



1924

C L.G. HILL HARTHA

1984 — KILCAR G.A.A. CLUB

SENIOR FINAL UPSET AS

KILCAR TRIUMPH

**Magnificent Kilcar take
third League title in a row**

KILCAR GET REVENGE

AND TAKE SENIOR TITLE

**McHugh stars as Kilcar
dethrone BALLYBOFEY**

**KILCAR ONCE AGAIN
IN DRIVING SEAT Andy Harper tournament**

**Division One Shield
KILCAR WIN L. goes to Kilcar**

SENIOR SHIELD FINAL

**County title goes
to Kilc Kilcar v Aodh Ruadh**

55 years wait in Shield final

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IS CUIMHIN LIOM

Mícheal Ó Dómhnaill

Is mór sin an t-athrú a tháinig ar imtheachtaí an C.L.C.G. ó bhí mise mo ghasúr, ní amháin ar an chluiche féin ach ar mhóran dóigheanna eile mar pháirceanna imitheartha, seomraí féiste, iompar, agus meóin imreoirí.

Nuair a bhí mise ag éiré anois ba dhóiligh píngin a fháil le liathróid a cheannacht agus bhíodh againn ceann a dheanamh amach as sean stóca fir lan de fhéar agus annsin bhíodh againn é fhuáil cruinn i gcrúth liathróide.

Ní bhíodh cuailí againn go minic ach cupla clóch cáite ar an talamh. Is iomdha sin argóint a bhí fá na clócha ceadhna mar go minic ní bheadh fiós againn an dheacaidh an liathróid taobh istigh nó, taobh amuigh, no trásna na glóch.

Corr uair bhí muid abalta cupla píngin a chruinniú agus liathróid rubair a cheannacht.

Bhí cludach leather an uair sin ar an gnáth liathróid acht ní rábh ceann aca sin le fáil ach ag na clubanna iad féin. Is cuimhin liom go bhfuair mé féin liathróid beag, uimhir a ceathrar, ar triochá ocht cúpón a bhíodh i mboscaí cócó. Bhi seo san bhlian 1938 agus shíl muid bo bhfuair muid bronntanas ó Neamh agus bhain muid an sult go deo as.

Ós rud é go rábh mé mo cháiptin shóisearach i 1942 agus mo cháiptin shinsearadh sa bhlian 1945, ar fhóirinn Choláiste Naoimh Adhamháin, bhí mé abalta neart sean liathróid a fháil le na thabhairt abhaile agus thug sin deis duinn neart péile a imirt ar an Bhógach.

Bhí sráith péile in Iardhiscirt Thír Chónaill i dtus na tríochada agus sráith cluicé eile i bparóisde Chíll Chartha in am an chogaidh agus thug sin an chleachtú do bhuachaillí an cheanntair.

Ní thiofadh le duine ar bith san lá inniú a thuigbheíl an spiórad a bhí ins na daoine agus an grá aca ar an chluiche péile leath cead blian ó shoin. Bhíodh an taobh líne plóduighthe le daoine ag achan cluiche.

Ní rábh traenáil ann san tsean am mar atá anois. Ní bhíodh gasaraí óga ag rith thart ar pháirc no ag gábhail do chórp oiliunt ach bhíodh siad ag imirt péile comh minic is thíocadh leo. Bé seo an nós a bhí achan áit sa chonndae agus cáithfidh sé go rábh péileadóirí chomh maith anseo is a bhí áit ar bith eile nó bhí leath dhoisín peileadóirí on cheanntair seo ag imirt do fhóirne Thír Chónaill ins na tríochada agus ins na daicheadaí.



Nuair a bhí muidinne ag imirt do fhóirne an pharaóisde ní rabh muid a iompar ar charr go dtí cluichí aitiúla acht léim muid ar róthar agus as go bráth linn.

Ní rábh seomraí féiste nó folcaidh againn ach oireadh agus bhí againn ár éide imitheartha chuir orainn i gcoirnéal na bpáirce.

Nuair a thósaigh mise ag imirt ní rábh an "cic isteach" ón taobh líne agus b'eigean an liathróid a chaitheamh isteach le lámh agus ní thíocadh scór a fháil ón "caitheamh isteach sin ach oiread.

Bhíodh an cluiche i bhfad ní ba bhriómhaire no mar tá sé anois agus cean tuam maith gualáinne a thabhairt don fhear a bhí i gcomharic leat.

Bhí an "solo" ann in mo amsa ach b'iad na fir tósaigh amháin a d'usaíd an módh iompar seo. San am i lathair tá an "solo" a úsaíd ag acan imreoir ar an pháirc agus bhearann seo seans do na fir cúl teannamh isteach ar na fir thósaigh agus bíonn níos mó feall sa chluiche mar gheall ar seo.

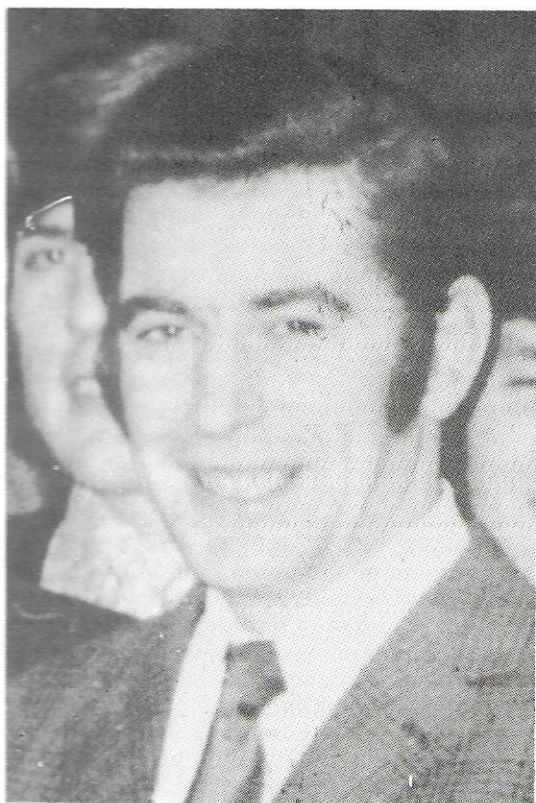
Ní tháinig moran athrú ar an chlúiche ins na coláistí le daichead blian. Deirinn, b'eidir go rábh an caighdeán ní b'airde mar bhíodh na mic léighinn thar fiche blian ag fágail an cholaíste annsin.

Is cuimhin liomsa sa bhlian 1940 go rábh an bheirt ceadhna ag imirt lár na páirce ag foireann Thír Chónaill agus a bhí i i lar na páirce ag Coláiste Naoimh Adhamháin. B'é sin Vincent Rankin agus Charlie McCaul.

San am i lathair nuair atá oiread páirceanna imitheartha úra, seomraí agus tighe folcaidh ag na clubanna is deiligh thuigbheal cad chuige nach mbióinn páirceanna imitheartha marcailte i gceart do na cluichí.

Tá athrú mór anois ar chúrsaí C.L.C.G. no go bhfuil suim an mhór aca i gclúicé an aos óg agus ins na páistí scoile agus is máith an rud sin.

Is truagh go foill nach bhfuil seans ceart a thabhairt do na cáilíní páirt níos mó a glacadh san ghluaiseacht.



Mar Chathaoirleach Bhord Chondae C.L.G. Dhún na nGall is mian liomsa fáilte seo fiche a chur roimh an fhoilsiúchán stairiúil seo atá curtha i gcló ag C.L.G. Chill Chartha i 1984, blian chomórtha an chéid.

Is cinnte gur fiú do dhuine ar bith in aith ar bith staidear a dhéanamh ar stair an chumainn seo ó bunaíodh é trí scór blian ó shoin. Cuirfidh daoine aithne ar bhunú an chlub, Corn Shliabh Liag, an imirce, méid an chlub ag tús na seascadaí, coiste láidir, páirceanna úra, deireadh leis an imirce, triúr foireann do dhaoine fásta agus foirne faoi aoise i ngach comórtas condae.

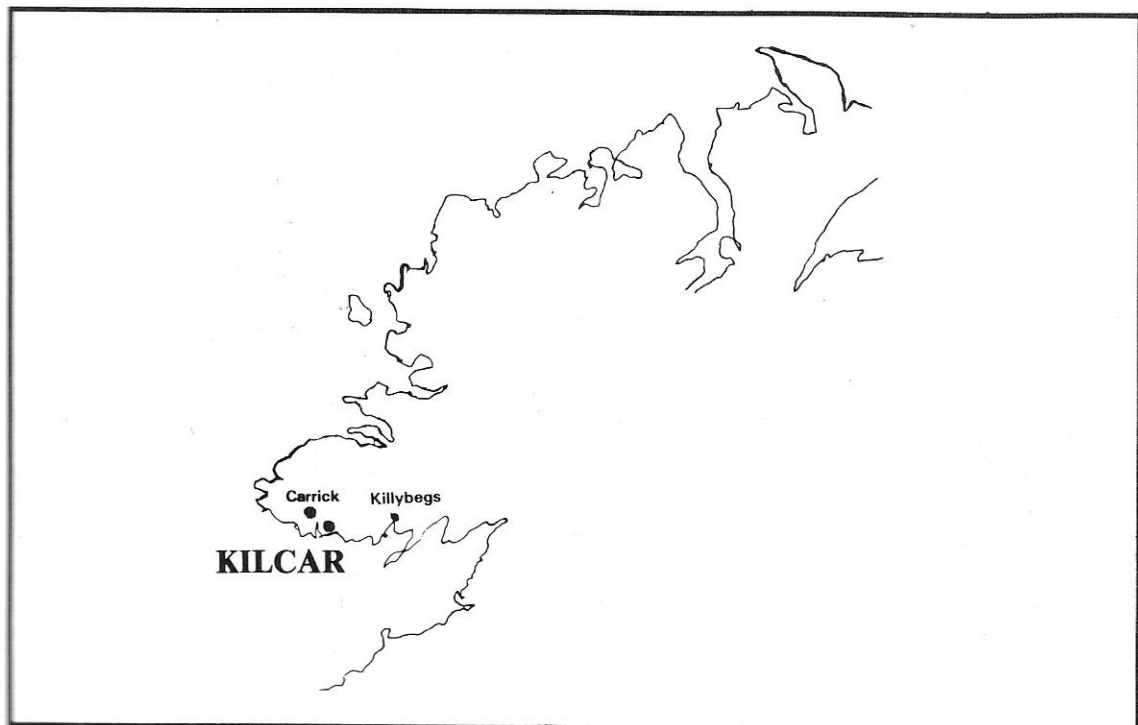
Is fíor gur chuidigh club agus pobal Chill Chartha go mór le C.L.G. a choinneál beo in Iardheisceart Dhún na nGall nuair a bhí an taoide ag trá ó thaobh imreoirí de bharr imirce agus nuair a bhí brú ón taobh amuigh ar ár gcultúir agus ar ár gcluichí.

Tá oifigí agus coistí maithe sa chlub, obair mhór deanta acu agus pleananna maithe fadthearma leagtha amach acu. Molaim iad agus molaim na daoine a rinne an staidear ar an stair seo agus tá súil agam go rachaidh sé chun tairbhe don chlub agus don phobal sa chéad atá romhainn.

Go meadaí Dia bhur stór.

le gach dea ghuí

Mícheál Mac Giolla Easbuic.



FOREWORD

Tá súil againn go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an cuntas stairiúil seo.

Is iontach an rud é bheith ábalta amharc siar ar an am a thosaigh Cumann Lúthchleas Gael i gCill Chartha — agus fiú amháin roimhe sin — anuas go dtí an lá inniú. Is iontach go deo an méid daoine a chaith dathanna Chill Chartha — gorm agus ór — go bródúil i rith na mblianta.

“Thuas seal agus thíos seal” — sin mar bhí cúrsaí peile i gCill Chartha ón chéad lá, ach creideann muid nach dtig sult agus aoibhneas ceart a bhaint as an “la mór” muna mbíonn neart “laetha beaga” ann roimhe sin. Agus bhí go leor de na “laetha beaga ocracha” againn! Le cúig no sé de bhlianta tá club Chill Chartha níos láidre na mar bhí ariamh. Tá brí agus fuinneamh ann, tá na himrítheoirí oga níos líonmhaire ná mar bhí ariamh. Tá eagar mar is cóir ar gach gné de na himeachta. Gura fada a bhéas sé amhlaidh.

There is within these bindings the story of a club from a small rural parish in South-West Donegal. The Kilcar club began with a first ever game on a beach in 1921 and have since that first historic day built up a tremendous reputation and tradition within the county.

The book though is not only a statement of facts and figures, competitions won and lost, but through photographs, paper clippings, personal recollections and folklore, the story of sixty odd years of Kilcar social life retold.

It is the story of teams and a game which helped to keep the life and spirit in a parish which has been ravaged by emigration time and time again and so often deprived of its youthful vitality.

A story of a game which served as the centre of social life within the parish through entertainment at games and after match dances and the many friendships formed as a result.

It is also a story of a club which gave the parish a strong sense of identity.

The book had its beginnings in the autumn of '82 when after a meeting of the club it was decided that a full and comprehensive history of the club and its activities be written.

Having been active for over sixty years research on the club's history was extensive and detailed. Without the help of various people this research would neither have been as extensive or detailed. We wish to thank all those who helped in any small way in the research of material.

Indeed in hindsight the recording of the history from the beginning came nearly too late. Mick Carr of New York who has since sadly passed on was probably our most valuable contributor.

He was one of our first playing stalwarts and the memory of the infancy of the club was kept clear in his mind through years of exile in the States. Without his remarkable power of recollection the very beginnings of the Kilcar club would have been lost to us.

Similarly a valuable contribution of amusing incidents early in the history were given to us by Barney Carr. May they both rest in peace.

The history of Kilcar G.A.A. is full of peaks and troughs but it is a credit to the people who were part of the club in its lean years who strove to keep it going. Always in the end they were rewarded when some trophy was taken in triumph down “The Trough Brae”.

It is often said that “what you put into the game you get out of it” but all too often the burden of work fell on too few. The club was and sadly still is, ever weakened by members discontinuing participation once their playing days are over. As a result underage football was neglected through the years and up until recently very few were willing to put in enough time and effort to nurture the young talent. Happily at the moment we are at a peak but in order to stay there, spectators, playing members and past playing members should get more actively involved especially in looking after the young to ensure a prosperous future — for the young are the rock on which every club stands. Our club motto is “Ní neart go cur le chéile”. —

We would like to leave you with an old climbers saying which can very easily be adapted to football and concerns this tie-up between effort, preparation and success. “It is very difficult to climb to the top and hard to stay there but it is the view from the top”! —

Due to the volume of information available it was not possible to publish all details.

Also the gathering and transferring of information was slow and difficult. This may have caused slight errors and omissions. For these we apologise.

We hope you enjoy this publication and the Kilcar G.A.A. relies on your continued support.

Ráth Dé oraibh,
Dónal Mac Giolla Easbuig

THE CHARTER OF THE G.A.A.

RULE CHANGES IN THE G.A.A.

1. The name of the Association shall be "The Gaelic Athletic Association".

The Association is a National Organisation which has as its basic aim the strengthening of the National Identity in a 32 County Ireland through the preservation and promotion of Gaelic games and pastimes.

The Association further seeks to achieve its objectives through the active support of Irish Culture with a constant emphasis on the preservation of the Irish language and its greater use in the life of the nation: and in the development of a community spirit to foster an awareness and love of the national ideals in the people of Ireland.

The membership and resources of the Association shall be utilised for the dedication solely of the foregoing aims.

2. The Organisation shall foster, promote and control the National games of Hurling, Gaelic Football and Handball and such other games as may be sanctioned and approved by Annual Congress.
3. (a) The Association shall actively support the advancement of the Irish language and through its members, clubs, committees and councils shall ensure an increasing role for Irish as a medium of communication.
(b) The Association shall likewise support Irish dancing, music and song and other aspects of Irish Culture. Any social function of the Association involving dancing shall include traditional Irish dancing and each unit of the Association shall promote as many entertainments as possible at which no dancing other than traditional Irish dancing is permitted.
(c) The Association shall co-operate with and actively assist other organisations the aims of which are the promotion of the Irish language, traditional Irish dancing, music and song, and other aspects of Irish culture.
(d) The Association shall assist in promoting community development and in keeping with the aims of the Association shall play a positive role through the commitment of its clubs at local and parish level in fostering a community spirit.
(e) The Association shall support native industry and its members shall do likewise as a duty of practical patriotism.

In the course of this book there are numerous accounts of football games played all over the county. But through the years there have come many changes on the game so that the latter day game bears very little similarity with for instance the one played in 1922. The main changes that have occurred are listed below:

1. The first few games played in the parish took place on the beach and small posts or jackets were used for the goals. Once the ball went above outstretched hand height a point was given.

2. The kick out as John Browne remembers it in the twenties and early thirties consisted of the goalkeeper throwing up the ball and the full-back hitting it.

3. When the ball went over the sideline one didn't start with a sideline kick but with a throw-in. (Though not in the soccer style).

4. The handpass was in use in the 40s and again in the late seventies but because of over zealous referees it has virtually become extinct again.

5. For the throw in one had all the midfielders and the forwards. This made a total number of sixteen.

6. The goalkeeper at one time had very little protections and could be shouldered over his own goaline. There was no such thing as the big square and so far fewer penalties.

7. A red flag was used in the twenties instead of a green one to signal a goal.

8. Rigs and football boots have changed completely. Boots for instance one time were made to last, large, above the heel, hard toe cap, hob nails. At first Kilcar players would not wear short togs.

10. Changes have also come in the football. The football is now plastic coated and so weather resistant but with the old ball, when it got wet it got very heavy and slippery. The old ball was also laced down the side.

11. All measurements have now gone metric so that the old 50 yard line now becomes the 45 metre line and the 14 yard line becomes the 13 metre line, etc.

12. The 'third man tackle' as it is known is now also outlawed. When you moved in to tackle a player when the rule was in you were allowed to be "cut-off" by an opposing player.

BEFORE THE G.A.A.

Kilcar is one of the smallest parishes in Donegal with a population of only 1,450 people. So it is no small achievement that this club has three adult teams playing each Sunday and also field underage teams in all competitions.

Although Gaelic football is now very strong in the parish it did not always hold this esteem. Indeed the first organised game did not take place until 1922.

There is not a sign of hurling or soccer in the parish now but this was not always so. There is recorded evidence from the Donegal G.A.A. Yearbook 1983 that in the late 1800s *"a form of cross country hurling was played through the total length of Gleneish pass. The teams competing came from Sheskinarone, Lower Ardara, Crove, Meenaveen, Port"*.

This form of cross country was known locally as the 'cáman run'. This game was like golf without the holes — seeing how many shots it would take to cover a certain distance.

This game is still played in the stronger hurling counties and the 'All-Ireland' of this competition has been won a few times by the famous Eddie Keher.

Although only Crove from our parish is mentioned in this extract it is quite conceivable that other parts of the parish also took part in this game. The other type of 'cáman' more like the game we are used to seeing on television was also played in the parish.

Bogagh and Straleel and Sráth na Circe used to play the other side of the hill which was in effect the Cashlings side of the Glen. These games were played in 'Srath Mongan' which is in Coguish under Barney Byrne's house. They used the root of the briar as a ball and an upturned stick for the hurley.

The game was very close and tense and it was nearing night.

Many women stood around the field watching the game with their aprons still tied on. Suddenly the 'inside' crowd scored a goal which was very hotly disputed. Arguments and fights broke out all over the place. One woman standing down at the opposite goal decided that she had a very valid point to make which would solve the whole fracas.

But in her temper and haste by the time she got as far as the referee she forgot what she was going to say. She ripped off her apron, hit the referee across the face and said — "damn you anyway" —

Many people also went down to "Trá Bhán and Tra Lábhair to play games of camán. The actual hurley was also made from dried pieces of long seaweed and the ball or "cnag" was always homemade. There is an old saying: "Ní raibh teach sa pharóiste nach raibh camán agus cnag ann".

Once around 1900-1905 the national teacher of Muckcross school Charlie McDevitt got 'correct' hurleys (ash) probably from the Gaelic League and these he then gave to the children so that they could play proper hurling on the beach.

Patrick Byrne (Rolagh) was a child in his class. He said that you would have as many as 20 children on the beach at one time some with the good hurleys and the others with the homemade ones. The interesting thing is that Patrick lost his eye playing camán on the beach.

He didn't want to name the other player involved but he said that he got a shot of a hurley in the face and a splinter lodged in his eye. He said that he was not the only player who suffered bad injuries during these games. He said that the reason for this was because not being a 'natural' hurling area the children weren't too sure of the rules or skills and so it got very dangerous.

Unfortunately this was one of the reasons why camán never got off the ground (parents worried) and the other reason being because of emigration young men were leaving for the "Talamh Úr" and so it was hard to field two teams of young men.

The young boys with the good hurleys were never allowed to take part in the adult games for fear of injury.

Hurling made another brief appearance in the 40s but this we will deal with later.

HANDBALL

Handball became a very important and popular game around the start of the century. It took the place of camán because (1) you needed less equipment; (2) it was less dangerous; (3) it needed less players.

During the fine week evenings and on all week evenings during the summer competitions were held at the gable ends of houses, e.g., McIntyres in the town and Coguish N.S. up the Glen. Competitions were very keen and were not only confined to the parish.

It was easy to play handball then against the gable ends of houses because there was very little traffic on the road to distract games.

Two of our best players of the period were Columba Carr and Hugh Gallagher.

SOCCKER

Although we have a number of players nowadays that would be quite adept on a soccer field we do not have a soccer team and have not had one since 1921-1922. Soccer, though, was very strong in the parish between 1905-1922. Indeed the first recorded team that we could get in any sport apart from the teams named in the Gleneish "camán run" is that of a Muckcross team to play Up the Glen in a soccer match.

This was the Muckcross team given by Patrick Byrne: 1, Frank 'Johnny Bhig' McNéilís; 2, Pat 'Rosie' Hegarty; 3, John McHugh; 4, James McHugh; 5, James Meehan; 6, Johnny Byrne; 7, Paddy McFadden; 8, John Erskine (J.T.); 9, Tommy Erskine.

This game was also played on Trá Labhair and seemingly did not go by F.A. rules!

1. No rigs.
2. You never changed ends.
3. No goal posts.
4. The game went by amount of goals scored and not by time.

5. Folklore and the fairies lent a hand — As stated in (2) they never changed sides. Whichever side won the toss always played with the mound of the fairies of Cnapastún at their backs. This mound is on the Muckcross side of the beach. Whichever side got the mound at their backs always won the game because the luck of the fairies was with them. It was believed that the fairies although invisible stood in the goals and stopped goalward shots. Muckcross won the toss and not surprisingly the game.

The Muckcross team also took the boats and rowed around to Fintra strand to play part of Killybegs parish.

Most of the team loved this journey as they had the chance to admire the beautiful fields on the way down. But Frank McNeilís, who would get very uptight about games, would chide them about being so happy and would tell them angrily to concentrate on the game. Tommy and John Erskine were the best players on the team and they used to take young Patrick Byrne with them on the boat.

This type of beach game went on for many years (1905-1912) until Kilcar parish combined all its townlands together to make the one football team. At the time a large number of students were going to St. Eunan's College, Letterkenny; St. Columb's, Derry; St. Patrick's Training College, Dublin, and U.C.D. These were havens of soccer at the



KILCAR v PLATYPUS, 1913. Front row, l. to r.: John Murray (Kilcar), Hugh 'Alick' O'Gara (Castlecarn), Christy Byrne, N.T. (Kilcar, capt.), Pat McDevitt (Churchtown & USA), Paddy Murray 'Forte', NT (Kilcar and Dungloe and St. Mary's, Greenock). Back row: Paddy O'Gara (Kilcar), Patrick 'Bradley' O'Gara (Castlecarn), Joe McDevitt (Churchtown), John O'Gara (Kilcar), John Murray (Druim Na Fiongaíle), Christy Byrne (Doonin), Francie Maguire 'Dixie' (Kilcar), Mick Doogan (Strath Bruidhne), James Byrne (Doonin, dentist), Ignatius Murray, N.T. (Principal Shalvey N.S.)



KILCAR v "VULCAN", 1915 at Towney. Front row, l. to r.: Paddy Keegan (painter, Teach Phobail, Cill Chartha), John O'Gara (Kilcar), M. Moran (painter), Hugh Gallagher (Kilcar). Middle row: Joe McDevitt (Churchtown), James Byrne (Doonin and Ballinasloe), Christy Byrne (Kilcar). Back row: Paddy Murray (Kilcar), Chapel Murphy (painter), Dr. Con Carr (Kilcausey), Paddy O'Gara.



KILCAR TEAM OF EARLY 20's. Front row, l. to r.: Hugh Tim O'Gara 'Alick' (Castlecarn), Hugh Gallagher (Kilcar), Dr. Christy Byrne (Doonin and Carrick), James Byrne (dentist, Ballinasloe), Dr. Peter Carr (Ballymacfadden and Wales). Middle row: Mick Carr (Muckcross), Tom McGinley (Croagh), Columba Carr, James Murray (Kilcar). Back row: Paddy O'Gara 'Bradley', Paddy Murray (Kilcar and Scotland), Christy Byrne (Kilcar), James Toland (Killybegs), Francy Carr (Muckcross).

time and so these students brought their soccer knowledge home. These players later became the nucleus of the Gaelic teams.

Indeed only two of the soccer team that played against the Platypus in 1914 were not away at college. The reason why soccer became so strong in Kilcar at the time was due in no small measure to the close proximity of Killybegs — a garrison port. Killybegs themselves had a strong soccer team at the time and often played Kilcar. During W.W. 1 British naval ships patrolled the Irish coast (dreadnoughts) and the teams on these ships were anxious to arrange games with 'the locals' when they docked. Two of these dreadnoughts were often docked in Killybegs. They were the "Platypus" and the "Vulcan".

The most famous games were always against the Platypus. These ships, of course, went all around the county playing games and according to our own Dean Kennedy they beat Rathmullan, then the best team in the county 2-1. The 'Platypus' team then beat Killybegs

2-0 and afterwards arranged a game with the Kilcar soccer team. As you will see from the photograph they were an extremely well organised team and according to Joachim Murray the team first wore a rig of alternating chocolate brown and yellow stripes.

This team beat the Platypus 2-0 and later the Vulcan and also the Killybegs team were also conquered. They also at this time played games against Glen and Ardara but because modes of transport were slow they rarely went out of their own areas to play. These games went on till 1922 and in the meantime the team had had a change of colour in the rigs (to be dealt with later).

Because of Balck & Tan activities and an upsurge in Republican interests the young men and boys of the parish, like those away from home in the colleges, decided to switch to this 'new' game of 'Gaelic football'. While the soccer was still going strong John Gara and Francie Carr drove them to the games usually in jaunting cars.

THE START OF THE G.A.A. IN KILCAR

Although Kilcar did not officially enter the G.A.A. until 1924 and so play county competitions they had played their first recorded game in 1921 (local inter townland).

There were three main reasons for the changeover from soccer to Gaelic.

1. Because of Black and Tans involvement in the parish the men became much more nationalistic and adopted the game of Gaelic football in preference to soccer.

2. This trend was also very powerful in all the colleges mentioned before and the boys attending here brought these 'ideals' home to spread among their own kinfolk.

3. Because of one Joe McDevitt who went firstly to St. Columb's, Derry; St. Pat's College in Dublin and then went on to be the next principal of St. Enda's school in Dublin after Patrick Pearse had been executed. He more than anyone else was instrumental in setting up the G.A.A. in Kilcar.

But before the club officially got underway there was that first ever game in 1921.

All the information was received from Mick

Carr (New York and Muckross), R.I.P., on this first ever game.

Before he died he sent us a very detailed letter on the infancy of the Kilcar club.

"Up the Glen challenged Muckcross in this new football game in 1921. It was the first Gaelic game ever played in Kilcar. Eddie Gillespie and Johnny McGinley sent a challenge to my brother, Frank Carr and I". So Muckcross gathered a team. *"Some of them wouldn't hit a turf stack with a ball".* It was played in the month of May. *"Both teams were fit to remove their jackets".* (What he means by "fit to remove their jackets" means that they hadn't any rigs as yet in this new Gaelic game. Also in 1914 Fr. McShane preached a sermon against soccer players wearing togs and that it was immoral for the girls to go and watch these games/legs!) Consequently it gave some of these Gaelic footballers a very narrow mindedness about football rigs.

Instead *"each team wore some kind of rigs with shirts, long pants and hob nailed boots."*

"There weren't many spectators at the game and the gate was small as the admission was free.

They played against the wind in the first half — no score at all — on the turnover Muckcross had a strong north wind behind them. Frank and I and James Murray played full back. I caught a high ball coming and lo and behold with the powerful wind behind me and with the strong hobnailed boots on me, with a long high kick didn't I score a goal and the game ended.

Muckcross 3 pts., Glen 0 pts.

Muckcross team mostly deceased: 1, Sgt. John Gillespie; 2, Frank Carr; 3, Patrick Carr; 4, Johnny Rosie Hegarty; 5, Sgt. James Meehan; 5, Frank Carr; 7, Patrick Byrne (Rolagh); 8, Hugh Hegarty (Shalvey); 9, John Murray (Drumnafinagle); 10, James Murray (Kilcar); 11, Dan Byrne (Doonin); 12, Peter Murray (Churchtown); 13, Mick Carr.

Glen: 1, Hugie Tim O'Gara; 2, 3, 4, 5, McGinley brothers, Eddie, Johnny, Josie, Francis (Umiscan); 6, 7, Brian and James Byrne; 8, Eddie Gillespie; 9, Hughie Gillespie; 10, Peter Byrne (Coguish); 11, Big Francie "the tailor" Carr (Ballmacfadden); 12, James Cunningham (Shannagh); 13, Michael McShane.

"Glencolmcille challenged later on in 1921. Accepted. Kilcar's teams was picked from both sides and it was as follows."

Kilcar parish team (first ever): 1, Sgt. Carr (Muckcross); 2, 3, 4, 5, McGinley brothers; 6, Eddie Gillespie; 7, 8, Brian and James Byrne; 9, James Murray (Kilcar); 10, Hugh Gallagher (Kilcar); 11, Columba Carr (Kilcar); 12, Dan Byrne; 13, 14, Frank and Mick Carr.

"We gave them a licking on the strand by 12 pts. to 2 pts."

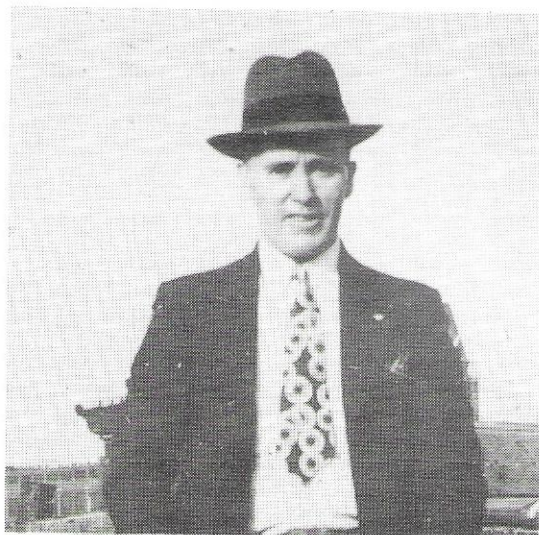
(extracts from Mick Carr's letter)

This was the first ever game that a Kilcar parish Gaelic team played in. The opponents for the very first time were arch rivals and neighbours Glen against whom many epic battles would be fought in the future.

As one would notice all these early games were played on beaches and they did not use goalposts but sticks or coats and if it went above outstretched hand height a point was given.

Even though this game was the first ever played it was not "official".

"22 politics had determined that they would never play soccer again. Columba Carr and Joe McDevitt, The Murrays and John Gara got the organisational ball rolling in



Mick Carr, Muckcross and New York.

1922 and over in Towney they had a field that the soccer team had been using.

"They bought another piece adjoining it for £5 off Bidy Jim to level the field off — It was very spongy then and I remember when people used to swim across that field. People came to the games on sidecars, pushbikes and by walking". (Joachim Murray).

Kilcar now had a good quality sandy pitch and it was to be used for a few county games in the thirties.

We will now give an account on the first big game ever played in Towney on the 29th June, 1922. It was between Ardara (who were the first strong team in the southern part of the county) against the south of the county. This was the first "official" G.A.A. game ever played in the parish. We were fortunate in that we got in contact with one player on each side from that representational match played 61 years ago in Towney, Mick Carr-south of the county; Dean Kennedy-Ardara.

"June 29th was the first ever sports on Towney strand/field" (Mick Carr). That date was a holy day of obligation and from then until the early seventies there was always a sports day in Towney on that date.

"The G.A.A. was in it's infancy in this county and we were all soccer converts. I was only eighteen when I played in this game and was in Maynooth. G.A.A. was frowned on in Maynooth since the head thought that it was too rough. Donegal were much later developing than the likes of Kerry. This was only the second year of organised competition in the county" (Dean Kennedy).

"They beat us pretty badly but we did well in the sports. I came in second in the 220 yards. When I was finished with this race the 440 yards started and like a crazy guy they forced me into it and didn't I come in first out of nine starters. My brother Frank won the egg and spoon race so the Carrs did very well in the first sports" (Mick Carr).

"I got this job of looking after two real boozers and I had to take them away out of the town before the game. The game was the culmination of the sports and some of the players had been drinking beforehand.

The playing positions were not clearly defined and an awful lot of the old type soccer was played. We played 13-a-side and it is a pity that it was ever changed. With the breeze it was 1 pt. to 0 pt. against us at half time. Our trainer gave us real stick. Our captain Mick Fischer read the riot act to us and it seemed to work since by full time the score was 0—8 to 0—1.

The game was very clean and our team won £5 presented by Micheal Óg McFadden. We

travelled to the game by lorry. The make of the ball we played with was a 'hotspur'.

We togged out in O'Gara's lounge before the game. During the game I was given the job as a marker against left-half forward Molloy of Glenties which made the game extremely boring for me". (Dean Kennedy).

"Then on the 15th of August, 1922 Ardara invited our team (Kilcar parish) down for a game. Now we had a different team consisting nearly of all doctors and teachers.

Dr. Byrne (Carrick), Dr. Con Carr (Cashlings), Dr. Peter Carr (Ballymacfadden), dentist, James Byrne (Doonin), Paddy and John Murray, N.T. (Kilcar), Columba Carr, N.T. (Kilcar village), Hugh Gallagher, N.T. (Kilcar), Dan Byrne (Doonin), Jim McBrearty (Doonin), vet., Frank and I (Muckross), farmers.

