5'9"
Weight: 76kg/12st.
Occupation: Self Employed
Honours to date: 3 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 4 Fitzgibbon Cup, County Juvenile, U21 & Senior Hurling, 2 All-star nominations.



CLUICHÍ CEANNAIS
IOMÁNA NA hÉIREANN



7 Kevin Moran

Club: De La Salle
Age: 21
Height: 1.88m/6'2"
Weight: 87.1kg/13st.10lbs.
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 2 Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 County Minor Hurling.

Played at midfield on the team which won the Munster title in 2007, Moran played a superb match at wing-back in the semi-final win over Tipperary.

8 Michael Walsh

Club: Stradbally
Age: 28
Height: 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 82.5kg/13st.
Occupation: Bank Representative
Honours to date: 1 County SFC, 3 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 1 All-Star award

Team captain "Bric" Walsh has continued his wonderful form of 2007 this year. All-Star midfielder last year he will hope to lead his side to the pinnacle today.

9 Jamie Nagle

Club: Dungarvan
Age: 21
Height: 1.8m/5'11"
Weight: 80kg/12st.7lbs.
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: 1 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 2 Club Intermediate Hurling.

Scorer of 0-4 in the campaign to date, Nagle's midfield play has been vital to Waterford as they have recovered from a slow start to their campaign.

FIR IONAD

22 Richie Foley

Club: Abbeyside
Age: 21
Height: 1.83m/6'
Weight: 85.75kg/13st.7lbs.
Occupation: Student
Honours to date: Munster SHC, NHL, 1 Munster IHC, 3 U21 County Hurling, 4 U21 County Football, 2 County MHC, 1 County SFC, 2 County MFC.



23 Bryan Phelan

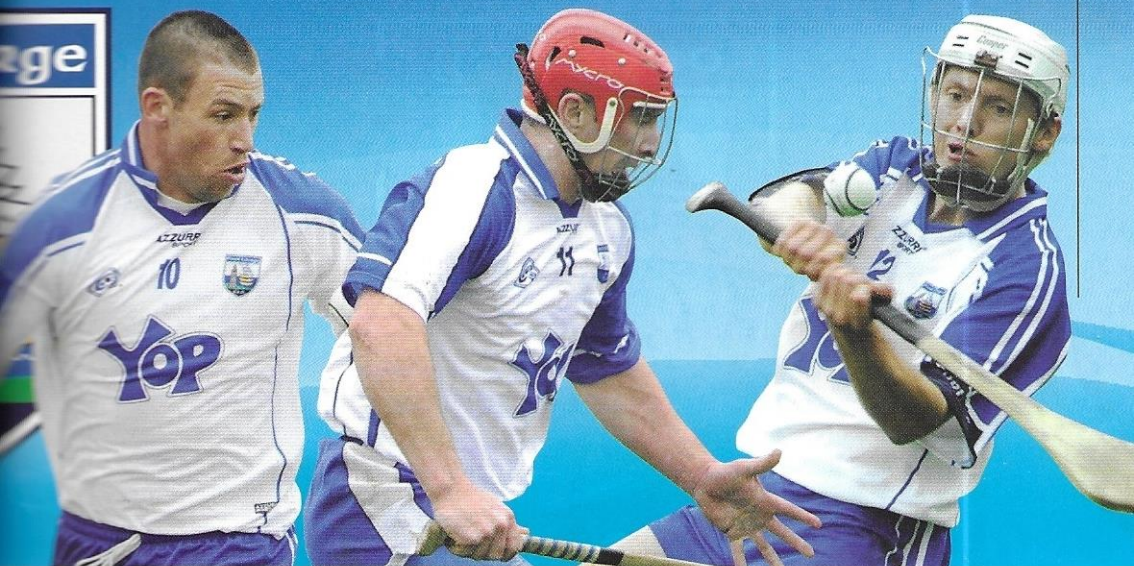
Club: De La Salle
Age: 29
Height: 1.85m/6'1"
Weight: 89kg/14st.
Occupation: Tiler
Honours to date: 3 Munster SHC, 1 NHL.



24 James Murray

Club: Tallow
Age: 29
Height: 1.83m/6'
Weight: 89kg/14st.
Occupation: Engineer
Honours to date: 3 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 2 Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 Harty Cup, 1 County MHC.





10 Dan Shanahan

Club: Lismore

Age: 31

Height: 1.93m/6'4"

Weight: 95.25kg/15st.

Occupation: Tanker Driver

Honours to date: 3 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, Hurler of the Year 2007, 1 County Juvenile, 1 U21, 1 County SHC, 1 County JFC, 1 IFC.

Hurler of the Year in 2007, as well as an All-Star award winner, Shanahan's powerful play and scoring ability is critical to Waterford's cause. Already the holder of 3 Munster championships and a National League medal.

11 Séamus Prendergast

Club: Ardmore

Age: 28

Height: 1.88m/6'2"

Weight: 95.25kg/15st.

Occupation: Sales Representative.

Honours to date: 3 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 2 Munster Colleges, 1 County Intermediate Hurling, 1 County Intermediate Football,

Another man who has given loyal service to Waterford, alternating between the full forward and half forward lines. He is also the holder of 3 Munster championship medals and a National League award.

12 Stephen Molumphy

Club: Ballyduff Upper

Age: 24

Height: 1.78m/5'10"

Weight: 82.5kg/13st.

Occupation: Army Officer

Honours to date: 2 Harty Cup, 2 All-Ireland Colleges' Hurling, 1 Waterford County SHC, 1 NHL, 1 Munster SHC, U21 "A" County Hurling, 1 All-Star award, Club County IHC.

Molumphy has returned from his well-publicised sojourn abroad with the Irish army. He burst onto the scene last year, winning National League and Munster medals, as well as his first All-Star award.

25 Tom Feeney

Club: Ballyduff Upper

Age: 34

Height: 1.88m/6'2"

Weight: 92kg/14st.7lbs.

Occupation: Engineer

Honours to date:

3 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 1 County SHC, 1 Munster U21 Hurling, 1 Munster MHC, 1 Fitzgibbon Cup.



26 Wayne Hutchinson

Club: Ballygunner

Age: 23

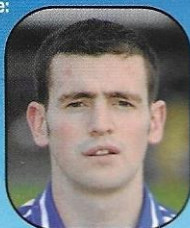
Height: 1.85m/6'1"

Weight: 85.75kg/13st.7lbs.

Occupation: Plumber

Honours to date:

Munster SHC, County Minor, U21 & Senior Hurling, 1 Munster IHC, County Minor & Intermediate Football medals.



27 Shane Walsh

Club: Fourmilewater

Age: 25

Height: 1.8m/5'11"

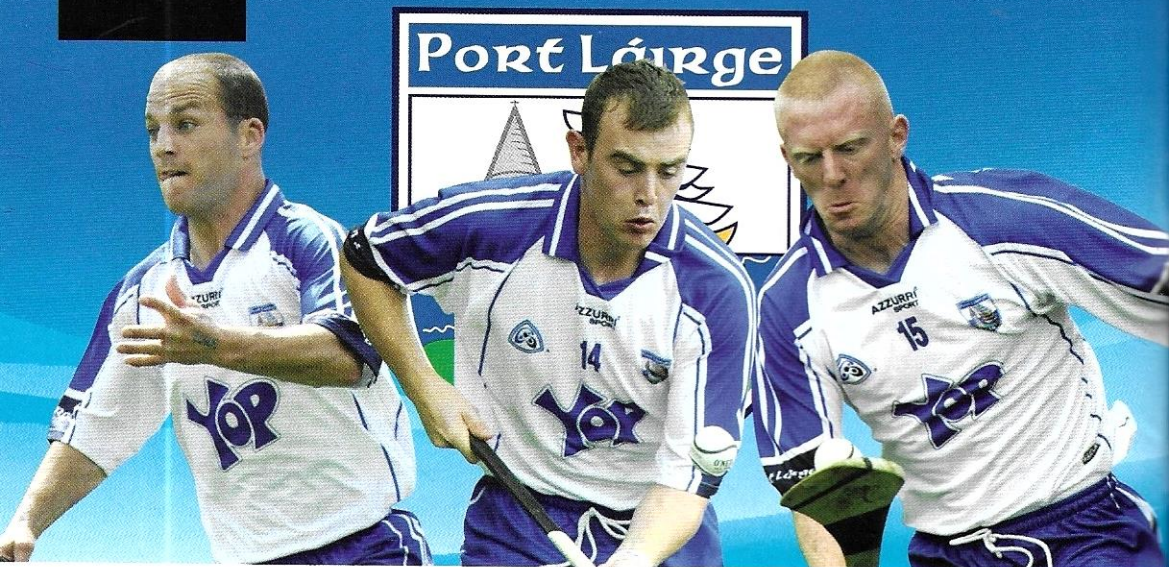
Weight: 85.75kg/13st.7lbs.

Occupation: General Manager

Honours to date:

1 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 1 Munster U21 Football, 1 County IHC, 2 County SFC.





13 Eoin McGrath

Club: Mount Sion
Age: 27
Height: 1.75m/5'9"
Weight: 73.5kg/11st.10lbs.
Occupation: Salesman
Honours to date: 3 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 6 County SHC, 1 Munster Club Hurling, 3 County U21 Hurling, 2 County MHC.

An ever-present on Waterford squads for the past number of years, the younger McGrath has rediscovered his best form this year and will prove a handful for the Kilkenny full-back line today.

14 Eoin Kelly

Club: Passage
Age: 25
Height: 1.83m/6'
Weight: 82.5kg/13st.
Occupation: Salesman
Honours to date: 3 Munster SHC, NHL, 2 Railway Cup, 1 All-Star Hurling award, 5 County SHC, 1 County IHC, 1 Munster Club Hurling.

Despite missing the first game of the campaign, Kelly has been a revelation in the Waterford attack this year. His return of 6-34 in the campaign to date sees him poised to be the GAA Hurling Championship top-scorer.

15 John Mullane

Club: De La Salle
Age: 27
Height: 1.83m/6'
Weight: 80kg/12st.7lbs.
Occupation: Service Technician
Honours to date: 3 Munster SHC, 1 NHL, 1 Railway Cup, 1 All-Star Hurling award 2003.

The De La Salle clubman, John Mullane is another who holds 3 Munster championship medals and he will hope to add the All-Ireland medal to his collection today. His 0-8 in the first round game v. Clare was a highlight.

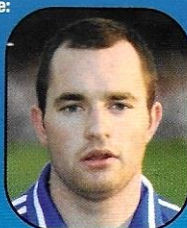
28 Pat Fitzgerald

Club: Ballyduff Lower
Age: 29
Height: 1.733m/5'8"
Weight: 81kg/12st.9lbs
Occupation: Farmer
Honours to date:
 1 Munster SHC,
 1 Dublin SHC,
 1 Munster IHC,
 1 Fitzgibbon
 Cup, 2 County
 JFC.



29 Pa Kearney

Club: Ballyduff Upper
Age: 21
Height: 1.75m/5'9"
Weight: 76kg/12st.
Occupation: Cabinet Maker
Honours to date:
 1 Munster SHC,
 1 Munster IHC,
 1 County SHC,
 1 County IHC.



30 Denis Coffey

Club: St. Mary's
Age: 25
Height: 1.73m/5'8"
Weight: 70kg/11st.
Occupation: Carpenter
Honours to date:
 2 Munster SHC,
 1 NHL.



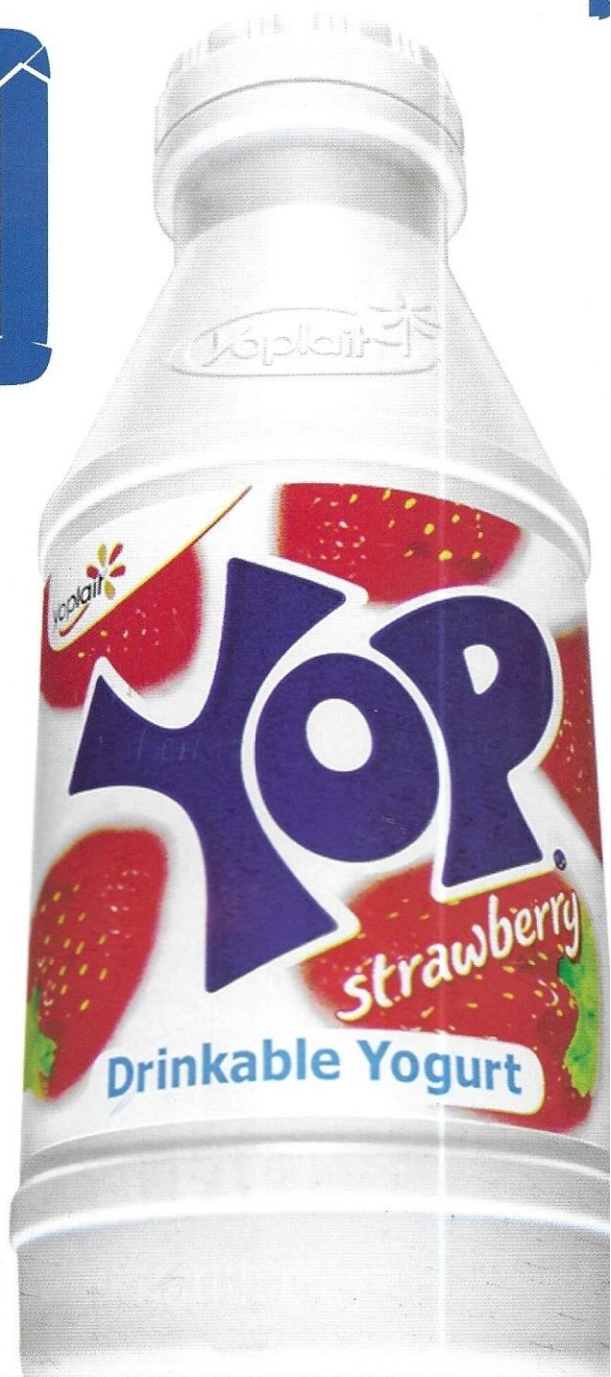
WATERFORD

STAND

TALL.

It's time to 'fill the gap' as the Déise Boys
win their first All-Ireland hurling title since 1959.
Best of luck, from everyone at Yop -
official sponsors of the Waterford hurling team.


glanbia



NA BAINISTEoirí

Davy Fitzgerald was born on August 2, 1971 and is a native of Sixmilebridge in county Clare. The 37-year-old former All-Ireland medallist was the ever-present championship goalkeeper on the Clare senior hurling team from 1990-2006 and is widely regarded as one of the greatest custodians of all time. In a senior intercounty career that lasted for seventeen seasons, Fitzgerald won two All-Ireland titles (1995 and 1997), three Munster titles and four Railway (interprovincial) cups. He also received three coveted Allstar awards, having been nominated nine times. In 1995, Clare came from nowhere to win their first Munster title since 1932. In a memorable provincial

final against Limerick, Fitzgerald converted a famous penalty and this goal was included in RTE's Top 20 GAA Moments in 2005. Fitzgerald found the net again in 1999, drilling home a late penalty as Clare secured a replay with Tipperary in the Munster championship. Fitzgerald, who has recovered from a serious finger injury sustained on club duty last October, brought the curtain down on a glittering intercounty career earlier this year. Fittingly, Fitzgerald's final intercounty game took place in

Sixmilebridge, when Clare entertained Kilkenny in a glamour challenge match last March. During his career, Fitzgerald racked up an incredible total of 60 championship appearances.

He continues to play his club hurling with Sixmilebridge and has won virtually ever honour available at club level. In 1989, Fitzgerald was just breaking through when 'the Bridge' won the Clare SHC. He captured back-to-back crowns in 1992 and 1993 and further successes followed in 1995, 2000 and 2002. Fitzgerald won the first of his two Munster club medals in 1995 and Sixmilebridge went on to claim All-Ireland glory on St Patrick's Day 1996, with victory against Dunloy at Croke Park.

During his playing days, Fitzgerald became heavily involved in coaching and managing teams. He has taken charge of every team in his home club and last Sunday he was in charge of the Clare camogie team defeated by Kilkenny in the All-Ireland minor A final. Fitzgerald's most notable successes as a manager were achieved with Limerick I.T., whom he guided to Fitzgibbon Cup titles in 2005 and 2007. Fitzgerald took over as Waterford manager soon after the Déise's Munster championship defeat against Clare on June 1 last.

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 nursery, 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 Cody was appointed manager of the Kilkenny hurling team in 1999, the team has played 43 senior championship matches. Cody's record reads: won 37, drew 1, lost 5. The Cats are today appearing in an eighth senior final under Cody's tenure, with five successes secured out of the previous seven (2000, 2002, 2003, 2006 & 2007). Under Cody's stewardship, Kilkenny have also captured nine Leinster titles and four National League leagues, with no fewer than 46 hurling Allstar awards collected for Kilkenny players under his watch. If Cody masterminds an historic and successful quest for the coveted three-in-a-row today, it will cement his already strong position as arguably the finest intercounty hurling manager of all time.



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FROM THE WRITERS THAT DEFINE HURLING

For the very best coverage of the All-Ireland hurling final, don't miss Championship 2008, a 16-page magazine with expert analysis and reaction from Tony Considine, Michael Moynihan, Diarmuid O'Flynn, Jim O'Sullivan and Donal O'Grady.

ON MONDAY

For a different view

Irish Examiner

NA BAINISTEOIRÍ

Davy Fitzgerald was born on August 2, 1971 and is a native of Sixmilebridge in county Clare. The 37-year-old former All-Ireland medallist was the ever-present championship goalkeeper on the Clare senior hurling team from 1990-2006 and is widely regarded as one of the greatest custodians of all time. In a senior intercounty career that lasted for seventeen seasons, Fitzgerald won two All-Ireland titles (1995 and 1997), three Munster titles and four Railway (interprovincial) cups. He also received three coveted Allstar awards, having been nominated nine times. In 1995, Clare came from nowhere to win their first Munster title since 1932. In a memorable provincial

final against Limerick, Fitzgerald converted a famous penalty and this goal was included in RTÉ's Top 20 GAA Moments in 2005. Fitzgerald found the net again in 1999, drilling home a late penalty as Clare secured a replay with Tipperary in the Munster championship. Fitzgerald, who has recovered from a serious finger injury sustained on club duty last October, brought the curtain down on a glittering intercounty career earlier this year.

Fittingly, Fitzgerald's final intercounty game took place in Sixmilebridge, when Clare entertained Kilkenny in a glamour challenge match last March. During his career, Fitzgerald racked up an incredible total of 60 championship appearances.

He continues to play his club hurling with Sixmilebridge and has won virtually ever honour available at club level. In 1989, Fitzgerald was just breaking through when 'the Bridge' won the Clare SHC. He captured back-to-back crowns in 1992 and 1993 and further successes followed in 1995, 2000 and 2002. Fitzgerald won the first of his two Munster club medals in 1995 and Sixmilebridge went on to claim All-Ireland glory on St Patrick's Day 1996, with victory against Dunloy at Croke Park.

During his playing days, Fitzgerald became heavily involved in coaching and managing teams. He has taken charge of every team in his home club and last Sunday he was in charge of the Clare camogie team defeated by Kilkenny in the All-Ireland minor A final. Fitzgerald's most notable successes as a manager were achieved with Limerick I.T., whom he guided to Fitzgibbon Cup titles in 2005 and 2007. Fitzgerald took over as Waterford manager soon after the Déise's Munster championship defeat against Clare on June 1 last.

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Déise dares to dream

By Dermot Keyes, The Munster Express

Few people alive have seen Waterford's senior hurlers in action more often than iar-Uachtarán Cumann Luthcleas Gael Pádraig Ó Fainín, now in his 90th year. Over the course of eight decades, the Mount Sion Life President has experienced more lows than highs when it's come to supporting a team that's waited 45 long years to return to hurling's greatest stage.

And he is not alone. Waterford selector Maurice Geary has attended every championship game in which his county has featured since 1967 - and what a view he'll have of proceedings today, one he could hardly have envisaged just a few short months ago.

A fellow Portlaw parishioner of mine, Eamon Walsh, has passed through turnstiles the length and breadth of the country to cheer on his fellow countymen since his days in short trousers.

Like Pádraig, Maurice, Eamon and too many others to mention here, such wonderful, faithful followers of Waterford hurling have never lost the faith. Their unrelenting commitment and devotion is just one of several reasons why this All-Ireland final day is so special. Everest is in sight. Today could well be the day which renders the dark episodes of the Déise's hurling past forever redundant.

DARK DAYS

And my goodness, there has been many a dark day since giants like

Tom Cheasty, Frankie Walsh and Philly Grimes graced Croke's sacred sod. The Munster final reversals to Cork in 1982 and '83, games lost by 31 and 19 points respectively, were humiliations of historical proportions.

The first televised provincial final in 1989 provided Waterford with another day to forget - two dismissals, a 12-point defeat and an encounter with an irresistible hurling force named Nicholas English.

YEAR ZERO

But 1993 was Year Zero when it comes to the Championship doldrum stakes when a Kerry team managed by current Wexford boss John Meyler came to Walsh Park, saw and, remarkably, conquered Waterford.

On arrival into the old city venue that fateful day, Waterford fans remarked on the suits donned by the senior panel before the match. Their threads may not have been in the same league as the famous 'Spice Boy' rigout sported by Liverpool before the 1996 FA Cup final, but the impact proved just as enduring.

SHOCK OF THE DECADE

Paul Flynn, who made his senior Championship debut that fateful day, described the 4-13 to 3-13 defeat as "the shock of the decade" a few weeks ago. And who could argue with that?

But, like those infamous suits, never seen before '93 or since it's

worth pointing out - that's all in the past. Today's clash with a Kilkenny team chasing a special niche in hurling history offers the Déisemen an opportunity to make history of their own.

Which brings me back to a comment Pádraig Ó Fainín made before the 2002 All-Ireland semi-final between Waterford and a Clare side whose goal was manned by one Davy Fitzgerald. "Before we begin to really compare the Waterford team of today with the team of that era, they have to go and win three Munsters and an All-Ireland first," he declared back then.

ALBATROSSES

The modern era, which, for today's senior panellists stretches back to 1998, has seen Waterford replicate the success of that great side in all but one category - one titled 'McCarthy, Liam'. Three Munster titles and last year's National League success over Kilkenny have removed a couple of albatrosses from the neck of the county's hurling psyche.

But a win today would see Waterford happily relinquish the weightiest metaphorical bird it's carried around for the guts of half a century. And every heart that beats that bit harder when ash is wielded, even in Kilkenny, would acclaim a Déise victory this afternoon as one of our national sport's greatest days.

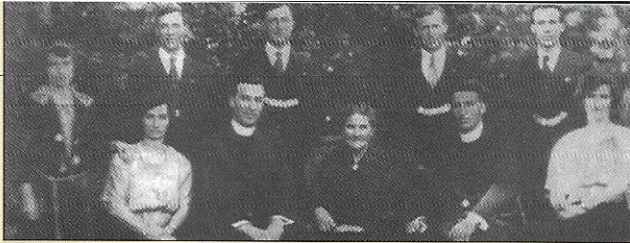
The task facing Waterford could not be greater, which is why

victory would be all the more glorious given the undisputed brilliance which our neighbours have demonstrated this decade.

Win or lose, support for this resilient, courageous group of hurlers will remain a constant on the south bank of the River Suir. They've won our hearts by more than just the geographical virtue of a birth certificate. To win today would add immortality to their status in Waterford, eons after they won our respect.

"Come half three on September 7th, there'll be a 70-minute match," said Davy Fitzgerald recently. "The All-Ireland is there to be won. We won't be going out there just to hand it to them."

Oh how we from the Déise dare to dream.



A family picture of the Doyles with the famous brothers wearing their All-Ireland medals. Back row (l-r): Tom, Eddie, Dick and Mick Doyle. Front row (l-r): Katie Doyle, Johanna McCarthy, Fr. Andrew Doyle, Mrs. Doyle, Fr. Jim Doyle and Ellen Hogan.

Famous Doyle Family

The Doyle brothers of Mooncoin were on the last Kilkenny team to win the three-in-a-row.

- Mike and Dick won three each on the field of play in 1911-12-13 and Eddie won 2 (1911-12) on field of play and one as a sub in 1913. This 1913 team was captained by Dick "Drug" Walsh, also from Mooncoin.
- Fr. Andrew was an accomplished hurler and athlete, winning the All round champion of Minnesota in 1906. He was the first clergyman to throw in a ball at a hurling All-Ireland, and

had the honour of throwing in the ball in the 1904 All-Ireland in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford (played in 1906). After Kilkenny won this, they deemed a clergyman throwing in the ball brought them good luck and Fr. Dollard took over the mantle!

- Tom Doyle won a Junior All-Ireland with Kilkenny.
- The entire three-in-a-row team were made freemen of Kilkenny City on St. Patrick's eve, 1914, for this accomplishment and presented with cheques of £18 each.

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HURLING FINALS

CLUICHÍ CEANNAIS
IOMANA NA hÉIREANN

THE key to success in this afternoon's All-Ireland senior hurling final could well rest with a crucial Waterford diamond, four players who will look to exert a major influence on the biggest game of the year.

Centre back Ken McGrath, midfielders Michael 'Brick' Walsh and Jamie Nagle, and centre forward Séamus Prendergast are players blessed with a keen eye for a score and their versatility could prove crucial if manager Davy Fitzgerald feels the need to shuffle his pack.

McGrath played at full back for three games until he reverted to his more favoured position for the semi-final victory over Tipperary while Walsh and Nagle have dovetailed effectively in recent outings.

Nagle was on the outside looking in when Waterford slumped against Clare in the Munster championship on June 1 but he has since jumped ahead of the experienced Dave Bennett and nailed down a position alongside captain Walsh in the middle.

Bennett shot 0-10 against Clare, nine of those points from frees, but Nagle was eager for his chance and took it with both hands when introduced as a substitute for Bennett 16 minutes from the end of Fitzgerald's first game in charge, a facile qualifier victory over Antrim.

Dungarvan man Nagle got the nod ahead of Bennett for the next match against Offaly and he has held on since, growing in stature

in the subsequent victories over Wexford and Tipperary.

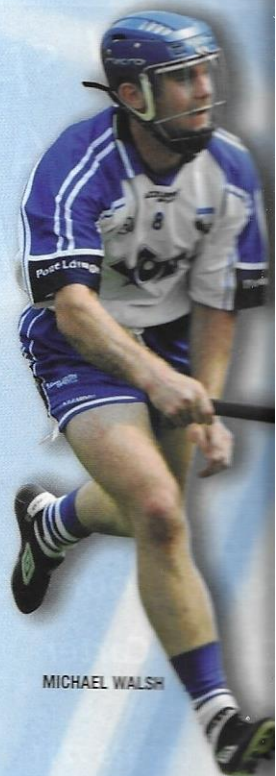
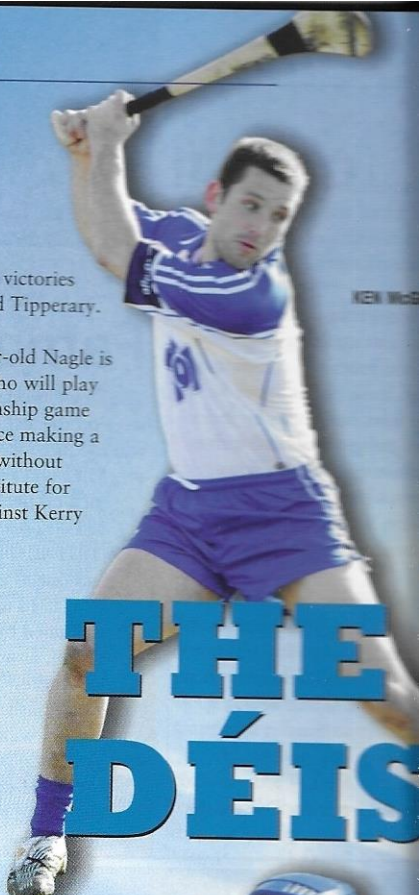
Alongside 22-year-old Nagle is skipper Walsh, who will play his 31st championship game for Waterford since making a debut very much without fanfare, as a substitute for Tony Browne against Kerry in May 2003.

The Stradbally clubman first made his mark as an underage footballer, famously starring in championship victories over Cork and Kerry in 2003 as Waterford captured the Munster U21 title.

The big ball was cast aside once former manager Justin McCarthy came calling and although the Cork man left in controversial circumstances in June, Walsh has much to thank him for after being made captain in 2007, a season which finished with his first Allstar award.

Walsh has returned to something approaching his best form at just the right time and his late switch from midfield to centre forward proved crucial against Tipperary. 28-year-old Walsh landed a crucial score and countered Tipp centre back Conor O'Mahony's growing influence on the second half.

He'll return to the Déise engine room from the start this afternoon and the midfield battle promises to be an intriguing one as Walsh



MICHAEL WALSH

BY

JACKIE CAHILL

JAMIE NAGLE

and Nagle go head to head with Kilkenny captain James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick and Derek Lyng.

Walsh knows that his team-mates must match

Kilkenny's huge levels of intensity and their ferocious work-rate to have any chance of causing what would be regarded as an upset.

Kilkenny have made quite a habit of burying teams with devastating bursts during matches and Walsh noted: "The thing they have over every team is work-rate. Their forwards won't leave a back out easily with the ball and that's the thing that strikes me about them.

because they will be looking to start well and put us away early."

And how Waterford need a big-game from Prendergast, who has struggled for top form so far this year. On his day the Ardmore clubman, a brother of defender Declan, has the potential to trouble any centre back with his aerial ability. A powerful figure, standing 6ft 2" tall and weighing in at 15 stone, Prendergast will be the target for a fair percentage of Clinton Hennessy's puckouts and Waterford will be confident that he can win his share against Brian Hogan. Prendergast joined the Waterford panel in 2000 and since then, he's captured three Munster senior titles along with

a National League medal in 2007.

The 28-year-old is well able to take a score himself but his

ability to win hard ball and lay off astute passes to better-placed team-mates makes him an invaluable option for Waterford.

On the opposite 'forty stands the colossal figure of Ken McGrath for Waterford, who won't know his direct opponent until seconds before the throw-in when the Kilkenny player trots across. The man in black and amber wearing number 11 is not necessarily going to start at centre forward, numbers don't seem to count for much any more, but McGrath will be ready for whoever comes his way.

Waterford need to be ready too and if the Déise diamond can at least break even, the 'don't stop believing' banner may well provide some fuel for a blazing bonfire back home tonight.