"There were only two farmers' sons and Francie Cunningham (Killybegs), goalie. They beat us not too bad, 1-5 to 0-6.



Joe McDevitt

A big game came up, South West Donegal vs. North in Kilraine, 1923. I was the only one picked out of the Kilcar team. They sent a car for me — a treat then as they were few and far between. Tom McBrearty of St. John's Point was also playing and we won by 1-7 to 0-3. We won a set of medals". (Mick Carr).

Although Kilcar still did not take part in county competitions Ardara were competing in 1922/'23 but as Dean Kennedy said "after the game in Towney in '22 the Ardara team was decimated by emigration. Six or seven of the team left. Players like Paddy and Jim Murray, Harry Kyle, etc., left for the U.S.A. never to return."

So Ardara had to build their team again and they went outside the parish looking for players. They signed on Mick Carr and with his help won the county championship (13-a-side) in 1923 by beating Ballybofey by 1-2 to 0-3. But emigration later also got its claws on Mick Carr and he left the parish in '25 never to wear the blue and gold ever again.

Then in 1924 Kilcar again played Ardara in Ardara and we drew 1-1 each (Mick Carr). It really is a measure of the improvement of the Kilcar team to compare the results of the games vs. Ardara between 1922-'24.

There were quite a few fist fights on that day we had a good few new players: Gerard McGroarty (Carrick), Michael Cunningham (Carrick), Phil McNelis (Straleel), Johnny McGinley, Eddie Gillespie, James Byrne (Umiscan), Dr. Peter Carr (Ballymacfadden), Dan Byrne, Bernard Dorrian, myself (Mick Carr) — The Kilcar team was now starting to take in players from surrounding areas.

The official establishment of the club came in late '23 and afterwards Kilcar began to arrange challenge games with Glen and Ardara such as the one above. There are no minutes available from those first meetings but some of the main participants were Paddy Tim O'Gara, Hugh Gillespie, Leo Murray, Joe McDevitt, Francis Carr, Pat McShane, Columba Carr, etc.

Joe McDevitt took over the running and training of the team, using the expertise that he had gained in St. Columb's, Derry, and St. Pat's, Dublin. Indeed it wasn't always a smooth road for poor Joe. For instance he found it impossible to persuade some of the players to wear togs so one particular day in Glen he was so exasperated with the team's narrow mindedness that he went to the dance afterwards in a pair of short trousers, just to prove a point. Needless to say he didnt get many dances. A dance in these times usually

followed a game.

Another story from these early times told by Barney Carr (R.I.P.) concerns the match versus Ardara in 1922 played in Towney.

One of the Ardara players had taken a car full of players to the game. The car was a scarce commodity at the time. Kilcar Pipe Band was playing before and after the game. And also a smaller group at the dance but they had the big drum in safe storage in Carrick. Luckily though one of the band could drive because he was driving an officer during the war and he said that he would 'borrow' the car and get the drum. He had a small 'mishap' on the way back out and so was delayed. When the Ardara players got back from the field they thought that the car was stolen. So they created a terrible rumpus. Luckily enough the car suddenly appeared around the corner and after brief explanations all was resolved.

The local team always togged out in Aodh O'Gara's lounge and that it was a common thing for a player to go to the game with four or five bottles of stout in him. The away team togged in the red house.

"HOW THE CLUB GOT THEIR COLOURS"

Before going on to the first year of competition in 1924 a few paragraphs on how the club came by getting their rigs and colours. As stated previously the soccer team had a striped jersey. They then switched it to all royal blue. Money was scarce though at the time and rigs had to be 'gathered' for practice games.

The 4/5 players going to St. Pat's in Dublin took their rigs along with them, since they were very like the Kilcar jerseys except that they had a gold V in the old style in the jersey.

The club was so taken with these colours that they ordered a set of them and when the Gaelic started up in 1922 they used the soccer rig. This same rig was used until the late thirties when the hoop as we know it today was brought in.

Only twice were the colours ever changed albeit for short periods.

Once when joined with Glen they wore all white (Ironically the name of the team was St. Pat's) and in the late 60's when the rig was changed to green and white. Both times the club was extremely unsuccessful and hit a low. Let this be a lesson to all! The blue and gold has been worn by teams in the parish for the last 70 years. Let us hope that this trend continues for the next seventy.

1924 ONWARDS

Even though Kilcar as a club did not enter competitions until 1924 many individuals were prominent in G.A.A. affairs. Mick Carr won a Championship medal with Ardara in 1923, and the following also appeared in the "Democrat" of 13th May 1923:

DONEGAL G.A.A. CONVENTION — BUTT HALL

"That we, the members of the Tirconail County Board G.A.A., regret the departure of Mr. Joseph Murray on his appointment to the Civic Guards from the county. There was no more dedicated or willing worker than he in the promotion of national games in the county. We wish him every success in his new sphere".

Also in the "Democrat" dated 1st July, 1923:

"A feis was held in Kilcar on 1st July. After High Mass in the Church of St. Cartha, all present headed for Towney where the competitions took place. An estimated 6,000 was there. After competitions a football game was held between Glenties and Ardara which concluded the events."

Before going into the activities of Kilcar in 1924 and onwards I would like to explain how Kilcar came to come by their colours.

After 1918 Kilcar soccer team wore a rig of all royal blue with gold 'V' (see picture) and when the first Gaelic team started up they also adopted the same colours. But at that time money was hard to come by and rigs had to be gathered.

On the team that played Ardara on 15th August 1922 were five Erin's Hope players going to St. Patrick's Training College in Dublin. These of course had the jerseys home (blue with a gold hoop). It had to be incorporated into the home rig because there wasn't enough jerseys to go round.

The home team liked the jerseys so much that they adopted them as the home colours and bought a set of them. Apart from two brief spells — once in white when amalgamated with Glen and green in the late 'sixties — the blue and gold has been worn with distinction and pride ever since.

Another tie-up with the Erin's Hope club in Dublin is that the boat from which this club took its name sailed into Towney Bay in the late 1700's with a cargo of guns and was guided by Kilcar fishermen to Sligo where it was later intercepted by the English troops.

1924

Kilcar began to participate in county competitions in this year.

One of their games was after the Killybegs regatta played versus Killybegs on Friday, August 8th, 1924. Killybegs 3-0, Kilcar 1-1. This was probably the game that Mick Carr was referring to when he said: *"The Kilcar team played at the sports in Killybegs, on the first Monday in August of '24 and '25. The games were played on a very bad field on the way to Loughhead."*

Most of the fixtures for that first year were played very late on to facilitate the winning of the harvest etc.

Nov. 9th, 1924 — Kilcar v. Ballyshannon.

Nov. 21st — Glenties v. Kilcar (in Glenties).
Ref. Joe McDevitt.

December 21st — Kilcar v. Mountcharles.

December 28th — Kilcar v. Donegal.

January 1st, 1925 — Kilcar v. Ardara, in Ardara.

"On Sunday November 9th, the South-West League began its activities when the first match of the draw was brought off between Ballyshannon and host side Kilcar. After a well contested match Ballyshannon emerged the victors by 1-3 to 1-2". The following is the clipping of the very first organised game.

G.A.A. — South Western League

BALLYSHANNON DEFEAT KILCAR IN THE FIRST ROUND

A crowd of moderate proportions saw Ballyshannon take the two points from Kilar in convincing style on Sunday last. The game was interesting from start to finish, and, occasionally, play reached a very high standard. The weather was fine and the pitch in good order, but the fact that Towney Bay comes close up to the touchline was a serious handicap. On two occasions there were delays whilst the ball was being retrieved from an ongoing tide.

Ballyshannon's victory was mainly due to a strong defence. The forwards lacked their usual cohesion, but this was due to want of practice. Kilcar has a nicely-balanced team, but here, too, the weakness lies in the forward line.

Play

Kilcar started by bringing the game into Ballyshannon territory, and Whelan was early called upon to relieve the pressure. Shortly afterwards this player almost scored from a long high shot. On the kick-out John Rooney got possession and opened the score with a point. Warnock was tackled from behind when in possession, and, from the resulting free, Paddy Rooney just shot wide. A brisk bout of play by the Kilcar backs ended in McGinley equalising from a good distance out. In the melee dangerously near the visitors goal, Warnock was injured and, from the hop, Whelan cleared in good style. A neat movement by the Ballyshannon forwards was frustrated by McGinley kicking into the water. Sheeran promptly recovered the ball after an exhibition of the "trudgeon stroke". Soon Dr. Carr capped a fine run by putting the home side a point ahead. The equaliser came from Warnock, who was not slow in timing a well-judged pass by Paddy Rooney. John Rooney added another point. Here a fine chance of putting the visitors further in the lead went abegging. Jimmy Rooney, from a vigorous dash along the wing, dropped the leather with characteristic precision in the vicinity of the parallelogram, but his colleagues at midfield were well behind. Dr. Carr set the home forwards going, and Willie Gallagher was called upon to save a strong grounder from Bryan Byrne. A "50" taken by Whelan was saved in the goalmouth, and the half-time whistle found Ballyshannon pressing.

Half-time score: Ballyshannon 0-3, Kilcar 0-2.

On the resumption Kilcar made plucky efforts to level matters up, and, on a couple of occasions, Brown was called upon to clear. This reliable back made no mistake either time. A Kilcar invasion brought a point from James Byrne. Ballyshannon again took up the running and the home defence was severely tested until Bryan Byrne cleared well into midfield. Then the play was fairly evenly divided, and great efforts by the home forwards, of whom the most conspicuous were Dr. Carr and H. O'Gara, were all the time held by a strong Ballyshannon defence. Watkins, who had come on in Sheerin's place shortly after the interval, considerably strengthened the left wing. A free taken by Whelan was intercepted by John Rooney who, from fifteen yards out, shot into goal, Cunningham having no chance from a powerful low drive. From the kick-out Kilcar

tried hard to reduce arrears, and Dr. Carr went well into the visitors defence before the leather was sent wide. Again Kilcar were attacking and Dan Byrne tested Willie Gallagher with a stiff shot from ten yards out. The custodian picked up on the line, and cleared amidst great excitement. The concluding passages were slightly in favour of Ballyshannon, and just before the whistle Gillespie was forced to clear from outside the home goal.

Result: Ballyshannon 1-3, Kilcar 0-2.

Teams:

Ballyshannon: *Willie Gallagher, B. Whelan (captain), F. Brown, T. McMullan, Hugh Gallagher, J. Sheerin, David Higgins, F. Warnock, John Rooney, P. Rooney, Jimmy Rooney, Terry McDermott, Pat Cleary.*

Kilcar: *F. Cunningham, Gillespie, B. Byrne, McGinley, Hugh Carr, Dan Byrne, P. McNelis, McGrory, Rafferty, James Byrne, O'Gara (captain), Dr. Carr, M. Cunningham.*

In these first games for the club, Joe McDevitt did a lot of the refereeing, e.g. the December 21st game, and according to one paper report "Mr. J. McDevitt had charge of the whistle and acquitted himself in his usual satisfactory style".

But now and again Joe ended up in the middle of club squabbling, for instance he refereed the game between Donegal and Ballyshannon on December 15th, 1924. The Donegal reporter had the following to say: "There was a palpable foul by two of the Ballyshannon players immediately before the score but the referee apparently didn't observe fouls committed by the visitors. He left many of the spectators present under the impression that he didn't understand the G.A.A. rules . . . Mr. Joseph McDevitt, Kilcar, did not give satisfaction as a referee".

This prompted the Ballyshannon correspondent to reply in the paper, Friday Dec, 26th, 1924: "An unfair criticism . . .". "Only an idleness opponent would dream of supposing that the referee, Mr. Joe McDevitt, was partial to any particular team.

Furthermore, criticism like that does nothing in the furtherance of Irish games. When a team is beaten they should accept their defeat in a sporting manner".

Because the 1924 League finished so late the latter stages were to be played in 1925. In the return match with Ballyshannon in early April a very

comprehensive report appeared on the game. Here are some extracts:

Ballyshannon 0-13

Kilcar 0-4

"Days will come and day will go, but the memory of Sunday's clash in the South and South-Western League will linger on in the memories of many of the hundreds who shouted themselves hoarse.

"The game and its outcome were the topics of conversation for some days previous and the impression seemed to be formed that Kilcar were going to win.

"With the arrival of the Kilcar team things got going, the boys certainly looked well and fit for anything. They were pleased and confident but not boasting, 'If we don't win it won't be for the want of trying'.

"Fresh and well and hard as nails they looked — these hardy sons of homely Kilcar. Smiling Daniel Byrne, Dr. Carr, Michael Cunningham, Francis McGinley are so full of life. They were naturally curious to know how matters were faring in the Ballyshannon team but, on the whole I think they felt pretty certain of winning.

"Ballyshannon began the game in such a cutting style that it looked as if Kilcar would be totally overwhelmed. Kilcar fielded such a useful team that surprised all by their gallant display in the first half.

"If they had played with the same confidence and dash in the second half the result might have been different. It takes two great teams to make a great game and this was the outcome of this meeting . . . J. McDevitt refereed . . . Williams tried to score but E. Gillespie saved a fine shot.

"Kilcar made a good effort to change the score but Warnock proved a match for the best of them. Daniel Byrne pressed up again, passed to Cunningham who sent wide. Ballyshannon now made an attack on the Kilcar citadel but M. Carr and J. Byrne were two good backs. J. Rooney raised the red flag for Ballyshannon.

"Kilcar now hustled, F. McGinley put Carr in range, and the latter drove straight for goal but J. McDermott rose to the occasion . . . Williams notched a minor and then a goal.

"Combined action of the Kilcar forwards was a menace to the homesters citadel but T. McDermott saved a beauty of H. O'Gara. Dr. Carr drove hard on the Ballyshannon citadel but T. McDermott with lightning-like rapidity boxed the leather out thus effecting the outstanding clearance of the day.

"F. Brown was now conspicuous and his

fine play left the Erne boys in close proximity to the Kilcar goals and a point from Bartley Loughlin emanated Kilcar made a stupendous effort to dominate the play but they found the Ballyshannon men straining every sinew. Half-time score: Ballyshannon 3-2, Kilcar 0-0.

"A well contested bout of even play now ensued and J. McGinley put Dr. Carr in possession. He went at Ballyshannon and Cunningham raised the red flag. Jubilant on their success, Kilcar redoubled their efforts but found the Ballyshannon defence unbeatable.

"Ballyshannon 3-4, Kilcar 1-1.

Ballyshannon: H. Gallagher (capt.), T. McDermott (goals), T. McMullen, B. Whelan, F. Brown, P. Warnock, H. Doherty, D. Higgins, P. Rooney, J. Rooney, B. Loughlin, Williams and McDonnell.

Kilcar: E. Gillespie, Dr. Carr (capt.), J. McGinley, M. Carr, B. Beirn, H. Carr, D. Byrne, P. Carr, J. Byrne, H. Rafferty, F. McGinley, H. O'Gara and M. Cunningham.

"The Kilcar players stayed behind that night in Ballyshannon to attend Eddie Macks Theatrical Company's production of "Mill To Mansion" in the Rock Hall. Mr. Mack promised to go to Kilcar at an early date"

In the "Democrat" of May 8th, 1925, the following: *"South and South West League matches have all been played, and the results are as follows . . .". Kilcar finished third in the League having played eight games, won 3, drew 1, and lost 4. Five teams in all competed in the league. They were: Kilcar, Ardara, Ballyshannon, Donegal and Mountcharles. They lost both games against Ballyshannon, both documented above"*

The top two teams in the South and South-Western League were to play off and the winners were then to meet the Northern champions, Dunfanaghy, in the Championship final.

Ballyshannon and Ardara finished first and second in the league but Kilcar protested. *"Kilcar protested that Ballyshannon and Ardara be automatically disqualified owing to their not playing at the correct venue"*, ("Democrat", July 21st, 1925). Both teams were supposed to have played their game in Kilcar in the deciding game to see who was to play Dunfanaghy, but both teams agreed to play in Mountcharles. The Kilcar protest was successful and they were to play Dunfanaghy in the county final in Letterkenny on July 26th, 1925.

This prompted a reporter from Ballyshannon penname "Assaroe" to publish an attack both belittling and scathing the Kilcar club and its delegates to the Donegal County Executive.

The following are extracts from the reply by Joe McDevitt in the next week's "Democrat" (July 17th, 1925) to that attack through which our Ballyshannon reporter was found more an "Ass" than a "Roe".

"It can hardly be doubted that I am the 'gentleman from Kilcar' to whom Assaroe refers. I do not wish to enter into a newspaper controversy with anyone, much less with one who until recently I believe was an ardent supporter of the G.A.A. But "Assaroe's" latest contribution to your journal forces me to vindicate myself first of all as I was openly and bitterly attacked and next my comrades of the Tirconnel County Board G.A.A. Assaroe states that I "bribed" and shrewdly he puts "bribed" in inverted commas, delegates to vote for Kilcar as a venue for the final for the South and South West League. Poor Assaroe! I don't know if he is a Tirconnel man or not but I do know that he is as ignorant of the psychology and sense of honour of the men of Tirconnail as he is of the rules and regulations of the G.A.A."

Mr. McDevitt then went on to explain how at a meeting of the County Board, Kilcar was chosen by a clear majority to be the venue for

the match for the final between Ardara and Ballyshannon.

Ballyshannon and Ardara had also been proposed as venues but the majority of delegates voted to play the neutral venue. He explains how Ballyshannon and Ardara teams ignored the decision of the executive and took Mouncharles as an alternative venue despite his warning to lodge a protest. He goes on: *"I proposed that the two teams be suspended, not because I wanted Kilcar to get the league medals (for we are not accepting them), but because I did not want to see irregularity and anarchy taking the place of regularity and order. . . ."*

"There are no pawn shops in Kilcar of course, or no "cheap medals" exhibited for sale. If there were we would not attach so much importance to them as some people apparently do. We never looked for trophies. We turned up for fixtures often with inferior teams than with our real team and were prepared to win or lose. The medals for the South and South-West League we will not accept. We do not want any trophies which we did not win on the field. We were the third team in the league surely but if we could chose to wait until Kilcar men — teachers and students — were available I have no hesitation in saying that the probability is we would have as good a chance of heading the league as Ballyshannon or Ardara"

—Joe McDevitt, Kilcar.



ST. CARTHA'S GUILDS 1925-'26. Front row, l. to r.: John P. Campbell, Johnny McGinley, Dan Byrne, Jimmy Raughter, Hughie Rafferty. Middle row: Hughie Carr, Columba Carr, Brian Byrne, Hugh Tim O'Gara. Back row: Leo Murray, Joachim Murray, Hughie Gillespie, Francie McGinley, James Byrne (Umeascan), Eddie McGinley, Paddy 'Tim' O'Gara, Joe McDevitt.

Joe McDevitt lodged the protest as it was his duty as referee of that league final in Mountcharles on 28th June, 1925.

Kilcar travelled to Letterkenny to play Dunfanaghy but they failed to turn up, so Kilcar played a Letterkenny selection instead who were fairly strong at the time. This is Mick Carr's account of the game:

"We went to the game on Paddy Tim O'Gara's (Bradley's) lorry and played them just outside the town. Joe McDevitt was referee. He noticed that after a while there seemed to be a lot of players on the field and on counting discovered that Letterkenny had fifteen (only 13-a-side at the time). We beat them anyway. This was my last game in

Ireland. I emigrated on the 26th of September 1925 (Mick Carr).

The team that lined out in the final was: Jim Toland, Johnny McGinley, Frank McGinley, Joseph McGinley, Eddie Gillespie, Brian Byrne, Mick Carr, Dan Byrne, Bernard Cunningham, Phil McNelis, Michael W. O'Gara.

Many of this team have gone to their eternal reward, including Mick Carr, who supplied the above information.

These were the pioneers, the first men from the parish to put the name of Kilcar G.A.A. on the 'map'.

And this is a picture taken in Umiskin after a training session during 1927.



TRAINING SESSION IN UMISKIN 1927. Front row, l. to r.: Eddie Boyle (Cashlings), Peter Carr (Drimreagh), Hugh Rafferty (Drimreagh), John P. Campbell (Castlecarn), James P. McGinley (Umeascan). Middle row: Hughie 'Tim' O'Gara (Castlecarn), Hughie Carr (Drimreagh), Francy McNulty (Cashlings), Paddy McGinley (Umeascan), Dr. Frank Gallagher (Kilcar). Back row: Paddy O'Gara (Castlecarn, spectator), Dan Byrne (Doonin), Michael O'Donnell (Kilcar, spectator), James Byrne (Churchtown, spectator), Con McNelis (Cnoc Cartha), John Diver (Cashel, spectator), Hughie Gillespie (Umeascan), Paddy Haughey (Srath Na Diaga, spectator), Joe Carr (Coguish), Francy Carr (Drimreagh), Mich (Hanna) Carr (Kilcar, spectator), Joe McGinley (Umeascan), Jimmy O'Donnell (Churchtown, spectator), Barney Carr (Kilcar, spectator).

Other important matters during 1925 which affected the club included the following:

G.A.A. CONVENTION 1925

Held in Mountcharles on January 6th, on the hurling selection committee was Mr. C. Carr, Kilcar, and on the football selectors was Mr. James Murray (Kilcar).

14th JUNE, 1925

Donegal played Fermanagh in the first round of the Ulster Championship. Playing at midfield for Donegal was Dan Byrne (Kilcar), and on the subs were F. McGroarty and M. Carr (Kilcar).

10th JANUARY, 1925

At a meeting of the South and South-Western League, Joe McDevitt was vice-president and James Murray and Dan Byrne delegates.

Failure to travel for games and to get byes were condemned and Joe McDevitt said *"Rather than disappoint Ballyshannon, Kilcar travelled that day although five of their principal players were missing. Teams that have no intention of travelling should not have come into the league"*.

Mr. Woods, the Ballyshannon delegate, stated that it had cost £12 for car hire to Kilcar. Again at the meeting Mr. McDevitt answered the criticisms of the Donegal correspondent who had criticised his refereeing between Donegal and Ballyshannon.

He stated: "In the present league he refereed all the matches apart from two as well as most of the friendlies in and around Kilcar and visiting teams coming to Kilcar asked him to referee their matches. Regarding his knowledge of the Gaelic games he was one of the first men in Donegal affiliated to the G.A.A. in St. Columba's College, Derry. Subsequently he studied football in Croke Park.

As president of St. Enda's College (Dublin) he played and refereed matches as he also did in the West of Ireland. So he thought he knew the rules of Gaelic better than the Donegal correspondent . . . He felt that the proper place for complaints was at the County Board and not through the press . . . He hoped that all matches would be played in the same sporting manner as Kilcar in Ballyshannon and Ballyshannon and Kilcar in Kilcar". A vote of thanks was then passed on to the vice-chairman.

DISTRICT LEAGUE MEETING 1st FEBRUARY IN MOUNTCHARLES

Delegates came from every club in the county apart from Glenties. From Kilcar the delegates were J. McDevitt and D. Byrne. It was proposed by Mr. McDermott (Ballyshannon) and seconded by J. McDevitt, that Glenties be expelled from the league and that they be compelled to defray the travelling expenses of Ardara and Kilcar who travelled there in the league. Mr. S. Cassidy, speaking on behalf of the Ardara side were willing to pay half the expenses of the Kilcar team who travelled to Ardara but owing to the

deplorable state of the field the match was to be abandoned. Mr. McDevitt thanked the Ardara team and said the money was very essential as their funds were very low at present . . .". Mr. McDevitt pointed out that it was the duty of teachers, especially in County Donegal, to get football and hurling into the schools and to encourage these games as much as it was in their power. He also suggests that parish leagues be started for the juniors. He would like to see the Irish language more generally used in connection with Gaelic and hurling games. The names of players and short phrases should be committed to memory and used by players during the game.

Lent, he said, would be an ideal time to use these phrases and expressions practising at the same time a little self-denial and self-restraint! More attention should be given to the social side of the movement, he added. He would like to see concerts and Irish dancing organised the nights of Gaelic and hurling matches. These social functions where Gaels could assemble when the outdoor amusements were over would do much to promote that spirit of friendship and harmony.

Emigration was once again the big problem and it decimated many fine teams for the next six years (e.g. the departures of Mick Carr, Hugh Byrne, etc.). It was heartbreaking for the organisers to see teams that they had painstakingly nurtured disintegrating overnight. It was usually the finest of boys and the young men and those with the "greatest push" who went away.

At this stage the college boys had a great affect on football activity locally when they returned on holidays. J. McDevitt, in reply to 'Assaroo' stating that when the team went to Ballyshannon five were away in college. The 1925 team who won the Championship for instance had three who later went on to be doctors or dentists, a few national teachers, and two clerical students. This continued down through the years and important games were often called off until the college boys came home.

Kilcar carried on playing in the South and South-Western League in '25, '26 and '27.

Then, in 1927, disaster struck. The Kilcar team went to play Dunkineely in Dunkineely and of course all the players were still wearing steel-capped boots. James Raughter died from an injury received in this game.

"James Raughter, aged 20, son of Mr. Thomas Raughter, farmer, Curris, near

Kilcar, succumbed in the District Hospital on Saturday due to the internal injuries he sustained during a football match between teams from Kilcar and Dunkineely at the latter's venue on Thursday last. Deceased and two others were endeavouring to attain the ball came into violent collision. He having received a kick in the abdomen, an operation was performed on Friday in an effort to save his life, but his recovery from the beginning was extremely doubtful. Another player, Francis Haughey, Meenachannon, Kilcar, received a fractured leg. With the parents and family of young Raughter, there is deepest sympathy on their tragic bereavement". ('Donegal Democrat', June 25th, 1927).

Because of this incident many parents would not allow their sons to play football and so there seemed to be a lull in Gaelic football between the years 1927-'30 in the parish.

In 1930 a Fr. Griffith was appointed curate in Carrick. He was a man of great energy and organisational ability who went around on horseback. He soon realised that the biggest drawback to the progress of football in the area was the lack of regular competition with a real bite. Periodic challenge games he felt

were of little use. So after a number of meetings a properly organised competition was established for the parishes of Kilcar and Glencolmcille. There were six teams altogether: Kilcar Parish: Up the Glen; Kilcar Town. Glencolmcille Parish: Carrick, Meenaneary, Meenacross, Malin.

The Slieve League Cup in the eyes of everyone was as important as the Sam Maguire. The name for the cup was well chosen as Slieve League with its 1972 feet towers above both parishes. Any of the old men I talked to about the Slieve Cup talked with great fervour and pride about the competition. Indeed, Mick Carr had this to say following a trip to Ireland:

"I came home on September 31st after the Wall Street crash. There were very bad times in the U.S.A. then. I got laid off so I booked a passage for Eire. They had great teams in the Slieve League Cup games, and it was all new blood. J. P. McGinley at his best was a treat to watch".

John McCauley remembers that all teams travelled by lorry.



MEENANEARY SLIABH LIAG CUP TEAM. Front row, l. to r.: Phil McNelis (Straleel), John Carr (Meenacharvey). Middle row: ?, Danny Ward (Carrick), Peter McGinley (Meenacharvey), James Byrne (Straleel), John Browne (Carrick), Michael O'Donnell (Meenaneary), Larry Boylan (Carrick). Back row: Tim McGinley (Meenacharvey), Dan Gillespie (Meenacross), Francis Cannon (Meenacross).

As mars a lot of local competitions, because of the close proximity of teams to each other there were a lot of internal squabbles and over the two years that the competition was played it was ruined by many arguments. Up the Glen won the competition in 1931. They wore a green and white rig. The final was played in Glencolmcille.

In 1932 Kilcar Town won although Up the Glen had pulled out because of an argument. Kilcar wore blue and gold for the competition. So the Slieve League Cup in its short history never left the parish.

The Slieve League Cup took up the years 1931 and 1932.

Names of the great players who took part in that competition and played in that era were: Francis "Goalie" Haughey, James P. McGinley (Umiskin), Peter Hegarty (Crowkeragh), James O'Donnell (Ballymoon) - (who was later drowned while attempting to

rescue a child in the Thames), Pat Gillespie (Cashlings), Paddy Hegarty (Shawley), - killed in a cycling accident; Hugh Rafferty (Drimreagh), John Browne (Carrick), Phil McNelis (Straleel), Hugh O'Donnell (Meenanearny), Dan Gillespie (Meenacross), Leo McGinley (Umiskin), and many others.

Because Kilcar had no parish teams during those years one or two players played for neighbouring parishes. For instance on the Ardara team who played Bundoran in the Democrat Cup semi-final in October of '31 was S. McGinley. "McGinley, who was making his first appearance in a semi-final, worked hard and deserved the honour of scoring the only major of the match when well cornered, it came just ten minutes before the end of the match which put renewed spirit in his team". Ardara 1-4, Bundoran 0-4.

In the final against Dungloe Ardara won by 0-6 to 0-4 with McGinley playing well and 'opened up bouts of nice play'.



GLEN ROVERS 1931 ON UMEASCAN HOLMES. Front row, l. to r.: Francy McNulty (Cashlings), James P. McGinley (Umeascan), William McGinley (Umeascan). Middle row: Eddie Boyle (Cashlings), John P. Campbell (Castlecarn), James O'Donnell (Ballymoon), Pat Gillespie (Cashlings), Hughie Tim O'Gara (Castlecarn), Frank McGinley (Umeascan). Back row: Peter Carr (Drimreagh), Paddy O'Gara "Bradley" (Castlecarn), Peter Cunningham (Drimreagh), Paddy Diver (Shannagh), Francie "Wee Goalie" Haughey (Umeascan), Paddy McGinley (Umeascan), Francy Carr (Drimreagh).

In 1933 the Kilcar team combined with a few Glen players, notably John Browne (Carrick), and entered the Democrat Cup for the first time. For nearly forty years the Democrat Cup was to be the second most prestigious trophy in Donegal (the Championship being first). The Cup was played for on an all-county basis. Whichever two teams finished top of their league played

off in the final.

At their first attempt in that same year Kilcar brought the Democrat Cup home, defeating Gweedore on a score of 4-2 to 2-4.

The match was played in Dungloe and John McCauley remembers as a young boy waiting at Lily O'Gara's for the team to come home (transport short). Then a car came into the town with McCavitt and McElinney in it.

Brian spoke in Irish and said “Níor fhán muid do deireadh an chluiche ach bhí siad ag baint le dhá phoinnte nuair a d’fhág muid”.

Then Hugh O’Gara arrived back with his car. Then the lorry carrying the team and a small cavalcade took the triumphant team back to the town. They all went down to Carr’s lounge to celebrate with all the players carrying their rigs with them. The stars of that day were Frank McBrearty, Paddy Hegarty, J. P. McGinley, Leo McGinley, Jim Dorrian.

Gweedore had five county and one Ulster player at the time. Kilcar had a fantastic half back trio of Hughie Rafferty, Pat Gillespie and James O’Donnell. Pat Gillespie marked the Ulster player, Owenie McFadden, with great success.

The Kilcar panel in the final in 1933 was the following: Patrick Hegarty (Shalvey), Eugene Hegarty (do.), Francis O’Byrne (Bavin and N.Y.), J. P. McGinley (Umiscan), Patrick McGinley (do., and Dublin), Francis McNulty

(Cashlings), James Gillespie (do. and England), Pat Gillespie (do.), Hugh Rafferty (Drimreagh) — a connecting link with the ’24 team, Larry Boylan (O.S., then stationed in Carrick), Sean O’Cinneide (then principal Larrynsceragh N.S.), James O’Donnell (Ballymoon), Francis Haughey (Umiscan), Frank McGinley (Meenaneary), Frank McBrearty (Curris), Leo McGinley (Umiscan), J. Dorrian.

As well as this final victory Kilcar G.A.A. had a very eventful and busy year in 1933, with two players on the county team. They were a force to be reckoned with. The following are reports of some of their games.

SAT. JUNE 3rd, 1933;

“At Dungloe on Sunday last a selection from South West Donegal: Ardara, Kilcar, Glen, Carrick and Killybegs, met a selection from West Donegal — Gweedore, Dungloe



Pictured are: Standing (left to right): John McDermott (Ballyshannon, deceased), Owen McFadden (Gweedore, deceased), John Brown (Carrick), Joe Lawn (Donegal Town), Bernard O’Donnell (Dungloe), Jim McEnhill (Donegal Town, deceased), Neil McGee (Falcarragh), Teague Diver (Gweedore, deceased). Seated (from left): Dessie Sweeney (Dungloe, deceased), Tom Diver (Gweedore), James McGinley (Kilcar), John Gallinagh (Ballyshannon, deceased), Pat McManus (Bundoran, deceased), Terry McDermott (Ballyshannon), Tom Gallagher (Killybegs, deceased), John O’Donnell (Dungloe, deceased). Front (from left): Peter Clancy (Bundoran) and Kevin Sweeney (Dungloe).

and Falcarragh, in football. There was a big attendance of spectators. The match was arranged by the Donegal G.A.A. Board to enable selectors, Mr. C. Daly, Bundoran, Mr. Sean Cassidy, Ardara, Joe Maguire, Bundoran, and T. Gallagher, Dungloe, to pick players for the county team.

The S.W. started the better side and after five minutes play P. McNelis scored a point. F. McNelis raised a white flag once more for the S.W. and a few minutes had elapsed when Hegarty (Kilcar) gave them the lead, to be followed by still another one by McNulty (Carrick). The South Westerners were prominent all the time despite the fine efforts of John O'Donnell. Tom Gallagher scored a point for the S.W. before McNulty (Kilcar) responded with a point by the S.W. Tom Gallagher of Ardara was one of a few outstanding for the S.W.

Final score: S.W. 0-14, W. 0-7.

1933 — JUNE 12th:

Donegal defeat Cavan in Championship. On the team was John Brown and J. P. McGinley.

"Cavan pressed vigorously but McGinley (Kilcar) on this, as other occasions during the game, proved too much for them and provided the opportunity for Clancy to score a minor . . ."

"John Brown, another man who gave a good account of himself, passed to Tom Gallagher . . ."

"Brown followed with a goal to leave the score: Donegal 15 pts., Cavan 8 pts."

SUNDAY, JULY 9th, 1933:

. . . gives the league positions as follows:

Ardara	7 pts.
Kilcar	6 pts.
Glen	5 pts.
Killybegs	2 pts.