DIAMOND

SÉAMUS
PRENDERGAST

"What you have to do is match that because Kilkenny will feel that if they can match the opposition's work-rate, they will win the game. It's an old cliché but defending starts from number 15.

"Kilkenny put teams away in those 15-minute spells but every team has a purple patch and Cork had it against them. Every team gets that chance and you have to make hay when it arrives.

"But being honest, Kilkenny seem to take maximum advantage and are absolutely brilliant in that time. We have to curtail it and we can't give them that chance



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WIT has a tremendous history in sport, and in particular, hurling. Down the years, the WIT hurling team has been Fitzgibbon Cup Champions eight times, including three times in the last six years. We are very proud of our hurlers and would like to wish all the players today who have represented WIT every success today and in the future.

WIT players, past and present

Waterford Panel

Ken McGrath	Dave Bennett
Shane O'Sullivan	Jack Kennedy
Michael Walsh	John Mullane
Kevin Moran	Adrian Power
Eoin McGrath	

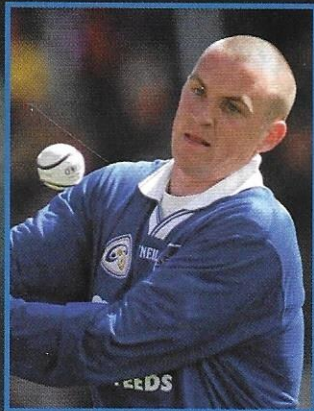
Kilkenny Panel

J.J. Delaney	Derek Lyng
P.J. Delaney	Henry Shefflin
John Dalton	T. J. Reid
Willie O'Dwyer	Eoin Reid
Michael Kavanagh	

TERRACE HEROES

DAMIAN LAWLOR - GAA CORRESPONDENT SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

BRENDAN LANDERS



BRENDAN LANDERS was enjoying the Portuguese sunshine when I spoke to him but he had no problem interrupting his break to chat about hurling. The Irish weather was cruel all summer long; he'd be back in the country in time for Waterford's historic attempt at winning the All-Ireland and what the heck, most of his evenings are spent playing, coaching and studying the game. No harm to take a little time out for himself.

Landers is one of the breed of young coaches coming to the hurling world and takes whatever opportunity he can to visit other set-ups and camps, where he picks up little bits and pieces along the way. He is currently playing for Lismore, training Clashmore and coaching Ballyvaughan in Cork. With a bright reputation as a coach, Landers is hugely interested in the managerial aspect of the game. His own club, though, have a county quarter-final to negotiate first and that's priority in his book. That said, if Waterford win today, the domestic championship may never get off the ground at all, such will be the ever-lasting nature of the celebrations.

Well, the lads know how hungry the fans are for Jim MacCarthy," Landers says, "but they are even more up for it. Tony, Paul, Ken and Dan have been pushing to get this far for years. We just hope they go a step further now."

The former net-minder, a huge favourite with the Kilkenny fans, is confident they can do it. He reckons Kilkenny will come at them like lightning in the opening exchanges but feels if his side can weather the inevitable storm they will be a huge threat themselves.

Our full-forward line is on fire all year long and we will be looking for them to hit the scores again today.

I also think that this thing about our full-back line has been put to bed now. They did very well against a full-forward line that had Eoin Kelly and Lar Corbett in it - that's no mean feat."

Landers feels that a win today would be just rewards for a decade of effort. The groundwork was put in by Gerald MacCarthy who made the Lismore man his number one for five years. His work was enhanced by Justin McCarthy and now they have another edge with Davy Fitzgerald. "All along the way people have helped out," he said. "I think Gerald brought a huge amount of professionalism into the set-up at the very start and got us training in a way that we had never trained before. He is someone that I have the utmost respect for. Since then, the set-up had got better and better. But we have to try and win today."

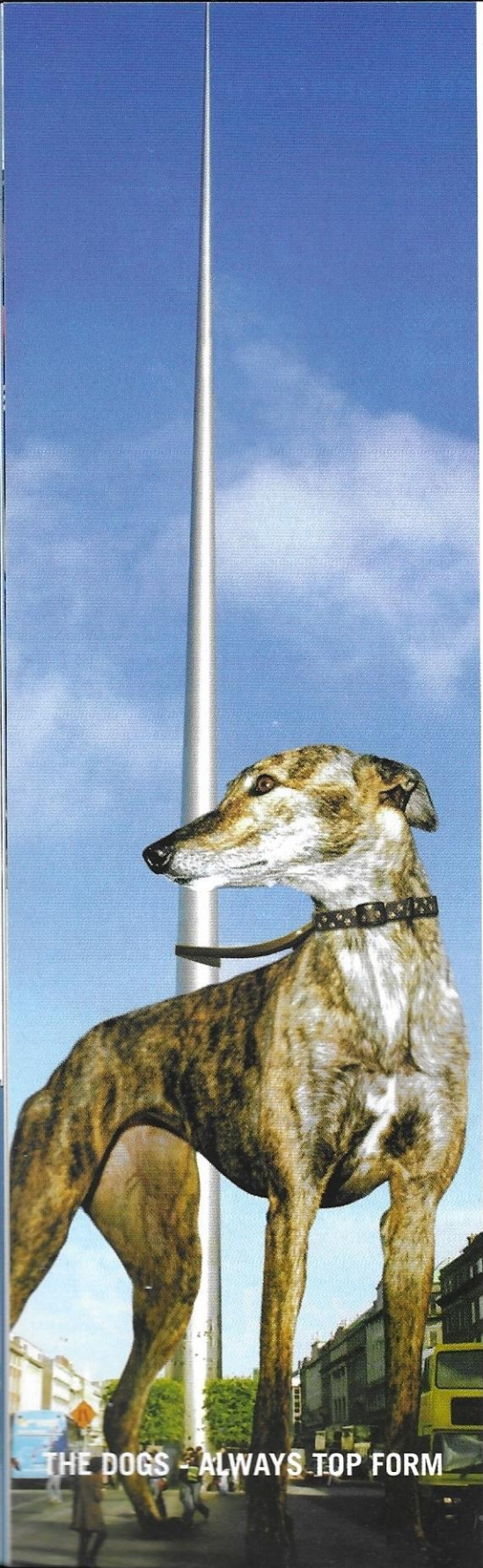
He admits that beating Kilkenny is a task that few teams are up to but says that his old Waterford mates are well capable of doing it. "Certainly, we have the hurlers. The hype has reached fever pitch at home but Davy Fitz' has the lads well shielded from that, I think. He has been there before and knows what it's like and that's no harm. The hype mightn't be as bad for our lads because they have been together a long time now and have played in many big games over the years. Hopefully, it won't be a factor."

Almost seven years after his last game for the county, Landers is as fanatical about the game as ever.

"I would be out playing or training most nights but I love it," he says. "I love learning and picking up things and hopefully the coaching is an aspect that I can look at in greater detail in the future. But at the moment I'd settle for Waterford winning today. After that, everything else will come in time."

Terrace

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HURLING PIONEER

by Enda McEvoy (Sunday Tribune)

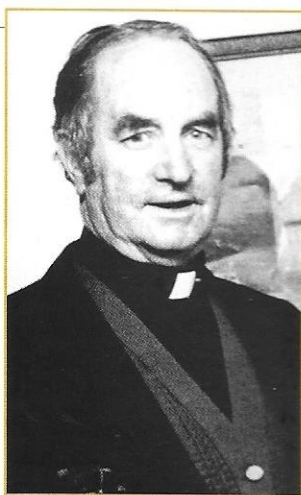
The most significant hurling match to take place in the second half of the 20th century? There's a good case to be made for the Leinster final of 1957. Wexford entered the arena as the holders and the hot favourites. They were the All Ireland champions of the previous two years, a team as popular as they were successful, as big as they were bold, as dashing as they were glamorous. Kilkenny were coached by a young priest from Gowran who in order to negate Wexford's aerial supremacy had instructed his players to prevent their opponents standing over the ball and to move it quick and low - never above shoulder height - and into the forwards.

The plan worked more successfully than the young priest, one Fr Tommy Maher, had dared to hope. Wexford were beaten by 6-9 to 1-5 on an afternoon that the foundation stone of the sport's modern empire of empires was laid. Kilkenny went on to win the 1957 All Ireland - only their second since 1939 - and in the intervening half a century have proceeded to add 16 more. The story of modern Kilkenny hurling is the story of the now Monsignor Maher, not least because every one of those 17 titles has been won either on his watch or under the aegis of a coach/manager who hurled under him: Eddie Keher, Pat Henderson, Ollie Walsh, Brian Cody. No less significantly, the man who this year celebrates his diamond jubilee in the priesthood can also be regarded as the surrogate father of Offaly's

success, given that that county's first two All Irelands were won with Diarmuid Healy as coach. And Diarmuid's coaching mentor was - well, if you don't already know, take a wild guess.

Ordained in Maynooth on June 20th 1948, Mgr Maher spent the first five years of his ministry in Dublin before returning to his alma mater, St Kieran's college, in 1953. By then he had his hurling credo formulated. During his own playing days (he'd lined out at left-half forward in the 1945 All Ireland final) he'd never seen anyone trying to coordinate the efforts of the players on the field; hurling, he concluded, had to be about more than simply getting the sliotar and hitting it as far as it would go. "Training and coaching," he often remarked, "are frequently confused."

Practice did not necessarily make perfect; proper practice, on the other hand, would. The first duty of a corner-forward, he asserted, was to stop the ball from going out over the endline. Sideline cuts around the centre of the field should be taken by one of the wing-backs, not one of the midfielders. The most important component in the process of taking a free was not the strike but the lift. Forwards should always face the opposition puckout and be waiting for a bad one. Above all, every gap on the field ought to be filled. We cannot say that men before Tommy Maher had not developed similar theories, but certainly nobody had articulated them so successfully. And Eddie Keher has always



attributed his success as a freetaker to the influence of his mentor at St Kieran's, which is encomium enough.

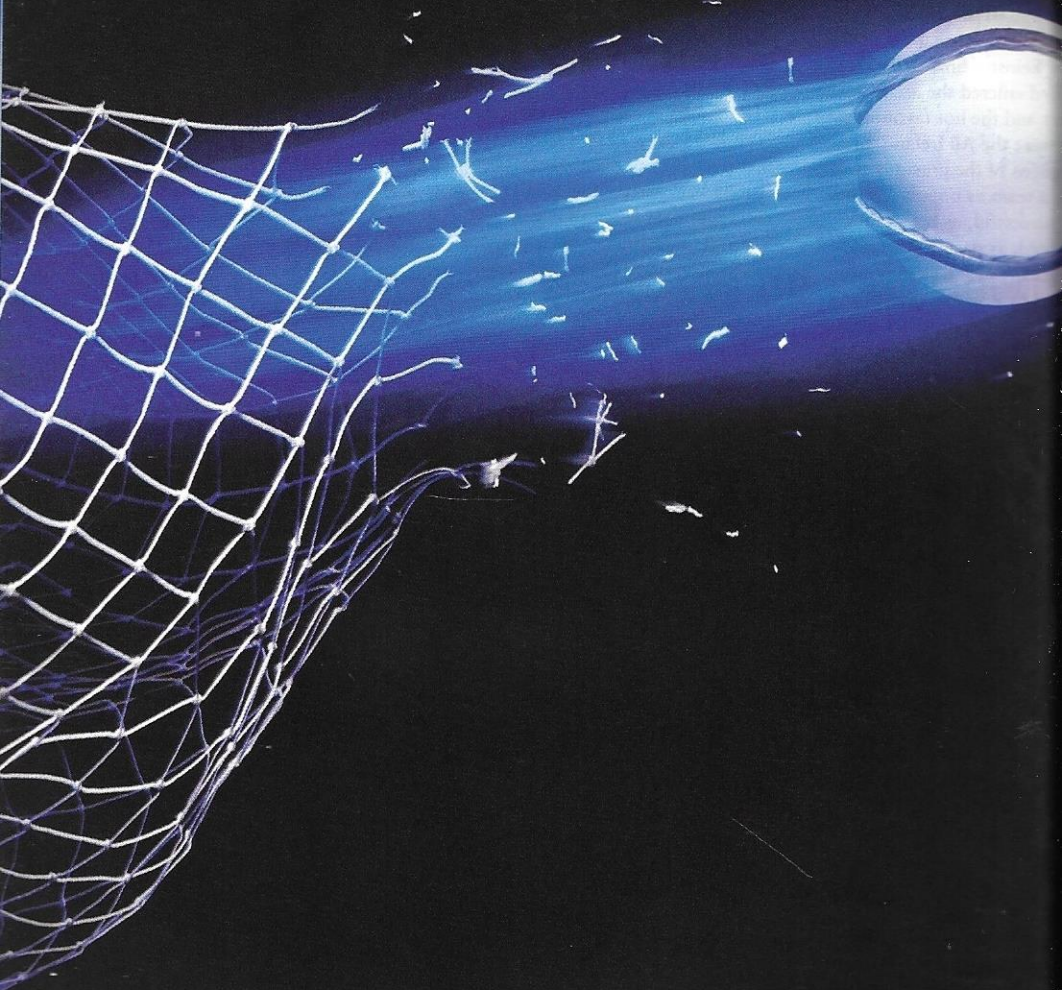
The day Fr Maher stopped thinking about the game was a day that never dawned. Two or three mornings after the 1957 All Ireland colleges' final, in which Keher had set up Dick Dowling for the winning goal, he approached the latter over breakfast in the refectory and asked him to take him through the goal again. It will come as little surprise to younger readers to discover that Fr Maher subsequently became a national pioneer in the field of coaching. In 1962 he, Donie Nealon and Dessie Ferguson drew up what was described as an instructional course in hurling (the word "coaching" was never used, possibly because it carried echoes of the dreaded other codes), an initiative that formed the basis of the famous Gormanston course, where coaches from all over the country were prepared and sent back home to preach the new gospel.

Monsignor Tommy Maher will watch today's showpiece from Archersrath nursing home near Kilkenny city. His spirit and his influence, however, will very much be in Croke Park.

** Enda McEvoy is the hurling correspondent of the Sunday Tribune*



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TERRACE HEROES

DAMIAN LAWLOR - GAA CORRESPONDENT SUNDAY INDEPENDENT

CHARLIE CARTER



It may be a few years since we last saw Charlie light up Croke Park but it's no major surprise that hurling remains high on his agenda.

For over a decade, the Gowran man entertained us with his sheer class and canny corner-forward style in a career that earned him three All-Ireland medals, seven Leinster titles and three All Stars. Charlie's touch on the ball, his knack of picking up scores even when possession was scarce and his ability to stay calm even when things were going against the team helped him stand out as the darling of the terraces in his years wearing the black and amber.

At club level he's still holding his own, mind you. Still weighing in with a few scores every game and providing a bit of advice for the younger lads on the way up. "We still have a bit of work to do to be safe from relegation again this year," he says, "but hopefully we can do it."

Young Irelands won two county titles in the past 12 years although Charlie reckons they might have pinched another one or two but, with numbers increasing all the time in the village, the hope is that their future will be secure in the years ahead. "There was a time when I knew everyone in the village," he laughs "But that's changed now, like every parish in the country, I suppose. When people move it takes them a while to integrate but in a few years time we should see the benefit. At the moment people like Pat O'Neill, Martin Carey and Cathal Fitzgerald are working hard in our underage scene."