Second round Democrat Cup South West division: Killybegs v. Kilcar, in Kilcar.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12th, 1933:

"All the roads led to Kilcar on Sunday last when Ardara met Kilcar on Towney Strand for the last match in the second round of the County Championship. Despite the inclement weather conditions prevailing there was an enormous attendance of enthusiastic spectators present and all the adjoining parishes sent their quotas. Owing to the

weather conditions the game wasn't as keenly contested as expected. Ardara, having won the toss, had the advantage of a strong S.W. breeze. Kilcar scored a goal before the turn-over. Kilcar shone tactfully throughout the second half though in the final stages Ardara rallied and came into the reckoning. Final score: Ardara 1-3, Kilcar 3-5. They will meet again on August 20th at Straleel. Come on ye Gaels and witness for regret will be yours to miss on the 20th of August at dear old Straleel when the boys from the glens and the mountains will clash above the field. The folk of the airy mountains are confident of success but young Gaels from the rushy glen say victory they possess."

AUGUST 13, 1933:

"Donegal has again secured the honours of the Ulster Championship".

Again Brown and McGinley represented Kilcar, both giving good service in defence. Donegal ran out winners by 3-7 to 1-3 against Derry.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1933:

At a meeting to gather funds to cover the very heavy expenses to field the county team in Croke Park on September 3rd in the semi-final of the Junior All-Ireland. Contributions were accepted by Sean Kennedy, N.T., Carrick, secretary S.W. Division, and Hugh Hegarty, N.T., chairman, S.W. Division.

SAT., SEPT. 3rd, 1933:

Winning teams in the County Championships in the four divisions are: Dungloe, Kilcar, Fanad and Bundoran. Semi-finals for Ballybofey, Sept. 10, are Fanad v. Bundoran and Dungloe v. Kilcar at Ardara. Ref. Mr. Charles McDyre, Glenties. Kilcar went on to win against Dungloe.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 17th, 1933:

Seven-a-side Championships were all the go at this stage. "7-a-side football tournament held on Sunday at Maguire's pitch, Killybegs: Kilcar v. Glenties; Kilcar '1' v. Kilcar '2'.

Report: Kilcar v. Glenties: Kilcar did most of the attacking. J. P. McGinley, Kilcar, was injured and refused to continue to play. Kilcar being the superior team throughout, had seven points to their credit when the interval whistle blew.

9th SEPTEMBER, 1933:

Record Crowds At Croke Park Splendid Victory For Donegal v. Cork

Most of the supporters from this end went to Dublin via G.N.R. from Strabane. On the team that day was J. P. McGinley and J. Browne.

OCTOBER 14th, 1933:

"Mayo defeat Donegal by 2-15 to 2-2 to take the Junior Home Final. For half an hour Donegal offered stiff opposition to Mayo, aided by a stiff breeze". "With the score 1-1 to 0-2, Mayo scored a point but Browne replied".

Again J. P. McGinley and J. Browne played for Donegal — our first representatives in an All-Ireland final.

1934

Again in this year we had the usual mixture of club and county games.

MARCH 3rd, 1934:

Killybegs v. Kilcar:

"There was a splendid attendance of enthusiastic spectators despite the somewhat inclement weather conditions at Maguire Park, Killybegs, when Kilcar met a local selection. Killybegs emerged winners by 9 pts. to 4 pts.

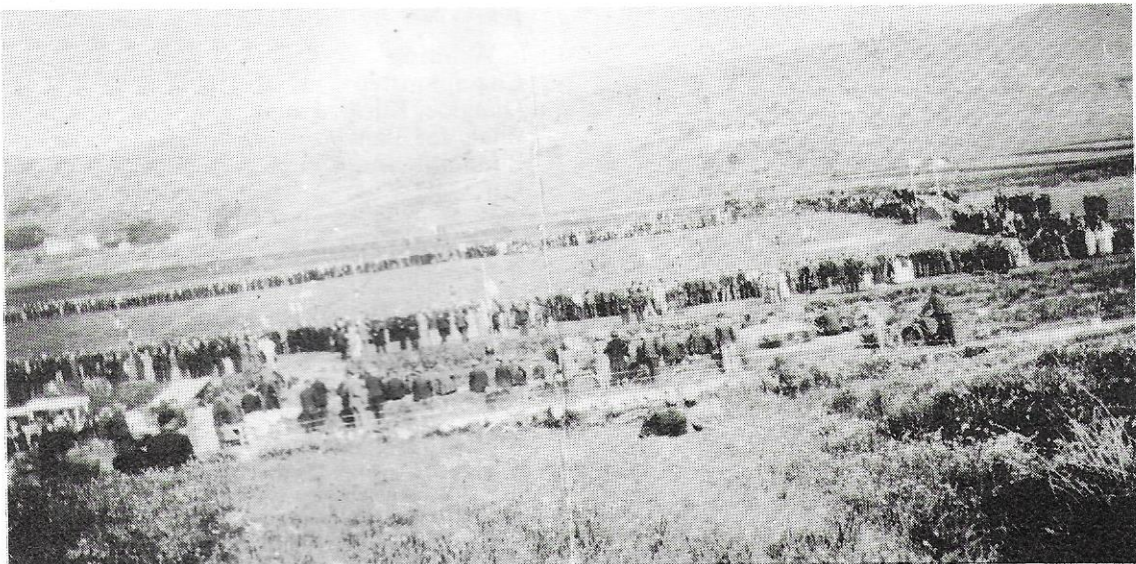
C. McGuinness scored a major for Killybegs. Kilcar retaliated vigorously for McBrearty to raise the white flag. Shortly afterwards they obtained a well-merited point per E. Hegarty. Leslie then shot a well-balanced point for Killybegs. Kilcar, with another sprightly manouevre, scored another point.

Kilcar extended the Killybegs rearguard strenuously who were at this stage the centre of attraction frustrating numerous strenuous attacks. The home forwards now sprinted towards the Kilcar citadel, scored a point through Leslie. Leslie, Gallagher and M. Gillespie now scored points for Killybegs. Kilcar now went all out to reduce arrears and delivered fierce onslaughts but failed to pierce a staunch defence.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2nd, 1934:

Kilcar were at home for the first round of the County Championship on Sunday. Ideal conditions prevailed and a large attendance was present to witness an exciting game between Kilcar and Glen. Kilcar A.O.H. band was in attendance and entertained the crowd with a selection of Irish airs.

Glen won the toss and elected to play with a slight breeze and as a result the most of the play in the first half was confined to the homesters territory. Half-time: Glen 0-5, Kilcar 0-2. Kilcar turned on the style after the resumption to run out comfortable winners by a 3 points margin, 0-9 to 0-6.



A view of the pitch and crowd at Straleel in the Forties

SUNDAY, JAN. 7th, 1934:

Inter-county football at Carrick: Donegal v. Fermanagh. On Sunday last, a very large crowd attended the inter-county football match between Donegal and Fermanagh at Straleel, Carrick. The only access to the venue was a narrow by-road with a bad surface and the fact that it rained on Saturday night and even until mid-day on Sunday the surface was in a very sodden condition. On account of the large number of vehicles conveying people to the match and also the condition of the roads two-way traffic was by no means practical. The local Gaelic football club are grateful to the local Gardai, acting Sergeant M. E. Summers, for the efficient, impartial manner in which he supervised the traffic arrangements. Were it not for his practical suggestions the patrons would have to had to park their vehicles in the village, one mile away from the venue. A field close to the playing pitch was used as an improvised parking place.

JUNE 9th, 1934:

Donegal v. Fermanagh: Donegal lost to Fermanagh before a crowd of 3,000 at Carrick on Sunday.



A section of the crowd at Straleel.

Brilliant sunshine favoured the match, which was one of the best ever seen in Donegal. An absence of rough play was a feature of the game. Prior to the match both teams, headed by the Kilcar pipe band, marched round the field.

Fermanagh pointed per Barron but a good move by McDonnell and McGinley was upset

by T. McDonnell at midfield. Half-time: Fermanagh 2-3, Donegal 0-0.

Early in the second moiety Donegal registered their first point per McGinley. Donegal tried hard to reduce the lead and had another minor per McGinley. Hugh Gallagher scored a goal with a well-directed shot.

Donegal: J. McEnhill, P. McManus, Joe Lawn, Denis E. Gallagher, T. Diver, McGowan, J. Browne, McGee, J. O'Donnell, H. Gallagher, O. McFadden, J. P. McGinley, Kevin Sweeney, J. McDermott, P. Clancy.

"The outstanding players on Sunday were McManus, McDermott, McGinley and Brown".

". . . It was the greatest hosting of Gaels ever seen in this part of the country" — Michael O'Donnell remembers people walking barefooted to this game. He, with seven other children, only had a ½d between them to buy sweets.



The parade of the teams in Straleel.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18th, 1934:

Ulster Junior football final: Donegal defeat Down in Bundoran. On the team was Michael O'Donnell and Michael Cannon.

SUNDAY, 30th OCTOBER, 1934:

Ardara Annual G.A.A. Tournament: Ardara and Kilcar qualified for the final and a thrilling encounter was the result. From the start Kilcar were sprightly and only brilliant play by O'Donnell, Maxwell, Gallagher and Boyle kept things scoreless. A Kilcar offensive combination resulted in a point, which was followed by another. Campbell scored a beauty of a goal for Ardara. Kilcar were not to be denied and quickly levelled with a point by McGinley. McGinley was reaching the high

heights while Maxwell and O'Donnell played well for Ardara. A rather easy goal dimmed Kilcar's hopes of success. Play continued to be robust. Ardara emerged victorious by 0-6 to 0-3.

Maxwell was best on the field while Gallagher and Boyle should walk onto the county team. For Kilcar, J. P. McGinley was his cool, confident self and lost none of his wizardry.

SUNDAY, NOV. 4th, 1934:

Semi-final S.W. Division of Democrat Cup: Ardara 4-1, Kilcar 2-4.

1935

1935 was another great year for Kilcar in that they won the Democrat Cup for the second time.

SAT. FEBRUARY 16th, 1935:

"Elaborate preparations are being conducted at the Kilcar football grounds for the big G.A.A. match between Donegal and Armagh on Sunday, February 24th". No subsequent report on this game.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10th, 1935:

Kilcar v. Owentocker at Towner Park before a big crowd. Both teams lined out as planned. McGinley, Rafferty, Gillespie, Dorrian, Hegarty, Dorrian, McGinley, O'Donnell, McBrearty, Gavigan, Dorrian, Gallagher. A feature of the hour was the way that Boyce dominated McGinley, the homesters star player. Full-time saw Owentocker in front and deservedly so, 0-8 to 0-3.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16th, 1935:

Owentocker v. Kilcar. In the Dr. Maguire Cup the above teams met at Glenties under Mr. Leo Murray, Ardara. Kilcar won 0-10 to 0-6.

SUNDAY, JULY 28th, 1935:

Bundoran defeated Kilcar in the semi-final of the Dr. Maguire Cup in Bundoran.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 1935:

"Annual 7-a-side tournament at Kilcar. A clean contest. Home side victorious".

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KILCAR SPORTS:

Annual tournament. Supporters came from Bruckless, Killybegs, Ardara and Glencolmcille, as well as from Kilcar.

In the hands of Hugh Hegarty, N.T., chairman of the S.W. Division, the events of the day were run off with efficiency and despatch.

Five teams entered: Killybegs, Bruckless, Carrick, Kilcar, Ballydubh. Results: Killybegs 3-3, Carrick 0-4; Kilcar 3-3, Ballydubh 0-3.

In the final Kilcar played Bruckless. The feature of this game was the perfect understanding of the Kilcar forwards. The game was the best of the day. Half-time: Bruckless 0-4, Kilcar 0-1.

Kilcar improved after the interval and attacked fiercely. Bruckless fought valiantly but to no avail. J. P. McGinley, Kilcar's star player, and the best forward in the county, raised the white flag twice in succession to see his team to the tournament victory.

Winning team: J. P. McGinley, H. Gillespie, J. P. Gillespie, F. Byrne, H. Rafferty, H. McNulty and E. Cannon.

The team were presented with a fine set of silver medals.

Also in 1935, as already stated, Kilcar defeated Donegal Town in the Democrat Cup final. There are differences of opinion as to the score in the final. The Democrat states that it was Kilcar 23 pts., Donegal 7 pts., while the county final records by Fr. Sean Gallagher states that the score was: Kilcar 3-4, Donegal 0-1.

Anyway, the Kilcar team won well. The team on duty that day was: Alphonsus Ward, N.T., (Carrick), Hugh Rafferty (Drimreagh), Patrick Gillespie (Cashlings), Sean Dorrian (do.), Francis McNulty (do.), James P. McGinley (Umiscan), Peter Hegarty (Crowkeeragh and U.S.A.), Eugene Hegarty (Shalway - deceased); Michael O'Donnell (Meenaneary), Francis O'Byrne (Bavin and U.S.A.), James Gillespie (Cashlings and England), Edward Cannon, O.S., (Dunfanaghy), P. McGinley and L. McGinley.

1936

This was a very busy year for the Kilcar G.A.A. Apart from the annual undertakings of the football and camogie teams, inter-county provincial hurling came to Towner with Donegal meeting Armagh.

18th MARCH, 1936:

"In a match v. Killybegs in the Dr. Maguire Cup Michael O'Donnell received a serious injury to his shoulder and was compelled to discontinue. Owing to unfavourable conditions, the match had to be abandoned. It is refixed for next Sunday".

— In the refix of that match Killybegs won by 2-2 to 1-3 at Towney Strand.

MARCH 26th, 1936:

First round County Championship: Kilcar v. Killybegs.

"Due to the increased velocity of the wind the game had to be abandoned. Killybegs gave the divisional champions many anxious moments. The only scores were three points registered by Kilcar. Kilcar won the toss and decided to play against the gale. J. Brown scored from a 10 yards kick. Kilcar were always more dangerous around goals than their opponents. M. O'Donnell scored a minor for Kilcar. In a sudden breakaway, J. P. McGinley transferred to M. O'Donnell who passed to L. McGinley who scored the best point of the game. The game was abandoned at half-time. Outstanding for Kilcar were J. P. McGinley, F. Byrne, Leo McGinley, M. O'Donnell and J. Brown.

Kilcar: C. Gallagher, J. P. McGinley, F. O'Byrne, H. Rafferty, Leo McGinley, M. O'Donnell, E. Hegarty, P. Hegarty, J. Dornan, J. Brown, John McBrearty, Francis McNelis, John Doherty and P. Hegarty.

Kilcar were told to watch out in the replay as Supt. Martin was putting the Killybegs team through a course of training in Maguire Park.

APRIL 19th, 1936:

Thrilling game at Killybegs. South-West played the South in minor and senior competition.

"Judging by the two games South-West Donegal's football has advanced rapidly in the last twelve months".

South-West: P. McNelis, J. Maxwell, D. Gallagher, P. Hegarty, J. P. McGinley, J. Brown, P. Gillespie, Chas. and J. Doherty, V. McHugh, George McEnill, F. Magill, T. O'Donnell, E. Canning, P. McGill.

O'Donnell (Kilcar) scored a point before half-time. Final score: S. W. 3-8, South 2-3.

APRIL 20th, 1936:

Donegal G.A.A. County Board Meeting.

Hurling Grant: Mr. Hugh Hegarty, a Kilcar delegate, asked of there was any possibility of getting a hurling grant for the county. Bro. Lucius said it was the same as last year — a £100 for Ulster — and Donegal would get one-ninth to buy hurleys.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24th, 1936:

Ulster Junior Football Championship semi-final: Cavan 5-4, Donegal 3-4.

"Donegal were the first to score with Leo McGinley sending over a nice free against the breeze. J. Bradley then scored. Gough and Gillespie were playing well for Donegal with some fine high catching by J. P. McGinley (captain), and A. O'Gorman.

Cavan didn't score for 20 minutes due to the great work of G. McGill, H. O'Donnell, T. Boyle, J. Gallagher. Donal Brady got Cavan's first score — a goal. Half-time: Cavan 3-0, Donegal 0-2.

On resumption Donegal attacked and scored through L. McGinley. Brady replied with a goal. Donegal rallied in great style. Bradley scored a point, and the same player after a fine solo run passed to J. P. McGinley who sent a low ground shot to the net. Next McGill shot to the net with the Cavan defence beaten and O'Gorman (man of the match) added the third. In the final five minutes the Cavan goalie had to pull off a fantastic save to deny the unlucky J. P. McGinley."

MAY 3rd, 1936:

Mrs. F. G. Fagin, captain of the Killybegs camogie team, sustained facial injuries at a game in Towney, Kilcar, on Sunday.

SUNDAY, MAY 24th, 1936:

Kilcar and Killybegs met at Towney Strand, Kilcar, on Ascension Thursday in a replay of the Dr. Maguire Cup tie. In the first half Killybegs led by 0-4 to 0-0. On the resumption, Kilcar asserted their authority and won easily by 1-8 to 0-4. Kilcar were without McGinley, Browne, Rafferty and Byrne.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11th:

Killybegs weren't in it when they met Kilcar on Corpus Christi at Island Park, Killybegs, in the second round of the senior County Championship. Kilcar were the winning team

from the throw-in to the final whistle, and apart from an occasional flash in the pan Killybegs were playing well below their usual high standard. The Kilcar team was: C. Gallagher, S. Ó Domhail, P. Ó Baoill, S. Ó Gara, A. Ó Baoill, A. Ó Beirne, P. Ó Dochartaigh, S. Ó Dorrian, P. Mac Giolla Easbuig, L. Mac Fhionaille, C. Ó hEiretaigh, S. D. Ó Domhnaill, S. Mac Briartaigh, S. Ó Baoill. Half-time score: Kilcar 2-7, Killybegs 0-0. Final score: Kilcar 3-7, Killybegs 0-4.

Scorers: L. McGinley (1-3), O'Donnell, McBrearty, Boyle.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14th, 1936:

Challenge: Kilcar v. South Donegal.

Before the game both teams paraded the field behind the Kilcar A.O.H. band after which the band played the National Anthem, teams and spectators standing rigidly to attention. South Donegal won the toss and played with the breeze. Cassidy scored the first point for South Donegal and McGinley for Kilcar equalised. A series of points were then scored by both sides. Half-time: South Donegal 1-3, Kilcar 0-5.

On the resumption, with the breeze Kilcar had it all their own way and but for a sound defence by South Donegal Kilcar would have put up a cricket score. Final score: Kilcar 2-5, South Donegal 1-3. Kilcar scorers: J. P. McGinley, J. McGinley and O'Donnell. South Donegal scorers: J. Cassidy, J. Breslin and L. Sweeney.

A great day's sport concluded at 9.00 p.m. when the prizes were presented by the Rev. D. Gibbons, C.C., Drimarone. This game was played at Mountcharles sports.

SUNDAY, JULY 12th, 1936:

Dungloe travelled to Kilcar on Sunday to meet Kilcar in a challenge match at Towney Strand. The issue was hotly contested throughout with the homesters lucky to force a draw. Dungloe 0-5, Kilcar 0-5.

JULY 25th, 1936:

Kilcar v. Killybegs. Final of 7-a-side in Killybegs.

The home team had the balance of exchanges in their favour and were unlucky to lose. Tom Brosnan frustrated a dangerous Kilcar move and with a long kick dispatched McBrearty on a sprightly manouvre which resulted in the latter player positioning nicely for Pat Guigan to score a point. Kilcar then

became the more aggressive side but the home rearguard cleared their lines admirably.

Andrew Martin sent D. Callaghan careering goalwards who after eluding several opponents sent over a minor for the seasiders. After a few minutes a chance came Kilcar's way but O'Donnell sent narrowly wide. Half-time: Killybegs 0-2, Kilcar 0-0.

Killybegs continued in the ascendancy and after a cleverly combined passage the Killybegs vanguard penetrated the Kilcar defence. P. Feenan rushed through and converted a point.

Kilcar now gave off the pressure and J. O'Donnell initiated a move which was carried on by L. McGinley who soloed through and registered Kilcar's first major, thereby putting his side on terms of equality. Killybegs again attacked and danger hovered round the Kilcar sticks. P. Guigan scored a minor. The homesters now relaxed their grip on the game and Kilcar were quick to take advantage and Eugene Hegarty on a sudden breakaway beat the home defence and scored the winning goal. Final score: Killybegs 0-4, Kilcar 2-0.

Outstanding for Killybegs: P. Guigan, D. Callaghan, A. Martin and J. McGuinness. For Kilcar: E. Hegarty, J. O'Donnell and L. McGinley.

Winning team: E. Hegarty, J. Dorrian, L. McGinley, F. Byrne, W. Cunningham, J. O'Donnell, P. Gillespie.

The winners were presented with a set of silver medals.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13th, 1936:

Glen Sports: Glen v. Kilcar.

Although the pitch was in a poor condition both teams put on a good display. Kilcar drew first blood when L. McGinley scored a nice point and a free enabled Hegarty to centre to McBrearty who sent over for a second point. On the kickoff McIlroy passed to John Hyland who raised the red flag. Half-time: Glen 1-0, Kilcar 0-2.

On the resumption, McBrearty centred to McGinley who beat the goalie and then J. O'Boyle scored a lovely point which was quickly followed by another from H. O'Boyle.

A '50' for Kilcar enabled Hegarty to send to McBrearty who centred to McGinley who raised the red flag. A free for Glen enabled Sergeant Kennedy to send over the bar. Before the final whistle Glen reduced the lead by another point from F. O'Donnell.

Kilcar 2-2, Glen 1-1.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th, 1936:

Ardara 'A' v. Kilcar. 7-a-side

Perhaps the most thrilling encounter of the competition. Both teams gave a sparkling exhibition. Ardara combined better than Kilcar who were unfortunate to lose Gavigan after only five minutes.

Result: Ardara 'A' 3-3, Kilcar 1-1.

Ardara scorers: McGinley, Gallagher and McHugh. Kilcar scorers: Dorrian and Hegarty.

OCTOBER 10th, 1936:

2,000 see game.

"Before a crowd of 2,000 people, Donegal secured a decisive victory over Armagh on Sunday".

"We here in Kilcar I suppose take Towney for granted and often give out about the playing surface! I suppose because we know it so well the beauty of the place is taken for granted . . . Not so by the reporter who covered this game.

"Only at periods was the football of a spectacular nature despite the facilities provided by a remarkable fast and smooth pitch. The pitch in Kilcar known as Towney strand is perhaps one of the most picturesque in Ireland and that is saying something. Nestling as it does in the valley at the foot of a partially heather covered and lofty mountain commands a charming view of a broad expanse of the briny ocean with, presumably, New York as its next door neighbour. The ground is unique too in so far as it has the only 'grand stand' of a natural mountain in Ireland. Intermittently the language of the Gael was much in evidence on the sidelines and particularly amongst the local inhabitants. The 'Belfast men', as the visiting team were invariably styled, were deeply impressed by the true semblance in Kilcar of an Irish-speaking country. What a contrast with Portadown!"

"Donegal won the toss and J. Brown placed J. McGinley for an easy run to the Armagh goals but Duffy cleared. J. O'Donnell and H. Gallagher scored points for Donegal. McManus scored Donegal's first goal.

Half-time: Armagh 1-4, Donegal 1-2.

After half-time McNulty got a point and H. Gallagher a goal. John O'Donnell scored another goal for Donegal. J. Doyle and O'Donnell added more points and also from H. Gallagher and McManus.

Final score: Donegal 4-8, Armagh 2-5.

Donegal: D. Sweeney, J. Maxwell, E. Cannon, T. Campbell, J. Melly, J. Brown, J. Quinn, J. Doyle, A. McNulty, J. McManus, John O'Donnell, K. Sweeney, H. Gallagher, J. P. McGinley.

E. Cannon and Brown and McGinley, all from Kilcar, were representing the county on their home pitch.

All the fans went around admiring the Armagh bus which was a speciality at the time. Home team togged out in Aodh Gara's and the away team in the red house.

OCTOBER 17th, 1936:

For the game v. Derry in Ardara would be E. Cannon and J. P. McGinley. McGinley got 1-2 in this match, which they won by 1-8 to 0-4.

OCTOBER 31st, 1936:

Divisional final of Democrat Cup: Ardara v. Kilcar.

Bad conditions prevailed which made good football very difficult to play. Final score: Ardara 2-3, Kilcar 1-4. Best for Kilcar were J. P. McGinley, P. McGuinness, Pat Gillespie and E. Cannon.

Also on the team for the return game against Armagh were the same three players.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8th, 1936:

Donegal defeated Tyrone with Cannon (Kilcar) having a very good game.

1937

Seemed to be a very quiet year for the club when compared with the years before. Only one explosive passage disturbed the tranquility of the year.

"At a special meeting of the S.W. Divisional Board was held in protest when the Glenties club requested that they be awarded the points for their game v. Kilcar played at Ardara on Sunday, January 16th. The report alleged that Kilcar fielded an hour after the appointed time".

It was stated that there had to be a change of referee and he as a consequence was as late as the Kilcar team. Mr. C. Gallagher (Kilcar) stated that Kilcar had a breakdown en route but that they had done their best in the circumstances. Glenties were awarded the points but Kilcar appealed to the County Board.

In a postscript the referee, Mr. T. Gallagher, stated that in view of certain things which occurred during and after the game, he wished his name to be withdrawn from the panel of referees.

1938

In this year things seemed to pick up slightly again with the usual mixture of club, 7-a-side, county games and ceili's being the order of the year.

JANUARY 7th, 1938:

County Donegal annual ceili in Kilcar.

Mr. Brian McCavitt, Kilcar, the excellent master of ceremonies, saw to it that the dances, nicely intermingled with songs and stepdances, were run off quickly. Songs in Gaelic were very well contributed by Miss K. Murray, O.S., Kilcar".

Again in this year we did well in the Democrat Cup though sadly losing to Ballyshannon in the semi-final.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28th, 1938:

"The first semi-final of the Democrat Cup was held in Kilcar with victory going to the Ernesiders. Final score: 2-3 to 0-7.

Football was of the highest standard, fast and clean, with plenty of high catching and keen tackling.

Ballyshannon got away straight from the throw-in but Cannon saved his lines well. The Kilcar defence was good and Ballyshannon were unlucky not to score. A long ball went into the Ballyshannon half which resulted in a free scored by J. P. McGinley. Then followed several minutes of anxiety for the Kilcar defence which eventually cleared again to McGinley who again raised a white flag. The same player added two further points shortly after following some fine Kilcar movements.

A fine pass by Kane found Slevin who got the ball on the hop to score a peach of a goal. Half-time: Kilcar 0-4, Ballyshannon 1-0.

The winners were first to break away in the second half and had a point almost immediately by J. McDermott. Gallinan then scored a goal, J. McDermott 0-2 and Melly 0-1.

Back came Kilcar and in an exciting finish added three points to bring their total to seven. By defeating Kilcar, Ballyshannon now qualify to meet Gweedore in the final. Mr. P. McGill, O.S., Ardara, was a capable referee.

Kilcar team: J. McGinley, L. McGinley, J. Dorrian, F. Byrne, E. Hegarty, J. Browne, E. Cannon, A. Byrne, H. O'Donnell, F. McNulty, P. Gillespie, J. McGuinness, H. Boyle, H. Curran and C. Gallagher.

APRIL 2nd, 1938:

Donegal v. Derry. Ulster Junior Football Championship, played in Glenties.

"Outstanding for Donegal were Leo and J. P. McGinley, James Gallagher, J. Gallagher and P. McGill. Pat Gillespie was also in the panel. Final score: Donegal 3-6, Derry 0-3.

SUNDAY, MAY 1st, 1938:

"Donegal win in Dr. McKenna Cup at Gweedore: Donegal 3-8, Tyrone 1-2.

Playing for Donegal were E. Cannon, P. Gillespie, J. P. McGinley and L. McGinley.

SUNDAY, JULY 10th, 1938:

"Donegal bid for U.F.C. — Footballers narrowly beaten. Donegal 0-6, Monaghan 0-7. J. P. McGinley scored 0-3 for the county in this game".

And in 1938 this man made his refereeing debut. S.F.C., 21st August: Ardara v. Ballyshannon. Ref. - Sean Dorrian, Kilcar.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16th, 1938:

"All roads were leading to Glenties", according to the home correspondent, where Kilcar were to meet Glenties at Hollymount Park in the Championship. "Glenties are confident of winning the Championship".

In the next week's 'Democrat', although it was stated that the game was postponed when Kilcar failed to turn up". This was to cause a bit of a rumpus at the start of '39.

1939

JANUARY 6th:

S.W. Divisional Board meeting.

"A special meeting of this Board was held in protest when the Glenties club requested that they be awarded the points for their game v. Kilcar played at Hollymount". Shades of '37 come to mind once again!

Kilcar, probably because of emigration and lack of players, dropped to Junior in 1939 even though they had done quite well in all competitions in 1938. By the end of 1938 they had failed to field a team against Glenties in the Divisional final although in May of '36 they had four players playing for Donegal in the Dr. McKenna Cup. Emigration did not only affect Kilcar but also the neighbouring clubs, and the first report of a game in 1939 was between Kilcar and Killybegs who had also dropped down a grade. The Kilcar team,

as you will notice, was taking on a different appearance with many new faces coming to the fore as we came to the end of this decade.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1939:

"Thrilling game at Killybegs. Killybegs Juniors go down fighting".

"At Maguires Park, Killybegs, Kilcar defeated Killybegs by 17 pts. to 8 pts. in the Dr. McCloskey Cup competition. The game was thrilling at stages but due perhaps to lack of practice play did not reach the desired standard. The Kilcar selection deserved the victory as they fought with more determination and their forwards were nippier than the Killybegs frontline who faltered ridiculously and failed to materialise the constant passes they received from Tom Gallagher and Denis Callaghan. D. Callaghan put over a 20 yards free to draw first blood for Killybegs. Kilcar strove hard for an equaliser but Michael Gavigan and Thomas Gallagher repulsed many concentrated attacks in which McShane, Browne and O'Donnell featured. In a tussle, J. O'Dowd scored Kilcar's first point. Level scores urged both teams to battle hard and exchanges were equal for a while.

Soon Sean Dorrian, who always seemed to be the man on the spot, shone with a great minor for Kilcar which he notched from a difficult angle. The home defence worked desperately hard but their forwards were lacking in speed and combination and many well placed kicks were allowed to go to their opponents.

Kilcar were now playing splendid football and soon play was confined to the Killybegs territory. A concentrated attack on the Killybegs goals yielded a minor for Alphonsus McShane.

The Kilcar defence, where Byrne and Gillespie were doing great work, set up Sean Dorrian for another point for the Sliabh League men.

Kilcar lost no time in the second half before T. Donohue had a major. Alphonsus McShane then followed with a minor. Despite Killybegs efforts to keep the home citadel clear Kilcar took advantage of the Killybegs mesmerisation; Brown and McShane featured to pass to Sean Dorrian and another minor.

Frank Carr now replied for Killybegs on the left wing and Callaghan added another. Killybegs now broke away and scored a goal in which Thomas Gallagher was instrumental. Callaghan now came back with another minor and then Frank Carr went on a fine solo run outwitting the Kilcar defence, found

Callaghan, who scored a minor. Carr was later unlucky when he hit the upright. The spectators now realised that the sun had gone down for Killybegs and their defence soon showed signs of pressure and in a great Sliabh League raid John O'Donnell completed the scoring with a minor.

Final score: Kilar 3-8, Killybegs 1-5.

Previously McShane, who is a dashing young forward for Kilcar, had a goal and a point".



KILCAR JUNIOR TEAM 1939-40. Front row, l. to r.: Frank McBrearty (Curris), Cara Gallagher (Kilcar), Seán Dorrian (Cashlings), Patrick Maguire (Cashel), Hugh Murray (Curris). Back row: Tommy O'Donnell (Drumreagh, spectator), Eddie Boyle (Cashlings), Leo Doherty (Cuskerry), Paddy Diver (Shannagh), Jimmy Carr (Bavin), James Murray (Curris), Francy Dorrian (Cashlings), Jimmy Campbell (Castlecarne).

SATURDAY, JULY 1st, 1939:

"Kilcar's third successive win".

"At Kilcar on Sunday, Kilcar gained their third successive win in the County Junior Football Championship by defeating Killybegs 5-6 to 1-2. At half-time the score was 2-2 to 1-1 in favour of Kilcar.

Scorers for Kilcar were: Ward (1-0), Dorrian (2-4), McShane (2-0), Hegarty (0-2). D. Callaghan (1-1), and F. Carr (0-1) were the Killybegs scorers".

As one would notice, at that time there is no mention of J. P. McGinley or Leo McGinley, who both, because of the G.A.A. ban, had been barred from playing Gaelic football because they had played soccer for Killybegs.

As was seen in 1922, the annual sports was a high point in the calendar each year. Let us take a trip back through time to 1939 and re-live all the events of that day as reported in the 'Democrat' of August 5th:

"Record Crowds Enjoy Splendid Programme"

"Much of the success of the fixture is due to the organising ability of Mr. M. Óg

McFadden, T.D., who was the chairman of the committee. He was enthusiastically and capably assisted by the secretaries, Messrs. Hugh Hegarty, O.S., and Cartha Gallagher, and the other members of the committee, Messrs. P. McShane, O.S., John Campbell and James Hegarty (judges), J. P. McGinley and J. McNulty (starters), Con Furey (announcer), and Barney O'Donnell, Edward McBrearty, Pat O'Gara, Michael McCloskey, Barney Carr, Sean Dorrian, F. McNulty, Eugene Hegarty and John McGinley (field stewards). The gate stewards were Messrs. Dan Byrne, Hugh Hegarty, O.S., and I. Murray, O.S. Kilcar A.O.H. pipers band was present and added much to the pleasure of the afternoon.

Details:

1 mile bicycle race (Open handicap): 1, James Curran, Shalvey; 2, John Curran, do.

1 mile bicycle race (confined): 1, James Curran, Shalvey; 2, John Curran, do.

100 yards flat race (boys u-15): 1, Michael Carre, Derrylathan; 2, Con Dorrian, Cashlings.

100 yards flat race (men, open): 1, (tie): Eugene Hegarty, Shalvey, and J. McBrearty, Cashlings.

100 yards (adults, open): 1, Gerard Gallagher, Dunkineely; 2, Eugene Hegarty, Shalvey.

220 yards (men, open): 1, Gerard

Gallagher, Dunkineely; 2, Eugene Hegarty, Shalvey.

440 yards (men, open): 1, S. Dorrian, Cashlings; 2, Gerry Byrne, Crowkeeragh.

High Jump: 1, Jack Sweeney, Killybegs; 2, J. P. McGinley, Kilcar.

Long Jump: 1, J. Sweeney, Killybegs; 2, J. P. McGinley, Kilcar.

Hop, Step & Jump: 1, J. P. McGinley, Kilcar; 2, Garda P. Gallagher, Dunkineely.

Putting the 16 lbs. Shot: 1, Guard Gallagher, Dunkineely; 2, J. P. McGinley, Kilcar.