It is Charlie. He's coaching the U16s and minors. On top of that he writes a newspaper column for the Irish Mail on Sunday and the Kilkenny Advertiser. A few years back he wrote his autobiography, with the help of Enda McEvoy, Triumph and Troubles. His analysis is entertaining and insightful; but we shouldn't be too surprised. A real hurling man, he is great company and well able to call a game.

So we put him on the spot and ask him to call it. Kilkenny or Waterford? "It's a hard one," he says, "This hurling

championship is one of the best in recent years and you wouldn't know what will happen today. I think we will go for it in the first 10 minutes but so too will Waterford. I watched Kilkenny go to the ropes against Cork but was so impressed with the way they fought back. They effectively ended the game in a short spell, having been up against it just moments earlier. That's a great sign of a team."

One Waterford player Charlie knows well is Ken McGrath, having worked with him at Top Oil for three years. "I'm with Top Oil for eight years in total and while Ken was with us, I saw at first hand how devastated he was after losing some of those five All-Ireland semi-finals. He was so down about it, but he's in the final now and they are only one step away from it. Ken knows I'll be on the other side of the fence today but he also knows I'll be the first one to congratulate him if they win"

Charlie feels the Waterford team will be well-versed with their opponents' style and habits. "Davy had them well-drilled for the Tipp game. He had a lot of work done on certain Tipp players he thought might be vulnerable. That worked to their advantage but it will be harder to read Kilkenny - they will give it to you hard, soft, high or low."

Whoever loses this one will feel the pain for months afterwards. Charlie recalls losing the 1999 final and remembers not wanting to disembark from the team bus for the homecoming. It took him months to wipe the pain but a year later he was back on the winners' podium.

Overall, he reckons that players of his era may have had it the best. "We trained hard, worked hard, had success, took the lows and came back again. We had a few bevvies when allowed and we enjoyed ourselves. That's something that's gone from the game a little. Another change is the technical and individual nature of training. But apart from that, it's still the same game we played. With every decade hurling has evolved but sure that's the way. We get on with it."

Like he always did.

Terrace

HERO



THE GREAT

IN what promises to be a war of attrition around the middle-third of Croke Park this afternoon, Waterford's half-forwards must clamber over a great black and amber wall if Déise dreams of a first All-Ireland senior hurling title since 1959 are to be fulfilled.

Lining up in the Kilkenny half-back line is the diminutive figure of Tommy Walsh on the right touchline, Brian Hogan in the centre and former Hurler of the Year JJ Delaney on the left flank.

We'll start with Walsh first. The Tullaroan star joined the Kilkenny panel in 2002 and his all-action style has endeared him to the county's supporters. At home in defence or attack, Walsh now seems to have found a permanent home at number five and still just 25 years of age, he already has five Allstar awards on display in a bulging trophy cabinet.

Walsh was the target for many a Cork puckout in the recent All-Ireland semi-final but what he lacks in size (5ft 10"), he more than makes up for with sheer hurling ability.

Walsh attended superbly to his defensive duties and while Cork target-man Pa Cronin collected a point, the Rebels lost most of these puckouts. Because of a perceived lack of inches, it may seem that Walsh is a target for

the high deliveries but it should not be forgotten that the St Kieran's graduate first burst onto the senior intercounty scene as a swashbuckling midfield player and has collected Allstar awards in defence, midfield and attack.

Waterford manager Davy Fitzgerald is a keen admirer of Kilkenny's work ethic and in this regard, the first name on the Clare man's lips is Walsh.

"Wouldn't you learn so much from Kilkenny?" Fitzgerald mused at Waterford's All-Ireland final press night. "Look at Tommy Walsh, absolutely ferocious in the tackle. Some people say he's over the top but I don't go along with that. It's the same way with Hogan at centre back, (Henry) Shefflin and (Eddie) Brennan up front. These guys work so hard."

Walsh's dedication to his craft is absolute and when he's not hurling, he keeps his eye in with one of his two favourite pastimes, racquetball. The other, incidentally, is music.

Going by numbers, Waterford's Stephen Molumphy looks set to wander into Walsh's patch this afternoon. In terms of size, that should suit Walsh but maybe Fitzgerald has something else up his sleeve. Elsewhere, Hogan should come into contact with Séamus Prendergast, who is due a big game for Waterford, with 2007 Hurler of the Year Dan

Shanahan coming up against 2003 recipient Delaney.

These are match-ups to savour but Kilkenny haven't been found wanting in these key areas for the past two seasons. Hogan's first major experience of the rigours of senior intercounty hurling was a sobering one, against Wexford in a shock 2004 Leinster championship defeat, but he learned valuable lessons that day. Hogan lined out at wing back but struggled to get in the team in 2005, coming on late in the day against Galway for Peter Barry as the Cats were shocked in the All-Ireland semi-final. John Tennyson nailed the number six shirt as Kilkenny claimed success in 2006 but Hogan, enjoying his central role, took over last year and has held on in the face of fierce competition.

Tennyson has now fully recovered from cruciate knee ligament damage and is pushing the O'Loughlin Gaels star desperately hard but Hogan is the man in possession and as long as keeps performing, he knows he'll keep the shirt because Brian Cody rewards form.

On Hogan's left shoulder stands the formidable figure of JJ Delaney, from the Fenian's club in Johnstown. In recent years, Delaney has lined out at full back, left corner back and centre back but left half back is where he seems most at home.

T WALL

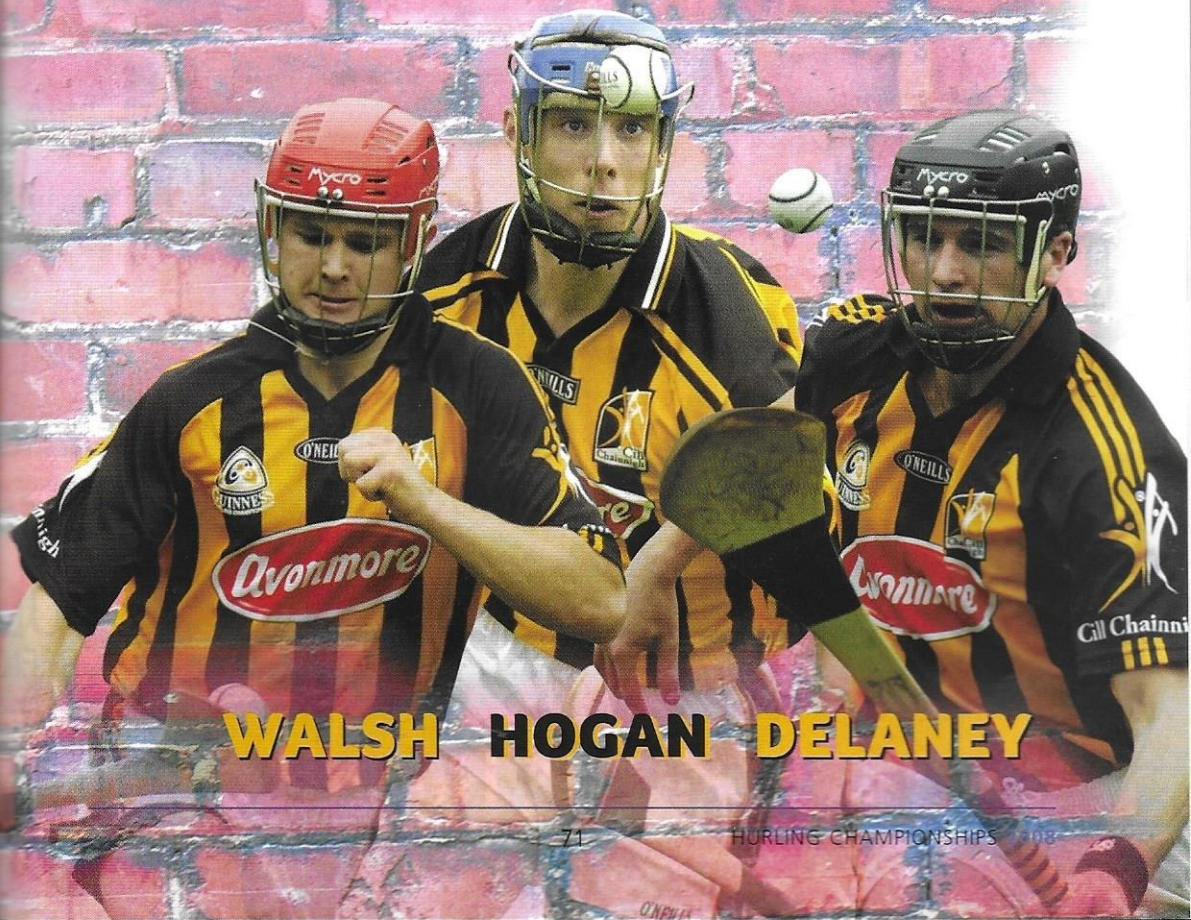
BY
JACKIE CAHILL

The 26-year-old was simply colossal against Cork in this year's semi-final. Ben O'Connor had starred for the Rebels in previous outings against Galway and Clare but Delaney held him scoreless from play. Delaney's career CV is decorated with all of the game's major intercounty awards, with a host of underage titles now supplemented by a quartet of Celtic crosses, seven Leinster titles and three Allstars. Standing at 5ft 11" and weighing in at 13 stone, Delaney will look to shackle dangerous Dan in the Croke Park cauldron

and few would bet against him succeeding.

Waterford have hit some wonderful hurling heights in recent seasons, most notably in the Munster championship, but a first All-Ireland senior final appearance since 1963 really is the acid test. In modern day hurling, midfield is virtually bypassed as puckouts arrow into both half-back lines and Kilkenny will look to gain a familiar stranglehold in this area. One of the key questions for Fitzgerald is how to stop

Kilkenny getting on top and, in the semi-final win over Tipperary, it was noticeable that the Premier County's half-back line were dragged out around the middle, leaving space inside for the likes of John Mullane and Eoin McGrath to exploit. Waterford will look to expose Kilkenny's corner backs but Cody will be quick to react to any Fitzgerald ruse and the Cats supremo knows that if the Walsh, Hogan and Delaney trio can win their individual battles, the three-in-a-row is there for the taking.



WALSH HOGAN DELANEY

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FINAL ENCOUNTERS



1957

Kilkenny 4-10 Waterford 3-12

After three years of Wexford dominance in the province Kilkenny hammered the reigning champions by 16 points in the provincial final while Waterford also impressed en-route with wins over Limerick, Cork and Galway. The Decies started brightly in front of the 70,594 attendance with points from Johnny Kiely and Phil Grimes inside three minutes, but the Noresiders' response was emphatic and they led by 1-4 to 0-2 at the end of the opening quarter. Waterford closed to within a goal after 25 minutes and just before the interval Grimes blasted a free to the net to which Donal Whelan added a point to give them a 1-6 to 1-5 lead.

On the restart Whelan lashed home a goal and Grimes added a point to push Waterford five clear, but Kilkenny responded in kind with a goal from Billy Dwyer and a point from Mickey Kelly to restore the interval position. Again Waterford took it up as Whelan fired home his second goal and by the end of the third quarter they led by six. However, Dwyer's goal halved Kilkenny's deficit at the start of the fourth quarter and although they trailed by four at the 50th minute, Mick Kenny's goal reduced the deficit to the minimum. Points by Seán Clohessy and Kelly gave Kilkenny the lead with Waterford unable to source an equaliser.

Kilkenny scorers: M.Kenny 2-5, W.Dwyer 2-0, M.Kelly 0-2, S.Clohessy 0-2, D.Heaslip 0-1.

Waterford scorers: P.Grimes 1-6, D.Whelan 2-2, J.Kiely 0-2, F.Walsh 0-1, T.Cheasty 0-1.

Cill Chainnigh – O.Walsh, T.Walsh, J.Walsh, J.Maber, P.Buggy, M.Walsh, J.McGovern, M.Brophy, J.Sutton, D.Heaslip, M.Kenny, M.Kelly, R.Rockett, W.Dwyer, S.Clohessy.

Sub – W.Walsh for Sutton.

Port Láirge – R.Roche, T.Cunningham, A.Flynn, J.Barron, M.O'Connor, M.Og Morrissey, S.Power, J.O'Connor, P.Grimes, M.Flannelly, T.Cheasty, L.Guinan, F.Walsh, J.Kiely, D.Whelan.

1959

Waterford 1-17 Kilkenny 5-5

Waterford lost their provincial crown the previous year to Tipperary by 16 points and the Premier county also ended Kilkenny's interest at the semi/final stage. However, the Decies stormed back to take the provincial title with wins over Galway, Tipperary and Cork while Kilkenny retained the Leinster crown to qualify for their second final encounter in three years. Waterford had the first three scores of the afternoon before Billy Dwyer opened Kilkenny's account at the 12th minute and the same player added a goal shortly after. However, Kilkenny failed to score again in the opening half as Waterford built up an interval lead of 0-9 to 1-1.

Tom Cheasty increased Waterford's lead on the restart, but points by Paddy Kelly and Mickey Walsh preceded Tommy O'Connell's goal to leave just a point in it. Having fallen three behind O'Connell's second goal brought parity, but again Waterford responded and points by Cheasty (2), Grimes and Walsh had them four clear. However, the concession of a soft goal to Kelly undid much of the good work and another major from Ted Carroll had Kilkenny in front with ten minutes remaining. Carroll added two points, but Seamus Power's deflected shot eluded the previously unbeatable Ollie Walsh to give Waterford a second chance.

Waterford scorers: F.Walsh 0-5, T.Cheasty 0-5, P.Grimes 0-3, S.Power 1-0, L.Guinan 0-2, J.Kiely 0-2.

Kilkenny scorers: T.O'Connell 2-0, R.Carroll 1-2, P.Kelly 1-1, W.Dwyer 1-1, M.Walsh 0-1.

Port Láirge – E.Power, J.Harney, A.Flynn, J.Barron, M.Lacey, M.Og Morrissey, J.Condon, S.Power, P.Grimes, C.Ware, T.Cheasty, F.Walsh, L.Guinan, D.Whelan, J.Kiely.

Subs – T.Cunningham for Whelan, M.Flannelly for Ware.

Cill Chainnigh – O.Walsh, T.Walsh, J.Walsh, J.Maber, P.Buggy, M.Brophy, J.McGovern, P.Kelly, M.Walsh, D.Heaslip, M.Fleming, S.Clohessy, R.Carroll, W.Dwyer, T.O'Connell.

Subs – T.Kelly for McGovern, J.Sutton for Fleming, Fleming for Sutton.

Continued on page 74 ➤

FINAL ENCOUNTERS

CONTINUED



Replay

Waterford 3-12 Kilkenny 1-10

The replay attracted an attendance of 77,285 on the first Sunday in October, which was an increase of 3,500 on the drawn tie. Kilkenny opened the scoring through Mick Walsh from a free at the second minute and shortly after he provided the final pass for Denis Heaslip's goal. At the seventh minute Frank Walsh opened Waterford's account, but that score brought replies from Billy Dwyer (2) and Heaslip to leave it 1-4 to 0-1 after twelve minutes. However, Waterford finished the opening quarter positively with a goal from Mick Flannelly and, after each side had added a point, a goal by Tom Cheasty at the 20th minute brought the sides level.