Tug-o'-War: In this competition Strandeega beat Cashlings and Churchtown beat Shalvey. Strandeega beat Churchtown in the final by two pulls to one.

Pillow Fight: Final: J. Byrne, Largy, and Michael Carre, Shalvey, proved a thrilling duel but the latter emerged victorious.

Egg and Spoon race: 1, Patrick McShane, Kilcar; 2, James Cunningham, Kilbeg.

Bag race: 1, Patrick Cunningham, Kilbeg.

Football Match: The last item on the programme was a challenge football match against Ardara which produced sparkling football. Half-time was Kilcar 0-3, Ardara 0-1. Ardara worked very hard in the second half and succeeded in pulling the game out of the fire. Final score: Ardara 0-5, Kilcar 0-4. Scorers: Ardara: P. McHugh, V. McHugh, P. Kelly, Neil McHugh. Kilcar: A. McShane (0-3), S. Dorrian.

CAMOGIE IN THE 30's

The '30's were unique in that it was the period in which camogie was played for the first time in the parish but sadly has never been played since.

The game branched into Kilcar from Killybegs. Killybegs, Kilcar and Carrick started up a small league and played their games in Towney and Straleel.

Mrs. Fagan (the pension officer of that time's wife, who was originally from the North) got the game going here in the years '32-'33. Although in the early years a County Championship was played, the Kilcar team were happy to play local challenge matches. In 1935 though both Killybegs and Carrick entered teams in the Championship and played the game in Maguire's Park, Killybegs. Some Kilcar players played with both teams. Here is a report on that game:

Killybegs v. Carrick

"Both cailíns displayed improved

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positional play and combination. Carrick forwards were a promising lot at the outset but faded out towards the interval. Sarah Conwell and Mary McGuinness were the backbone of the Killybegs defence, while Winnie Hegarty, Bridget Gatins and Mary C. McNelis were outstanding forwards. Carrick was best served by A. Gavigan, Vera Ward, Sarah Cunningham and Kate McGill. Carrick were early aggressive but were frustrated by a cool home defence. After a grim struggle the visitors launched a hot attack on the Killybegs citadel and after a melee in the goal area A. Gavigan opened the scoring with a point.

Killybegs now gave the Carrick defence a gruelling time but owing to erratic shooting their final efforts were without the desired effect.

Both cailíns now worked strenuously for supremacy. Eventually Killybegs opened up in splendid fashion and a sprightly manouvre



The County Donegal Camogie team, 1936 v Monaghan. Front row, 4th from left, Bridget McGinley (now Wickliffe) (Malinmore), Kathleen McGinley (with beret) (Umiskin), Sarah Conwell (Killybegs, partly hidden). Back row, 4th from left, Mrs. Fagan (Killybegs), 3rd from right, Maureen Conwell (Killybegs), last on right, Mabel Carr (Coguish).



Donegal v Monaghan, 1936, at Oriel Park, Monaghan. Mabel Carr, Coguish, hurley in left hand, 3rd from left. Bridget McGinley in centre.

ended with Mrs. Fagan transferring to Bridget Gatins who sent the ball buzzing to the net before the half-time whistle blew.

Killybegs were prominent in the second moiety. Mary McGuinness transferred to Bridget Gatins who scored her second goal. Carrick rallied but failed to penetrate the home defence.

Killybegs now fought off the pressure. Winnie Hegarty transferred to Bridget Gatins to score her third goal. Killybegs were now on top until the end with Winnie Hegarty, B. Gatins and C. McNelis outstanding. Before the end, B. Gatins sent well in for W. Hegarty

to score Killybegs' fourth goal.

Garda Moorhead, Carrick, was an impartial referee.

Killybegs: Mary McGuinness, Bridget Gatins, Nellie O'Callaghan, Mary C. McNelis, Bridget O'Callaghan, Winnie Hegarty, Sarah Conwell, Rose Gatins, Mrs. Fagan, Nora McGuinness, Madge Cunningham, Rose McTeague.

Carrick: Maggie Doherty, Bridget Breslin, Bridget McGinley, Winnie Meehan, A. Gavigan, Vera Ward, Sadie Cunningham, Maggie Cannon, Nora Brown, Susan Doherty, Mary McNelis, Kate McGill.

With the form exhibited on Sunday Killybegs are a good bet for the County Championship.

Kilcar team's though as such always were happy to play challenges. Some of the players included Mabel Carr (R.I.P.), Margaret Carr (R.I.P.), Bridget Breslin, Kathleen McGinley (R.I.P.), Mrs. Clarkin, Dan McShane's wife, Anne Gavigan.

As a rig they wore black tights, green skirts and green tops. Phelim Browne had a car/bus and this is how they travelled to the county games though if the games were local they walked. Mabel Carr, Bridget Breslin and Kathleen McGinley all played for the county. Mrs. Fagan was in charge of the county camogie team.

Indeed the same Mrs. Fagan got her name in the sporting headlines in 1936 although in a

rather uncomfortable manner.

May 3rd, 1936:

"Mrs. F. G. Fagan, captain of the Killybegs camogie team, sustained facial injuries in a game against Kilcar on Towney Strand on Sunday".

Vera Doherty told us that the game was very well organised and that if a game was to be played in Towney the pitch would be lined with black/green flags.

Most of the players who played the game at the time were all in convents, e.g. Falcarragh, where they learned their skills.

The camogie ceased in the years '37-'38.

Vera also remembers making togs for the triumphant Up the Glen team for the Slieve League Cup of 1931, and walking 12 miles into Glen to support them in their triumph.

JOHN BROWNE



When on Saturday, the 14th of July last John Browne accepted the Past-Players award at the G.A.A. Centenary Golf competition, the quiet spoken Carrick man could well be said to have completed 51 years of service to the G.A.A. His career in intercounty football had begun in 1933 and he played in that grade until 1937.

He first played for a team in Carrick and later assisted Kilcar, Ardara and Killybegs in club competitions and while he played in many positions his favourite placing was at left half back. There he earned the respect of many forwards and was noted for his clean catching and long clearances.

Like so many other players of the past he names John O'Donnell of Dungloe as the outstanding Co. Donegal player of his time and also regarded J. P. McGinley very highly.

John rated Jackie Carney of Mayo as the best footballer he played against and incidentally Jackie was an uncle of Donegal and Mayo's Martin Carney. John also stated that Christy Fisher of Monaghan was an

excellent player.

His greatest ambition while playing was to win an Ulster Senior Championship medal and he regrets that he never achieved this.

He remembers the Junior All-Ireland semi-final against Cork in Croke Park as his most exciting game and like James P. McGinley feels that it could have been won if they had had more experience and had played together more often.

The other outstanding game he speaks of is that against Cavan in the Ulster Senior Championship at Bundoran in 1935. On that occasion Cavan, who had Big Tom O'Reilly, Jim Smyth, M. J. McGee, Louis Blessing and Willie Young (Ulster footballers) on their team, won by a point and went on to win their second All-Ireland. Donegal were unfortunate in having Joe Lawn on the injured list that day.

On the present day game John thinks that there is much more of a team effort and players have more time together prior to a match to get to know each other's style.

In his day it was mostly catch and kick football and in kicking out the ball the goalkeeper could toe lift the ball to his full-back who often then kicked outfield from his hands. A line-ball was thrown in in by hand also. John remembers that Gaelic football was first introduced by the Free State Army in 1922/'23 and he never had seen the game until then.

Like so many others who tried so hard for their county on G.A.A. fields, he too, would like to see that senior All-Ireland come to the county he served so well.

JAMES P. MCGINLEY



James Patrick McGinley was born and raised in Umiskin, Kilcar. Umiskin produced many fine footballers and James was one of six brothers who played for Kilcar. Johnny, Joseph, Eddie, Francis and Leo are all hale and hearty and residing in Scotland, England, America and Ireland. His younger brother, Len, and son, Sean, also played for Dun na nGall.

James played his first game for Kilcar sixty years ago in 1924 and continued playing until 1947 or 1948. He had a long and illustrious career with the county in many positions from 1923 to 1946. An amazing feature and an indication of his fitness was that he did not have any injury during his long career. He also refereed many matches when he stopped playing. Many people would say that J.P. was one of the finest all-round players they had seen.

It is worth recording that James may have initiated the solo run, at least in this part of the county, as he practised this skill as a boy and in his first game with Kilcar, when he went on a solo run the players from both sides stood and watched him scoring point after point when he got possession because this type of play had not been seen before.

His first county game was against Cavan in 1933 in the Ulster Junior Championship in Bundoran. He remembers Big Tom O'Reilly

playing, whom he believes played minor, junior and senior for Cavan that year.

Donegal eventually went to Croke Park to play in the All-Ireland junior home final that year — 1933. The trainer of the team was Willie Young of Cavan and while in training the team stayed in the Green House, Ardara. James P. feels that the team overtrained on the sand. Different individuals on the team trained on their own at 7 o'clock in the morning as well.

He thinks that they would have won the final if two good forwards, Fr. Hugh McNelis and Fr. Gerry Campbell, had been let out of Maynooth College where they were studying for the priesthood.

The game, which was refereed by the famous Martin O'Neill, secretary to the Leinster Council, was played prior to the hurling final in which Mick Mackey won his first medal for Limerick.

John Browne of Carrick, and Jim Maxwell of Ardara, are great friends of his and they were great players in his time. He names John O'Donnell (Dungloe), Tommy McHugh (Kilcar), Willie Boyle, Tom Gallagher and Vinny McHugh of Ardara, and Anthony McBrearty (Donegal), as other great players.

Men he considers unfortunate not to get on the county team were Joseph McGuinness (Killybegs), and Bernard Byrne, of Doonin, Kilcar.

Great players he admired outside the county were Big Tom O'Reilly, Christy Fisher (Monaghan), Paddy Prendergast (Mayo), Kevin Armstrong (Antrim), Victor Sherlock and Tony Tighe (Cavan), and Iggy Jones (Tyrone).

On present day football, James says that 7-a-side would be his type of game. He says the game is faster now — but handpassing is being overdone and he would ban the solo except when making up ground when free in front of goal. He also says that it is a mistake that our teams do not have big enough fields to play on, though in his time grounds only existed at Magheragallon, Letterkenny (at St. Conal's) and Bundoran.

He now resides on his farm at Umiskin and still takes a great interest in county and club football.

THE FORTIES

The late 30s and early 40s were, of course, the years of the economic war when emigration was worst of all in the poor rural areas.

But young players quickly replaced those that went away and names which were prominent on the turn of the decade were James Gillespie (Cashlings), Sean Dorrian (Cashlings), Leo McGinley (Umiskin), Eugene Hegarty (Shalway), Phonsie McShane (Derrylaghan), Denis McBrearty (Curriss), Patrick Gallagher (Cronroad), Peter Shovlin (Crowkeeragh), Columba Ward (Carrick), Dan Gillespie (Cashlings) and Tommy McHugh (Towney).

The onset of the war posed new problems for the G.A.A. in rural areas because of the transport problems and so Kilcar were only able to field one team.

But "every cloud has a silver lining" and perhaps these were the happiest days of all as full teams set out on poorly equipped bicycles to cycles to Killybegs (7 miles), Glencolmille (10 miles), Ardara (19 miles) and Glenties (25 miles) to fulfil various fixtures in different competitions. Friendships were made on these long journeys as teammates pushed each other, mended punctures and sheltered under bushes along the way.



Front row, l. to r.: Jimmy McBrearty, Jimmy McHugh, John O'Donnell (Kilcar), Tommy McHugh, Danny O'Donnell, John James O'Boyle. Back row: Leo Gillespie (Cashel), John McCauley, Cara Cunningham, Tommy Erskine, — —, Michael Erskine, Tommy McCauley, James O'Donnell (Churchtown).

Kilcar reached the Democrat Cup final again in 1941 by beating Ballyshannon 0-7 to 0-5 at Killybegs on the 20th of April. At that time the price of 20 cigarettes was 10 old pence and the train fare to Killybegs from Ballyshannon was 2/6.

The report on the game from the Donegal

Democrat on 26th April, 1941, says:

"Before a large attendance of spectators at Maguire's Park, Killybegs, on Sunday, Kilcar defeated Ballyshannon by a narrow margin of two points in the semi final of the "Democrat" cup competition.

Kilcar opened strongly and inside two minutes Leo McGinley drew first blood for the victors with a lovely point. Kilcar had the best of the play for some time and the Ballyshannon defenders were busy repulsing the lively forwards but eventually Kilcar were awarded a close in free. A well placed free by J. P. McGinley was punched clear by Melly but McCauley got possession and put Kilcar ahead with another point. Ballyshannon now fought hard and nippy county forward Jack Gallagher was becoming dangerous when dispossessed by Gillespie who cleared well out. Kilcar were on the offensive again and McCauley had hard luck when he drove past from close range. Play now became very lively and at times rougher than necessary and the offensive passed to the Ernesiders who had a minor per Jack Gallagher.

For the remaining part of the first moiety Ballyshannon had the best part of the play and the Kilcar goals defended by Tommy Donoghue had many narrow escapes when the Ballyshannon forwards continued to rush in with strong pressure from all quarters. The Kilcar defence could not possibly hold out against the Ballyshannon onslaught led by Jack Gallagher who equalised with a minor to leave the scores level at half time 2 pts. each.

Kilcar turned over with a slight advantage in the field and were soon on the attack.

Sean Dorrian was unfortunate to miss a grand opportunity for a goal — but from the kick out J. P. McGinley got possession and set Kilcar in the lead with a lovely point. Ballyshannon were breaking away when intercepted by Shovlin who cleared into Ballyshannon territory to set Kilcar on the attack again and following a free kick well placed by J. P. McGinley McHugh sent over a point for Kilcar.

The Ballyshannon forwards got possession from the kickout and Jack Gallagher notched a minor for the Ernesiders. Ballyshannon sustained the pressure in style and from a free Jack Gallagher soon equalised for his team. In rapid succession McDermott secured another point to put Ballyshannon in the lead with the

game very much in their favour. Kilcar struggled desperately for a lead and some fine efforts by McShane, McGinley and McCauley were frustrated by Melly who played a grand defence for Ballyshannon. In combination with his brother J. P., Leo McGinley managed to break through the Ballyshannon lines to set his team on level terms with a point.



Left to right: Jimmy McBrearty, Tommy McHugh, John O'Donnell, Danny (Cara) O'Donnell, John James O'Boyle, Jimmy McHugh.

Following a great rally by Ballyshannon when the Kilcar custodian cleared in style. Kilcar had the best of the game to the end with points by J. P. McGinley and T. McHugh."

The Kilcar team that day was: T. O'Donoghue, Patrick Gallagher, James Gillespie, John O'Donnell, J. P. McGinley, L. McGinley, D. Gillespie, P. Shovlin, Denis Callaghan, Augustine McCauley, T. McHugh, A. McShane, C. Ward, D. McBrearty, S. Dorrian.

Ballyshannon had seven county players in those days and Kilcar had none.

The final was against the Rockhill Army Barracks (Letterkenny) who had players from all over the country. The memories from this game were the two great goals scored by Denis McBrearty and the two doubtful penalty decisions which caused Rockhill to win by 4-6 to 4-4.

The team that day in Ardara was Tommy O'Donoghue, Patrick Gallagher, James Gillespie, John O'Donnell, Denis Callaghan, Peter Shovlin, James P. McGinley, Seán Dorrian, Columba Ward, Leo McGinley, Tommy McHugh, Augustine McCauley, Denis McBrearty, Frank Browne, John Bonner.

On the county scene Dan Gillespie, J. Browne and A. McCauley represented Kilcar on the county minor team v Cavan in July 1941.

In August 1941 Kilcar were beaten by Ardara in the S. West division of the senior football championship by a score of 1-3 to 0-2

— but because of the points system Glenties won the divisional honours, but Kilcar did not seem to have entered in the Democrat Cup.

THE G.A.A. BAN

The soccer influence was very strong in Killybegs in the forties and vigilantes were present at soccer matches to look out for Gaelic players on soccer teams or in the crowd or maybe simply stopped on the roadside watching a game for a few seconds. The suspension by the county board was three months and Kilcar on a few occasions lost players at important times.

At that time because of the war the 17th Battalion of the Irish Army were stationed in Killybegs and due to travel difficulties and the proximity to Kilcar they often played each other. The 17th Battalion had fine footballers from Mayo, Galway Sligo, Roscommon and some notable Donegal players. This gave welcome and keen competition to the Kilcar men and a good supply of footballs from the army as they were a scarce commodity at the time.



THE ANTRIMS 1941-'42. Front: Phonsie McShane. Middle row, l. to r.: J. P. McNelis, Padraig Carr, John McGinley, John McShane, Con McGinley. Back row: Paddy McGinley, Colm Cannon (Aireagal), Frank O'Donnell, Michael McCloskey, Micheal O'Donnell.

PARISH LEAGUES

Parish leagues were a big boon in the forties because of the petrol shortage and they began in Kilcar in 1941.

There were four teams involved at the beginning: (1) Bavin, (2) Kilcar Town, (3) The Antrims, (4) Up the Glen. Meetings were held in John O'Gara's Pub to draw up boundaries and to make rules. The Sliabh League Cup was taken out of mothballs and it became the cup played for in these competitions. Later teams from Glen, Carrick, etc., were involved in the competition.



"UP THE GLEN", 1945-'46. Front row, l. to r.: Seán Gallagher, Paddy McShane, James T. McNulty, Seán Dorrian, Eddie McBrearty, John Browne. Middle row: Johny Gallagher, Con Byrne, Paddy O'Donnell, James Cunningham, Michael Cunningham. Back row: J. P. McGinley, Paddy Lyons, Barney Showlin, Frank Brown, Francý Cannon (Crove), John Bonner (Castlecarn), James McCauley (Mín-a-Chanainn), Patrick Gallagher.

From 1944 to 1948 Kilcar produced an immense number of talented players in the parish league but the parish team never seemed to get it going against outside opposition.

"These local leagues were needle affairs when players gave their all for the "auld sod".

Stars on the Bavin team were Neilly Joe Doogan, Sean Doogan, John and Jimmy Byrne, Tommy Gallagher, Jimmy McHugh and Dan Cunningham.

Kilcar Town had stars in John O'Donnell, Padraig McShane, Proinnsias Car, Jimmy McBrearty, Tommy and Jimmy McHugh, Thomas McHugh (Muckcross), Joe Diskin, Mickey Driscoll (RIP), Frank Gillespie and Con Lyons.

Glen had powermen men in Peter and Barney Showlin, Dan Gillespie, Frank and John Browne, Peter O'Donnell (Ballymoon), James Gallagher and, of course, the "daddy" of them all, J. P. McGinley.

The Antrims had fleetfooted men in Michael Thomas and Phonsie McShane, Con McGinley (Derrylaghan), John McNelis (Cruskerry), Michael McCloskey, wee Denis McBrearty, the Carrs of Portaackran, John

and Patrick McGinley, John McShane and Peter Cannon (Straleel).

The big game was always between the two strongest teams. The Antrims and 'Up the Glen'. The Antrims consisted of round the shore, Bogagh and Straleel, and all teams tried to have postponements until the "college boys" would come home for holidays.

Many stories are told of these games such as a clever James Patrick McGinley going for high balls with a much younger and taller Bill Frank O'Donnell or of the tactics worked out on the blackboard by Tommy Diskin (RIP) or perhaps one area wanted the other area made slightly smaller.

These games were played in good sporting conditions — where friendships were made which were to last throughout the year bonding the community together at home and when they emigrated abroad.

Colours — Bavin, red; Kilcar Town, blue and white or gold; The Antrims, mixture of colours; The Glen, green and gold — but late in the fifties it was maroon.

People got very excited about these games most of which were played in Towney. The football boots had steel toe caps, harder and stronger leather and a higher heel; shoulderin

and the two man tackle were common and the game was slow moving.

The only training done at the time was the "catch and kick" from the goalmouth out. (A slog). The tall players usually got possession and the rule was that once in possession you were allowed to kick the ball. Smaller players picked up the broken balls around the melee and this type of training led to great fetching, corner forward and corner back play.

SEVEN-A-SIDE

Because of the lack of petrol there were a lot of seven-a-side competitions. These competitions were very strong between 1944 and 1950 with young men cycling to Ardara, 19 miles, and to Glenties, 25 miles, to play in these competitions. Usually the prize for the winners might have been a football but it was known that money was the prize in some competitions, e.g., 10 shillings a man to the winners.



KILLYBEGS TEAM OF THE EARLY 40's. Tommy McHugh (Towney), third from left, front row.

TRAVEL

Travelling by bicycle was the commonest mode of transport — but at certain times in the fifties John Campbell and Michael McNelis carried players to games. Hackney cars were not allowed waste petrol bringing players to games but Jimmy Boyle of Carrick used to tie a fish-hook to the back of carrier of his car pretending that he was carrying salmon for export. This was legal and they were lucky never to have been apprehended by the Gardaí.

There were sevens in Straleel, Towney and one organised by the army in Killybegs. Also Sean Derrian had his own hand picked seven in these competitions.

On the 15th August, 1943, Kilcar played Glen at Glen sports day. Big Frank O'Donnell played in goal and only touched the ball once, such was the dominance of Kilcar. Others in that team were N. J. Doogan (Crann Na Silach), Phonsie McShane (Derrylaghan),



Jimmy McHugh, brilliant full back, 1942-1948.

John McGinley (Bogagh), Peter Cannon (Straleel), Padraic McShane (Kilcar), Dan Gillespie (Cashlings). They won the game but got no prizes except for a fine tea in Annie McNelis' House..

In the late forties, 1945-'46, there were a number of players from Glencolmcille who played for Kilcar, e.g., Columba Ward, C. Browne, Tommy Haughey and Bernard Haughey. At this time as well there was a South West league which Kilcar won on one occasion beating the army 0-4 to 0-2 in the final.

In 1946 Donegal Town were allowed to play in the St. Conell Cup. Kilcar beat Donegal in the early rounds but because of the points system used Donegal Town reached the final against Kilcar by defeating Ardara in the semi-finals. Kilcar defeated Donegal by a point in the final.

Kilcar: John Byrne, Paddy O'Donnell, Jimmy McHugh, Jimmy Byrne (Largy), John Browne, Paddy McGinley, John McGinley, Francy Byrne, John O'Donnell, James Gallagher, Phonsie McShane, Neilly Joe Doogan, James McCauley, J. P. McGinley, Denis McBrearty.

On Sunday, 12th of September, 1948, Kilcar beat Killygordon to qualify for the final of the Junior championship at Glenties. The report on the game from the 'Donegal Democrat' states as follows:

"The standard of football never reached a high plane possibly due to the adverse weather conditions which made the ball greasy and



PRACTICE MATCH, 1947-'48. Front row, l. to r.: Michael O'Driscoll (Kilcar), Frank Gillespie (Cashel), Michael Hegarty (Straleel), Hugh O'Donnell (Strath Na Circe), Phonsie McShane (Derrylaghan), Padraig Carr (Portachran), John McShane (Bogagh). Back row: Paddy McShane (Kilcausey), Steve Byrne (Aireagal), Michael Byrne (Bogagh), Michael O'Donnell (Bogagh), Neilly Joe Doogan (Crann Na Silleach), Andy Carr (Port a Chrann), Eddie McBrearty (Cashlings), John Brown (Ballymoon), Michéal Carr (Port a Chrann).

difficult to control and underfoot conditions anything but ideal. Kilcar played with much more determination."

The final score was 2-5 to 0-5 and the Kilcar team was as follows:

P. McNelis (Glencolmille), M. O'Donnell (Bogagh), Peter O'Donnell (Kilcausey), Proinsias Carr (Kilcar), F. Browne, M. Boyle, Hugh O'Donnell (Sranakirka), Colm Browne (Carrick), Eddie McBrearty (Cashlings), N. J. Doogan (Cronasilla), Phonsie McShane (Derrylaghan), M. Hegarty, F. Carr, C. O'Gara, J. O'Donnell (Kilcar), Frank O'Donnell, Paddy McGinley, Tommy Gallagher (Bavin), John McNelis (Cruskerry), Jimmy Cannon (Roxboro), Paddy McShane, John Brown, D. O'Donnell.

The majority of the above panel played in the final versus Downings. Played in Letterkenny on the 10th of October, 1948, Downings won mainly due to the quicksilver forward Sean McGettrick (who was later in the 50s to aid the Kilcar men playing for Killybegs).

In the 'Donegal Democrat' of the 12th November, 1948, Glenties were declared St. Connell Cup winners with a score of 3-4 to 1-4. The report states:

Despite the lack of training the Kilcar team stood up well to the onslaughts of the Owentocker men.

Kilcar team that day was P. McNelis, P. McGinley, D. O'Donnell, F. Carr, N. J. Doogan, J. O'Donnell, F. Browne, F. McGettrick, P. Moore, P. Clancy, A. McShane, J. McCauley, P. Byrne, M. Carr, M. O'Donnell.

On the 15th April, 1949 Kilcar had a draw with Glenties in the junior championship south west division at Towney 2-5 each. Kilcar led at half time on a breezy day by 2-5 to 0-1 and the Kilcar team was:

F. Browne, T. McHugh, J. Doherty, M. O'Donnell, N. J. Doogan, H. O'Donnell, F. Carr, M. Carr, M. Hegarty, F. Gillespie, M. Cannon, H. Phillips, M. Driscoll, J. Byrne.

On Friday, March 4th, 1949, the 'Donegal Democrat' had this to say as regards the parish sports field:

"This fine football pitch at Kilcar known locally as Towney Strand has now been vested as Kilcar parish property. For the purpose of extension, 3 acres at the foreshore have been leased from the Department of Industry and Commerce. A substantial grant has been secured from the Board of Public Works to divert the river to the Kilbeg side of the strand and to improve the approaches to the field. As every incoming tide brings in fresh sand the field will grow in size and in the course of time it will be one of the best playing pitches in the county".



ST. CONAL'S CUP WINNING TEAM IN ABBEY HOTEL, 1946. Front row, l. to r.: Jimmy McBrearty, John Byrne (Largy), John O'Donnell, Tommy McHugh. Middle row: Jimmy McHugh, N. J. Doogan, Seán Dorrian. Back row: Paddy McGinley, James Byrne (Largy), John McShane (Bogagh), Paddy O'Donnell (Ballymoon), John Patrick McNelis, John McGinley, Frank Brown.

HURLING

The *iománaíocht* used to peep its head up now and again and so it did in the late forties when the Gaeltarra factory was being reconstructed by workers from Dublin.

These men played hurling in Towney after

work and quite a few of the locals joined them. If there were any hurling teams in neighbouring parishes hurling might have taken a stronger hold as in the parish at the time was Corkonian Mickey Driscoll (RIP). Interest was lost in the hurling when there was no competition.

SHORTS

Sat., January 24th, 1942:

At County Convention Mr. E. Ó Canainn was voted in as registrar.

Sunday, November 10th, 1946:

James McHugh, Kilcar, played at left half back for Donegal v Armagh in Letterkenny.

Saturday, March 22, 1947:

The death occurred of Mr. William Shanaghan, Main St., Kilcar, at 75 yrs. An ex member of the old R.I.C. and a native of Kerry and a staunch supporter of the G.A.A.

Sunday, March 23rd, 1947:

St. Connells Cup, Towney —

Kilcar 2-8, Glenties 0-2.

Saturday, 24th April, 1948:

St. Connell's Cup, Glenties—

Glenties 3-5, Kilcar 1-1.

Sunday, 28th February, 1949:

St. Connell's Cup at Towney—

Ardara 2-9, Kilcar 2-3.

SPOTLIGHT ON TOMMIE McHUGH

Tommie McHugh spent his young days at the bottom of Alt a' Tarbh about "two kicks of a ball" away from Towney Strand where he and his brother, Jimmie, along with John McCauley and Tommy McCauley spent all their leisure time playing football.

During their school going days they spent all Sundays and evenings playing with a little sponge ball, which they often lost in Biddy Jim's briars. They then had to collect a few pennies to buy a new one.

Football died down in Kilcar in the late twenties; parents did not like to see their sons playing football, but in 1931 a crowd of grown men and boys burst on the scene with a real football. They wore blue jerseys and as navy blue was the 'in' colour at the time they wore navy blue pants as well.

This occasion made a big imprint on young Tommie and friends as they sat on the "grand stand" and watched these men play Gaelic football.

James Patrick was in this gang and from that day on he was Tommie McHugh's idol as a footballer. He could play anywhere, had great anticipation and positional sense, the skill and scoring power of both feet from any angle.

Tommie then remembers the Slieve League Cup which began in 1932 with teams from Kilcar and Glencolmcille. 'Up the Glen' and Kilcar were the top teams in that League.

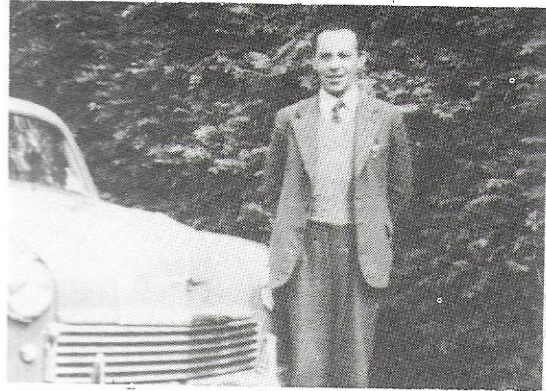
Tommie went to Warrenstown Agricultural College in 1937 to 1939 and played there in those years. Then he went to Limerick in 1940 and played with a west Limerick team called Kilcolman.

He was back home in 1941 to play against Rockhill in the Democrat Cup final and he also played in 1942. He then worked with Bord na Mona and played with Kildare's Newbridge Sarsfields and had a few outings with the Kildare senior team. He still returned home during the winter months and was involved in the 1946 St. Connell's Cup win.

He was selected and played for Donegal on a number of occasions but in Letterkenny in 1946 against Armagh he broke his ankle and did not play for some time.

Tommie McHugh made a comeback and played with the Kilcar/Killybegs selection in 1950, 1951 and 1952 to win the championship in 1952.

His last game for Kilcar was against Killygordon in the championship of 1953 in which Kilcar were defeated. Tommie at this



Tommie McHugh (Towney)

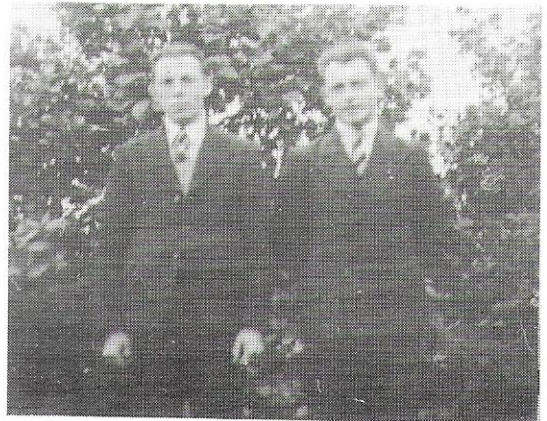
time had settled down in Cavan. The men who came foremost to his mind at this stage are in the early days Hugh Rafferty (RIP), Francie Carr (Drumreagh, RIP), Hughie Carr, James P. McGinley, Leo McGinley, Colm Ward (Carrick) and Denis McBrearty (RIP), Harry O'Donnell, Vinny McHugh, Packie Watters, Vincent Rankin and the Boyle brothers, all from Ardara; Columba McDyre and his brothers, the Brennans and Gildea's from Glenties, Mickey Rua Gallagher, Anthony Rodgers and Hugh Boyle all from Gweedore.

Later Tommie played with Cavan Gaels until 1955 and his son, John now plays with this club and is on the Cavan U-21 panel.

As Tommie McHugh says:

"There was no jersey that I was so proud to wear as the Kilcar jersey and I think that I always gave of my very best.

To me there was that little bit of nostalgia or something when Kilcar football was mentioned, especially when away from home".



Tommie and Jimmy McHugh (Towney)

THE FIFTIES

The fifties began on a weak note with very little evidence of activity in 1950 except that on sports day in Towney Armagh were invited to play a Donegal selection. Kilcar were at the bottom of "Rotha Mór an tSaoil" at this stage and could only improve.

Early in May 1951 the Kilcar club was re-organised and the following report comes from the 'Donegal Democrat' May 11th, 1951:

"Kilcar G.A.A. Club, once a driving force in South West Donegal Gaeldom, is again going to be established on a sound footing.

On Friday night week there was a representative attendance at a reorganisation meeting in the Parochial Hall including the clergy, teachers, former G.A.A. players and officials. The local T.D., Mr. M. Óg McFadden, and the local county councilor, Mr. M. O'Donnell, B.A., are giving the project their full support.

Mr. Hugh Hegarty, N.T., Kilcar, who presided, welcomed the attendance and said he was very glad indeed to see that the G.A.A. was to be revised again in the parish.

Mr. Hegarty referred to the prominent place which Kilcar had occupied in the annals of Donegal G.A.A. in the past and to the large number of coveted trophies brought to the village of teams of the past.

These successes brought about by Kilcar men of the past should be an inspiration to the present and future players, declared Mr. Hegarty, who also appealed for full support and allegiance for all phases of Irish-Ireland culture and last but not most important of all their mother tongue which was their sole badge of nationality and which should be used as much as possible in the Council Chamber and on the playing pitch.

The following officers were elected: Mr. Hugh Gillespie, Umiskeen, chairman; secretary, Mr. Phil O'Donnell, Kilcar; treasurer, Mr. Proinnseas Carr, Kilcar; committee, Messrs. Aodh O'Gara, James McBrierty (Kilcar), Sean Dorrian (Cashlings), John McCauley (Towney), Patrick H. Gallagher, - Frank Gillespie - and - William Boyle.

It is the intention of the club to enter a team in the Donegal Senior County championship. It was decided to commence practice immediately and to have a series of friendly and challenge games.

It was agreed to have weekly meetings of the club".

Also on the 11th of May, 1951, it was reported that Kilcar played and were beaten by Killybegs 3-8 to 3-5 in a friendly at Towney.

The Killybegs team was: J. Flynn, P. Callaghan, F. Rodgers, P. Breslin, J. Byrne, Jas. Byrne, N. J. Doogan, S. McGettrick, P. McGee, T. Wickham, S. Doogan, W. Butler; and the Kilcar team:

F. Browne, J. Cunningham, P. Carr, J. McCauley, A. Carr, P. McShane, F. Gillespie, H. Phillips, J. Boyle, P. Gillespie, P. O'Donnell, F. Donoghue, J. Byrne.

Also on May the 11th, 1951, there is a report on Killybegs having re-entered Gaelic football and they were beaten for the first time in Section A of the Donegal Senior Football League by Donegal Town by 2-6 to 2-4. It reports that the Killybegs half back line of J. Byrne, T. McHugh and F. Gillespie was the rock on which a lot of Donegal's promising moves perished.

The Killybegs team on the day was: J. Byrne, P. McShane, J. Mooney, J. Breslin, Jas. Byrne, T. McHugh, F. Gillespie, C. McCauley, J. Boyle, T. Wickham, S. McGettrick, P. McGee, F. Browne, A. Carr.

On the first of June, 1951, it is reported that Killybegs beat Bundoran in the final of the Connolly Cup (junior championship) by a score of 5-6 to 1-4 at Finner Camp, using the following team:

D. Doherty (Gweedore), N. J. Doogan, T. McHugh, W. Patton (Castlefin), J. Byrne, P. McShane, P. Breslin, A. Carr, S. McGettrick, P. McGee, C. McCauley, D. Butler, P. O'Donnell, T. Wickham, D. Callaghan.

Later on July 6th, 1951, Kilcar were beaten by Killygordon in the Senior Football Championship by a score of 3-8 to 0-9.

The report states:

"The Kilcar forward line which boasted of two of the county's main players were unable to obtain a red flag despite their acknowledged cleverness, speed and strength".

The Kilcar team was:

D. Doherty, P. McShane, T. McHugh, H. O'Donnell, J. Byrne, J. Breslin, F. Gillespie, J. J. Boyle, P. McShane, N. J. Doogan, C. McCauley, S. McGettrick, P. O'Donnell, T. Wickham, H. Phillips.



Tommy Gallagher (Bavin) with a Donegal team in 1951. Front row, second from left.



KILLYBEGS at Dunkineely Sports, 1952. Front row, l. to r.: Proinnsias Carr, Peter O'Donnell, Harry Philips, Frank Gillespie, Tom Wickham, Connell McCauley, Phonsie McShane, Seán McGettrick. Back row: F. Brennan, Andy Carr, N. J. Doogan, H. O'Donnell, Paddy McShane, Denis Doherty (Gaoth Dobhair), John Breslin, John Byrne. Others in picture are Joseph Diver, Francy Gillespie, Micky Breslin, Tom Gallagher, Pat Dorrian (front).

In September of '51 Killybegs beat Ballyshannon 0-6 to 0-4 at Straleeny Park to go joint top of their section with the same team as above excluding C. McCauley and N. J. Doogan and the addition of E. McBrearty and J. Mooney.

When Donegal played Fermanagh at Glenties in October 1951 4-6 to 1-5, Wickham, McGettrick and Carr played in a forward line which was really brilliant and at midfield Frank O'Donnell played some grand football.

Killybegs won the championship in 1952 with a team consisting of eleven Kilcar men on the team and one on the substitutes plus Tom Wickham and Sean McGettrick.

This team was: N. J. Doogan, James McHugh, F. O'Donnell, H. O'Donnell, T. McHugh, P. McShane, F. Gillespie, Enda Cunningham, E. McBrearty, D. Harnett, T. Wickham, W. Cunningham, H. Phillips, S. McGettrick, A. Carr and Frank O'Donnell. Sub., Peter O'Donnell.

This team was organised from Killybegs and James Callaghan used to organize the transport for the players to the games.

In 1953 Killybegs ran into some financial difficulties and anyway Kilcar were anxious to run and organise events again. Emigration took players like P. McShane, E. McBrearty, H. Phillips, A. Carr and others but a curate, Fr. McClafferty, came to Kilcar in 1952 and he was the inspiration behind a new revival by taking the young boys out to play and organising parish leagues and committees.

Some Glencolumbkille players joined Kilcar in these days, one in particular, P. "Battles" Gillespie used to arrive early on Sunday morning for the afternoon game.



DONEGAL TEAM OF EARLY FIFITES: Paddy McShane, front row, second from right. Frank O'Donnell, back row.

Sadly Fr. McClafferty was drowned close to Trá Labhair in August, 1953, and the South West G.A.A. paid tribute to him noted in the 'Donegal Democrat' of Friday, September 4th, 1953.

In 1953 the excellent minor team was under the name of Carrick and this team was considered to be one of the best under-age teams to come from the south west. They won the Iniskeel Cup with players such as S. Keeney, S. Doogan, S. McGinley, S. O'Donnell, A. O'Donnell, S. McNelis, P. Carr, M. O'Donnell, L. McLaughlin, M. Byrne, J. J. Lyons, F. Cunningham, C. Cunningham, S. McNulty and J. Doherty, P. O'Donnell, J. Doogan, S. Hegarty, P. McNelis and N. Blain.

Minor league table.

	Played	Pts.
Carrick	4	8
Glenties	3	4
Ardara	4	2
Killybegs	3	0

Transport at this stage was sometimes by Joe Haughey's specially modelled motor car.

At senior level in April 1953 Kilcar defeated Donegal in Donegal by 1-9 to 2-2 with J. P. McGinley as referee and they beat Doengal at home in the league at Towney by 1-5 to 1-2.

The April team consisted of: S. Doogan, F. O'Donnell, Frank O'Donnell, A. O'Donnell, J. McHugh, P. McShane, F. Gillespie, P. Carr, E. Cunningham, H. Phillips, P. Gillespie, E. Carr, C. Byrne, D. Gillespie, S. McLaughlin.

And in the August team we had S. Haughey, H. O'Donnell, P. O'Donnell, E. Cunningham, J. McHugh, P. McShane, F. Gillespie, E. McBrearty, A. Cunningham, A. Carr, M. Byrne, H. Phillips, S. McLaughlin, D. Gillespie, J. Byrne.

On Sunday, Mary 3rd, 1953, Ballyshannon defeated Kilcar in the early rounds of the Democrat Cup at Ballyshannon with a score of 2-11 to 1-10 and the report from the 'Donegal Democrat' on May 8th had this to say:

"This game without question was one of the best ever witnessed in the Erne town — the standard of football reaching great heights for the greater part of the contest in which score was parried by score and movement by counter movement and thrust."

It continues:

"Big Frank O'Donnell at full back and midfield and Paddy McShane were in great form for Kilcar as well as Harry Phillips,



MINOR INISKEEL CUP WINNERS 1952-'53. Front row, l. to r.: Seán Hegarty (Cashlings), Seán Keeney (Teelin), Leo McLaughlin, John Doherty (Crawghaugh), Jimmy McGinley (Meenanearry), Seán Carr (Kilcar), John 'Bruce' Byrne (Kilbeg). Back row: Aiden O'Donnell, Jimmy Doogan, Seamus McNulty, Seán McNelis, Billy Boyle, Seán O'Donnell.

Andy Carr, H. O'Donnell, F. McNelis and Enda Cunningham."

In August 1953 this team beat Glencolmcille at their annual sports day by a score of 3-6 to 1-2.

They beat Ballyshannon in the league in November 1-3 to 0-3.

This was the third meeting of these teams in which there was a lot of controversy. In the first game Ballyshannon had 16 men on the field and Kilcar lodged a protest under Rule 60 of the Official Guide. The protest was ruled out of order but the game was re-fixed. The next game was terminated after half time due to inclement weather conditions and on another occasion Kilcar travelled but had no opposition as a telegram sent to Kilcar concerning the game had "Sunday next" instead of "Sunday week" for which the Post Office accepted responsibility for the error.

On the county scene Kilcar had F. O'Donnell playing against Armagh in the McKenna Cup with C. McCauley of Killybegs and P. McShane and H. Phillips as substitutes. H. Phillips came on as a sub in this game. Frank O'Donnell was playing at full back but was switched to full forward and stayed there versus Cavan.

In the Lagan Cup Enda Cunningham was a substitute versus Fermanagh. Playing for the Donegal Gaels in New York was Patrick Carr, Kilcar.

In 1954 there was quite an amount of confusion as the senior team in the area was under the name of Carrick. There seemed to be three groups in the two parishes of Kilcar and Glencolumbkille. (1) Lamh Dhearg Glencolumbkille who opened their new recreation field; (2) Naomh Columba (Carrick) and Naomh Cartha (Carrick) and Kilcar as such did not have a team functioning. There were a lot of transfers and other problems for the South West Divisional Board under the chairmanship of D. Mac Giolla Easbuig, O.S., Kilcar.



Front row, l. to r.: M. Cannon, M. Campbell (Churchgate), Éamonn Boyle, Eunan Murray, Tony Cannon, Benny Boyle, Seamus Campbell. Back row: Denis Lyons, Dónal Boyle, Joseph Boyle, John Cannon, Leo Murray Seán Boyle, Pádraig Byrne, Pat (Dearg) Byrne, Charlie McDevitt.

The Carrick team played nearly all of their home games in Towney and they beat Ardara in the St. Connell's Cup on February 21st, 1954, by 1-3 to 1-1 at Towney.

Then on Sunday, March 7th, 1954, Carrick (Naomh Columba) beat Glencolumbkille by 2-2 to 0-2 at Glencolumbkille.

The Naomh Columba (Carrick) team was J. Doogan, J. McGinley, F. O'Donnell, H. O'Donnell, P. O'Donnell, J. McHugh, E. Cunningham, L. McLaughlin, S. Keeney, F. Gillespie, S. McNelis, A. McNelis, H. Phillips, E. Browne, S. Doogan.

The Lamb Dhearg team was a Gillespie team as follows:

A. Gillespie, John Gillespie, John J. Gillespie, T. McGinley, P. Ward, H. Gillespie, P. Gillespie, C. Gillespie, N. Blaine, Paddy Gillespie, C. O Faolair, Bernard Gillespie and Liam Heekin.

This Carrick team then drew with Ballyshannon at Towney (0-6 each) on Sunday, 11th July, 1954 in the Senior League

and were defeated by Donegal at Towney by 2-4 to 0-5 on Sunday, 17th November, 1954, and defeated by Ballyshannon 6-2 to 2-5.

Kilcar had a team in the juvenile competitions and they topped their section to meet Killybegs in the divisional final of 1954.

On the county scene Frank O'Donnell was still playing in the backline of defence and they beat Monaghan in the junior semi-final (Ulster) and then beat Tyrone in the Ulster final and Frank O'Donnell kept the great Art O'Hagan scoreless in this game.

Donegal then went on to beat Galway in the All-Ireland semi-finals but were beaten by Kerry 3-6 to 1-6 at Croke Park. Connell McCauley of Killybegs also played on this team.

In 1955 Domhnaill Mac Giolla Easbuic, O.S., was still chairman of the South West Division and on the 1st of May Kilcar were defeated by Dunkineely at Towney in the St. Connell Cup by 0-9 to 1-5. Kilcar beat Ardara at Towney in the same competition on the 8th



THE MIGHTY DO'S, 1954-'55. Front row, l. to r.: Micky Cannon, Micky Haughey, Leo Murray, John Cannon, Eamonn Doogan, Igneachán Murray, Joseph Boyle, Seán Boyle, Connie Hegarty. Middle: Pat Dorrian. Back row: Ian Hegarty, Dónal Boyle, Eunan Murray, Paddy McDevitt, Seamus Doherty, Paddy O'Donnell, Pat Byrne.

of May by 2-8 to 0-5 and on the 15th of May they beat Glenties in Glenties by 0-6 to 0-2.

They were defeated by Ardara in Pearse Park on the 22nd of May by 1-0 to 0-1. Kilcar were leading 0-1 coming into the last quarter when Ardara scored their goal. This was a tough encounter and the Kilcar team on these occasions was: C. Lyons, F. O'Donnell, E. Cunningham, H. O'Donnell, S. McNelis, P. O'Donnell, F. Gillespie, P. Carr, S. Doogan, E. Browne, J. J. Lyons, J. Doogan, F. Carr, S. McNulty, F. McNelis.

The League table 1955, 22nd May:

	P	W	L	Pts.
Kilcar	6	3	3	6
Ardara	5	3	2	6
Glenties	5	3	2	6
Dunkineely	4	1	3	2

Prominent on the refereeing scene at this stage were J. P. McGinley and Michael Erskine and Frank Gillespie.

Kilcar lost out in the play-offs of the above league.

In the 1955 Championship Kilcar defeated Glenties at Dunkineely by 3-5 to 1-3 on the 23rd July and they defeated Dunkineely by 3-10 to 0-6 at Towney, but were beaten by Ardara at Towney 1-5 to 0-4 on the 19th June (Championship was on points system).

On the 21st April, 1955, there was a very interesting old timer's game between Kilcar and Carrick which ended up with a score of 1-5 to 2-2.

The Kilcar team was J. P. McGinley, S. Dorrian, P. O'Donnell, J. McBrearty, J. J. Boyle, J. Gallagher, N. J. Doogan, J. Doogan, M. Carr, M. Boyle, D. Carr, A. O'Donnell, P. O'Donnell, C. Byrne, S. McNulty.

Carrick: J. Byrne, A. Ward, J. Gillespie, J. Carr, P. Carr, T. Carr, F. Carr, J. J. Maloney, C. Boyle, D. McNelis, J. J. McNelis, J. Heaney, E. Boyle, T. Haughey.

Some of the above so called "old timers" were to play a large part in latter years for Kilcar.

Kilcar could have gone further in the championship of '55 but on that day against Ardara they were without Enda Cunningham and Paddy McShane.

The panel changed slightly from game to game from the following: C. Lyons, S. McNelis, F. O'Donnell, H. O'Donnell, S. McNulty, P. O'Donnell, A. Carr, J. Haughey, S. Doogan, E. Browne, F. McNelis, F. Gillespie, J. Doogan, F. O'Donnell, J. J.

Lyons, B. McShane, S. McLaughlin, E. O'Donnell, H. Phillips.

Senior Championship Table, 1955:

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Ardara	6	6	0	0	12
Kilcar	6	4	2	0	8
Glenties	6	2	4	0	4
Dunkineely	6	0	0	0	0

In the juvenile section of the South West Division Kilcar defeated Carrick 6-2 to 2-3, but were defeated by a bigger and stronger Ardara team in the divisional final by a score of 1-7 to 1-2 on the 23rd July, 1955. The Kilcar team consisted of:

D. Boyle, S. Boyle, M. Haughey, J. Cannon, P. McDevitt, J. Boyle, J. Hegarty, A. Hegarty, L. Murray, I. Murray, E. Doogan, J. Rafferty, M. Cannon, P. Byrne, E. Murray.

Outstanding for Kilcar on the day was M. Haughey, J. Rafferty, I. Murray, P. Byrne and E. Doogan.

In the Minor Championship of 1955 Kilcar defeated Ardara at Towney on June 12th by 4-3 to 1-4 in a great game with great displays from Brian Cotter and Seamus McNulty. They then defeated Glenties on the 31st of August at Glenties by 2-8 to 0-4, and Ardara again at Pearse Park on the 14th of August by 0-7 to 0-6. They finished the division with full points but were defeated in the county semi-final by Erin's Hope 5-12 to 1-3.

The Kilcar team that day was P. Haughey, Frank O'Donnell, C. Meehan, A. O'Donnell, J. Boyle, S. O'Donnell, A. Gillespie, B. Cotter, S. Tully, V. McNelis, Seamus McNulty, S. Cunningham, C. McLaughlin, S. Hegarty, E. Doogan.

Emigration was a major problem at this stage making it difficult to gather senior teams and on the 28th October, 1955 the Donegal Democrat had this to say:

"The recent exodus of young men from the South West Donegal Gaeltacht will seriously affect the Gaelic teams as well as the production of drama during the spring. Among the many young gael who emigrated were several prominent Gaelic footballers who played with the Kilcar G.A.A. club"

On Friday, the 4th November, 1955, the Donegal Democrat reported that the Kilcar club reviewed the past year's activities with Dan Gillespie, O.S., as chairman and Proinsias Carr as treasurer. Mr. Gillespie stated as follows, that:

"If they did not always reach their intended goal, they should remember that a name for

good clean sportsmanship was just as good as a victory. Kilcar would carry on and would always try to maintain such a good record”.

On Sunday, 29th August, 1955, Donegal played Mayo as a part of the Carrick Carnival week at Stralad park but rain spoiled the day which Mayo won 2-9 to 2-1. The referee on the day was James Patrick McGinley. The teams were paraded onto the field by the Kilcar A.O.H. Pipe Band. The Kilcar band were very prominent all over the South West especially in Towney at football matches and sports days.

In 1956 there was plenty of activity on the home scene and the senior team reached the county semi-final of the Democrat Cup (Senior County League) to be beaten by Gweedore 1-2 to 0-3 at Glenties. En route Kilcar defeated Ardara at Towney on the 28th October 0-6 to 0-3, and Donegal Town 2-6 to 0-0 on the 4th of November and they defeated the same team at Towney on the 11th of November by 3-7 to 0-5.

Concerning the game versus Ballyshannon the Donegal Democrat reporter states:

“Big man of the home side in more than one sense of these words was Frank O'Donnell, O.S., the former inter-county defender who inspired his side to all efforts throughout but especially in the closing stages of the game.

The game had a thrilling close, with excitement reaching a fever pitch as the visitors went all out time and again for the equalising goal. The closing five minutes were anxious moments for the homesters defence,

but it is to their credit that they came out of the fray with flying colours and for this full marks must go to their full back Big Frank O'Donnell who gave an outstanding display to earn the loud applause of Kilcar supporters on the sideline”.

The Kilcar team which played Ballyshannon was as follows: J. Doogan, S. McNelis, Francis O'Donnell, P. McShane, A. Carr, P. O'Donnell, B. Cotter, S. Doogan, W. Cunningham, J. J. Lyons, Sean O'Donnell, E. Browne, F. Gillespie, S. O'Donnell (Frank), C. McLaughlin.

The team which played Gaoth Dobhair in the semi-final was: J. Doogan, S. McNelis, Big Frank O'Donnell, A. McNelis, S. O'Donnell, P. McShane, E. Browne, S. Doogan, P. O'Donnell, J. J. Lyons, Sean O'Donnell, C. McLoughlin, E. Doogan, P. Haughey. Sub., F. O'Donnell for P. Haughey.

The report on this game states that neither team scored in the second half. Heavy rain made football very difficult and Kilcar had only themselves to blame as their forwards missed easy chances. Kilcar were the better fielders generally but Gaoth Dobhair were most dangerous when they got going.

For Kilcar Big Frank, S. McNelis, P. McShane and Eamonn Browne were outstanding, as were S. Doogan and C. McLaughlin also.

In the Championship Kilcar defeated Ardara in Pearse Park 2-4 to 1-3 but lost to Ardara in Towney 2-8 to 1-3. They defeated Glenties 1-4 to 1-2 at Towney and in Glenties 2-1 to 0-2.



CAVAN-NEW YORK G.F.C. 14-4-1957. John Brown (Ballymoon) 8th from left, back row.

This left Kilcar and Dunkineely joint top of the division as follows.

Kilcar 8 points from 5 games.

Dunkineely 8 points from 5 games.

Ardara 4 points from 5 games.

Glenties 0 points from 5 games.

On Sunday, 28th of July, 1956 Dunkineely defeated Kilcar 1-4 to 0-6 to win the division. The game attracted a huge crowd with gate receipts of £40, but the football produced was not of a high standard due to the close marking, keen tackling and strong wind. The report also states that the Dunkineely goal was a gift goal. The Kilcar team that day was: C. Lyons, Frank O'Donnell, F. Gillespie, M. O'Donnell, A. McNelis, P. McShane, A. Carr, E. Browne, S. Doogan, P. Carr, P. O'Donnell, A. Philips, A. O'Donnell, A. McLaughlin, S. Keeney.

Sub., M. Byrne for A. Philips (injured).

Another important senior game played in 1956 on the 5th of August was a Kilcar Carrick Selection versus a Dungloe Selection at the Carrick Carnival on the new pitch in Carrick with a result for Dungloe of 1-7 to 0-7.

In the Minor Iniskeel Cup on the 17th of March, 1956, Kilcar defeated Dunkineely by 4-3 to 1-5 at Towney.

On May 6th they defeated Dunkineely 1-6 to 1-3. Then in July they defeated Ardara 2-7 to 1-3. Kilcar defeated Glenties 2-8 to 2-6 at Glenties to win the Iniskeel Cup.

The Kilcar team v Glenties was: J. Cunningham, M. O'Donnell, P. Hegarty, M. Ward, D. Cunningham, D. McNulty, P. McNelis, S. O'Donnell, D. Lyons, M. Haughey, C. Cunningham, C. McLaughlin, S. McGinley.

In the championship Kilcar lost to Ardara in the divisional semi-final by a score of 4-2 to 2-1.

Sean O'Donnell, Kilcar, was on the county minor team versus Down in Castleblaney in July, 1956. He played midfield along with Eamonn Monaghan of Mountcharles. This team reached the All-Ireland semi-final to be beaten by Leitrim in Sligo.

The juveniles of 1956 were defeated by Glenties at Towney in June 2-6 to 1-3. Then they defeated Glencolumbkille by 5-9 to 2-5 and drew with Killybegs in August. Killybegs went through from the section of the division with maximum points.

The Kilcar team against Killybegs was: M. Haughey, D. Boyle, B. O'Donnell, D. Hegarty, A. Hegarty, P. McDevitt, B. Byrne, E. Doogan, S. Byrne, I. Murray, E. Murray,



SHIELD WINNERS, 1957, COLÁISTE ÉINDE (Gaillimh), faoi 15: Brian O'Byrne (Duinín) receiving Shield. Also Charlie McFadden (Portnoo), Teague McGinley (Gaoth Dobhair), Brian Campbell (Drimarone), Semie Diver (Gaoth Dobhair), Tarlách O Dochartaigh (Na Dúnaibh).

J. Cannon, C. Hegarty, B. McShane and J. Boyle.

On August 3rd, 1956, there was a South West Divisional Board meeting in Kilcar and Proinnsias Carr, Michael Erskine and Pdraig Murray attended. Dunkineely were congratulated all round on winning the divisional championship and Kilcar the runners up were thanked for their sporting attitude.

FINANCE

In the late fifties the employment situation was improved slightly as Gaeltarra Eireann and the forestry kept some of the young men at home and it was easier to gather fifteen players.



COLÁISTE ÉINDE (Gaillimh), faoi 15, 1957. Back row, from left: 2nd, Brian Campbell (Drimarone); 5th, Semie Diver; 6th, Frank Sweeney (The Rosses), 1st on right, Michéal Mac Giolla Easbuic (Dachtan). Front row, from left, 1st, Clement Coughlan; 2nd, Teague McGinley; 3rd, Brian O'Byrne (Duinín); 4th, Terence Doherty; 6th, Joe McNulty (Cloughaneely). 1st on right, Paddy Kelly (Sligo).

One of the problems on Towney Strand was the fact that the ball entered the sea quite frequently.

On calm days a boat from Towney pier might be used to retrieve the ball but in rough weather with north or east winds a nice cool swim out at the Garr-aoil might retrieve the ball.

A good ball was costly and it is also said that the football boots were bought for the players at a certain stage in the fifties. The boots were kept in a chest with the jerseys in Lower Carr's. A problem then arose on the day of the game because it was that "If the boots fit you play".

Later the then treasurer Proinsias Carr brought in a scheme whereby the players could buy the boots at half price £1.10s and keep them.

Later when the employment situation was improved and there was some more money in the parish, the players were able to buy their own boots. During the Parish Leagues there would be plenty of "Big Nights" and 6d was the asking price at the door.

The popular 25 Card Drives were used to collect finance and one in particular had 23 tables in the Parochial Hall and other tables in establishments around the town.

Admission to games at Towney was collected on the Bridge (at the present Post Office) on the Kilcar side and at the bottom of John McFadden's lane on the Muckcross side.

In the fifties it took about £200 to pay the expenses — this was difficult to gather and payments were normally six to eight months late.

Ceili's and Irish dancing were very common in those days and Mr. Hugh Hegarty, R.I.P., was instrumental in bringing in some big time bands, e.g., The Garda Siochana Ceili Band played twice in the late forties, early fifties. Hugh was also involved in taking in county teams like Armagh and Fermanagh to Straleel and Towney. Then for no apparent reason the ceili and dancing seemed to fade out.

LATE FIFTIES

In February/March 1957 the Kilcar senior team seemed to be playing well with wins over Dunkineely in a thriller at Towney 3-4 to 0-7; over Glenties 0-7 to 0-3 in Ardara, and drew with Dunkineely in a top of the table thriller 1-9 to 2-6.

The team v Dunkineely that day, 22nd March, was: N. J. Doogan, F. O'Donnell, S. O'Donnell, Frank O'Donnell, H. O'Donnell, S. O'Donnell, E. Browne, S. Doogan, J.

Doogan, C. McLaughlin, Big Frank O'Donnell, F. Gillespie, C. Cunningham, S. Wilson, P. Haughey.

In the Championship Ardara beat Kilcar in Towney in July 4-8 to 0-6. Kilcar had a very depleted team missing Big Frank, Paddy McShane, Eamonn Browne, Andy Carr, Enda Cunningham, Sean O'Donnell, Frank Gillespie and J. J. Lyons.

In early August Kilcar turned the tables in Ardara by winning 1-7 to 0-6 but there was no luck in the later games. The team that defeated Ardara on the 4th August, 1957, was: Big Frank O'Donnell, D. Cunningham, H. McHugh, J. Cronin, S. McNulty, E. Browne, B. Gillespie, S. Doogan, C. Cunningham, L. McLaughlin, P. Haughey, S. Keeney, C. McLaughlin, Con Brady, J. Cunningham.

Scorers for Kilcar were Con Brady 1-0, C. McLaughlin 0-3, L. McLaughlin 0-3, S. Doogan 0-1.

Absent from the team were P. McShane, F. Gillespie, S. O'Donnell and N. J. Doogan.

The Minor team were beaten 3-3 to 2-5 by Glenties at Towney on the 9th June and Kilcar were reported to have had six St. Eunan's College players in their lineup. This team consisted of M. Haughey, J. Cunningham, D. Hegarty, A. Hegarty, S. Cannon, D. Boyle, O. McIntyre, J. Byrne, L. Murray, J. Cunningham, S. Burke, S. O'Donnell, E. Cunningham, J. Boyle. Sub., S. Carr for J. Boyle.

In the Juvenile competition Kilcar were also defeated by Glenties in Ardara in the divisional final 1-3 to 0-5.

This team was: M. Byrne, J. Boyle, A. Hegarty, S. Doherty, E. Cunningham, S. McDyre, C. Cunningham, D. Hegarty, M. Haughey, L. Murray, M. O'Donnell, C. Murray, D. Boyle, S. Cannon and P. O'Donnell.

On the County Junior team defeating Tyrone in April 2-6 to 1-6 is P. O'Donnell, Kilcar, and on the subs is S. Doogan and F. O'Donnell, and they then defeated Derry 1-5 to 0-7 in May and the Donegal Democrat report states:

"Paddy O'Donnell, Kilcar, who after a slow start reached the heights in a pulsating second half".

Sean Doogan also played a big part in this game and Frank O'Donnell replaced J. McGettigan. Donegal were beaten by Cavan in the final 3-6 to 2-2 in which S. Doogan played at corner forward; Big Frank

O'Donnell at full back and Paddy O'Donnell at right half back.

On Sunday, July 1st, 1957, a Dunkineely selection playing Ballyshannon had at half time a lead of 2-5 to 0-0 but lost to Ballyshannon by a score of 6-4 to 3-7.

That Dunkineely selection was: L. Orange, P. McShane (Kilcar), W. Cunningham, P. Sweeney, J. Keeney (Ardara), B. Cotter, P. McGuire (Ardara), T. Gallagher (Ardara), H. Sweeney, S. Doogan (Kilcar), P. Brennan (Ardara), C. Brady, S. McGuinness, Big Frank O'Donnell (Kilcar), C. McLaughlin (Kilcar).

At the selection of officers for the South West Board on the 2nd of December, 1957 Mr. D. Gillespie, O.S., was elected as auditor and at the County Board meeting on Tuesday, 1st November, Frank O'Donnell was transferred to Ballyshannon.

On the 16th of March, 1958, Ardara defeated Kilcar at Towney in the St. Connell Cup 1-2 to 0-3 and the Donegal Democrat report had the following:

"Due to the emigration of so many of last season's personnel from both club areas the respective teams were mainly composed of last season's junior, minor and juvenile players and the game created a record for the Kilcar venue by the fact that this was the youngest senior team which donned the South West's club colours in its history — with an all round average of 21 years for the fifteen".

Kilcar team and St. Connell Cup table.

Kilcar: M. Haughey, F. O'Donnell, J.

Doogan, J. Haughey, E. O'Donnell, Paddy O'Donnell, S. McNulty, S. Doogan, S. O'Donnell, P. Haughey, J. J. Lyons, C. McLaughlin, A. Gillespie, N. Blaine, C. Cunningham.

St. Connell Cup table:

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Glenties	3	2	0	0	6
Ardara	2	2	0	0	4
Dunkineely	5	1	3	1	3
Kilcar	4	0	3	1	1

Later in June, 1958 Kilcar minors had an easy victory over Ardara 1-7 to 1-3 at Ardara in a game in which D. Ward was the outstanding player on view, and the forwards A. Hegarty, E. Murray, J. Boyle and C. Cunningham played in delightful combination.

The Kilcar team was: B. Cunningham, J. Gillespie, D. Byrne, J. Cannon, M. Cannon, P. O'Donnell, John Boyle, Joseph Boyle, M. Haughey, A. Hegarty, E. Murray, M. Byrne, C. McDevitt, P. McDevitt, C. Hegarty, C. Cunningham, D. Ward.

Then in June 23rd, 1958, Kilcar minors played Ardara in Towney in the championship and this game was abandoned after half time due to a penalty which was awarded to Kilcar being questioned by the Ardara men.

On the 15th August there was a seven-a-side at the sports day in Glencolumbkille in which four teams took part, Carrick, Bogagh (Aodh Rua), Malinmore and Kilcar Forestry. The final was between the Bogagh team and the



KILCAR SENIORS, 1959. Front row, l. to r.: James Ward, Josie Gillespie, Joseph Boyle, Conell McShane, Jimmy Cunningham, Cathal McLaughlin. Middle row: Packie Haughey, Seamus McNulty, Proinsias Carr, Micky Haughey, Big Frank O'Donnell, Seán Doogan, John James Lyons, Seán O'Donnell. Back row: Connie Cunningham, Jimmy Doogan, Aodh O'Donnell, Paddy O'Donnell, Éamonn Browne, Gerry Breslin, Dan Cunningham.



DR. BRENNAN CUP WINNERS, 13th September, 1959 at Dunkineely. Front row, l. to r.: Aodh O'Donnell, J. J. Lyons, Proinsias Carr, Packie Haughey, Seán Doogan, Micky Haughey, Cathal McLaughlin, Jimmy Cunningham. Back row: Eamonn Browne, Michael Rodden, James Ward, Connie Cunningham, Josie Gillespie, Jimmy Doogan, Gerry Breslin, Seán McGuinness, Paddy O'Donnell.

Forestry which was won by Forestry 0-5 to 0-2. The Aodh Rua team was F. O'Donnell, L. McLaughlin (home on holiday), C. McLaughlin, C. Cunningham, M. Byrne, S. O'Donnell and P. O'Donnell.

Kilcar Forestry: J. Doogan, S. Doogan, E. Doogan, E. Browne, A. O'Donnell, P. Haughey, E. Cunningham.

Great displays of football were given that day by Frank O'Donnell and Jimmy Doogan.

In 1959 Dungloe moved into the South West Division. This move was said by some to have improved the standard of football in the South West Division and others say that from then Gweedore football declined "due to the lack of time" in the Northern Division.

The big clashes in the South West Division in 1959 were between Kilcar and Dungloe and they always drew large crowds. They had a draw on the 26th July in the Senior Championship 1-7 to 2-4. J. Campbell, Dungloe, was the "thorn" in the Kilcar side that day. Big Frank O'Donnell was full forward and scored Kilcar's two goals.

Kilcar beat Four Masters in Glenties in the quarter final 1-6 to 1-2. The Donegal Democrat had this to say, on Friday, 21st August:

The Kilcar backs fielded cleanly and playing with great earnestness and determination were not to be overcome. They weathered the storm well, and soon defence was turned into attack again. Fitness all through was Kilcar's trump card and as the game progressed this became more pronounced for in the final ten minutes we often saw some of their players beating

opponents by yards to gain possession first or to dispossess them when they had the advantage. In this respect Kilcar's Packie Haughey, right half back, proved an adept in anticipation. Time and again throughout the game he robbed Donegal in many a promising move. He had tremendous support in high sure fielder Paddy O'Donnell and Seamus McNulty on the other wing".

Then on Sunday, 23rd August Kilcar beat Gweedore 1-8 to 2-4 in Glenties. Fitness again saw Kilcar through in this game but Big Frank O'Donnell got an injury on his knee that day and needed four stitches. Frank Gillespie went full forward and Leo Murray came on as substitute. Michael Byrne came on as another substitute that day and scored the winning point.

That Sunday evening the venue for the final against McCumhalls took quite a bit of delay at the County Board meeting in Letterkenny.

After hours of talk and voting the unlucky venue was chosen and it was Donegal Town. During the voting process Kilcar and McCumhalls had agreed to Dungloe as a venue but the voted venue could not be altered.

Michael Erskine was the Kilcar delegate to the forefront and he wanted the final postponed for another week as some of the players were not available but the County Board meeting ruled that the game was to go ahead the following Sunday.

Luck therefore was not with Kilcar this time and McCumhalls won the Dr. Maguire Cup for the first time with a score of 2-7 to 1-6 and led at half time by 2-5 to no score.

McCumhails had a goal by Des Griffin early on and Michael Haughey, the Kilcar goalkeeper, was injured and substituted in the first half. This was another big blow to Kilcar and they did not settle down until the second half when they gave the McCumhails backline a tough time.

The Kilcar team that day was: Michael Haughey, Jimmy Cunningham, Jimmy Doogan, Aiden O'Donnell, Packie Haughey, Paddy O'Donnell, Seamus McNulty, Gerry Breslin, James Ward, Proinnsias Carr, Sean Doogan, Cathal McLaughlin, J. J. Lyons, Eamonn Browne, F. Gillespie. Subs., Aodh O'Donnell for Michael Haughey, Sean O'Donnell for S. McNulty.

This same McCumhails panel (Erin's Hope) beat Kilcar in 1955 in the County Minor semi-final.

In the League and St. Connell Cup Kilcar defeated Dungloe 1-5 to 0-6 in Towney on the 11th of October. On the 8th of November a game v Glenties in Glenties was abandoned due to adverse weather. Kilcar defeated Ardara in Ardara on the 8th of October 5-2 to 3-2.

In May, 1959 Kilcar were beaten by Dungloe 2-5 to 1-7 at the opening of the new park, Rosses Park, Dungloe.