Another exchange of points between Cheasty and Dwyer left the sides deadlocked, but Cheasty's second goal at the 23rd minute gave Waterford a lead they would hold to the final whistle. At the change of ends Waterford led by three points (3-5 to 1-8) and that advantage was extended to five on the restart as Walsh and Larry Guinan raised white flags. The rest of the third quarter saw each side add a couple of points to leave it 3-9 to 1-10, but Kilkenny failed to trouble the scoreboard operator in the final 15 minutes. Waterford didn't exactly tire him out either but points by Walsh (2) and Flannelly secured a comfortable win.

Waterford scorers: F.Walsh 0-8, T.Cheasty 2-2, M.Flannelly 1-1, L.Guinan 0-1.

Kilkenny scorers: W.Dwyer 0-5, D.Heaslip 1-1, E.Keher 0-2, M.Walsh 0-1, S.Clohesy 0-1.

Port Láirge – E.Power, J.Harney, A.Flynn, J.Barron, M.Lacey, M.Og Morrissey, J.Condon, S.Power, P.Grimes, M.Flannelly, T.Cheasty, F.Walsh, L.Guinan, T.Cunningham, J.Kiely.

Subs – M.O'Connor for Lacey, D.Whelan for Cunningham.

Cill Chainnigh – O.Walsh, T.Walsh, J.Walsh, J.Maher, P.Buggy, T.Kelly, J.McGovern, P.Kelly, M.Walsh, D.Heaslip, M.Fleming, S.Clohesy, R.Carroll, W.Dwyer, T.O'Connell.

Subs – E.Keher for McGovern, M.Kelly for Fleming.

1963

Kilkenny 4-17 Waterford 6-8

The third final meeting in seven years attracted an attendance of 73,123 to headquarters and they witnessed what was probably the pick of the three meetings. The match was played at a breathtaking pace and littered with fine individual performances, but the one that stood out above all others was that of Eddie Keher whose personal haul of 14 points was instrumental in the Noresiders' victory. Not surprising then that it was Keher who opened the scoring in the third minute and it was also appropriate that the Rower-Inistioge man also had the final score of the afternoon.

For most of the opening half there wasn't a lot between the sides, but goals by Tom Walsh at the end of the opening quarter and Tom Murphy at the beginning of the second gave Kilkenny a slightly flattering interval lead of seven points. On the restart Walsh fired home a third goal and when Seamus Cleere and Keher added points it looked as if Kilkenny were going to win pulling up. However, Waterford launched a comeback and a twelve-point deficit was reduced to just two with a few minutes remaining, but the final score fell to Keher to give the Noresiders their first title in six years.

Kilkenny scorers: E.Keher 0-14, T.Walsh 2-1, T.Murphy 2-1, S.Cleere 0-1.

Waterford scorers: S.Power 3-0, M.Flannelly 2-0, P.Grimes 1-2, F.Walsh 0-2, J.Condon 0-2, M.Dempsey 0-2.

Cill Chainnigh – O.Walsh, P.Larkin, C.Whelan, J.Treacy, S.Cleere, T.Carroll, M.Coogan, P.Moran, S.Clohesy, D.Heaslip, J.McGovern, E.Keher, T.Walsh, B.Dwyer, T.Murphy.
Sub – O.Gough for McGovern.

Port Láirge – N.Power, T.Cunningham, A.Flynn, J.Byrne, L.Guinan, M.Og Morrissey, J.Irish, M.Dempsey, J.Condon, M.Flannelly, T.Cheasty, F.Walsh, S.Power, J.Barron, P.Grimes.
Subs – P.Flynn for N.Power, J.Meaney for Condon, M.Walsh for Byrne.

KILKENNY'S THREE-IN-A-ROW

1911	Dungarvan	Kilkenny	3-4	Wexford	1-1
	Portlaoise	Kilkenny	4-6	Dublin	3-1
	Jones's Road	Kilkenny	5-5	Antrim	1-1
	Thurles	Kilkenny	W.O.	Limerick	Scr.

Team (v Antrim) – John Power, Sim Walton, Jack Rochford, Jack Keoghan, Tom Dunne, Dick Grace, Dan Kennedy, Dan Walsh, Dick Doyle, Mick Doyle, Matt Gargan, Paddy Lanigan, Jim Kelly, Tom McCormack, J.J.Brennan, John Power Eddie Doyle.

1912	Jones's Road	Kilkenny	4-4	Wexford	4-3
	Portlaoise	Kilkenny	6-6	Laois	2-4
	Jones's Road	Kilkenny	8-3	Galway	2-2
	Jones's Road	Kilkenny	2-1	Cork	1-3

Team – John Power, Jack Keoghan, Jack Rochford, Paddy Lanigan, Dan Kennedy, “Drug” Walsh, Eddie Doyle, Matt Gargan, Dick Grace, Pierce Grace, Dick Doherty, J.J.Brennan, Sim Walton, Dick Doyle, Tom McCormack, Jim Kelly, Mick Doyle.

1913	Glasgow	Kilkenny	10-6	Glasgow	5-2
	Portlaoise	Kilkenny	8-3	Laois	2-6
	Wexford Park	Kilkenny	0-3	Dublin	1-0
	Wexford Park	Kilkenny	7-5	Dublin	2-1 *
	Liverpool	Kilkenny	4-4	Lancashire	1-4
	Croke Park	Kilkenny	2-4	Tipperary	1-2

Team – John Power, Jack Keoghan, Jack Rochford, Jack Lannon, Dan Kennedy, “Drug” Walsh, Dick Grace, Matt Gargan, Pierce Grace, J.J.Brennan, Dick Doyle, Dick Doherty, Sim Walton, Jim Kelly, Mick Doyle.

*Kilkenny's bid for a fourth successive title was ended by Laois in the 1914 provincial final at Nowlan Park on a 3-2 to 2-4 scoreline.

BACK THE WINNERS

The neighbouring counties of Kilkenny and Waterford have a lot in common. Not only do they share a border but have been supported by the same sponsor since 1999. Glanbia is the only company in Ireland to sponsor two county teams and is immensely proud of the heritage it has built with hurling from grassroots to the highest level. During the period of the sponsorship, Kilkenny have won five All-Ireland and eight Leinster titles; while Waterford have claimed three Munster hurling championships and a national hurling league title.

Glanbia has been a long term sponsor of the senior, intermediate, under 21 and minor hurling panels in both Kilkenny and Waterford. Kilkenny's famous black-and-amber jerseys carry the 'Avonmore' logo while this year, for the first time, the Waterford blue and white jerseys sport the 'Yop' brand.



Best of luck to Waterford, Kilkenny and Galway in the All Ireland Senior and Minor hurling finals

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What will be their legacy?

by Eamonn Seoige

Today's historic encounter between near neighbours Waterford and Kilkenny has hurling fans countrywide and beyond buzzing with anticipation.

The current Cill Channaigh team, under bainisteoir Brian Cody, are rapidly approaching sporting immortality. A win today would secure a three-in-a-row of titles plus the sixth visit of Liam McCarthy to the Marble City since the millennium!

Cody has developed a panel that possesses the rare combination of deft skill, physical strength, forward power and an unquenchable will to succeed. Their substitutes bench is littered with All-Ireland winners and, in some cases, All-Stars. They are a relentless juggernaut that rightly has hurling historians questioning, are they now atop the pile of the greatest ever black and amber teams?

On the other hand Port Láirge are a side that have been so near, yet so far, on many occasions over the past decade. They have astounded us with their swashbuckling style of open attacking play and have contributed richly to many of the most memorable contests of recent times. Nevertheless, despite Munster and League success, Liam McCarthy has eluded them. Now, under the recently acquired stewardship of Davy Fitzgerald, they have taken a step closer by reaching the first Sunday in September.

What of the hurling legacy between the Déise and Cill Channaigh?

We must journey back to the late fifties and early sixties for their last meetings at this stage of the championship. In '57, '59 (replay) and '63, these two counties produced epic finals that showcased some of the greatest names to step onto Walsh, Nowlan, or Croke Park for that matter.

A DIFFERENT GAME

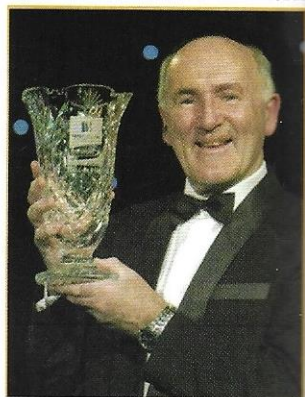
The full-back for Na Déise during that period was Abbeyside's Austin Flynn, an imposing presence who guarded his patch with unwavering commitment.

"There's no doubt about it, it's a different game now. The sliothar was much heavier back then and the grass wasn't cut as well! It's all speeded up, the bar has been raised year on year with fitness and the intensity that Clare introduced to the intercounty game in the mid-nineties. The ground hurling has gone out of the game but overall the skill levels are better. The expertise that is on hand to bring lads to peak fitness is unbelievable. These are finely tuned athletes, as well prepared as any sport. Also, when I played full-back, my number one job was to protect the goalkeeper. It's wasn't uncommon for a 'keeper to get flattened in the back of the net back then! But the last ten years are like a new golden age in

Waterford. We've produced gifted hurlers and I believe that if we can hit top form against this great Kilkenny side then we have a chance."

EXPERIENCE v. YOUTH

On the other side of the fence Rower-Inistioge prodigy Eddie Keher has mixed memories of those encounters with Waterford.



Eddie Keher, with the Hall of Fame Award 2003.

"I played in the minor final in '59 on the same day as the drawn senior final. So, I got brought into the panel for the replay and ended up making an appearance when Johnny McGovern's shoulder injury flared up. I had been forewarned by Father Tommy Maher that there was a chance I could get the call. It wasn't our day and in fairness, Waterford were worthy winners, a brilliant side. When you look at the spine of that team with Austin Flynn, Martin Óg Morrissey, Philly Grimes and

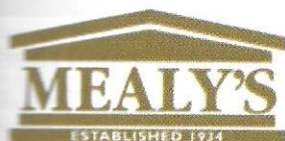
Tom Cheasty, they had great leaders. Then in '63 we got one over them. They had more or less been on the road with the same team since '57 while we came with a young side, the likes of Ted Carroll, Seamus Cleere and Tom Walsh, who was a minor the year before. The pre-match was all about experience versus youth and we were most definitely the underdogs. Still, we were hungry on the day and it paid. In relation to Sunday, Kilkenny appear to hold all the cards. However, I've been around long enough to realise that Waterford are capable of delivering the unexpected and with Mullane, Kelly and maybe even Shanahan on song, anything can happen!"

LACK OF KNOW-HOW

One man who knows all about the scoring exploits of Eddie Keher is renowned Mount Sion

and Waterford centre-back Martin Óg Morrissey. "Maybe we should have won more. In the '57 final we were a bit naïve, raw and not used to the big match atmosphere. We were six points up with only minutes remaining but the lack of know-how killed us. The cats stole that one from us, fair play to them! In '59 the drawn final finished 1-17 to 5-5, twenty scores to ten, so we knew we could do it in the replay. Winning that All-Ireland was a huge relief, but we craved more success. However, the '63 final against, of course, Kilkenny, wasn't to be our day. Any day you score six goals against the great Ollie Walsh and still don't win is a strange one! Still, that was Eddie Keher's day, he was his usual brilliant self. In order for our present team to beat the black and amber they will have to use the open spaces. The way

to play Kilkenny is to hurl with them, not run at them. They have all the skills but can also crowd out the middle spaces and make it nearly impossible to hurl against them. Cork made that mistake and ran into a brick wall. We need to keep our forwards apart and not give them a chance to shut the space down. Big Dan is due a big game and could be the difference if he does the business. There's no place for any passengers on the big day and every man will have to give every last ounce of energy. Many people in Kilkenny would love to see Tony Browne or Ken McGrath with an All-Ireland medal but not when it's against them! If we're to bring the cup home we're going to have to match them and maybe even outwit them on the sideline."



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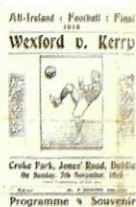
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"Follow The Map"

by Dermot Kavanagh

My late parents were serial match goers, the status of the game, or the distance to be travelled proving no object. In addition to attending local club games they would, together with a few similarly smitten neighbours, regularly travel to all the big hurling games in Munster, Portlaoise and Croke Park. Trips were also frequently made to all All-Ireland Football semi-finals and finals.

I used eagerly await my parents return from these trips. In the early days their return was always marked by a little treat in the form of a bar of chocolate. In time that treat evolved into getting my hands on the official match programme, an item I had bespoke before the travellers left home. Even though the match programmes, including those for All-Ireland Finals, contained little more than the names of the players and substitutes I devoured their contents. Gradually I realised that there were two glaring omissions in the presentation of the programmes. There were no pen pictures of the individual players and there was no reference made to the various club that these players represented.

Thus I was consumed with curiosity as to where, for example Paddy Doherty, James McCartan, and Sean O'Neill, icons of the great Down 1960's team, came from. Equally, I wondered what clubs Gerry O'Malley, Mick O'Connell, John Keenen, Tom Cheasty, Des and Lar Foley, Sean O'Connell, Jimmy Doyle, Frankie Walsh, Ned Wheeler, and other such hurling and football legends represented. It is difficult to believe now in this era of mass communication and statistical obsession that it was not until the All Ireland Finals of 1965 that the programmes eventually included pen pictures of the players and also listed the names of their respective clubs.

Even though these 1965 programmes were a vast

improvement in their predecessors I was still unhappy. I waited to know more, such as what part of the country a particular club was located. In relation to for example Paddy Doherty, Tom Cheasty and Des Foley I wanted to know where in Down, Waterford and Dublin were Ballykinlar, Ballyduff and St. Vincent's situated. Basically what I required was a map of the competing counties indicating the location of all the clubs and parishes of the players.

To my inquiring mind supplying such a map would reveal, 'inter alia', where the strength of the game in a particular county lay at that time. For example such a map of Tipperary in the 1960s would reveal that the strength of the game lay in the Mid and North Divisions. A similar map relative to this year would indicate that clubs in the South and West Divisions are also capable of producing hurlers of intercounty standards.

A map of Cork County in the 1950s and up to the late 1970s would show that the three big city clubs, Blackrock, Glen Rovers, and St. Finbarrs, shared the hurling power base between them. A similar map covering this year's squad would reveal that the county's power base has been taken by clubs in rural and semi-rural areas such as Newtownshandrum, Killeagh, Cloyne and Castlelyons.

Predictably Kilkenny offers a more complex examination. The Parish Rule came into existence in 1954. A map of Kilkenny County for the years prior to 1954 would indicate that the power base was restricted to a few clubs such a Tullaroan, Carrickschock, Mooncoin and Éire Óg. However such a map would be unreliable as a large portion of players representing these clubs were in fact from nearby junior clubs who had been seduced by the opportunity to play senior club hurling.



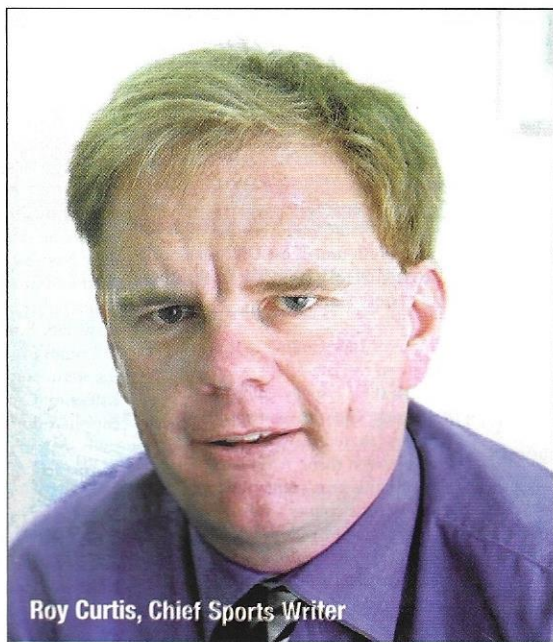
Parishes which have won Senior Championships

Since 1954, however, and despite the fact that the senior county title continues to rotate around the county, the identity of the clubs supplying players for All-Ireland duty hasn't changed much. Clubs such as James Stephens, Bennettsbridge, The Rower Instidge, Emeralds and O'Loughlins have consistently been the main suppliers. If a map of Kilkenny County had been supplied during the past 40 years such information would have been confirmed.

Therefore, to rectify what to this observer is a glaring omission, I attach to these words a map of Kilkenny County showing all the clubs and parishes of the county. A quick cross reference between the map and those pages in which both the Kilkenny senior and minor teams are set out would inform any interested reader as to the exact whereabouts of all the various clubs whose players so proudly represent us today.

Dermot Kavanagh is the author of "A History - Kilkenny Senior Hurling Finals 1887-2003"; "Ollie - The Hurling Life and Times of Ollie Walsh" and "A Place in Time - Glenmore, Co-operative Society Ltd Centenary History".

Agree or disagree



Roy Curtis, Chief Sports Writer

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125TH CELEBRATIONS

2009 sees the 125th Anniversary of the founding of the GAA in 1884. This has proven to be one of the most important dates in the history of Ireland and has produced the organisation that has been central in defining us as a nation. 125 years on, our basic mission and values remain the same; the promotion of our games, culture, a sense of place and identity from a premise of community activity and support. In 2009, we wish to celebrate in style our first 125 years.

We want all clubs, schools, counties and provinces to take part, so if you have a big event planned, let us know so we can include it on our official Calendar of Events. You can do so by writing to us at: 125 Committee, Páirc an Chrócaigh, Baile Átha Cliath 3, or email us at 125@gaa.ie.

Also as part of the 125th anniversary, a major oral history project has been commissioned, which will engage with local clubs and members to consider the ways in which the GAA, has influenced their lives.

This project will be the biggest public history of its kind ever undertaken in

Ireland and it is a major commitment by the GAA to record its past and pave the way for the future.

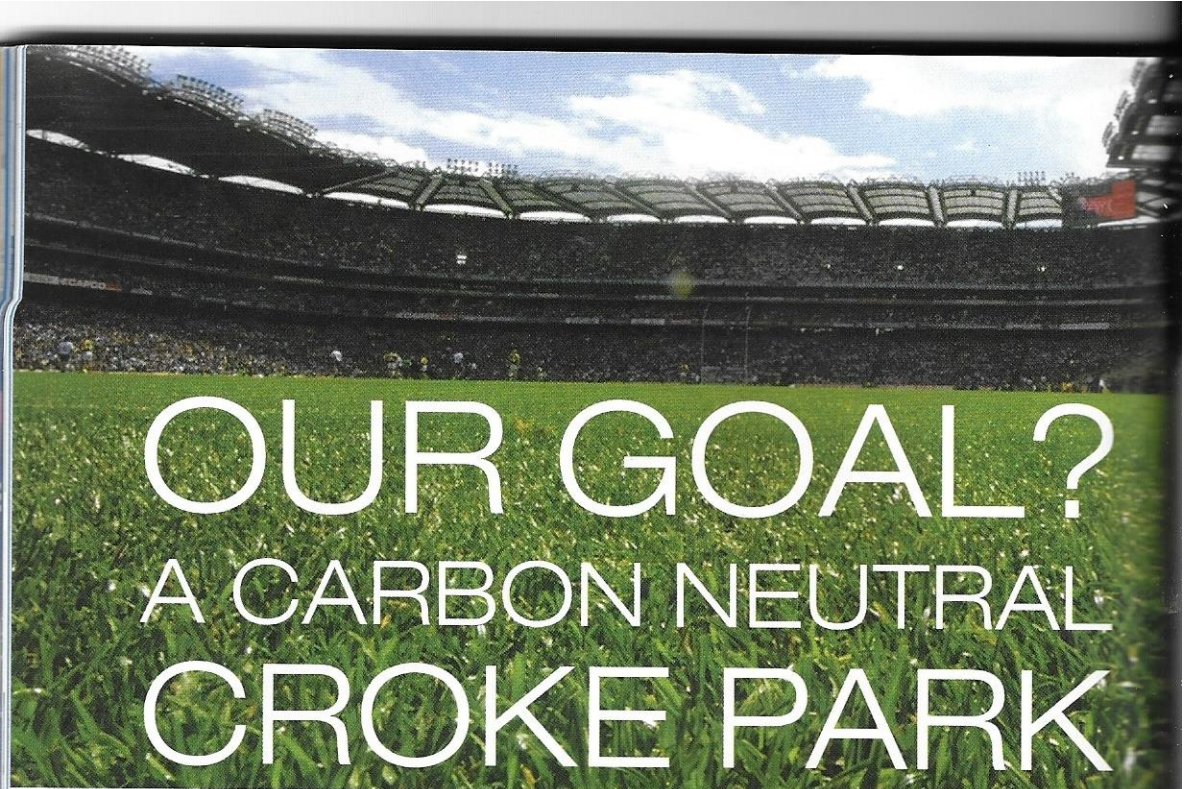
Work on the project, which will run for four years, has already started and the research team, based at Boston College in Dublin, would like to engage with club members, local historians, schools and voluntary organisations to ensure that the rich history of the GAA, as related through personal stories and communal experience, is documented and preserved into the future.

Everybody has a story to tell, irrespective of age or gender. This is your history and we want to hear from you. If you know somebody who would be a suitable subject for interview, please contact us at: 42 Boston College, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2,
Telephone: 01-6147450
or email Professor Mike Cronin at croninmr@bc.edu.

Go Raibh maith Agat,

Jarlath Burns
Chairman
125 Committee

years



OUR GOAL? A CARBON NEUTRAL CROKE PARK



CÚL
GREEN

ESB is coming together with the GAA to make Croke Park, Ireland's biggest and most popular sporting venue, carbon neutral.

An ambitious environmental initiative, this will see us dramatically reducing the carbon footprint at Croke Park over the next six years.

But we can't do it without your help. We need you to log on and make energy saving pledges, which in turn will help us reach our carbon neutral targets.

Pledges can be as simple as using energy efficient appliances, or taking the train to the match, instead of driving.

Please visit WWW.CULGREEN.IE and pledge your support to help make Croke Park a cleaner, greener stadium for generations to come.



SUPPORTING A
GREENER
CROKE PARK

Games Development

An Overview by Pat Daly, GAA Director of Games

Games Development is primarily about ensuring that players, at all levels, are provided with a coordinated programme of meaningful Games which are appropriate to their needs and level of ability.

In this context, it's essential that a clear distinction is drawn between the needs of Kids, Youths and Adults if the Association is to deliver on the twin objectives of maximising participation and optimising playing standards.

The Go Games i.e. small-sided skill development games which serve as a basis for ensuring that every child gets a "Go" and does so for the entire game. These were introduced a number of years ago by way of ensuring that a more child-centred approach is adopted when introducing them to Gaelic Games

The Go Games cater for 3 distinct age groups: i.e. First Touch - age 7/8 - Quick Touch - age 9/10 and Smart Touch - age 11/12 and the playing rules and pitch dimensions are modified to ensure that players' needs are catered for in the most effective manner possible.

There is no reason why these rules cannot be adjusted - up or down - to have regard for local requirements e.g. where there is a higher/lower than average playing standard. However, there can be no basis for compromise on the golden rule i.e. where every child is provided with a game for the entire game.

While there was some initial resistance to embracing this underlying philosophy, the Go Games are growing in

momentum all the time and will continue to do so as team mentors recognise the importance of Go Games Blitzes - and the outlet which these provide for skill, personal and social development - as distinct from getting sucked into a competitive framework where winning is the be all and end all. Such a framework perpetuates a culture of "keep the best and forget the rest" and is totally at variance with best practice policies as espoused within the Code of Ethics for Youth Sport.

At Youth level, Super Touch has been devised as basis for extending the Go Games concept i.e. providing small-sided development games. These are generally organised by way of blitzes and also serve to ensure that all participants are provided with a full game - on a 7, 9, 11 or 13 a-side team - for the entire game.

The Super Touch blitzes are

working well at Post Primary School level i.e. where Schools enter teams which cater for all players who are interested in participating as distinct from opting for the more traditional route i.e. entering one team in a knock out competition.

The Association is currently working on the development of Scilabu i.e. recreational games in Hurling and Football for Adult players. These will also involve the use of modified rules and equipment and will serve as basis for ensuring that the playing needs of those involved are catered for in the most effective manner possible.

It is proposed to formally launch these at the national Games Development Conference in November 2009. The integrated implementation of activities from each of the three strands provides the optimal means of ensuring that people 'Play and Stay with the GAA'.

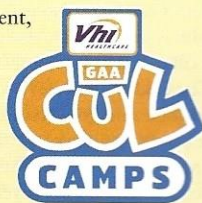
FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

The Vhi GAA Cúl Camps continued to grow from strength to strength in 2008. Despite some inclement weather, over 82,500 children attended camps throughout Ireland, Britain, New York and North America. Taking place over 5 days, each child received a full kit (jersey, shorts and socks) and backpack.

Work is already beginning on ensuring that the 2009 Vhi GAA Cúl Camps are an even bigger success. For information on the Vhi GAA Cúl Camps visit www.vhiculcamps.gaa.ie

For more information on Games Development, or to receive a Conference brochure contact:

GAA Games Development
Croke Park, Dublin 3
Telephone: 01 836 3222
Fax: 01 865 8650
Email: gamesdevelopment@gaa.ie
Web: www.gamesdevelopment.gaa.ie



Some Stars of the Future!

Many intercounty stars first played in Croke Park when they were in National School. For the Dublin school children Cumann na mBunscol finals are a regular fixture in headquarters, but for children outside of the capital their first run-out onto the famous pitch is usually when they have been selected to play in the GAA INTO Mini Sevens on either All Ireland semi-final or final day. Today forty children from many counties will play in the colours of Cork and Kilkenny, a dream come true after many years playing the game they love. First of all the children have to play for their school and win the county competition. From here they progress to the regional festivals where the emphasis is on skill and teamwork. During the regional festivals at least one pupil from every county is selected to play in Croke Park.

Today we concentrate on the representatives from the competing counties.

Ciara Byrne has just finished her education at Clara NS Kilkenny and has started in Loreto Secondary School Kilkenny. She plays with the Clara Camogie Club and is a member of the Kilkenny under fourteen team that won this year's Leinster Championship. Ciara enjoys playing Gaelic football and hockey. Her favourite player is James Cha' FitzPatrick. Also from Clara NS is Lisa Kehoe who is ten years old and is in rang a cúig. She also plays with the Clara club. Lisa's favourite position is in goal and like Ciara her favourite player is 'Cha. From the Deise comes Stephen Bennett who is twelve years old.

He has just begun his secondary education at Blackwater Community School, Lismore. He plays full forward and also enjoys golf and soccer. His favourite players are Ken McGrath and Joe Canning. Stephen's ambition is to play senior hurling for Waterford. Twelve year old Labhaoise Dunbar plays for the Dunhill and St. Anne's Clubs in Waterford. Her favourite position is centre back and her favourite player is Ken McGrath. Labhaoise's team has won the under twelve 2007 and 2008 county camogie championships. Another sport which she plays is squash, and Labhaoise has played on the Irish under thirteen squash teams in 2007 and 2008! Her sporting ambition is to play camogie and/or football for the Deise.

Cumann na mBunscol Náisiúnta hopes that all of the participants in today's GAA INTO Mini Sevens bring home wonderful memories of a fantastic day. Go n-eirí libh!

2008 National Awards

The Cumann na mBunscol National Awards will take place on Saturday 22nd November 2008 in The Lyrath Estate Hotel Kilkenny. There will be thousands of Euro in prize money to be won! This year there are eight categories:

1. Football Promotion of the Year
2. Camogie/Hurling Promotion of the Year
3. Handball/Rounders Promotion of the Year



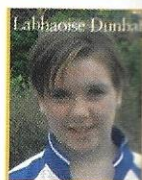
Ciara Byrne



Lisa Kehoe



Stephen Bennett



Labhaoise Dunbar

4. Publication of the Year
5. Website of the Year
6. Public Relations of the Year
7. Assessors Merit Award
8. Pat Trainer Hall of Fame Award

Categories one to six are open to any school, county or provincial unit of Cumann na mBunscol. Size of school will be a consideration in the judgement of these six categories. Any teacher, school, or unit of Cumann na mBunscol may nominate a serving or past member of Cumann na mBunscol for the Pat Trainer Hall of Fame Award in recognition of services to Cumann na mBunscol.

Entries should be sent to the following:

Ulster: Pat McGivern, St. Patrick's P.S., Coalisland, Co Tyrone.
Leinster: Ciarán Byrne, St. Patrick's BNS Wicklow Town.
Munster: Bro. James Dormer, C.B.S. Doon, Co. Limerick.
Connacht: Richard Bowles, Ballyvalode, Oolagh, Co. Limerick.

The closing date for receipt of entries is Saturday 18th October. Remember to keep up to date with Cumann na Bunscol Náisiúnta log onto www.scoilsport.org!

Entry forms for the 2008 Awards may be downloaded from:
www.scoilsport.org

Cumann na mBunscol:

"To Make Gaelic games the games of choice of Ireland's primary school children!"

Three-in-a-row?

Will Davy Fitz have better luck today?

While the hurlers of Kilkenny will today hope to achieve the elusive 3-in-a-row the Kilkenny Minor Camogie team is already in the comfortable position of having achieved this when they beat Clare in the All-Ireland Minor A final last Sunday. Davy Fitzgerald was on the line that day with Clare as the team's trainer. Will he have better luck against Kilkenny with the Waterford hurlers?

Kilkenny under-age Camogie, much like its hurling counterpart, has an amazing conveyor belt of talent. Kilkenny have won four U16 All Ireland titles in a row and have now added three All Ireland Minor titles to that. This success at under age level has yet to translate to success at senior level but this will come with time.

The Waterford Minor Camogie team did not have the same success in the All Ireland Minor B final where they were defeated by a strong Offaly side. However, Waterford showed tremendous spirit and have some superb talent coming through with players like Patricia Jackman.

Cork keep the flag flying

While Cork fans will be disappointed that neither their hurling or football teams are in Croke Park this September they can be consoled by the fact that their Camogie team has reached

its seventh final in seven years, winning three and losing three. Their opposition in the Gala Camogie All-Ireland Senior Final next Sunday will be Galway. The last time these sides met in Croke Park was in 1998. Cork will be looking for their 23rd title and will be anxious to edge to the top of the table led by Dublin who have won the O'Duffy Cup twenty-six times.