There were many other results but the 1959 League was not completed until May 1960 and the finalists were Kilcar and Dungloe. Kilcar led all the way in this game at Glenties and won 1-11 to 0-7. The Derry Journal of May 7th, 1960 states:

"As it was Kilcar proved themselves superbly fit and their fitness really told over



Packie Haughey held high with Charlie McDevitt and Connie Cunningham in 1959.

the hour. In the first half they set a sharp pace that Dungloe could not fully attain. In the second half some of their men ran out of steam but a couple of judicious switches helped to ease things. Eamonn Browne was one who had an active and successful first half that he was unable to last the pace on the turn over. But the switch with John James Lyons sealed the gap"

Cathal McLaughlin scored the goal when he soloed up the wing, evaded and side-stepped Manus Ward twice and his high kick evaded the Dungloe goalkeeper to rattle the back of the net.

The Kilcar team that day was Michael Haughey, Jimmy Cunningham, Jimmy Doogan, Aodh O'Donnell, Packie Haughey, Paddy O'Donnell, Eamonn Browne, Sean O'Donnell and James Ward, Proinnsias Carr, Gerry Breslin, Cathal McLaughlin, John J. Lyons, Frank O'Donnell, Sean Doogan.

On the county scene at this stage Jimmy Doogan was playing at full back with Cathal McLaughlin in the corner and Paddy O'Donnell was a substitute.



Front row, l. to r.: Éamonn Browne, Aiden O'Donnell, Cathal McLaughlin, Leo Murray, Seán O'Donnell (Meenaneary), Packie Haughey, Seán Doogan, Micky Haughey, John J. Lyons, Proinnsias Carr, Frank Gillespie. Back row: Big Frank O'Donnell, James Ward, Jimmy Cunningham, Josie Gillespie, Jimmy Doogan, Gerry Breslin, Seamus McNulty, Aodh O'Donnell, Seán O'Donnell, Paddy O'Donnell.

Kilcar's Facile Win in "Democrat" Cup Final

Thousands of Spectators Enjoyed
Double Bill at Glenties

S.F.L. Kilcar 1-11; Dungloe 0-7

KILCAR PLAYED WITH GREAT SPIRIT

Let it be said at once, that so far as the "Democrat" Cup final was concerned, the honours, in the end, rested where they had been most richly earned. Kilcar threw themselves into the game with rare abandon, and although it took them some little time to settle down in their finishing efforts in the early stages of the game, when they did get "on the mark", they missed few scoring opportunities. Throughout the game, except for a brief period in the second half, when Dungloe got within striking distance of success, the Kilcar defenders held a tight grip on the game. Indeed, seldom have we witnessed such majestic fielding as that accomplished by centre half back Paddy O'Donnell, with powerful wing men in Aodh O'Donnell, Jimmy Cunningham and Eamon Brown. Many — very many dangerous Dungloe sallies floundered on the magnificence of these players, and on the occasions that the Rosses forwards did get through, they found another great stumbling block in cold hair, Michael Haughey, who had some brilliant saves to his credit.

Midfield did not count to the extent anticipated in this game, although all four players — James Ward and Sean O'Donnell for Kilcar, and Joe O'Donnell and Liam Kelly for Dungloe — were prominent in the game, which mainly was a battle between forwards and backs.

In this respect, Kilcar were better served by their forwards. Proinnsias Carr and Cathal McLaughlin in a half forward line led by Gerry Breslin, posed many problems for the Rosses defence, taking their chances, or sending their teammates attacking. Cathal McLaughlin was the player who eventually sealed the issue in favour of his side in the second half, at a period when Dungloe looked

like taking the initiative, when he soloed through and scored the only goal of the game with a deceptive shot from about 30 yards out. Throughout the game, Sean Doogan and J. J. Lyons in a hard-moving forward line led by Frank O'Donnell, never relaxed in their efforts.

Dungloe missed the services of Jim 'C'. Boyle in this game, but it is doubtful if even his inclusion would have materially changed the trend of the game, although even Kilcar will concede that had not John Campbell's pile driving goaling effort been saved by Michael Haughey in the second half, anything might have happened, for that would have left but a point between the sides. The Rosses men put up a rare battle, but they were not altogether as well equipped as they used to be to parry effectively the play of a superbly fit Kilcar fifteen, playing with purpose and determination. Dungloe erred too, on occasions, in failing to send the ball on, or holding it too long in solo efforts when forwards were on scoring incursions. This did not always pay off, but with the Kilcar defenders fielding so well, even another approach might not have brought great results either.

In the centre half back position, Ownie Boyle put in a tremendous display for Dungloe, while full back Neil G. O'Donnell, although labouring under a height disadvantage in marking Frank O'Donnell, could not be criticised for the effort he put into his work. Nial McCole, at left full back, was very much in the picture when Kilcar were in their most dangerous attacking mood, particularly in the second half, and when Dom Murray came into the game for a period in the second half, he showed all his genius for spreadeagling a defence, but Kilcar rallied and successfully weathered the storm.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

Dungloe looked well as they took the field in their new red jerseys with white collars. They faced the breeze, and soon Kilcar were into their stride from a clearance by Eamon Browne, and Proinnsias Carr opened the scoring with a point. In the third minute, Frank O'Donnell fielded high and sent the ball to Sean Doogan, whose shot was deflected for a '50' which proved abortive. Kilcar kept up the attack, but failed to score again until the 7th minute when Frank O'Donnell punched the ball over the bar from a centre by Sean Doogan. Joe O'Donnell and

Sean O'Donnell led a Dungloe attack which was nipped by Paddy Haughey, but Sean Doogan shot wide. Spectators held their breath as Frank O'Donnell fielded well in and let fly a rasping shot, but the ball struck the woodwork and was cleared. Kilcar had bad luck in finishing before Sean Doogan sent a sideline free to Proinnsias Carr who pointed in the 14th minute. Two minutes later, Paddy Haughey fielded the kick out and drove the ball over the bar from about 40 yards, and then Eamon Brown cleared to Proinnsias Carr who again pointed. Frank O'Donnell sent to Sean Doogan, who was fouled, and Cathal McLaughlin pointed the 14 yards free in the 19th minute, to give Kilcar a two-goal lead. In the 21st minute, John Campbell opened the scoring for Dungloe with a point from a 14 yards free. A minute later, from a clearance by Paddy Haughey, the ball went via Sean O'Donnell to Cathal McLaughlin, who pointed for Kilcar. Two minutes later, McLaughlin sent over one of the best points of the game off a sideline free. Dungloe rallied, but Eddie O'Donnell shot wide and when the same player was fouled going through John Campbell pointed the free in the 26th minute. Frank O'Donnell was fouled at the other end, and Cathal McLaughlin pointed the free to leave Kilcar leading 0-9 to 0-2 at half-time.

DUNGLOE'S RALLY

Dungloe had an early point by John Campbell off a free in the second half, but this was soon negatived by Gerry Breslin. Dom Murray replied with a point for Dungloe, who now looked dangerous, and when Joe O'Donnell sent the ball in, Campbell was again on the mark with another free to leave the scores 0-10 to 0-5 in favour of Kilcar. Joe O'Donnell, playing well, sent over another point for Dungloe from well out, and when Murray placed Campbell, he let fly a pile-driver from close range, but Haughey brought off a grand, cool save. Kilcar rallied and forced two '50's' which proved abortive. Dungloe came through again, and Haughey saved from Campbell. Twenty minutes had gone when Cathal McLaughlin raced up the left wing in a solo effort, beat his man on the turn and sent the ball direct to the net from about 30 yards out. Liam Kelly shot wide at the other end, but Kilcar were all set on success and Gerry Breslin stretched their lead with another point in the 25th minute. Dungloe forced a '50' which was taken by Ownie Boyle, and again

Haughey saved well from Kelly. Near full time, John Campbell pointed for Dungloe, to complete the scoring.

The teams were:

Kilcar — Michael Haughey; Jimmy Cunningham, Jimmy Doogan, Aodh O'Donnell; Paddy Haughey, Paddy O'Donnell, Eamon Brown; Sean O'Donnell, James Ward; Proinnsias Carr, Gerry Breslin, Cathal McLaughlin; J. J. Lyons, Frank O'Donnell, Sean Doogan.

Dungloe — Packie Boyle; Seamus P. O'Donnell, Neil G. O'Donnell, Neil McCole; Ben O'Donnell, Ownie Boyle, Manus Ward; Joe O'Donnell, Liam Kelly; Sean McGarvey, Eddie O'Donnell, Sean O'Donnell; Seamus Maguire, John Campbell, Dom Murray.

Snippets

In 1954 Kilcar won the Inniskeel Minor Cup by defeating Ardara in the final with a score of 1-7 to 1-1 and the Kilcar team was: W. Doogan, J. Byrne, S. McNelis, S. O'Donnell, S. McNulty, P. O'Donnell, A. O'Donnell, S. Hegarty, B. Cotter, L. O'Donnell, L. O'Donnell, B. McNelis, P. Haughey, C. Cannon.

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On the Donegal minor team in 1954 was P. O'Donnell and L. McLaughlin.

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Playing in the McKenna Cup versus Tyrone in 1952 was Christy Hegarty of Teelin. Christy also played with Mayo having quite a bit of success.

* * * * *

In 1954 Big Frank saved Donegal with a last minute point versus Monaghan.

"BIG FRANK"



He first came into the limelight in 1946 when cornerback on the Connaught Colleges team that won the inter-provincial championships of that year. Among his teammates were the "Terrible Twins" — Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell of Galway.

Having moved to St. Patrick's Teacher Training College in Dublin he played both senior (league) and junior (championship) football for Dublin in '48. He began his teaching career in the De La Salle School, Ballyshannon, and while there he played for Ballyshannon and Donegal (1948) at fullback.

Donegal's goalie then was Charlie Campbell of Dungloe and right fullback was Barney Coyne of Gweedore who died last year (R.I.P.) Moving to Easkey in December 1948 he played for Easkey "Sea Blues" and Co. Sligo until 1951, winning a Co. Sligo league. He remembers playing against such as Padraic Carney and Tom Langan of Mayo, Donal Keenan of Roscommon (later President of the G.A.A.), Wick Higgins, Tony Tighe and Peter "Baibe Ruth" Donoghue of Cavan in championship and league games. Moving back to Donegal in 1951 to teach at Tamlagh, near Pettigo, he rejoined Co. Donegal and Kilcar — a team he previously played with in

the junior final of 1948, when they were defeated by Downings.

In 1952 he played beside M. J. (Mickey Rua) Gallagher of Gweedore at midfield on the first Donegal senior team to play in a competitive game in Croke Park. Other local players were Andy Carr of Portachran and Conal McCauley of Killybegs. From 1952 to 1958 he played on senior and junior Donegal teams winning one Lagan Cup medal and two Ulster Junior Championship medals. In 1951 he won his only Senior County Championship medal with Killybegs. His only success with a Kilcar team was a league medal won in 1960. He retired in 1961 but reappeared to play for Jimmy Magee's All Stars against a Co. Donegal selection in 1977. He can still be seen at lunchtime any school day defending the goals against the "enemy" at Rockfield N.S., Ballyshannon, where he has taught since leaving Pettigo in 1953.

Best player, Sean Purcell, Galway; best Donegal player, Patsy Brogan (Donegal Town); best game, v Armagh, Clones, 1951; worst game, v Kerry, Croke Park, Junior final, 1956; most important score, 45 yard free to level the scoring in the last minute v Armagh in Ballybay, 1954; his football idol, James Patrick McGinley; most embarrassing moment, allowed a ground kick by Joe McCallum of Antrim to skid off his boot and over the bar for the winning point (for Antrim) in Corrigan Park, first round of the Ulster Championship game, 1953. Only regret, never won a county championship with Kilcar; code of conduct, play hard, play fair, forget all animosity afterwards. He thinks the present Kilcar team is terrific and claims that if they had a bit more faith in themselves they would have won **all** the major honours for the past five years.

Ádh mór orthu!!

Snippet

Donegal were the Ulster Junior Football champions in 1952 and on this team was Frank O'Donnell. On the panel were Andy Carr and Enda Cunningham. In the Ulster final Big Frank was reported to have had a 70 yards kick out.

MEMORIES FROM THE "GRAND STAND"

As Croke Park has its Hogan and Cusack Stands likewise too Towney Park has its own Grand Stand. This natural mound of solid rock rises to a height of twenty or more feet close to the touchline on the South side of the Park.

Over the long years since Gaelic football has been played at Towney Park, this has been a vantage point from which to view the games and so, needless to say, that on all days when a match was being played, there was always a clamouring to find a seat or even standing room on this Grand Stand.

From early afternoon on a Sunday, when a match was taking place, people were assembling here in order to gain the best view of the players. Many notable characters were amongst those who came faithfully — Frank (Jimmy Bhig) McNelis, Paddy Tim O'Gara (Bradley), James Maloney, John (Pat) Hegarty, Mick (Hannah) Carr and Thomas Erskine. In later years these were joined by Con Furey, Michael Driscoll, Tommy Diskin and many other stalwarts of the G.A.A.

As the game progressed and battle waged between the opposing teams on the playing pitch so too did the battle wage on the Grand Stand with all of these shouting words of "Come On" and encouragement to their local heroes. "Bradley", with stick in hand, frantically trying to keep order on the cheering crowd often found that his efforts were of no avail. Some of these were so engrossed in the play that they actually believed that they were taking part and from the action below they corresponded with similar action on the Grand Stand.

A story is recalled about a County Match played there between Donegal and Armagh in the Mid Thirties at which Mick (Hannah) Carr was present. Mick, of course, believed that he was actually playing in the Donegal Team and in the days after the match he told everybody that he was the one who gave the pass to the great John O'Donnell who scored the winning point for Donegal.

But if the Grand Stand had its own characters so too had the opposite side of the Park, which ran by the river-side, here were

Jimmy and Paddy Boyle, Paddy McGuire (Johnny Shean), Johnny Murray, Paddy Sweeney, John Jimmy Harry (Cannon) and countless others too numerous to mention. With cudgels stout these crossed the river and took up their position on the touch line by the river. There too battle raged to the hilt and woe betide those who shouted in opposition.

Ah! what memories, what Golden memories of the past at Towney Park!!

The Grand-Stand and the River-side still remain, but all of these characters of those days are long since gone to their reward except James Maloney who is still happily with us.

To the memory of those who are gone we recall these lines:

"All, all are gone but still lives on
The fame of those who died,
All true men, like you men
Remember them with Pride."

Solus na nglóire da n-anama go léir!



A GROUP ON TOWNEY'S GRANDSTAND. Front row, l. to r.: Tommy McHugh, Paddy McShane, John Browne, Michael O'Driscoll. Middle row: Jim Gillespie, Michael Erskine, John McCauley, Eddie McBreaty, Frank Browne. Back row, Paddy Carr, Tommy McHugh (Muckcross), Proinnsias Carr.

THE SIXTIES



Swain Douglas, captain of the 1959 League winning team with Cara Cunningham, Francis Cunningham, etc.

DEMOCRAT CUP 1959

In the build up to the Democrat Cup final, 1959, which did not take place until May 1960 Kilcar senior footballers had a few interesting tussles because Dungloe, Glenties and Kilcar finished with even points in the Division and in the play-offs Dungloe beat Kilcar and Kilcar beat Glenties. Both Dungloe and Kilcar went through and Kilcar had a narrow escape against Cloughaneely in the quarter final at Dungloe where a punched goal by Jimmy Doogan, who was at full forward, put a better look on the scoreboard in the last five minutes with a score of 2-5 to 1-4.

In the semi-final in April Kilcar beat the defending League holders for the previous two years, Letterkenny, 2-10 to 0-8.

"The Kilcar team seemed to be composed of men of steel against whom wave after wave of St. Eunan's attacks broke in vain" (Donegal Democrat).

In the preview of the final on April 29th, 1960, in the Donegal Democrat it was stated that both Dungloe and Kilcar had defensive players well above the average and that the forwards were evenly matched.

The men who fielded majestically in the final were centre back Paddy O'Donnell, full back Jimmy Doogan, Aodh O'Donnell, Jimmy Cunningham, Packie Haughey, Eamon Browne.

The Donegal Democrat had the following in Spotlight on the Gaels on the 13th May, 1960: **"KILCAR'S DAY OF TRIUMPH"**

Kilcar's facile victory in the final of the Democrat Cup competition certainly set the South West Gaeltacht ablaze with enthusiasm on Sunday week when scenes of great jubilation were witnessed on the arrival home of the victorious team and supporters. People of all ages, men, women and children joined in rejoicing the first senior county football league victory for the club in a quarter of a century.

A triumphant procession bearing the much coveted trophy, the glittering Democrat Cup, wended its way through the Donegal highlands from Glenties to Ardara and on through Killybegs by the winding road along the verge of the picturesque Donegal Bay to Fintra, Largy, Shalway and Bavin. The huge convoy of cars carrying cheering supporters presented a most impressive spectacle as it streamed along the coastal road.

The procession was led by the car carrying the captain of the team, Sean Doogan, who held the trophy aloft. The cars bearing the

other members of the victorious team were next in order. All were bedecked with flags and buntings while most of them were decorated in the St. Cartha's club colours and in all the number of cars was between fifty and sixty.

The jubilation reached its climax as the victorious team, club officials and supporters made a triumphant entry into Kilcar town. There the players who had already been 'chaired' from the park in Glenties were again feted and extended heartiest congratulations in complimentary speeches by club officials and supporters.

This was a gala evening for the village and district and one that will long be remembered by those present for its enthusiasm and excitement."

In March 1960 there were inter divisional senior games in order to select a county panel and many Kilcar players featured on the South West Division but only Paddy O'Donnell, Sean O'Donnell, J. J. Lyons and Cathal McLaughlin reached the final panel and they were beaten by Derry in the Ulster Junior quarter final on the 29 of March, 1960.

In the championship played in July Kilcar met Ardara at Towney and short nine of the winning league team won convincingly by 3-6 to 1-2.

The Kilcar scorers were Sean Doogan 1-3, P. Carr 1-0, Connie Cunningham 1-0, Leo Murray, P. Haughey and P. O'Donnell 0-1 each. This team with many new faces was M. Haughey, J. Cunningham, S. McGuinness, S. McNulty, P. Haughey, C. Brady, A. Hegarty, E. Browne, J. Ward, P. Carr, S. O'Donnell, L. Murray, J. Boyle, S. Doogan and C. Cunningham.

Paddy McShane, who had returned from the States, repaced Joseph Boyle in the last five minutes.

In the next championship game Kilcar were short five of their regulars and at Towney went down 2-13 to 1-8 at the hands and feet of Dungloe.

At Glenties on the 14th of August the divisional play-off was held before a crowd of approximately 4,000 and a gate of £140 where Dungloe came out on top again with a score of 3-8 to 1-5.

This team was short Paddy O'Donnell and Gerry Breslin of the senior league winning team.

Kilcar and Dungloe were also top of the division in the league. Kilcar trounced Ballyshannon in Towney 5-12 to 0-3. Lost in Ballyshannon 3-2 to 0-4 but beat Dungloe



KILCAR JUNIORS 1960. Front row, l. to r.: Leo McLaughlin, Oliver McIntyre, Conal McGinley, Father Con Cunningham, Micheál Mac Giolla Easbuic, Maurice Boyle, Seán Burke. Back row: Johnny Byrne (half wicket), Francie Cunningham, John O'Donnell, Connie Meehan, Dónal Boyle, Dan Cunningham, John Carron, Seán Brady, J. Cunningham, Mickey Maloney coming across field.

twice 2-5 to 0-6 at home and 1-7 to 0-9 in Rosser Park. Then Kilcar and Dungloe met in the quarter final and Dungloe won 4-4 to 0-8 and Seán O'Donnell, who moved back to centre half back, was the mainstay of the Dungloe defence that day.

The Kilcar team that day, the 27th of November, 1960, was: P. McGowan, S. McNulty, J. Doogan, J. Cunningham, A. O'Donnell, S. McGuinness, E. Browne, S. O'Donnell, C. Brady, C. McLaughlin, P. O'Donnell, P. Carr, C. McGinley, F. O'Donnell, J. Gillespie. Subs., L. Murray and P. Haughey.

Kilcar had a fine junior team that year as well and they were defeated by Glenties in the Divisional final on the 29th of August and that team consisted of: S. Brady, J. Cunningham, P. Gillespie, F. Gallagher, P. O'Donnell, P. McNamee, S. Burke, F. Cunningham, J. Cunningham, O. McIntyre, M. Boyle, J. Gordin and M. Gillespie.

In February, 1961, at the Kilcar annual general meeting the club reflected back on a very successful year where there was great activity in all sectors.

Mr. James McBrearty was the outgoing chairman and he congratulated everybody on a very successful year in the history of the club and he suggested that there should be a greater interest in the juvenile football with the formation of a school league.

Even though there were expenses over £300 the treasurer, Proinsias Carr, reported a healthy credit balance.

The officers for 1961 were as follows: Chairman, Mr. S. McBrearty; secretary, Mr. Michael Emsline; treasurer, Mr. P. Carr;

Town committee, Frank Gillespie, N. J. Doogan, P. McGowan, M. McGinley, Charlie McDevitt, B. Boyle and S. Boyle; team manager, S. Cronin, forestry inspector; captain, Mr. F. O'Donnell; vice-captain, Mr. C. McLaughlin; junior captian, Mr. F. Gillespie; selection committee, N. J. Doogan, Charlie Brady, Charles Cunningham, S. Cronin.

On Sunday, the 5th of March, Kilcar met McCumhalls in the semi-final of the League. In a preview of this game Kilcar turned down Donegal Town as a neutral venue so confident they were of their own performance. The game was played in Ballybofey but Kilcar were defeated 3-5 to 1-4. Harry Lafferty scored a goal in each half and big Patsy O'Donnell was Kilcar's best player over the hour.

That Kilcar team was M. Haughey, H. Hegarty, J. Doogan, S. McNulty, J. Cunningham, S. McGuinness, E. Browne, Patsy O'Donnell, Charlie Brady, Josie Gillespie, Paddy O'Donnell, C. McLaughlin, P. Carr, F. O'Donnell, S. Doogan.

In the Senior League and Championship of 1961 Dungloe were again the masters in the Division and Kilcar lost the services of their main scorer Cathal McLaughlin (R.I.P.) through injury.

The Kilcar junior team played exciting football in 1961 and defeated Ranafast in the League in October by 8-8 to 3-1 with Connie Cunningham at full forward scoring a massive tally of 3-3.

Cathal McLaughlin was able to play junior when he returned from injury in late 1961 and early '62 and another great footballer came on

the scene in 1961 from Laois and that was Des Houlihan (R.I.P.)

Kilcar had good wins in the Junior League, 5-9 to 0-1 over Ardara in Ardara and 0-11 to 0-5 over Ballyshannon in Glenties.

The final of the Junior League competition was played on the 15th of April, 1962, against Castlefin in Donegal and what an ugly day that was with the referee being assaulted after the match. Kilcar were on top in all sectors and won by 3-15 to 1-1. Castlefin's goal was a soft goal early in the first half.

The Kilcar team was Michael Gillespie, J. J. Cunningham, Sean O'Donnell, Aidan O'Donnell, Aodh Hegarty, Paddy O'Donnell, Tony McGowan, Francis Cunningham and Des Houlihan, Leo Murray, Joseph Boyle, Cathal McLaughlin, Maurice Boyle, Barney Cunningham and Connie Cunningham.

This was the first time that Kilcar won this competition. During their junior campaign sometimes referees had a habit of not turning up at the appointed venue. This led to local referees taking over and over robust play was frequent. On one occasion the Kilcar team refused to play which left officials in the position of returning the admission money to the large attendance.



Michael Byrne, R.I.P. (Bogagh) and Paddy McShane (Kilcausey) returning from a 13-a-side at Pettigo in the early 50's.

Kilcar had another outstanding year's football in 1962. They took part in a 13-a-side tournament run by the County Board and had a draw against McCumhalls early on by 3-9 to 5-3. The Donegal Democrat states:

"Kilcar's superiority at midfield where Patsy O'Donnell towered above the opposition was a big factor in their success. In Houlihan they had a fleetfooted enterprising forward who not only exploited openings but made them. Cathal McLaughlin played well for Kilcar but outstanding was Charlie Brady who surprised the opposition by his dash and determination which never flagged."



Paddy O'Donnell (Cashlings), centre half back on Junior team in victory over Castlefin, 1962.



TOWNEY 1960. Front row, l. to r.: Ian Hegarty, Micky Cannon, Seán Boyle, John Cannon (Derrylaghan). Back row: Eunan Murray, M. Haughey, Vincent Carr, P. Haughey, Seamus Doherty.



KILCAR SENIORS 1962, County Championship semi-final. Front row, l. to r.: Cathal McLaughlin, Seán Baines, Francis Cunningham, Ian Hegarty, Michael Haughey, Paddy Gillespie, Joseph Boyle, Proinsias Carr, Patsie Haughey, Des Houlihan. Back row: Eamonn Browne, Seamus McNulty, Barney Cunningham, Sean McGuinness, Patsy O'Donnell, Charlie Brady, Joseph Gillespie, Paddy O'Donnell (Cashlings), Jimmy Doogan, Paddy O'Donnell (Bogagh), Jimmy Cunningham.

Kilcar won the replay on the 13th of May but lost the final to Dungloe on the 14th of October. Dungloe 2-7, Kilcar 1-4. John Campbell scored Dungloe's two goals early in the second half and knocked Kilcar out of their stride as they had led from the start.

The Kilcar team: Jimmy Doogan, Seamus McNulty, Charlie Brady, Ian Hegarty, Paddy O'Donnell, Jimmy Cunningham, Sean McGuinness, Patsy O'Donnell, Joe Boyle, Des Houlihan, Cathal McLaughlin, Barney Cunningham, Francis Cunningham. Sub., Proinsias Carr.

In the Championship on the 19th of August Kilcar had a draw with McCumhails again 0-6 each on rain soaked day in Donegal Town. Kilcar could have won this game towards the end with a bit of more luck. Cathal McLaughlin got the equalising point with a



Mickey Haughey, excellent goalkeeper of late 50's, with 87%, taken in Dungloe 1961.

free. The replay was again in Donegal Town and this time on another wet day McCumhails won by four points.

In the Democrat Cup League which began in 1962 Dungloe and Kilcar qualified from Section A to go into the semi-finals with a points table as shown.

SECTION A	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kilcar	6	5	0	1	10
Dungloe	6	4	0	2	8
Donegal	6	2	0	2	4
Ballyshannon	6	1	0	5	2

(Donegal Democrat, 9-11-'62)

Kilcar lost that one game on a very cold day to Dungloe 2-7 to 1-6.

In the semi-final on the 6th of April, 1963, Kilcar defeated McCumhails 1-8 to 2-3. This was a very exciting game and as the Donegal Democrat reporter saw it:

"A large crowd saw the South Westerners come bang into the reckoning for honours with four minutes of the second half gone when Cathal McLaughlin centered the ball which Joe Leper, the McCumhails keeper failed to hold and in the twinkling of an eye the advancing Ian Hegarty had buried the ball in the net".

Aodh O'Donnell and Paddy O'Donnell played with some great fielding that day and the move that won the game was the switching of Aodh to centre half and Paddy to full back.

There were some tense moments at the end when McCumhails were two points behind and were awarded a penalty which Micky



SEVEN-A-SIDE IN KILLYBEGS, 1962. Front row, l. to r.: Ian Hegarty, Packie Haughey, Micky Haughey. Back row: Hugh Byrne (team manager), Eamonn Browne, Jimmy Doogan, Joseph Boyle, Leo Murray.

Haughey saved and was injured in the process. Patsy McGowan took over in goals.

Then on to the final against Dungloe who had defeated Ballyshannon.

Kilcar were favourites for the title because of their sturdy backline and Des Houlihan was the spearhead of their attack but the final on the 5th of May, 1963 did not live up to expectations and Dungloe won 2-6 to 0-7.

In the 12th minute of the second half Kilcar were out of contention when Sean Ferriter scored a great goal for Dungloe.

The Kilcar team that day was: M. Haughey, S. McNulty, P. O'Donnell, J. Cunningham, P. Haughey, A. O'Donnell, C. Brady, B. Cunningham, J. Gillespie, J. Boyle, S. McGuinness, D. Houlihan, F. Cunningham,



SEVEN-A-SIDE WINNERS, CLAR 1963. Front row, l. to r.: Ian Hegarty, Joseph O'Boyle, Micky Cannon. back row: Charlie Brady, Donál McNulty, Seamus McNulty (Packie Haughey with camera).

P. O'Donnell, C. McLaughlin. Subs., Ian Hegarty for F. Cunningham, Eamon Browne for Patsy O'Donnell.

Conal McCauley was team manager in those years.

On the county scene Donegal had a fine team with Paddy O'Donnell, and Des Houlihan featuring on the junior team and in July 1963 Des Houlihan played on the senior team which beat Cavan to reach the Ulster final with other great players like Sean Ferriter, Frankie McFeely, P. J. Flood, Sean O'Donnell, etc.

In the Championship of 1963 Kilcar had a draw with the Dungloe team 2-7 to 3-4 in Rosses Park and they won the replay at Towney 1-11 to 2-5. Big man for Kilcar here



COUNTY FINAL DAY v McCUMHAILLS AT BALLYSHANNON, 1963. Front row, l. to r.: Des Houlihan, Paddy Gillespie, Packie Haughey, Joseph Boyle, Seán Burke, Jimmy Cunningham, Ian Hegarty, Seán McGuinness, Séamus McNulty, Francy Cunningham, Cathal McLaughlin. Back row: Eamonn Browne, Paddy O'Donnell, Barney Cunningham, Patsy McGowan, Joseph Gillespie, Patsy O'Donnell, Aodh O'Donnell, Micky Haughey, Connie Cunningham, Charlie Brady.

again was Patsy O'Donnell and Des Houlihan proved too hot a handful for Sean O'Donnell. In the semi-final Kilcar beat Inishowen 0-14 to 1-5 after a difficult enough first half.

New faces in the Kilcar lineup at this stage were Tom Purcell and Kevin McDonald. Tom Purcell, a fine hurler, came from Tipperary and worked in Meenaneary factory and Kevin McDonald who worked in the forestry. Barney Cunningham had emigrated to the U.S.A. at this stage which was a big loss but Kilcar had three county representatives in Patsy O'Donnell, Paddy O'Donnell and Des Houlihan.



"CAUGHT IN THE ACT" at Drumconnor.

The final versus McCumhaills for the second time in three years was at Ballyslannam on the 3rd of November was billed as the game of the year. McCumhaills had county men Brendan and Frankie McFieley, Harry Laverty, John Dan McMenamin, Dan McCool, Joe Leper, Michael Deherby and Sean Young, who played with Derry.

Kilcar were defeated 1-6 to 0-4 with all the Kilcar scores coming from frees in a disappointing game.

The Kilcar team that day was: Michael Haughey, Seamus McNulty, Charlie Brady, Jimmy Cunningham, Packie Haughey, Paddy O'Donnell, Sean McGuinness, Josie Gillespie and Patsy O'Donnell, Josie Boyle, Des Houlihan, Cathal McLaughlin, Ian Hegarty, South O'Donnell, Kevin McDonald. Sub., Patsy McGowan for Kevin McDonald.

Jimmy Cunningham, the captian of the team, had a great game as did his partners Charlie Brady and Seamus McNulty.

In the final of the 1963 County 13-a-side tournament Sean McCumhaills defeated Kilcar at Ballybofey on the 10th of May, 1964, 4-7 to 3-6 and on Ascension Thursday

McCumhaills won the McClafferty Cup 1-8 to 1-5.

New names to appear on the Kilcar panel at this stage were Micky Cannon in goal, Conal McShane and Michael Byrne. Killybegs separated to form a junior team in 1964, and results were poor at senior level. Glencolmille left to form a senior team for 1965. This meant that the services of Cathal McLaughlin, Francy, Barney and Connie Cunningham, Paddy Gillespie, Josie Gillespie were lost. Jimmy Doogan had a knee injury and emigrated to London; Leo Murray emigrated and Josie Boyle was laid off with a leg injury. Some of the other players were "getting past it".

But there was "light somewhere in the tunnel" and Brendan McShane was in charge of the Minor team which was combined from Glen, Kilcar and Killybegs.

One of the team, Proinnsias Byrne, Doonin, was on the County Minor team with Proinnsias Maloney of Carrick.



RETURNING FROM 'SEVENS' AT TOWNAWILLY. Left to right: Seán Carroll, Charlie McNally, Seán Doogan, Patsy McGowan, Ian Hegarty, Micky Maloney, Micky Breslin.

The Naomh Mhuire minor team beat Gweedore in a tough encounter at Glenties in the quarter-final and beat Inishowen in the semi-final and went on to beat Four Masters, Donegal Town, 2-7 to 2-4 at O'Donnell Park, Letterkenny, on the 13th of September, 1964.

Kilcar were hit by the absence of three top players which could not be released from St. Eunan's College and the half time score was 1-4 to 1-3.

Kilcar were strong at midfield where Proinnsias Byrne and Sean McNelis put in fine performances. Others to shine including a strong defence were P. J. Maloney, J. Fitzgerald, J. O'Sullivan and Tom McShane.



KILCAR, CO. MINOR CHAMPIONS 1964. Front row, l. to r.: Micky Breslin, Barney McIntyre, Jimmy Maloney, Seán McGinley, Proinnsias Byrne (capt.), Seán McNelis, Con McShane, F. B. Campbell, Éamonn McBrearty. Back row: Tom Fitzgerald, P. J. Maloney, Donál Cannon, T. Smith, Michael Doherty, Kevin Gillespie, Hugh Kennedy, Seamus Campbell, Tom McShane.

The Kilcar team was: Donal Cannon, Seamus Campbell, Kevin Gillespie, D. Sheridan, Seamus Gillespie, Tom McShane, P. J. Maloney, P. Byrne (capt.) and Sean McNelis, T. Smith, J. Fitzgerald, C. Haughey, Sean McGinley, J. O'Sullivan, Michael Breslin.

The Kilcar scorers were: S. McNelis 1-2, P. Byrne 0-1, M. Breslin 1-0, J. O'Sullivan 0-2, J. Fitzgerald 0-1, T. Smith 0-1.

Added to the above playing panel were Hugh Kennedy, Eamonn McBrearty, Bernard McIntyre, Con McShane, Phil Ward and the Letterkenny trio of Michael Doherty, Francis B. Campbell and Barney McIntyre.

This particular minor team celebrated their victory at a presentation in the Glenbay Hotel on the 3rd of January, 1965, with Charlie McDevitt as chairman and Michael Gillespie as secretary and assistant to Mr. Brendan McShane, team manager, was Mr. Joseph O'Boyle.