Galway back in Croke Park after 10 years

Galway have not appeared in an All-Ireland senior final since they met Cork in 1998 and with only one All Ireland title, which they won in 1996, they will be anxious to add to that tally. Veronica Curtin, who lines out for Galway next week, was on that winning team in 1996. Anne Broderick, who also lined out for Galway that day, is on the sideline next Sunday with Liam Donoghue, former Galway goalkeeper, and Connacht Hurling Development Manager Damien Coleman.

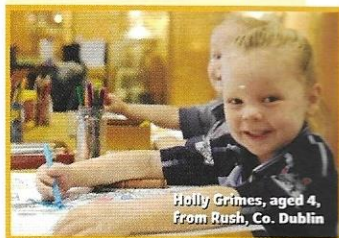
For the family of David Burke, Galway Minor Hurling Captain, there will be another trip to Croke Park next Sunday when his sister Deirdre lines out with the Galway senior Camogie team. The Burkes, who hail from the St. Thomas's Club, will be hoping to have two All Ireland medals by next Sunday.

A Great Day

Next Sunday promises to be great day out with some great Camogie and Hurling on offer. The Gala Camogie Junior Final between Clare and Offaly throws in at 12noon, followed by the Bord Gáis GAA Hurling U21 Final between Kilkenny and Tipperary at 2pm and the Gala Camogie Senior Final between Cork and Galway at 4pm.

For further info visit www.camogie.ie

GAA Museum Celebrates Tenth Birthday



Holly Grimes, aged 4, from Rush, Co. Dublin

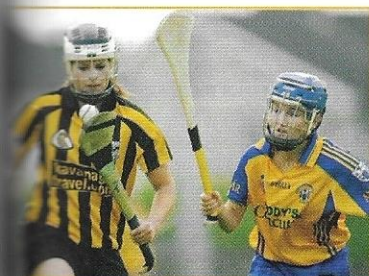
The GAA museum recently celebrated its 10th birthday with a full calendar of events to mark the occasion. Activities included a workshop with John Torpey offering a unique insight into the special art of hurley making, a Cú Chulainn "Warriors and Hurlers" workshop, as well as special guided tours, an art station, face painting, balloon modelling and competitions.

The museum provides GAA fans and visitors to the stadium with an interactive and engaging history lesson in the sport they love. It has grown hugely in popularity since it opened in 1998 and is now widely recognised as one of the leading attractions for tourists visiting the capital and for groups from clubs and schools.

The museum houses a treasure trove of memories for GAA fans from around the country, charting the various successes achieved in All-Ireland finals over the years. But it also provides a fascinating insight into how our national game has evolved since the GAA was founded in 1884.

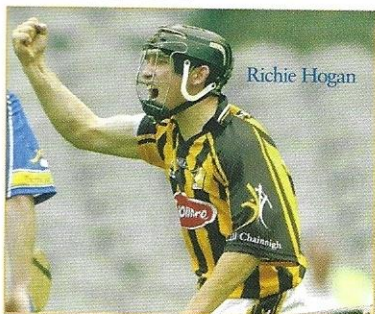
For opening times, museum and stadium tour details visit www.gaa.ie/museum.

For further information on museum events, contact Museum Education and Events Officer Selina O'Regan on (01) 819 2361 or soregan@crokepark.ie



Roisín Byrne, Kilkenny, in action against Carina Rosingrave, Clare in the Minor A Final.

Hogan on Handball



Richie Hogan

Handball can boost having many heroes on the GAA fields of Ireland, and today one young player will sit on the Cats bench in Croke Park far from the alleys of Kilkenny.

Richie Hogan was a late addition to the listed Kilkenny Senior Hurling team on All-Ireland final day in September 2007. As a member of the 2006 U-21 All-Ireland winning side, he knows what big sporting occasions are like.

Last December, he made his way to Phoenix, Arizona for the US Junior Handball Nationals and as the 19 and Under representative, he showed great leadership and ability. He played some top handball over the tournament but went out to American Armando Ortiz in the quarter-final after a heroic battle. Last month, the St Pat's student hit the headlines after the 20-year-old bagged 2-5 for the Cats in their All-Ireland U-21 Semi-Final win over Galway. 'Hero Hogan helps edge out Galway' appeared in one national paper. This is the beginning of what looks like a very bright sporting future for young Cat but the roots were sown very early.

Growing up, most children cry sweets but in Kilkenny they pine for their hurls. And so the likes of Cha, Tommy, Eddie, and one, Richie Hogan, grew up cradling a hurl, nursing it in their formative years and

then putting their skills to the test at St Kieran's College and later with the Cats in Croke Park. This is the reality in black and amber county.

"There definitely is a passion for hurling in Kilkenny that you would get it hard to find in any other county," said Hogan.

"People live and die for hurling here and everything revolves around it."

A member of the Kilfane Handball Club, who hurls with Danesfort, Hogan was one of the stars of Irish handball in his early days, winning the 15 and Under World Championship and USHA Junior titles in the same year. He looked to have the flare and grace of his second cousin, DJ Carey, but added another dimension of power to the game. He loves handball, but as Cavan's Paul Brady can testify to, being a dual star can be very physically and mentally demanding.

"With the amount of training and games involved in hurling, it's hard to get time to get into the alley, but when I'm playing some form of handball, I'm at my best on the field," he said.

"It's difficult to explain, but my first touch is sharper, and the ball to hurl to handball moment is much faster.

"I think I'm just more comfortable and confident with the ball, probably in the air as well."

Hogan always took an interest in DJ's handball career and as a winner of 13 All-Ireland handball titles, Carey set an impressive example.

"I still go to watch all the big games in O'Loughlin's and around Kilkenny," said Hogan.

"I was actually meant to go to Ducksy's final last year, I had a ticket (the final was a sell out) and all, but something came up."

The reason Hogan was unable to

NICKY
RACKARD
CUP

The new three-team groups that were used in the Christy Ring Cup was also extended to the Nicky Rackard Cup which saw the debuts of South Down and Fingal. With the three previous title winners – London, Derry and Roscommon – all playing in the Christy Ring competition, a new champion was certain to be crowned. South Down won both their group matches and Fingal also qualified for the quarter/final despite a loss to Louth. The Wee county ended South Down's interest at the 'last eight' stage and were joined in the semi-finals by Fingal, Monaghan and Sligo. The Yeats county defeated Fingal at Markievicz Park by 1-16 to 0-11, while Louth required extra time to edge out the hosts at Clones by 0-18 to 1-13. The final at Croke Park was a high-scoring affair with Sligo taking the crown by 3-1 to 3-10.

attend the sell-out 60x30 All-Ireland Senior Final clash was due to a late call from Brian Cody to make Hogan an addition to the senior squad for Limerick.

"I found out at training a week before, but I had been training with the seniors all year," explained Hogan.

On September 16th, Richie Hogan won his first All-Ireland Senior medal and now he is back for more action. With the World Handball Championships taking place in Portland, Oregon next year, handball might call the wee man back to the alley once again.

For information on handball, please contact: Niamh Egan, Irish Handball Council, Croke Park, Dublin 3. Tel: 01-8192333. E-mail: niamh@handball.ie

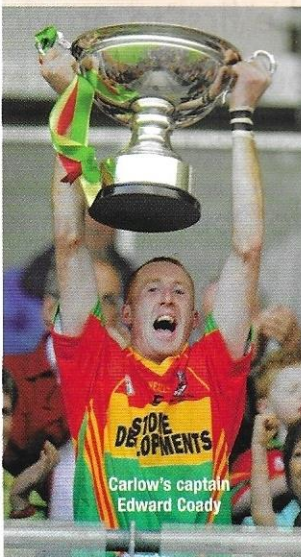


The Waterford Féile Team

CHRISTY RING CUP

Reigning champions Westmeath started their campaign with an easy win over Roscommon, but then lost to Wicklow to qualify as group runners-up. Last seasons' runners-up Kildare had no problems with easy wins over Derry and Armagh, while Down were the only other unbeaten quarter-finalists. However, both the Mourne men and the Lily Whites exited at the 'last eight' stage as they fell to Derry and Westmeath respectively. Carlow eased past Kerry while Mayo edged out Wicklow after extra time in the other 'quarters'. Westmeath enjoyed home advantage for their semi-final with Derry and won by ten points, but Carlow had just a couple to spare over Mayo at Castlebar. The final at Tullamore was a terrific contest with the sides deadlocked at full time before Carlow took the title for the first time by 3-22 to 4-16 after extra time.

**London won the relegation battle with Roscommon, but the losers maintained their status with a four-point win over Nicky Rackard champions Sligo at Carrick-on-Shannon.*



Carlow's captain Edward Coody

WHERE DOES YOUR TICKET MONEY GO?

Today's games will bring the cumulative attendances at this year's hurling championship to approximately 500,000. Combined with numbers of an even greater scale in football, this represents an anticipated revenue stream of over €30m for the Association in the current year. This is something of which we can all be extremely proud, but which we can never take for granted. Every supporter purchasing a ticket for our games is making an investment in the financial future of the Association, and it is important that we all understand how that investment is being deployed.

In the last year we committed unprecedented levels of investment to games development, approved yet higher grants for capital programmes, and once again dramatically increased direct distributions to our units. All of this is merely the continuation of our track record of massive investment in communities both in Ireland and overseas.

So where does your ticket money go? The following illustration is based on today's admission price, but the same proportion, and the same commitment, holds true for every game – hurling or football, league or championship this year.

It costs almost €11m to stage the various national inter-county leagues and championships each year. As the demands of competition increase each year so too does the cost to each county of mounting its annual challenge. The GAA nationally contributed over €13m last year to help counties to

meet these costs. In addition, over €9m was invested in coaching and games development, and a further €10m was spent on the welfare of our players, including almost €9m to assist players at all levels with the cost of on-field injuries.

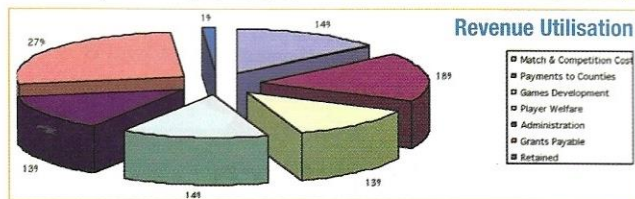
The numerous capital projects underway at clubs and county grounds nationwide bear testimony to the scale of the GAA's ambitions for the future. The €19m we contributed centrally to these projects last year was with two priorities in mind – participation, and facility quality.

In total almost 80% of GAA revenues are re-cycled directly within the Association, helping to make possible a spectacle like today and the players of tomorrow. And all without increasing admission prices this year.

So the next time you pass through the turnstiles here in Croke Park or at your local club, do so in the knowledge that you are playing your part. And on behalf of all of our members, players, supporters and communities – go raibh maith agaibh.

HOW IS YOUR TICKET PRICE USED?

Admission to today's game	€70.00
Distribution to counties & provinces	€12.60
Match Day Costs	€9.80
Games Development	€9.10
Player Injury & Welfare	€9.80
Infrastructure Investment	€18.90
Administration Costs	€9.10
Total Expenditure	€69.30
Retained	€0.70



The Tale of the Returning Old School Hurler

CÚL
GAIRE

The tale of the Returning Old School Hurler, like the story of the man who'd been abducted by aliens only to come back to earth, is a tale worth telling.

In a club far away from the heartland of the Déise and the Cats lives our man. A Legend perhaps. The Returning Old School Hurler may have emigrated, succumbed to a fragrant or, possibly, nagging wife, or over-dependence on the drink. Now he's returned, pressed backed into service, reluctantly, with a gnawing in the pit of his now-larger-gut.

Our man, as someone that could 'hurl a bit' is asked to put his shoulder to the wheel one last time, to help a posse of precocious young Turks find their own feet at senior level. His role? To pull hard, to show example and to demonstrate his guile, all achieved with as much subtlety and aplomb as the deft flicks by which he lifts and clears the ball from a melee of players on the edge of his own square.

In his day Lucozade was something brought to hospital; on a cool day a t-shirt was worn under your jersey – not one of these skintight affairs that looked like something guys would wear to a nightclub called the Pink Paradiso. The balls too seemed lighter these days – in the mists of time pocking a water-logged sliotar over the bar late on to seal victory was a valuable life-skill, requiring wrists of iron and the swing of Thor to heft the hurley. And what of the hurley itself?

He returns to his mother's garage to retrieve his sticks – linseed oiled and sprung, long and elegant, with narrow grips of bare

ash, sweeping down in curves sweetly-grained to a supremely crafted bás with honed blade. When he pulled them from his bag, the dressing room fell to silence, staring in wonder – bananas temporarily unchewed and energy drinks undrank. Our man pondering the unexpected interest, but saying nothing – as usual. Short shorts, too tight for comfort, a badge-faded battle-worn jersey – barely legible: County Final 1989.

On the field he raised a greying eyebrow - the young Turks' hurls like malnourished saplings beside his own – colourfully gripped but armlength short it seemed to him. Not for the Returning Old School Hurler – his hands dipped in rosin,

sliotar seized from the air with the speed of a cobra strike. The 37" hurley? He could hook a man across the road 'twas that long, but could he wield it? Oh yes. In style. With panache. In any situation.

Gradually the younger players knew – they were in the presence of a higher being. When he trained, they watched. When he played, they played. And when he finally spoke, they listened. Old School. 'Twas as if he'd never been away you know.

Talking Balls
-squareball-

For more tales of all things Gaelic and Athletic, read Talking Balls on www.squareball.com.

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www.samaritans.org/ireland

Donations: PO Box 11218, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

FICHE CEIST



ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING FINALS

1. What was noteworthy about the 1970 All-Ireland senior final between Cork and Wexford?
2. The first final televised live in colour was the 1971 decider. True or false?
3. P. J. Molloy scored 1-6 for Galway in the 1985 final but still finished on the losing side against what county?
4. In what year did Antrim last contest an All-Ireland senior hurling final?
5. What county recorded the last sequence of three All-Ireland senior hurling titles in succession?

ALL-IRELAND FINAL PERSONALITIES

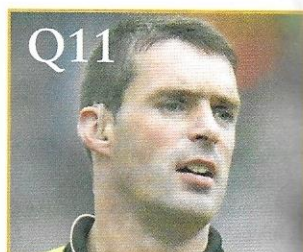
6. What distinction is held by Conor Hayes (Galway) in the All-Ireland senior hurling championship?



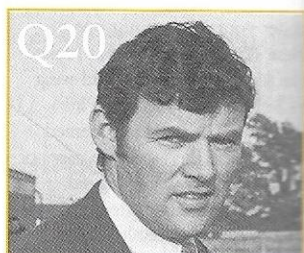
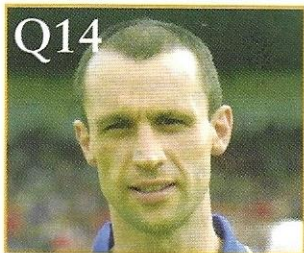
7. Name the year in which Nicky English scored 2-12 for Tipperary in an All-Ireland senior final win.
8. Who was the first hurler presented with the new Liam MacCarthy Cup after leading his county to success?
9. Ciarán Barr captained what county to a rare All-Ireland senior hurling final outing?
10. Who scored the goal three minutes from the end that clinched Offaly's first All-Ireland senior hurling final win in 1981?

GENERAL REVIEW

11. Who refereed last year's All-Ireland minor hurling final?
12. Who won last year's All-Ireland Intermediate hurling title?
13. How many goals did Limerick score in last year's All-Ireland senior hurling final?