In 1965 and 1966 Kilcar seniors failed to win any game but managed at all times to field a team. Sean McGinley, Umiskin, then '15' played in goals and on the 31st of May they were beaten in the Democrat Cup Senior League by St. Columba's at Glen by 2-8 to 1-10. The Kilcar team then was: M. Gillespie, C. Hegarty, A. O'Donnell, K. Gillespie, P. Haughey, K. Browne, P. Byrne, E. Browne, I. Hegarty, J. Dillon, Proinnsias Carr, M. Byrne, J. Doogan, M. Cannon.

The wheel had turned full cycle very quickly and Kilcar were at the bottom in 1967 when only five turned up at the A.G.M. Everything was at a low ebb — those present were not available to hold positions — but then a little trick! It was suggested that the club should

disband and join under the umbrella of the St. Columba Club.

This seemed to do the trick and Sean McGinley and Packie Haughey became chairman and secretary respectively.

Those present at that meeting to carry on against all the odds were: Sean McGinley, Packie Haughey, Ian Hegarty, Charlie McDevitt, Michael Gillespie.

Kilcar joined Killybegs in 1967 under Na Fianna for both Senior League and Championship and although they won no honours they did quite well in the league and in one particular league game they beat St. Joseph's in July, 1967, at Towney by 3-7 to 3-2.

The scorers were Des Houlihan 2-2, D. Lamb 1-0, Ian Hegarty 0-2, S. McGinley 0-1, M. Byrne 0-1 and S. McNulty 0-1.

Also in 1967 Joseph Boyle played on the Donegal Junior team in the Ulster Championship and Donal Doherty played at centre forward on the minor team.

A revival began in 1968 when Kilcar dropped to Junior and reached the county semi-final of the championship to be beaten by Downings 2-11 to 0-4.

In the Junior League — having beaten St. Columba's — Kilcar then beat Termon in a replay on the 20th of October in Ballybofey 2-11 to 2-8. Paddy Cannon (Straleel) was the hero of the day with a tally of 2 goals to his credit.

Then Kilcar played Convoy twice in the final — both were draws, the last game played in Ballyshannon and the competition was never finished — therefore Kilcar were joint winners of the Junior League in 1968 and were on the way back.

The Kilcar team which defeated Termon: W. Gillespie, Seamus McNulty, Seamus Campbell, Kevin Gillespie, Packie Haughey, Connie Hegarty, Ian Hegarty, Eamonn Browne, Seam McGinley, Proinnsias Carr, Paddy Cannon, John Quinn, Seamus Gallagher, Jimmy Doogan, Tommy Hegarty.

In 1968 St. Columba's U-14s under Gerry Kennedy and Charlie Lyons (R.I.P.) won the County U-14 title with the help of Aodh Cannon and Michael Carr.

In 1969 Kilcar joined forces with Glencolumbkille under the banner of St. Patrick's and in the Championship they defeated Glenties 3-10 to 3-6 on the 22nd of June and then they met St. Enda's in the quarter final. St. Enda's was a Killybegs-Jordan combination and St. Enda's won this game on the 30th of June by 2-3 to 1-5. The St. Pat's team wore a white rig.

The St. Patrick's team in this competition was: W. Gillespie, K. Gillespie, S. Campbell, C. McShane, Ian Hegarty, Connie Hegarty, D. Cronin, F. Cunningham, J. Gillespie, S. Gallagher, J. Cunningham, P. J. McIntyre, M. Byrne, C. Gillespie, P. Gillespie.

This team had some fine battles with St. Joseph's and Clanna Gael (Donegal Town) in the League without gaining any great success.

In the Junior Championship on the 7th of September Naomh Columba defeated Naomh Wharran at Fintona by 2-11 to 1-7 and this team was: W. Gillespie, S. McNulty, S. Campbell, D. Doherty, P. Haughey, K. Gillespie, D. Cronin, C. Hegarty, F. Campbell, S.

Gallagher, M. O'Donnell, M. Byrne, I. Hegarty, S. Gillespie, M. O'Donnell, Subs., H. Shovlin and P. Carr.

In the Minor football Iniskeel Cup the Kilcar team comprising of players from Kilcar and Glencolumbkille won the final in Glenties defeating Rosses Rovers 4-2 to 0-8 — having defeated Killybegs in the semi-final by 4-18 to 0-3.

This team consisted of D. McBrearty, S. Shovlin, H. Shovlin, B. McIntyre, B. McNelis, A. McGuire, J. Cunningham, B. Hegarty, J. McGinley, M. O'Donnell, M. Carr, A. Cannon, E. Gillespie. Subs., J. J. McBrearty, S. Cannon, S. O'Donnell, E. Craig.

On the county scene Michael O'Donnell (Kilcausey) played at midfield on the Vocational team and Danny Gillespie was a substitute on the county minor team.

Joseph Boyle and Con McShane (Teelin) played on the Donegal Junior team and Ken Browne, the Wicklow player who took up a teaching post in Carrick, also played for Kilcar at this stage.

The late sixties were not very successful in Kilcar on the football field and even the jerseys were changed quite a lot. The Na Fianna team of 1967 wore white and Kilcar wore white that particular year as well. In 1968-'69 it was green jerseys (white collars) from Gaeltarra Eireann — but it was back to the blue and gold the following year and into the seventies.



TÍR CHONAILL GAELS 1963. Front row, l. to r., — —, Barney McLaughlin (Teelin), Jackie Rush (Castlefin), Bernard Lafferty (Ballybofey), Jackie Reilly (Ballybofey), Christy Boyle (Glenties), Frank McLaughlin (Teelin), Tony Rush (Castlefin), Donál Boyle (Dungloe). Back row: Barney Coyle (Gaoth Dobhair), Enda Brennan (Mountcharles), J. Early (Glenties), Joe Shovelin (Ardara), Pat Harvey (Frosses), Seoirse Williamson (Frosses), Jimmy Doogan (Kilcar), Micky Duffy (Letterkenny), — —, Peadar Duffy (Letterkenny), Davy Quinn (Lifford), Phonsie McNelis (Teelin), John Kelly (Ballybofey).

NA PÁIRCEANNA i dTAMHNAIGH

Páirc peile maith go leor, gidh go rabh sé goirid, a bhí i dTamhnaigh ó na triochadaí ar aghaidh agus bhí neart scríofa faoin suíomh álainn agus an radharc álainn i mBá Thamhnaigh leis na "Grandstands" ar gach taobh. Bhí grinneal gainimhe aige a bhí i gcónaí tirim agus bhí sé réasúnta reidh. Dúirt Seán Séamus Mac Niallais, nach maireann, go mbíodh daoine ag iascaireacht siáin ón "Grandstand" agus go dtigeadh an taoide aníos ar an léana. Roimh na ficheadaí chuir muintir na h-áite clocha móra amach i gcoinne a taoide le h-asail agus le cairteanna. Líon sé suas le gaineamh na trá agus tógadh balla stroighne cois na h-abhann i 1950/'51 sa doigh nach mbeadh briseadh agus réabadh a dhéanamh ar an talamh. Bhí Seosamh O h-Eochaid (Gillapy) i gceannas na n-oibríthe.

Ag deireadh na gcaogadaí agus ag tús na seascaid, bhí mórán leoraithe agus tarracóirí ag togáil gairbhéil agus gainimhe ón trá. Mar gheall ar seo bhí an taoide ag ithe giota indhíaidh giota den talamh go dtí nach raibh fágtha ach tuairim dhá dtrian den gnáth pháirc imeartha. Ní raibh sé sásúil i gcóir cluichí do dhaoine fásta gidh go raibh sé measartha maith do na buachaillí óga.

Fuair Mícheál Óg Mac Pháidín, Teachta Dála agus Seanadóir, bás i 1958 agus go luath i 1959 tionóladh cruinniú sa pharóiste agus piocadh coiste sa bhaile agus i gcein le éacht éigin a dhéanamh i gcuimhne Mhíchil Óig. Ar an choiste sin bhí Aodh Ó h-Eigheartaigh, Cathaoirleach; Seán Mac Amhlaidh, Rúnaí; Bríd Ní Bheirn agus Aodh Mac Giolla Chearra, Cisteoirí; Bríd Nic Aoidh, Tomás Mac Giolla Chearra, Seán P. Ó Coilín agus Séamus Ó Cróinín.

Ceannáidodh píosaí talaimh reidh in aice na h-abhna ó fheirmeoirí Thamhnaigh agus bronnadh ar an chlub peile iad. Rinneadh a lán píobaire ansin, ag glanadh claí, ag glanadh dríseoga, ag tógáil clocha agus ag déanamh díogacha. Tugadh Páirc Chuimhneacháin Mhícheail Óig Mhic Phaidín air agus oscalaíodh é i Mí Lúnasa 1964 le cluiche in éadan an Chlochán Liath. Tá ardmholadh ag dul don choiste seo mar gan a gcuidíú is dócha nach mbeadh páirc imeartha nó fiú foireann ag buachaillí an pharóiste inniu.

Bhí páirc da gcuid féin ag Cill Charta ach bhí deacrachtaí leis mar go raibh sé doiligh an t-uisce a bhaint den pháirc nuair a bhí an aimsir fliuch mar gheall ar suíomh agus luí an talaimh, mar gheall ar an cineál créafóige agus mar gheall ar an toide ag dul isteach sna

díogacha nuair a d'éirigh sé. Ní raibh sé sábhailte peil a imirt ann sa gheimhreadh nó san Earrach dá mbeadh an aimsir go holc. Ní raibh an pháirc leathan go leor go háirithe ar an taobh in aice Bá Thamhnaigh, rud a d'fhág cluichí dian le caighdeán íseal peile agus muintir Chill Charta caillte ar pháirceanna móra Bhéal Atha Seannaigh agus Bhaile Bó Feich.

CARNÁN NA gCLOCH

Ar an taobh eile den abhann ón pháirc peile seo bhí muileann (mill) ar Ard a Mhuilinn. Bhí an aimsir tirim — ní raibh go leor uisce le roth an mhuilinn a' thionntadh — osclaíodh díogacha ó loch Mhín Uí Chanainn agus ó loch na mBradán. D'oscail na spéartha an oíche sin — tháinig an oiread sin uisce ina thonntracha anuas an abhainn gur thóg sé an muileann leis idir corp agus clíteacha agus d'fhág sé cuid mhór de na clocha ar thaobh na páirce den abhann. Bhí siad ansin ina charnán go dtí 1963. Creid é nó na creid!

Snippets

In the Minor championship semi-final in 1964 Kilcar defeated Carndonagh at Ballybofey with a score of 2-6 to 0-4. The Kilcar team that day was: D. Cannon, S. Campbell, K. Gillespie, F. B. Campbell, P. J. Maloney, C. McShane, M. Doherty, P. Byrne, S. McNelis, T. Smith, T. McShane, M. Breslin, J. Maloney.

In 1966 St. Patrick's was formed and entered a senior team in the Senior championship. This was a combination of Kilcar, Glen and Ardara. In their first game they defeated Dungloe by 1-10 to 0-7 at Sandfield. The St. Patrick's team then was: D. Cannon, S. McNulty, J. Ferris, J. J. Doherty, S. Gillespie, C. Diver, C. McNelis, P. O'Donnell, D. Keeney, J. Boyle, P. O. McNelis, D. Houlihan, S. Gillespie, J. Doogan, M. Byrne.

In 1963 Des Houlihan won a McKenna Cup medal with Donegal and scored 1-1 versus Cavan in the Ulster championship.

In 1963 Patsy O'Donnell was the star midfielder on the Donegal U-21 side which reached the Ulster final.

THE SEVENTIES

1970 started the decade on a quiet note without giving any indication that a major breakthrough by Kilcar footballers was near.

In the first round of the Donegal Junior Football League N. Muire, Kilcar, defeated Naomh Columba at the Parish Park, Cashel. N. Columba led at half time 0-1 to 0-2. The second half provided plenty of thrills for the spectators with many fine passages of good open football. Scorers for N. Muire were M. O'Donnell 1-1, S. Gallagher and M. O'Donnell 0-2 each and M. Byrne 0-1.

N. Muire: S. Shovlin, Kevin Gillespie, S. McNulty, S. Campbell, C. Hegarty, I. Hegarty, P. Carr, M. O'Donnell, F. B. Campbell, S. Gallagher, M. Byrne, D. Doherty, M. O'Donnell, M. Gillespie, H. Shovlin.

In January Donegal had reached the Ulster Vocational School final with Hugh Shovlin, Naomh Muire at centre half back.

The outstanding defensive work of Naomh Muire which nullified practically all the attempts of the Ardara forwards in the concluding stages of the hour played a major role in N. Muire's victory by 2-8 to 2-4 when the sides met in the Donegal Junior League at Michael O'g McFadden Memorial Park. Kilcar scores were S. Gallagher 1-2, H. Shovlin 1-0, I. Hegarty 0-2, C. Hegarty, T. Doherty, M. Byrne, M. O'Donnell 0-1 each. On the last Sunday in April Naomh Columba defeated Naomh Muire at the Parish Park, Cashel, in the first round of the Junior Championship. At half time N. Muire were leading 1-5 to 1-2 but Naomh Columba finished stronger and ran out eventual winners on the score of 3-5 to 2-5. Kilcar marksmen were B. Cotter, 1-4, M. Byrne 1-1.

Under terrible conditions Naomh Muire defeated Rosses Rovers in the Junior Championship. The sides were evenly matched throughout the first half but ten minutes into the second half Kilcar went on a rampage scoring three goals in as many minutes and ran out easy winners on a score of 5-4 to 2-3. Outstanding for Kilcar were S. Gallagher and S. Gillespie who after a long lay-off from football was showing signs of his former greatness. Referee was Charlie Brady.

St. McClafferty Cup — Naomh Muire 1-12, Glenties 1-5. Surprisingly good football was served up in this 13-a-side competition for the St. McClafferty Memorial Cup which was

played on Ascension Thursday evening in continuous rain on a field covered in pools of water. Half time score was Glenties 1-5, N. Muire 1-3. Kilcar had Jimmy Cunningham and Josie Gillespie as guests.

Seamus Gallagher was a sub on the Donegal U-21 team for the first round of the championship. Danny Gillespie had an excellent game at centre half forward for Donegal Minor team in their championship game against Cavan.

In the Senior Championship Rosses Rovers had an easy victory over St. Patrick's, a combination of Kilcar and Glencolumcille. Rosses Rovers, the home side, ran out easy winners on a scoreline of 4-8 to 0-5. St. Patrick's team: M. Gillespie, F. B. Campbell, S. Boyle, C. McShane, I. Hegarty, C. Hegarty, S. Gallagher, J. Gillespie, S. Brennan, M. Byrne, F. Cunningham, P. J. McIntyre, D. Cronin, M. O'Donnell, J. Cunningham. The second leg of the Senior Championship took place in Parish Park, Cashel on July 5th. The game was played in semi-gale force conditions with the home team having the advantage of the wind in the first half. In complete contrast to the home forwards during the first half the players in the visitors front lines proved by far the better finishers. They scored several long range points and therefore deserved their 1-7 to 1-3 victory.

Kilcar minors registered a 2-13 to 1-0 victory over Killybegs in the Minor Championship at Towney. Spectators were few, and continuous rain rendered the pitch very greasy and what was expected to be a close exciting game became a one sided affair. Kilcar scores were B. Hegarty, M. O'Donnell, B. Cunningham, M. Carr, D. Gillespie.

During 1970 young players such as Seamus Shovlin, Danny Gillespie, M. O'Donnell (Bogagh), M. O'Donnell, Ballymacfadden, Hugh Shovlin and M. O'Donnell, Largy, were maturing very quickly alongside the more experienced players.

Kilcar got off to a bad start in '71 with a defeat at the hands of Ardara on Sunday, 21st February. The final score was Ardara 2-10, Kilcar 2-9 which meant that Ardara were the winners in this section of the Junior Football League.

On May 16th Gweedore defeated St. Patrick's 4-12 to 0-5 in the final of the Senior

Gaeltacht competition at Magheragallon and secured the trip to Cork on June 4th.

Donegal U-21s were beaten by Tyrone in a thrilling first round game on a score of 1-10 to 1-8. Danny Gillespie had an outstanding game at centre half forward and Michael O'Donnell was a sub.

By August Kilcar had reached the semi-final stage of the Junior Football Championship having disposed of Glencolumbkille in an earlier round. Their opponents were Inch and the game was played at McCumhaill Park, Ballybofey. The result was a win for Kilcar 3-14 to 0-1 in a one-sided affair. Inch tried hard, with McGee and Boyle doing their utmost. The losers were simply outplayed in every sector by a team that was both fast and fit and could combine excellently. Danny Gillespie was a tower of strength at centre half back and Sean McGinley at midfield both able to make and take scores. Sustained pressure throughout the first half saw Kilcar lead at the interval 1-8 to nil and they continued to add a further 2-6 in the second half. Scorers for Kilcar were J. Boyle 2-1, P. Cannon 1-2, S. McGinley 0-5, S. Gallagher 0-4, M. A. O'Donnell 0-1 and C. Hegarty 0-1. The Kilcar team was Seamus Gillespie (Muckross), Seamus Campbell, F. B. Campbell, Seamus Shovlin, Donie Cronin, Danny Gillespie, Ian Hegarty, Hugh Shovlin, Sean McGinley, Seamus Gallagher, Paddy Cannon, M. A. O'Donnell, M. O'Donnell, Connie Hegarty and Joseph Boyle.

One outstanding feature of the game was the re-emergence of the blue and gold colours

of to-day after a long absence.

On Sunday evening, 8th August the 1961 and 1971 teams met at Towney Park. The '71 team dominated matters for a long period during the first half and held an interval advantage of 2-1 to 1-2. They increased their lead in the early stages of the second half but in the last quarter the game took a dramatic change when the veterans almost completely monopolised the exchanges, working out the defects and completely swamping their opponents adding 5-7 to their opponents 2-3. The 1961 team's victory was a magnificent achievement having regard to the fact that most of them ceased playing over a decade ago. Scorers for the winners were Big Frank O'Donnell 4-0, Sean Doogan 1-0, Sean O'Donnell 1-0 with the points shared by Josie Gillespie, Cathal McLaughlin, Charlie Brady and Paddy O'Donnell. Outstanding in defence were J. Doogan, S. McNulty, A. O'Donnell, P. O'Donnell and P. Haughey.

Teams: 1961: Patsy McGowan, Seamus McNulty, Jimmy Doogan, A. O'Donnell, Sean Doogan, Paddy O'Donnell, Charlie Brady, Josie Gillespie, Eamonn Doogan, Sean O'Donnell, Cathal McLaughlin, Big Frank O'Donnell, Michael Byrne, John J. Lyons, Packie Haughey. Sub., John Cannon for P. McGowan.

1971: S. Gillespie, S. Shovlin, F. B. Campbell, S. Campbell, D. Cronin, D. Gillespie, I. Hegarty, H. Shovlin, Michael O'Donnell, S. Gallagher, M. O'Donnell, M. Byrne, S. Gillespie, C. Hegarty and M. O'Donnell.



JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 1971 with County Chairman, Tom Walsh. Front row, l. to r.: Paddy Cannon, Donie Cronin, Hugh Shovelin, Seamus Gallagher, Ian Hegarty, Micheal Gillespie. Back row: Micheal O'Byrne, Micheal O'Donnell (Kilcausey), Sean McGinley, Francis B. Campbell, Seamus Shovelin, Danny Gillespie, Seamus Campbell, Mickey O'Donnell (Bogagh), Connie Hegarty (capt.), Donie Doherty, Joseph Boyle, Packie Haughey, Seamus Gillespie and Proinnsias Carr.



THE 1961 TEAM AT A SPORTS DAY IN 1971. Front row, . to r.: Cathal McLaughlin (RIP), Seán O'Donnell, Sean Doogan, Frank O'Donnell, Charlie Brady, Packie Haughey, Aodh O'Donnell. Back row: Jimmy Doogan, Eamonn Doogan, Josie Gillespie, John Cannon, Patsy McGowan, Seamus McNulty, Proinsias Carr, Michael Byrne, Paddy O'Donnell.

The Junior Football Championship final between Kilcar and St. Michael's (Dunfanaghy) was played on the last Sunday in August. After a first half of sizzling football Kilcar led by 1-2 to 0-4 but Kilcar found the grudging pace the better to achieve a worthy but by no means easy win.

The event was overshadowed by the tragic death of St. Michael's Club vice-chairman, Sergeant Patrick Gill, Dunfanaghy, who was a spectator at the game.

Kilcar scores in the first half were P. Cannon 1-1, S. Gallagher 0-2. Kilcar's early success in the second half were F. Boyle 0-1, Sean McGinley 0-1, while P. Haughey replaced D. Cronin. The turning point of the second half came in the 12th minute after a good movement from S. Campbell to P. Haughey to J. Boyle who shot against the post but W. A. O'Donnell followed up to crash a great shot to the net leaving Kilcar four points ahead. Kilcar substituted M. O'Donnell for E. Shovlin and Donie Doherty for J. Boyle.

These two combined well for another Kilcar point and S. Gallagher finished off the scoring

with a point from a 14 yard free. The final score was Kilcar 2-6, St. Michaels 0-7. Once again Danny Gillespie towered above all his teammates in the Kilcar side with Seamus Campbell and Sean McGinley also showing to advantage. The cup was presented to the Kilcar captain Connie Hegarty by the chairman of the Donegal G.A.A., Mr. Tom Walsh.

Teams, Kilcar: Seamus Gillespie, Seamus Shovlin, Francis Campbell, Seamus Campbell, Donie Cronin, Danny Gillespie, Ian Hegarty, Hugh Shovlin, Sean McGinley, Seamus Gallagher, Paddy Cannon, Michael A. O'Donnell, Joseph Boyle, Connie Hegarty, Michael O'Donnell.

St. Michaels: John Mulligan, Monty Alcorn, Mick McColgan, Frank Kelly, Seamus Greer, Hugo Devine, Brian McGinley, Gerry Hannigan, Noel Toyne, P. J. McFadden, Kevin Dunlop, Joe Noone, Neilly Gallagher, Joe Carroll, Henry Shannon.

People of Kilcar will argue for many years to come that this was the turning point in the



JUNIOR PLAYERS AT 1971 DINNER DANCE. Front row, l. to r.: Seamus Gillespie, Seamus Gallagher, Ian Hegarty, Connie Hegarty, Packie Haughey, Donie Cronin, Proinnias Carr. Back row: Seán McGinley, Michael O'Donnell (Kilcausey), Martin Gillespie, Donie Doherty, Joseph O'Boyle, Seamus Shovlin, Francis Campbell, Bernard Shovlin, Micky O'Donnell (Bogagh), Micky Byrne, Seamus Gillespie, Seamus Campbell, Paddy Cannon, Danny Gillespie, Michael Gillespie, Hugh Shovlin.

club's history but there is no doubt that the '71 team is the backbone of the club at present, both on and off the field.

Having won the Junior Championship the team had to automatically go Senior (no Intermediate Championship at that time) for the '72 Championship. In the first round Kilcar were away to a team comprised of Junior clubs of the North Division. Having been beaten rather easily on the last Sunday in May in Falcarragh, revenge was exacted in the home leg on June 25th on a scoreline of 2-9 to 0-7. The replay was played on the first Sunday in July in Glenties. Kilcar ran out easy winners with Sean McGinley outstanding.

So to St. Eunan's in the second round who were one of the top teams in the county at that time. St. Eunan's boasted inter county players in Michael Sweeney, Anthony Gallagher, Joe Winston, John Hannigan and Paudge McGowan (Leitrim). Kilcar put up a good show but in the end had to give way to a stronger and more experienced St. Eunan's team that went on to win the championship. The score that day was Kilcar 1-6, St. Eunan's

2-7.
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1971 JUNIOR CAPTAIN, CONNIE HEGARTY receiving the Cup from Tom Walsh, County Chairman, at the annual dinner dance in Abbey Hotel.



VICTORIOUS 1972 U-21 TEAM AT DINNER DANCE IN ABBEY HOTEL. Front row, l. to r.: Tommy McFadden, John Carr, Hugh Shovlin, Ighneachán Cannon, Paddy Gallagher, Denis McBrearty. Back row: Eamonn O'Donnell, John J. McBrearty, Seamus Doogan, Seamus Cunningham, Martin Gillespie, Seamus Shovlin, Michael Carr, Bernard Shovlin, James McGinley, James Cunningham. Seán Cannon, Michael O'Donnell, Danny Gillespie.

The club's participation in the U-21 Championship in '72 provided a new inspiration for the future and gave the club the most successful run in under-age in our history. By November they had reached the final where the opponents were Convoy. The final score was an amazing 6-15 to 0-5 in Kilcar's favour. The Derry People reporter described the game as "the most

accomplished performance by an under-age team that I have ever seen" with the Donegal Democrat reporter's description as "the best display ever seen by an under age team in Donegal." High praise indeed for a truly magnificent performance. Kilcar scorers were M. A. O'Donnell 0-7, M. Carr 1-4, M. T. O'Donnell 1-2, B. Shovlin 1-0, A. O'Donnell 0-1, A. Cannon 2-0, D. Gillespie 1-1. At the end of the match the Charles Kelly



COUNTY CHAMPIONS, 1973, AT GLENTIES: Front row, l. to r.: Seamus Gillespie, Eamonn O'Donnell, Seán Cannon, Peter Conroy, Hugh Shovlin, Tommy McFadden, Ighneachán Cannon, Denis McBrearty, John Carr. Back row: Michael Boyle, Cara Boyle, Danny Gillespie, Michael O'Donnell (Ballymoon), Michael O'Donnell (Kilcausey), Michael Carr, Aodan O'Donnell, Seamus Shovlin, Seamus McBrearty, John G. Campbell, John McFadden, James Cunningham, Aodh Cannon.



GLENTIES 1973: Presentation of U-21 Cup to captain, Hugh Shovlin, by county chairman, Tom Walsh.



THE FIRST BOATYARD (KILLYBEGS) TEAM, 1972, TOWNEY. Front row, l. to r.: Seán Hegarty, Patsy Fisher, Peter Shovlin, Pat Boyle, Charles O'Donnell, Hugh Shovlin, Michael O'Donnell, Danny Tully. Back row: Martin Gillespie, Eugene Byrne, Patsy McGowan, James Cunningham, Seamus Shovlin, Denis McBrearty.



BOATYARD, WINNERS OF ALCORN CUP, BALLYBOFEY, 1973. Front row, l. to r.: Peter Shovlin, Dinny McBrearty, Eugene Byrne, Pat McBride, Terry McNulty, Martin Gillespie, Ighneachán Cannon, Danny Tully. Back row: Pat Boyle, Noel Dorrian, James Cunningham, Seamus Shovlin, Patsy Fisher, Michael O'Donnell, David Doherty, Bill Shovlin, John McCloskey, Hugh Shovlin.

A Cup was presented to the Kilcar captain, Hugh Shovlin, by Mr. Paddy Hoey, Conroy, on behalf of the Donegal Minor Board. The Kilcar team was: Seamus Doogan, Sean Cannon, Seamus Shovlin, Dinny McBrearty, Hugh Shovlin, Martin Gillespie, James Cunningham, Danny Gillespie, M. A. O'Donnell (Largymore), Michael Carr, M. T. O'Donnell (Kilcausey), Aiden O'Donnell, Aodh Cannon, Bernard Shovlin, Ignatius Cannon.

Kilcar successfully defended the competition in December '73. The beaten finalists this time were Four Masters, Donegal, on a score line of Kilcar 1-5, Donegal 0-5. Kilcar had eleven of the previous year's team on duty with the addition of John Carr, Tommy McFadden, Peter Conroy, Eamon O'Donnell. It is interesting to note that the fifteen who lined out in that final five of them lined out in the 1982 County final. Dinny McBrearty, Danny Gillespie, Aodh Cannon, Michael Carr and Tommy McFadden. John Carr would have been another only injury kept him out. Four Masters had three of their '73 U-21 team in the '82 final: Brendan Martin, Enda Mullin, Jackie McBrearty.

In 1975 the Kilcar Senior team did not fare too good and in one game early in January when missing quite a few regulars they were beaten by St. Joseph's, who were then "virtually a county team", by a score of 6-16 to 3-6. Kilcar players on the county panel were: John Quinn, Danny Gillespie, Aodh Cannon, Michael Carr and Michael O'Donnell.

On the County U-21 panel was Michael Carr, Aodh Cannon and Dinny McBrearty, and on the Minor panel was John Carr and Tommy McFadden.

The Killybegs Boatyard brought home the factories title on the 1st of October, 1973, by defeating St. Conal's Hospital by 1-10 to 1-4. This Boatyard team had a large Kilcar influence with D. McBrearty, S. Shovlin, H. Shovlin, M. Gillespie, M. O'Donnell, I. Cannon.

In the '74 Championship Kilcar met St. Joseph's (Ballyshannon-Bundoran) in the semi-final at McCumhaill Park, Ballybofey. Kilcar were beaten by a strong St. Joseph's team that included inter-county players such as Alan Kane, Pauric McShea, Ray Sheerin, Brian McEniff, Declan O'Carroll, Martin Carney and Seamus Granaghan. The final score was Kilcar 1-9, St. Josephs 2-14.

The U-21 team were going for three-in-a-row and the Derry People headlines were "*Kilcar completed a hat-trick of U-21 Championships when they defeated Glenties*". Surely a great achievement which poses the question can any other club match this achievement at this age-group. Eight of the previous year's team were on duty with newcomers John G. Campbell, John O'Donnell, Stephen O'Donnell, Michael O'Donnell (Ballymoon), Francie Cannon, Seamus McBrearty and Michael Doherty. The match was played in Fintra and the final score read Kilcar 2-8, Glenties 0-4.

The stars for Kilcar that day were Aodh Cannon, M. Carr, D. McBrearty, Aidan O'Donnell, T. McFadden and Seamus McBrearty.

Kilcar scorers were M. Carr 1-3, P. Conroy 1-0, A. Cannon 0-3, E. O'Donnell and S. McBrearty 0-1 each.

In 1974 Donegal defeated Down in the replay of the Ulster final at Clones with Michael Carr at corner forward and Danny Gillespie and John Quinn among the substitutes.

The Kilcar senior team were under the management of Dan Cunningham in 1974 and were in third position in the League. Seamus Gillespie was manager of the victorious U-21 three-in-a-row team; the Minor team reached the county semi-final stages of the

Championship and a Junior team was fielded in the Championship.

In a tournament for National Schools at Ballybofey a young Martin McHugh was voted player of the tournament and Kilcar N.S. won the old Sliabh League Trophy which was now used as a trophy for local National Schools.

The final of this League was between Kilcar N.S. and Cashel N.S. with a final score of 2-3 to 0-3. Kilcar scorers were J. McFadden 1-2, Christy Gillespie 1-0, M. McHugh 0-1.

Kilcar team: Gerald Shovlin, P. Bourne, A. Erskine, C. Cannon, M. McHugh, J. Cunningham, P. Hegarty, V. Hegarty, James McFadden, James Carr, P. Diver, John Joe Carr, Maurice Carr, Christy Gillespie, Cornelius Diver.



SCOIL NAISIÚNTA CILL CARTHA 1974. Front, l. to r.: Vernon Hegarty, Michael Carr, James McHugh, Pat Hegarty, Frankie Doogan, Cornelius Diver, Frankie O'Donnell. Middle row: James Carr, Charlie Cannon, Pdraig Bourne, Gerald Shovlin, Martin McHugh, Maurice Carr, Alan Erskine, Christy Gillespie. Back row: John Hegarty, Pat Diver, Peter Hegarty, Seán McHugh, James McFadden, John Doogan, Paul O'Donnell.

In January of 1975 at the A.G.M. the following were elected as officer: Chairman, Joseph Boyle; vice chairman, Donie Doherty; secretary, Phinias A. Carr; ass. secretary, U. Hegarty; treasurer, P. Carr; PRO, Paddy Byrne.

Team managers — senior, M. Gillespie; U-21, S. Gillespie; minor, H. Shovlin and D. McIlwain; U-14 and U-16, B. Campbell.

On the playing fields 1975 started on a bright note with the winning of the Donegal Gaeltacht final defeating Ardara 2-7 to 1-6 and Rosses Rivers 1-16 to 2-5 at Gaith Dobhair.

In the All-Ireland Gaeltacht tournament at Wex weekend Kilcar were narrowly beaten by the Kerry champions but then went on to win the losers group hammering the Mayo side in the final and were voted the most exciting team of the competition.



COMÓRTAISÍ NA GAELTACHTA GAOTH DOBHAIR, 1975. Front row, l. to r., John Quinn, John Carr. Back row, Seamus Shovlin, Michael Carr.



COMÓRTAISÍ NA GAELTACHTA GAOTH DOBHAIR '75. Tommy McFadden wonders — will the game fit this big man or "what a gang of cowards".



SEVEN-A-SIDE WINNERS, KILLYBEGS, 1975. Front row, l. to r.: Seán McGinley, Michael Carr, Seamus Gallagher. Back row: Danny Gillespie, Denis McBrearty, Michael O'Donnell, John Carr. "Who is the little boy at the side"?



COMÓRTAISÍ NA GAELTACHTA GAOTH DOBHAIR '75. "Let's put our heads together". Tommy McFadden and Michael O'Donnell.

Having now got to the Championship semi-final Kilcar faced the might of St. Joseph's.

Putting the game into perspective it was probably the most important game that they played in the seventies in that it heralded the coming of age of the u-21 three-in-a-row.

Although they lost narrowly on that August day in Donegal Town, St. Joseph's not only went on to win the county final very easily but won the Ulster club championship and played the Connacht and Leinster club champions and beat both.

The following is the report that appeared on the game. Just look at the names on which St. Joseph's could call

15th AUGUST, 1975

"St. Joseph's again qualify for the county final when without the injured Pauric McShea and Brian McEniff (who is in Dublin) they defeated a very youthfully talented Kilcar side on Sunday.

It was played in Donegal before a fair sized attendance. St. Joseph's deserved their victory but were given many anxious moments by a fit, fast Kilcar outfit, who in the second half looked very good while on attack. St. Joseph's looked the better outfit in the first half and had run up a six point lead by half-time. The Kilcar defence looked a bit suspect during this half but the winners' goals seemed blessed when goals looked inevitable. Kilcar looked a shrewd side in the second half when their short-passing movements gave the St. Joseph's defence many anxious moments.

However, they missed many chances and the goal they so badly needed to pull them back into contention came far too late in the game.