14. Who led Tipperary to their last All-Ireland senior hurling title?
15. How many important titles did Tipperary win in senior hurling this year?
16. Who refereed the Leinster senior hurling final in early July?
17. When did a Leinster county, other than Kilkenny, last win the All-Ireland senior hurling championship?
18. How many All-Ireland senior hurling finals has Dickie Murphy refereed—three, four or five?
19. What was unusual about this year's Ulster senior hurling championship?
20. Who as President presented the MacCarthy Cup to the winners of the first All-Ireland senior hurling final of his new century?



1. It was the first final over 80 minutes. 2. True. 3. Offaly. 4. 1989. 5. Cork—1976, 1977 and 1978. 6. He is the only hurler to captain Galway to two All-Ireland senior title winning teams—1987 and 1988. 7. 1989 agamsn Antrim. 8. Liam Kennedy (Kilkenny) in 1992. 9. Antrim in 1989. 10. Johnny Flaherty. 11. James Owens (Wexford). 12. Wexford. 13. One. 14. Tomas Dunne in 2001. 15. Three—Waterford Crystal Cup, Allianz National League Division I and the Munster senior championship. 16. Barry Kelly (Wexmeath). 17. Offaly in 1998. 18. Four—1992, 1995, 1997, 1998. 19. All nine counties, plus London, competed for the first time. 20. Seán McCague (Monaghan).

REFEREEING MATTERS IN 2008



Seamus Gardiner (Spokesman for Referees)

NEW FITNESS PROGRAMME

As mentioned in previous articles this year, a new fitness programme is being evolved for intercounty referees. The new programme is being overseen by Dr. Niall Moyna of DCU with Karl Cogan a third year Sports Science student. In January all the referees were brought to DCU and were given a complete medical test. That included a blood test, an ECG for the heart, VO2 max test which is the ultimate in telling how fit somebody is. The referees were then monitored in their provincial centres in March. In May they were back in DCU again to measure their progress. They were then given a report and told what areas they had to work on.

HOW FIT ARE OUR REFEREES?

Maybe the best witness to this is *Irish Independent* Sports Journalist Donncha Boyle who asked could he attend and take the fitness test with the football referees. (The hurling referees had the test on another day). In an extensive article in the *Irish Independent* on August 25th Donncha gives his impression of the test and of the fitness of the referees.. He quotes Karl Cogan, the Sports Science student as follows: For a reference point we compared them to the stats available from FIFA's top referees and they were only slightly behind in terms of how they fared on the Bangsbo test. And obviously these soccer refs



are full time and professional and so for a referee who is part time and basically doing something as a hobby to be that close to a professional is hugely impressive. They did three runs over the same distance and most were around the same time as your average intercounty footballer". This is the first year referees have been tested in such a thorough fashion and it is the beginning of a process to develop a standard that will have to be met by anyone appointed to intercounty games. Donncha Boyle finishes his article – " So, referees can't be accused of being miles off the pace any more. They are fitter than the majority who will bay for their blood on a Croke Park Sunday. All of this so that they can carry out the most thankless job in sport. They really are a different breed."

WHAT MAKES A GOOD REFEREE?

In case there are some who feel the Referees' Committee is misled by thinking that fitness makes a good referee – absolutely not! But to referee at all, the referee must know the RULES and be FIT. These are two musts before he begins. With these he must face the match situation. Is he cool? Has he good judgement? Is he a good communicator? Has he a feel for the game? Is he firm and decisive? Is he consistent? Does he inspire confidence? All of these questions can be answered only in the match situations and that can only be judged by a competent, neutral person watching him in action. The name given these people is Assessors. The opinion has been expressed by some that these assessors are having a negative effect on refereeing performances. But is there a better way to judge a referee that to ask a former player, a former referee, a keen follower of the game to report on how the referee did in a match situation? What the referee asks above all, if he is criticised, is – what did he do wrong, when, and how he can improve.

NUMBER OF HURLING REFEREES

One of the dilemmas facing a Referee Appointments' Committee is the number of referees to appoint for the championship. One view is to appoint as many referees as

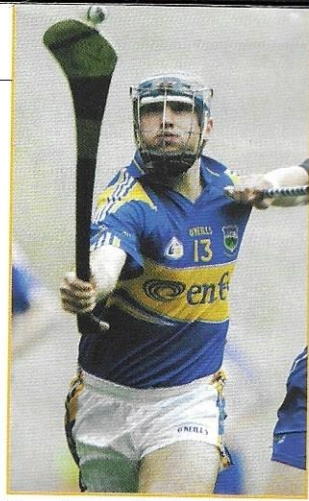


possible so that they get experience. The opposite view is that after the National League where a greater number of games involves a greater number of referees, that this number should be narrowed down for the championship. Referees, like players, need regular games so in this year's championship twelve referees were appointed. This meant that they got more games and were not left inactive at intercounty level for too long.

TAKING THE PHYSICALITY OUT OF THE GAME

This charge has been made by some that the physicality is being taken out of hurling by 'fussy refereeing'. Could I make a counter-charge? One of the great features of hurling is the manly side by side clash of the ash. This happens when (a) two players, side by side, shoulder to shoulder pulling on the sliotar (b) two players under the high ball e.g. for puck-out, pulling overhead. These two features are less common in our modern game because the emphasis on possession means that in (a) both players try to lift the ball and in (b) both players are trying to catch the ball. In a recent game I was delighted when two players ran twenty yards to the ball, pulled on it together, clash of the ash and the ball travelled thirty yards to a huge appreciative roar from the crowd. The old Irish expression – "*An rud is annamh is iontach – What is rare is wonderful*", is very apt here. While a high catch under

Eoin Kelly
(Tipperary)



pressure is a skill also, I would argue that the older tradition of pulling on the ball led to more legitimate physicality and was one of the thrills of hurling. No doubt modern coaches will disagree but surely the amount of clumping and crowding of players resulting in throw-ins is a feature we could do without?

PERSISTENT FOULING

Let me say straightaway that persistent fouling is not the same problem as in football and this means that there are less frees. While most traditionalists will accept (some even at times reluctantly) that a player deserves to be sent off for striking an opponent, very few have accepted the penalty of a sending off for three such fouls as (a) Hold an opponent (b) Charge an opponent in the back (c) Charge an opponent in the front. It comes down to this example and let's choose an example of a player not playing today. Eoin Kelly (Tipperary) is held by his opponent No. 4. He gets a free and No. 4 is noted.

Ten minutes afterwards Eoin, coming in with the ball, is charged in the front by No. 4 – free again and No. 4 is now cautioned and shown a yellow card. Beginning of the second half Eoin with the ball in hand gets around No. 4 who despairingly catches him by the jersey. Again a free and No. 4 is now sent off. Is this too severe? Is this what people mean by taking the physicality out of the game? No. 4 has committed three fouls on the person and it can be argued that none of them is malicious. Should these mean a sending-off? That's what the rules say. The argument is that referees should use 'common sense' and that's what is lacking today. But really we should not make rules that we do not want implemented. Surely in the year of playing rule changes there should be more thought and debate and that we finish with rules we all agree with and – whisper it – referees can enforce!

NOVEL THROW IN

The throw in at the beginning of each half and at other times during a game have become very 'messy' for the referee. The throw-in during the games is especially 'messy' as so many players crowd around. If the referee persists in trying to get the extra players away what do we hear – "Throw in the ball ref!" as if he was the one at fault. A novel throw in was tried at the opening of Cusack Park, Mullingar in 1933. It was agreed to use an aeroplane to drop the ball on the waiting Kerry and Dublin teams to start the game. The wind caught the ball as it dropped and it landed, not centre-field, but in the goal area!

(From Referees' Foundation Course Logbook. Prepared by Tomás Mac Giolla Phádraig).

Cúinne na nÓg

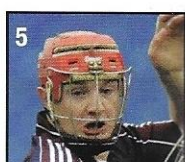
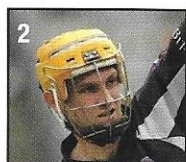
Tráth na gCeist

1. The All-Ireland Under-21 hurling final will be played next Sunday. Name the finalists.
2. Where was the Nicky Rackard Cup final between Sligo and Louth played early last month?
3. Who refereed the All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final between Waterford and Tipperary last month—Diarmuid Kirwan (Cork), Michael Haverty (Galway) or Eamonn Morris (Dublin)?
4. Carlow or Westmeath won the Christy Ring Cup final last month?
5. What two counties played the first game in this year's All-Ireland senior hurling Qualifier?



Personality Parade

1. Who captained Cork in their All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final against Kilkenny last month?
2. First name of Raymond, who scored 1-8 for Sligo in their Nicky Rackard Cup final win over Louth in early August.
3. Paddy Richmond is a forward with what county in senior hurling?
4. This well-known intercounty goalkeeper won an All-Ireland title earlier this year. His name, please.
5. This young hurler, who helped his county to the All-Ireland Under-21 title last year and also holds All-Ireland minor medals, was in impressive sharpshooting form in the senior championship earlier this season.

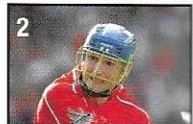


Other Games

1. What two counties will contest the Gala All-Ireland senior camogie final next Sunday?
2. Tyrone defeated what county in a recent All-Ireland Ladies football championship quarter-final?
3. Eoin Kennedy (Dublin), the defending champion, booked his place in last evening's All-Ireland senior softball singles final in handball at Croke Park. True or false?
4. Una Carroll was top scorer for Cork or Galway with five points in the All-Ireland senior quarter-final between the counties in the All-Ireland ladies championship recently?
5. Maria Daly is a well-know handballer from what county?

Who Am I?

1. I captained my county in a recent unsuccessful All-Ireland senior hurling final outing from a defensive position. However, I have won All-Ireland medals at under-21 and an interprovincial souvenir. My club is Hospital/Herbertstown.
2. I captained my county as a defender in their last All-Ireland senior hurling final appearance. My club is Newtownshandrum and I have won two All-Ireland senior hurling medals.



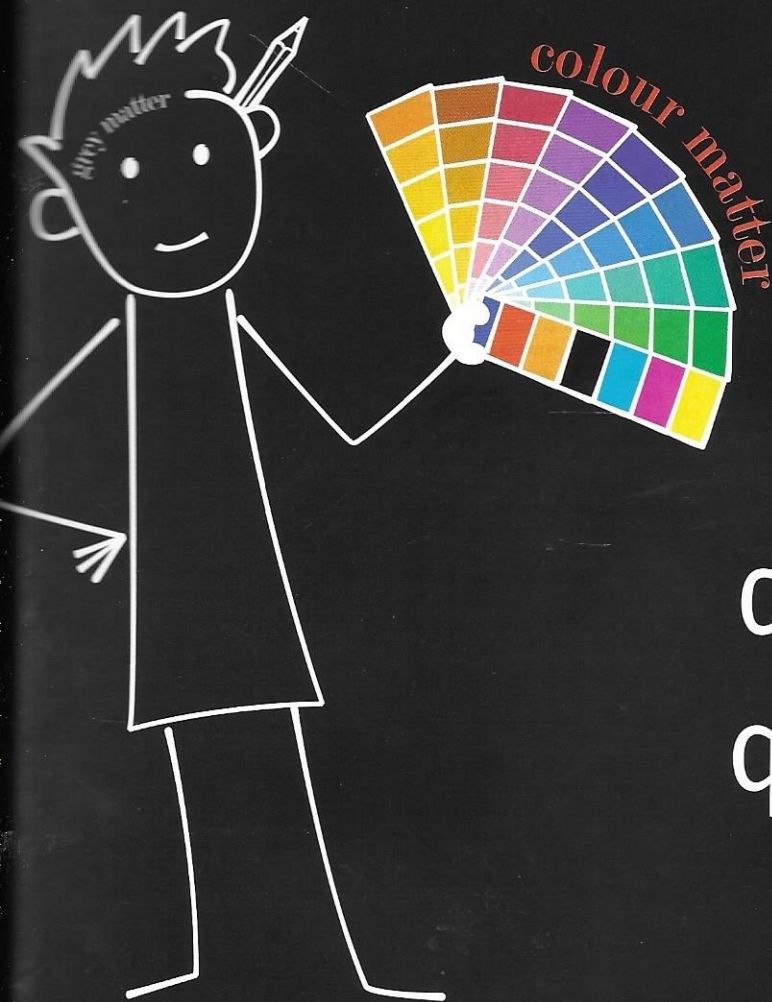
FREAGRAÍ

Tráth na gCeist. 1. Kilkenny and Tipperary. 2. Croke Park. 3. Diarmuid Kirwan. 4. Carlow. 5. Galway and Antrim at Casement Park. Personality Parade 1. John Gardner. 2. Keith. 3. Antrim. 4. Brendan Cummins, who retained the All-Ireland Poc Fada crown. 5. Joe Canning (Galway). Other Games 1. Cork and Galway. 2. Dublin. 3. True. 4. Galway. 5. Kerry. Who Am I? 1. Damien Reale (Limerick). 2. Pat Mulcahy (Cork).



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BULLETIN BOARD



PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH
THE HOME OF GAELIC GAMES

REGULATIONS Páirc an Chrócaigh

1. All persons entering this ground are admitted only subject to the following Rules (which are designated to protect the Health and Safety of all entrants to the ground). Entry to the ground shall be deemed to constitute unqualified acceptance of all of these Rules.
2. The management reserves the right of admission.
3. The instructions of the stewards must be obeyed at all times.
4. All persons entering the ground agree to be searched by a member of the Garda Síochána.
5. Every person (including infants) entering the ground must have a ticket.
6. The following are not permitted:
 - 6.1 Entry upon the pitch or engaging in conduct that causes or is likely to cause injury or harm to, or otherwise interferes with, disrupts, hinders, or distracts a person playing in, refereeing or otherwise having a role in a match at this ground.
 - 6.2 Any unauthorised contact with the boundary wall surrounding the pitch or incursion on to the pitch. Any such unauthorised contact or incursion constitutes a trespass to property.
 - 6.3 The climbing of floodlights or other pylons, stands or other buildings. Such behaviour constitutes a trespass to property.
 - 6.4 Throwing of objects onto the pitch.
 - 6.5 Remaining or loitering in any gangway or aisle.
 - 6.6 Behaving in an offensive or indecent manner.
 - 6.7 Bringing of alcohol into the ground.
 - 6.8 Bringing into the ground of fireworks, smoke canisters, bottles, glasses, cans, flags, banners, poles, distress signals, laser pointers and similar articles or containers, including anything which could or might be used as a weapon.
 - 6.9 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.
7. If a person commits a trespass, reasonable force may be used to prevent, restrain or terminate any trespass.
8. Where a person is in breach of any of these rules, or where the management believes that a person constitutes a source of danger to others, or to the ground, such person may be refused entry or ejected from the ground, and reasonable force may be used for that purpose.

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 game.

The policy to prohibit such encroachment in the future has been taken and 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 spectators 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.

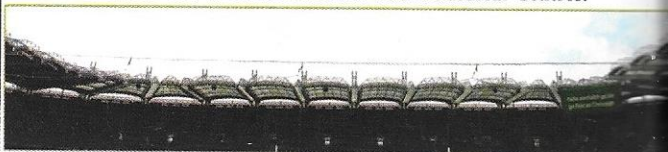
Hill 16: First Aid Centre rear of Section A

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.



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THEN WITH THE HURL.



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