One of the exciting features of the game was the exciting tussle at midfield between Martir Carney and Charlie O'Donnell. The Kilcar player more than matched the county player all the way through and if he continues to turn in performances like this the county selectors will have no hesitation in finding a place for him in the county team.

Seamus Shovlin was steady at full-back in the Kilcar defence while Denis McBrearty and Sean McGinley also defended well. Charlie O'Donnell was the star of the team at midfield while he got good support from Danny Gillespie, Aodh Cannon, particularly when he moved out from full-forward in the second half. Paddy Cannon and Michael Carr were the most dangerous in attack.

Seamie Granaghan opened the scoring with a point, Paddy Cannon replied and then Granaghan had another point. Thomas Quinn had another for Joseph's who were dominant at this stage, and Sean Gallagher pointed for them from long range. However, it was not all one way and after a quick breakaway it ended with Aodh Cannon punching over for Kilcar.

Joseph's goal came in the 14th minute. Billy Gavigan out on the right played a short ball to John Gallagher who made some ground before passing to the unmarked Teddy Kane who had no difficulty in finding the net from close range. St. Joseph's had a close shave

when a ball hit the upright and bobbed about in the square before it was cleared.

Aodh Cannon scored a great point for Kilcar in the 17th minute when he converted a sideline kick. St. Joseph's replied per Conor Carney. Aodh Cannon then hit the post with Alan Kane well beaten. Billy Gavigan and Carney (free) scored further points for Joseph's before Declan Carroll had to rush back to clear a shot off the goal line. Just before half time T. McFadden scored a point to leave it St. Joseph's 1-7 to Kilcar 0-4.

S. Granaghan began the scoring in the second half with D. Gillespie replying. In the 21st minute a high lob from the right was punched to the net by Aodh Cannon — only three points between them. M. Carney then scored another free. Kilcar staged a rally and M. Carr reduced the arrears and with three minutes left Michael M. O'Donnell scored their last point.

H. Kennedy, S. Gillespie, S. Shovlin, D. McBrearty, J. Carr, M. A. O'Donnell, S. McGinley, C. O'Donnell, D. Gillespie, M. Carr, M. M. O'Donnell, T. McFadden, P. Cannon, A. Cannon, S. Gallagher. Subs., D. Cronin for J. Carr, M. Gillespie for M. A. O'Donnell.

In the League on the 6th of July Kilcar were in third place with 10 points from 7 games behind Gweedore and Glencolumbkille. Then by the 26th of July Kilcar were on top in the League with victories over Urris 4-9 to 2-3 and St. Eunan's 4-13 to 1-6.

The team at this stage was: Hugh Kennedy, M. Gillespie, S. Shovlin, D. McBrearty, J. Carr, S. McGinley, T. McFadden, D. Gillespie, C. O'Donnell, M. Carr, M. O'Donnell, S. Gallagher, D. Doherty, A. Cannon, P. Cannon.

In late August Kilcar defeated St. Eunan's again by 3-17 to 2-9 but there was a lot of controversy in Gweedore on the 5th of September when the referee recorded the final score as 1-7 to 0-9 and Goath Dobhair officials claimed it to be 1-6 to 0-9. Later the Donegal County Board voted in favour of Goath Dobhair but the Ulster Council rejected this and the matter ended with Kilcar getting the two points.

Kilcar had a great forward machine in this year with later games won over Urris 3-13 to 1-5 (on the journeys to Urris there were some great picnics around Buncrana); victory over McCumhalls 4-12 to 0-6 and Kilcar clinched the League by defeating Goath Dobhair 2-3 to 1-1 at Fintra on the 1st of December.

In that League which was home and away Kilcar lost two games, one to Four Masters at home and one to Glencolumbkille away.

The final will be remembered for the great goal scored by Donie Doherty ten minutes from time which clinched the game for Kilcar. This was one of the best goals seen in Fintra and is still talked about in footballing circles in Kilcar. The team was: H. Kennedy, Martin Gillespie, Seamus Shovlin, Denis McBrearty, John Carr, Danny Gillespie (capt.), A. O'Donnell, Sean McGinley, C. O'Donnell, M. Carr, Tommy McFadden, S. Gallagher, Donie Doherty, D. Cannon. Sub., I. Hegarty for Donie Doherty.

Guest Donair's best that day were John Dyer, Anton Carroll, Neilly Gallagher, Donald Breslin, T. Kearney.

After the game the Golden Grill Cup was presented to Danny Gillespie, the Kilcar captain, by Mr. Francis Cunningham, N.T., Chairman of the County Board.

At the annual dinner dance on Friday, 2nd of January, 1976, over 200 patrons turned out to pay tribute to the team's success in 1975. To mark the occasion Gaeltarra Eireann presented the team members with specially woven woeds for blazers and ties in the club colors.

In '75 Donegal won the McKenna Cup with Michael Carr and Sean McGinley playing and Danny Gillespie and John Quinn among the scorers.

Following the successes of 1971 to 1975 everybody felt that a Senior Championship was possible. Everyone in the parish more or less expected it, but in the next four years the performances never matched the potential. The process of maturing was long and painful.

In January of 1976 Donie Doherty was elected as chairman, Seamus Doogan was

secretary and PRO, and Proinnias Carr was treasurer. The senior team carried a lot of injuries from the '75 campaign. In April Kilcar shocked the reigning All-Ireland Gaeltacht holders by defeating them 0-8 to 1-6.

In the Championship first round Kilcar were defeated by St. Joseph's 0-4 to 2-6 and 0-13 to 0-10.

Further trouble appeared with a car accident outside Omagh when a car travelling to a county match was in a bad collision, injuring Michael Carr and Seamus Gallagher.

Also injured were Kieran Keeney of Ardara and team trainer, Austin Coughlan of Frosses.

In August 1976 a Kilcar/Glen combination played a county selection in aid of the crash fund set up for the players and in October Derry defeated Donegal 4-13 to 1-5 at Fintra in aid of the same fund.

In 1976 on the 3rd of October the Killybegs Boatyard again won the inter firms cup defeating Courtaulds, Letterkenny, by 2-13 to 0-3.

This team was: D. McCalliog, H. Shovlin, S. Shovlin, D. McBrearty, S. O'Donnell, P. Fisher, P. Breslin, N. Dorrian, M. Gillespie, P. Boyle, M. O'Donnell, K. Boyce, T. McFadden, C. O'Donnell, E. Byrne. Sub., I. Cannon.

Due to the injury problems of 1976 it was decided to enter a second adult team in all competitions in 1977 so that there would be a back-up of players for the first team. With emigration decreasing and local industries expanding there was an upward trend in the population and there was a lot of young talent looking for extra activity on the playing fields.

In the Senior Championship Kilcar had problems overcoming the challenge of Killybegs in the first round, drawing one of



1974 DONEGAL ULSTER CHAMPIONS IN PHILADELPHIA. Included are John Quinn, Michael Carr, Finian Heav, Danny Gillespie, Willie Joe Cunningham.

the games 1-5 to 2-2 with a late goal by Michael Carr, who was back in action, saving the day.

They advanced to the quarter final only to be beaten by St. Columba's on the 10th of July at Fintra. The Kilcar goalie Terry Murray saved a penalty in this game but it was not enough. The Kilcar team on that day was: T. Murray, D. McBrearty, S. Shovlin, D. Cronin, M. Gillespie, J. Quinn, J. Carr, D. Gillespie, C. O'Donnell, M. Carr, S. Gallagher, T. McFadden, F. Cannon, M. O'Donnell, S. McBrearty.

In 1978 Kilcar met McCumhails in the first round of the Championship and lost 2-12 to 1-5 away and 2-4 to 0-7 at home. This team was M. McFadden, M. Gillespie, D. McBrearty, D. Cronin, M. Carr, M. A. O'Donnell, J. Quinn, C. O'Donnell, D. Gillespie, M. O'Donnell, S. McGinley, S. O'Máille, F. Gallagher, T. McFadden and F. Cannon.

In August 1978 Kilcar had advanced to the U-21 semi-final to meet Glencolumbkille. This game was played at Fintra Park with St. Columba's the victors by 2-8 to 1-3. Outstanding for Kilcar were Declan O'Donnell, Tommy McFadden, Martin McHugh, Charlie Byrne and Timmy Driscoll. The Kilcar team was: M. McFadden, S. Brady, J. O'Donnell, M. Carr, D. O'Donnell, T. McFadden, S. O'Donnell, J. McFadden, C. McGroarty, P. Gallagher, C. Diver, M. McHugh, C. Byrne, G. Doherty and T. O'Driscoll.

On April the 21st, 1978, Derrylaghan N.S., under the leadership of James McBrearty,

N.T., lost the two teacher nine-a-side final narrowly to Glenfin.

In 1978 the Senior team fared well in the League and by the 28th of April they had played eight games and won all of them. On May 1st they lost their unbeaten run to Gaioth Dobhair in Towney 1-13 to 1-8 and lost to Ballyshannon 2-15 to 0-9. This knocked Kilcar out of the League and they lost their last three games.

There was close liaison between the junior and senior mentors all through these years and players were helped and encouraged to move from junior to senior when the need arose.

Seamus Gillespie was in charge of the second team in 1977. Ian Hegarty in '78 and '79 and S. Brady in the early eighties.

In 1979 on Sunday, 3rd of June, Kilcar had St. Columba's, the reigning county champions, in the first round of the championship. The Democrat reported "*that the game lived up to all its pre-match billing with the teams producing a hard fought and thrilling match which kept the large crowd on their toes throughout.*"

After a very close and hard fought battle the teams were level 0-5 each at half time in the first game in Towney. The second half was similar with Kilcar winning by 0-10 to 0-9. Kilcar's marksmen were M. McHugh 0-6, F. Cannon 0-1, A. Cannon 0-1, C. O'Donnell 0-1, M. Carr 0-1.

Kilcar team: M. McFadden, T. McFadden, D. Gillespie, M. Gillespie, P. Conroy, M. Carr, J. Quinn, A. Cannon, F. Cannon, P. J. McFadden, M. A. O'Donnell, M. McHugh,



HERTFORDSHIRE 1973 who played in Athletic Grounds, Cork, which includes Seán McGinley and Éamonn McNelis of Ardara.

C. O'Donnell, S. McGinley, M. T. O'Donnell. Subs., C. McGroarty for P. Carr.

In the second leg St. Columba's gained revenge by defeating Kilcar 2-10 to 1-9 but due to St. Columba's fielding an illegal player Kilcar went on to the quarter-final where they were defeated by McCumhaills by 1-11 to 1-8 at Ballyvaughan.

Sean McGuinness was in charge of the senior team at this stage and they had a great run in the League. The League was won from early in the campaign and the final game was against Genties at Fintra. On the day the Golden Grill Cup was not available but a substitute cup was used in its place.

The seventies was a fairly successful time

for Kilcar with a lot of activity on the home front and good representation on the county sides.

- 1972 Hurling, Ulster Junior Cup winners — Des Houlihan.
- 1974 Ulster Final, Football v Down. M. Carr (19 yrs.) Scored a point. Subs., D. Gillespie, J. Quinn.
- 1974 All-Ireland semi-final v Galway. M. Carr playing. Subs., D. Gillespie and J. Quinn.
- 1975 McKenna Cup winners. M. Carr playing. Active sub., S. McGinley. Subs., D. Gillespie and J. Quinn.
- 1979 Ulster Senior finalists v Monaghan. M. Carr playing. Subs., A. Cannon, T. McFadden.

CARRICK VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN THE SEVENTIES

On the 26th of October, 1974, Carrick won the Technical Schools final under fifteen by defeating Milford 3-4 to 0-1.

Start for Carrick on the day were M. McHugh, M. Hegarty, Maurice Carr and C. McGinley.

Carrick team: M. Lyons, C. Diver, G. Sharvin, C. Gara, J. McGinley, M. Hegarty, M. McHugh, C. McGinley, M. McIntyre, M. Carr, P. Byrne, J. McGinley, E. Cunningham.

On June 6th, 1976, Carrick Vocational School won the U-16 schools title, again defeating Milford by 3-8 to 1-2.

Carrick team: P. Byrne, S. Cunningham, C. Diver, P. Cunningham, M. Carr, C. Gara, P. Whaley, J. McGinley (1-0), J. McFadden, M. Hegarty (2-0), C. McGroarty (0-1), M. McHugh (2-5), P. Wojak (1-0), M. McIntyre (2-2), P. McShane.

Then again in 1977 on the 12th of June Carrick won the U-17 title again defeating Milford 3-12 to 0-2 with Jimmy White as captain.

Carrick scorers were Barry McNelis (1-5), T. Hegarty (2-0), M. McHugh (0-5), P. McShane (2-0), J. McGinley (0-1) and F. Doogan (0-1).

The man in charge of the teams on all these occasions was Francis B. Campbell and in

November 1979 Carrick Vocational School became Vocational champions again defeating Milford 0-7 to 1-2 and the Carrick team was: F. Byrne, J. O'Gara, S. Carr, J. McHugh, Gabriel O'Donnell, Kieran Cunningham, Michael Curran, Francis Doogan, S. Curran, John Doogan, Alan Erskine, P. O'Donnell, P. McIntyre, T. Jones, G. Breslin.



BALLET IN FINTRA with a watchful referee.

AN PHÁIRC ÚR PEILE i dTAMHNAIGH

Sa bhliain 1979, shocraigh fo-chumann C.L.G. Chill Chartha gur chóir páirc úr imeartha agus seomraí feistis a thógáil. Bhí sé soiléir ag an am narbh fhéidir aon fhorbairt ceart a dhéanamh ar an pháirc a bhí in úsáid mar go rabh sí ró-bheag agus ba mhínic í bog agus fliuch. Socraíoch forbairt a chéanamh ar an pháirc eile cois farraige.

Go luath sa bhliain 1980 piocadh Coiste Foabairt na Páirce chun dul i gceannas ar cibé obair a bhí le déanamh agus an obair sin a chur i gcríoch. Ar an choiste sin bhí Mícheál Ó Beirn, Pádraig Mac Dáibhéid, Muris Ó hEigheartaigh, Cathál Ó Dónaill agus Mícheál Mac Giolla Éasbuic.

Rinne siad suirbhé ar an pháirc agus cuireadh isteach ar scéim don óige agus socraíodh gur bh'fearr na rudaí seo a leanas a dhéanamh:

1. Balla láidir a thógáil ar an taobh amuigh den pháirc le í a shábháil ón fharraige.
2. Connraitheoir a fhostú leis an obair ar an pháirc a chríochnú.
3. Talamh in aice na páirce a cheannacht.
4. Seomraí feistis a thógáil.
5. Bealach-isteach úr agus cárrchlos a dhéanamh.

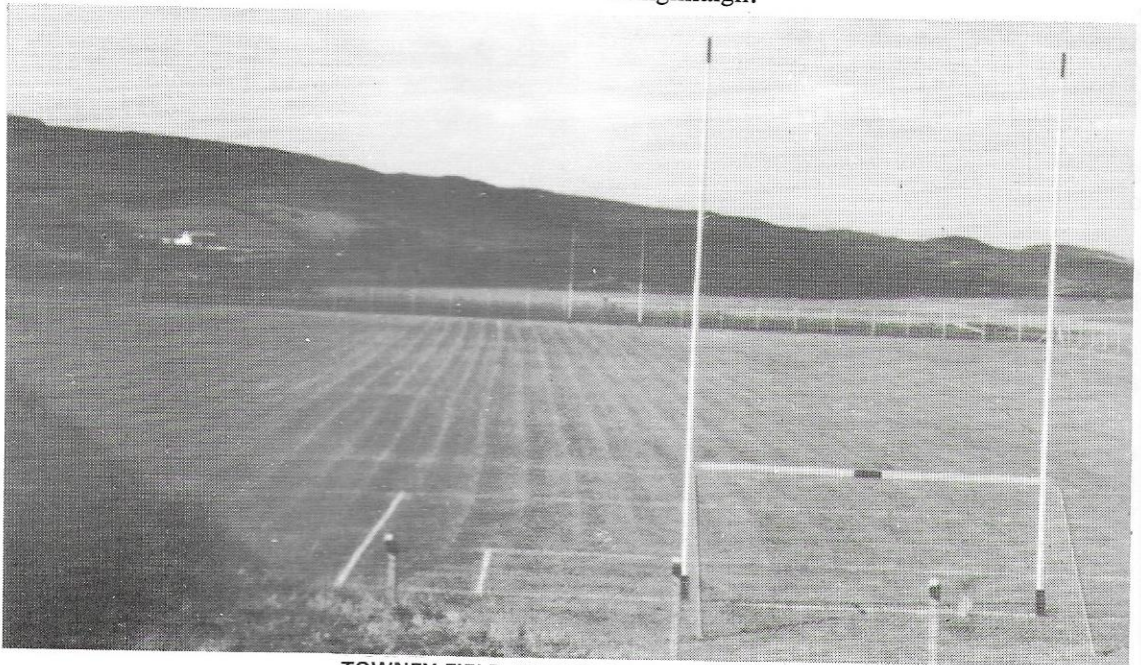
6. Pionúir liathróid láimhe agus cúirt i gcoir cispheil a dhéanamh.

I rith na mblianta 1975-'79 tógadh cúpla monarca sa pharóiste agus baineadh cuid mhór clocha agus créafóige as an dubhshraith. Níor lígeadh an t-ábhar sin amú baineadh úsáid as leis an pháirc úr a leathnú agus a chosaint ón fharraige.

Bhí Mícheál Mac Giolla Éasbuic agus Cathal Ó Dónaill ag coinneáil suil ar an obair forbartha i rith an ama seo. Ceannaíodh cúpla píosa talaimh ó Sheán Mac Pháidín, Seán Ó Beirn, Seán Mac Niallais agus ó Sheán Ó Baoill. I dtosach bhí achar 87 méadar fá 147 méadar san pháirc uilig, rud a d'fhág áit imeartha thart ar 82m x 137m.

Tamall in dhiaidh sin rinneadh roinnt obair chun cloch mhór a bhí i gcoirnéal amháin den pháirc a bhaint amach agus mar gheall ar seo cuireadh 23 meadár eile leis an fad a bhí ann.

Anois tá áit imeartha 82m x 150m ach ní cheadaítear ach 91m x 146m agus cinnte is páirc imeartha iontach mór é Páirc Tamhnaigh.



TOWNEY FIELD READY FOR THE BIG DAY

Siad na iontadaithe nua a ceapadh i gcóir an pháirc nua na — Prionnsias Mac Giolla Chearra (Cill Chartha), Aodhan Ó hEigheartaigh, Michéal Mac Giolla Easbuic (Cahtaoirleach C.L.G. dún na nGall), Michéal Ó Frinneadha (Runaí C.L.G., Comhairle Uladh) agus Liam Ó Maoilmhichil (Árd Stiurthoir C.L.G.)

Tógadh na seomraí feistis sna blianta 1978 agus 1979 agus tamall in dhiaidh sin (1981) leathnaíodh iad chun go mbeadh níos mó spáis iontu.

Bhí Alphonsus O' Dónaill (R.I.P.) i gceannas ar an obair ar an pháirc imeartha — ag cuir díoga isteach bárr-chreafóg agus ag cur siúl féir.

Bhí Séan S. Ó Laighin i gceannas ar an bhuíon a bhí ag tógáil na seomraí feistis agus cuireadh Pádraig Ó h-Eochaidh i gceannas ar an seomraí feistis chun iad a choinneáil glan slachtmhar nuair a bhí siad críochnaithe.

San bhliain 1983 le cuidiú scéim éile don óige faoi cheannas Dhoncha Mac Cuinneagáin (An Srath Laoigheoil), deisíodh an sean-bhalla a bhí in aice na habhna agus ardaíodh an balla fósta san dóigh nach mbeadh an taoide ag teacht isteach. Tógadh gaftaí ar an bhealach isteach agus cuireadh balla sreanga thart ar an pháirc imeartha.

Bhí Mícheal Mac Giolla Easbuic gnóthach

leis an bord comhac sna blianta seo ach choinnigh an ceartar eile Michéal Ó Donn, Pádraig Mac Daltóid, Cathal Ó Donnáil agus Muris Ó hEigheartaigh obair an Choiste Forbartha ar siúl.

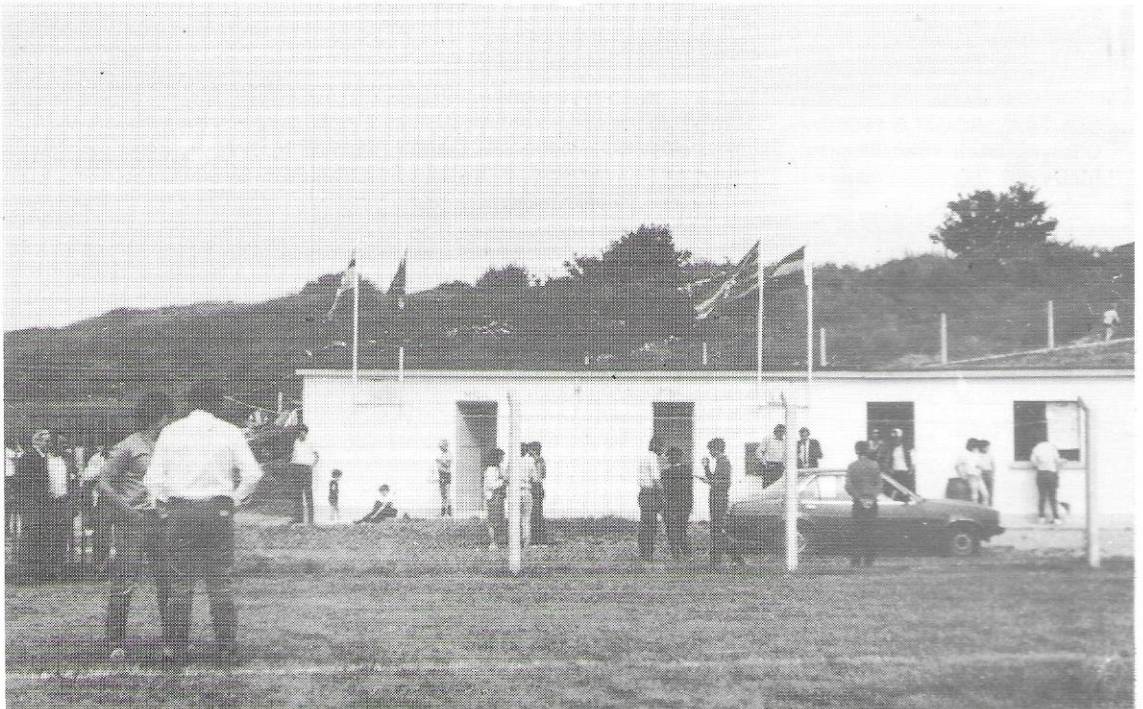
Tá ard-mholadh tuille ag an coiste seo de bharr an obair iontach a rinneadh i 1978. Tá an chuid is mó de na nithe a bhí le déanamh déanta ach chun an bealach isteach agus an carr chlós a chríochnú, áiteacha a thógáil do na fir ionaid agus áiteacha a thógáil do liathróid láimhe agus cispheil.

Sna bhliain 1984 le cuidiú Coiste na mBliain tógadh seomra chun beilí a chur ar fáil tar éis cluichí agus síopa beag.

Tá ard-mholadh tuille ag an coiste seo fosta as ucht na h-oibre atá ar siúl acu agus is iad na mná atá ar an coiste seo: Bridie Bean Uí Dhónaill, Martina Ní Dhonáil, Eithne Ní Choilín agus Concepta Ní Dhugáin.

DERRYLAGHAN N.S.

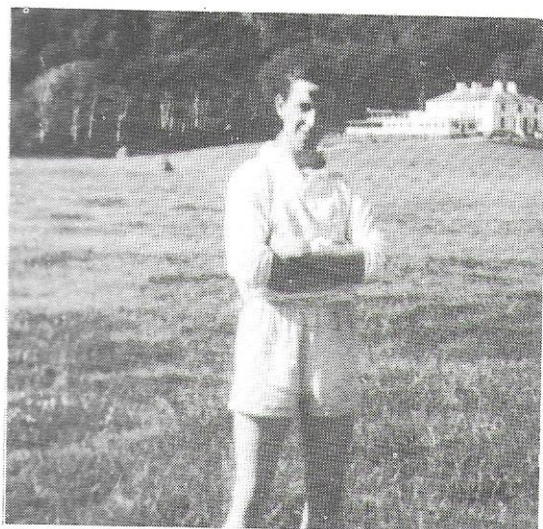
Derrylaghan won the Donegal two-teacher National Schools title in 1979 under the leadership of James McBrearty, N.T. The team: J.J. McCloskey, Fintan Cunningham, David O'Donnell, Neil Sweeney, Roger McShane, Neilly Cannon, Kevin Lyons, Mark McShane.



Dressing Rooms and Tea Rooms and examining the sod on August 5th, 1984.



STAR BALLROOM & FESTIVAL COMMITTEE IN 1972. Front row, l. to r.: Ian Hegarty, Micky Byrne, Joseph O'Boyle. Back row: Michael Gillespie, Michael O'Donnell, Francis Campbell, Hugh Shovlin, Charlie McDevitt.



Micky Byrne and Ian Hegarty, long serving players of the 60's and early 70's.

THE EIGHTIES

Bringing the history of C.L.G. Cill Chartha up to the present day, is indeed a pleasant task, because in the four years of this decade the club has achieved a level of success that has only been surpassed by very few clubs in the county in the history of the G.A.A.

1980

The Senior Championship had always eluded Kilcar down the years but 1980 was to be the year that the Dr. Mc Guire Cup was to make that historic journey to Kilcar, to find a fitting home, in a small rural parish, that had kept the ideals of the G.A.A. alive down through the years.

Having beaten Ballyshannon 1-10 to 0-10 at home and 1-12 to 0-8 in Ballyshannon we easily overcame the challenge of Rosses Rovers in the quarter-final with a scoreline of 2-17 to 0-3.

In the semi-final our opponents were neighbours and arch-rivals Naomh Columba, Glencolmcille, the venue was Fintra and the match lived up to all expectations.

Glen had the upper hand in the first half and led by 7 points at half time. All seemed lost but slowly we clawed our way back and goals from Francie Gallagher and Peter Conroy put us a point ahead with two minutes to go. Martin McHugh added another from a sideline kick — the final whistle sounded — we had reached the county final for the first time since 1963, with a scoreline Kilcar 2-9, Naomh Cholumba 1-10.

Our supporters travelled in hundreds to McCumhaill Park, Ballybofey, for the county final against Ardara, with flags, hats and banners bearing the blue and gold.



Michéal Mac Giolla Easbuig, County Chairman, presenting the cup to senior captain, Seán McGinley, 1980.

The game itself was worthy of any co. final. Ardara were firm favourites to take their first co. title since 1928, but Kilcar had different ideas — and although they got off to a shaky enough start, 0-3 to 0-1 down after ten minutes, we soon drew level and took the lead for the first time in the 15th minute with a point from Charlie O'Donnell, a lead that we were not to lose until the final whistle sounded.

Fr. Sean Gallagher summed up his impressions of that final in a very suitable way.

“The abiding memories for me will be the ten points scored by young Martin McHugh, the fielding of Aodh Cannon and Danny Gillespie, the catching of John Quinn, the rugged grit of S. McGinley, the two points of Charlie O'Donnell, the tight marking of Dinny McBrearty and Tommy McFadden, but above all it was the memory of Michael Carr that will be cherished as long as the blue and gold of Kilcar are worn. The splendour of his fielding, the accuracy of his shooting and passing, the uncanniness of his anticipation, as if the ball was attracted to him like a

magnet, and the sheer grace and poetry of his deer-like runs . . .

The Dr. McGuire rested in Kilcar — it wasn't alone Kilcar that rejoiced but all genuine football lovers”.

A fitting tribute indeed to a team that was dedicated and fit; to a team manager Ian Hegarty whose life revolves around football, and the scenes in Kilcar on that memorable night will never be surpassed.

The Kilcar team that lined out on that historic day was: Maurice Carr, Tommy McFadden, Dinny McBrearty, John Quinn, John Carr, Michael Carr (0-1), Charlie McGroarty, Danny Gillespie, Aodh Cannon, (1-0), Martin McHugh (0-10), Francie Cannon, Sean McGinley, Francie Gallagher, Charlie O'Donnell (0-2), Peter Conroy. Subs., John Doogan, Christy Gillespie, Mickey McFadden, Timmy Driscoll, Micheal Doherty, John O'Donnell.

Our regular goalkeeper John Hegarty, Largymore, was at his brother's wedding in the U.S. on that day.

The final score: Kilcar 1-13, Ardara 0-8.



KILCAR, COUNTY SENIOR CHAMPIONS, 1980. Front row, l. to r.: John Doogan, Aodh Cannon, Charlie O'Donnell, Michael Carr, Danny Gillespie, Seán McGinley, Francis Cannon, Charlie McGroarty, John Quinn, Timothy O'Driscoll, Michael Doherty. Back row: Martin McHugh, Francis Gallagher, Michael McFadden, Tommy McFadden, Denis McBrearty, Maurice Carr, Peter Conroy, John O'Donnell, Christy Gillespie, John Carr.



SCENES OF JUBILATION AFTER 1980 FINAL

THE SCOTSTOWN AFFAIR

Because they were county champions Kilcar were into the first round of the Ulster Championship only to meet the reigning Ulster champions Scotstown of Monaghan in Ballybay. Kilcar were gallant in defeat losing out by 2-10 to 1-7. Kilcar were short John Carr, who suffered from a broken cheek bone, and as the Donegal Democrat reported:

"If Kilcar had a fault it perhaps was the tendency to overdo the short passing game. Scotstown were knocked out of their usual free flowing style by the dash and enthusiasm of the challengers, but the champions even though rocked, never lost their composure. After weathering the storm they finished in great style and were worthy winners over a gallant Donegal team which looked capable of causing a surprise for three quarters of the match"

The finish which caused Kilcar's downfall that day was a ball delivered by the Scotstown centre half back Sean McCarville behind the Kilcar full back line and which was finished to the net by the unmarked Jim McCabe.

As Scotstown wore an all blue jersey they decided at half time to change into the maroon colours of Ballybay because it seemed in the first half that some of the passes were in the wrong direction.

The Kilcar team on the day was: John Hegarty, Tommy McFadden, Dinny

McBrearty, John Quinn, Charlie McGroarty, Michael Carr, Francis Cannon, Danny Gillespie, Aodh Cannon, Martin McHugh, Michael O'Donnell, Sean McGinley, Francis Gallagher, Charlie O'Donnell, Michael Doherty. Sub., Peter Conroy for M. Doherty.

A feature of the game was that all four midfielders scored, Gerry McCarville had three from frees, Aodh Cannon three from play, Sean McCrudden two from play and Danny Gillespie had one to his credit.

Irish Press, 1-9-'80.

DONEGAL

Kilcar 1-13
Ardara 0-8

Kilcar, regarded by many as the underdogs, confounded their critics by defeating Ardara in the final of the Donegal senior football championship at Ballybofey before one of the biggest crowds at the venue for years.

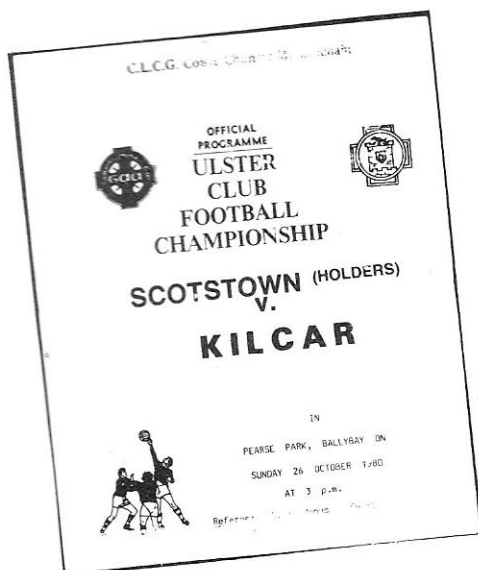
For the winners, who are current holders of the league title, it was only their second championship win — and that after a lapse of 55 years.

At the end of a closely contested first half Kilcar led by 0-7 to 0-5.

Although Kilcar won handsomely, the issue remained open until two minutes before the finish when the only goal of the game sealed the issue.

From a lob by full back Dinny McBrearty, the ball was cleverly punched to the net by Aodh Cannon who had moved from midfield to full forward. However, chief architect of Kilcar's victory was right half forward Martin McHugh, who had ten points to his credit.

Scorers: Kilcar — M. McHugh (0-10), A. Cannon (1-0), Charles O'Donnell (0-2), M. Carr (0-1). Ardara; C. Molloy (0-4), G. McNelis (0-2), K. Keeney, M. Sweeney (0-1 each).



Scotstown Programme

Kilcar gave a fantastic display in the McCumhaill's 13-a-side Festival Tournament in 1980 by first of all trouncing the home team McCumhails 3-10 to 0-5 in the first round with a score of 2-7 to 0-2 at half time. There were many missed opportunities on both sides with Kilcar scorers Francis Gallagher (2-0), Peter Conroy (1-2), Martin McHugh (0-3), Aodh Cannon (0-2), Charlie O'Donnell, Danny Gillespie, Michael Carr (0-1 each).

In the semi-final St. Eunan's lost their unbeaten run by losing to Kilcar 0-12 to 0-8 in a tough uncompromising struggle in which fast movement and close marking were a prominent feature. Kilcar scoers in this game were S. McGinley (0-6), M. McHugh (0-2), Aodh Cannon (0-2), John Quinn (0-1), Charlie Byrne (0-1). Kilcar were reduced to twelve men in the last ten minutes of this game but survived under intense pressure. Then on to the final against local rivals Naomh Columba. Everyone expected this game to be very close as both teams were joint leaders of Division One All County League but Kilcar surprised with a high winning margin of 2-13 to 0-5 having led at half time by 2-7 to 0-3.

The Kilcar team that day was: John Hegarty, Denis McBrearty, John Quinn, John Doogan, Michael Carr, Charlie McGroarty, Danny Gillespie, Aodh Cannon, Martin McHugh, Michael Doherty, Sean McGinley, Francis Gallagher, Charlie Byrne. Sub., Tommy McFadden for Michael Doherty.

John Doogan gave a brilliant display all through this tournament and won man of the match for his display in the final.

Kilcar also reached the 1980 seven-a-side tournament final in Letterkenny but went down to a very strong St. Eunan's team who seemed to have had their plans well worked out in advance. St. Eunan's and Kilcar defeated two Tyrone teams in the semi-finals, Eoghan Rua's and Carrickmore. Sean McGinley won man of the tournament with his high scoring and excellent ball control.

Kilcar gained third spot in the League being edged out by winners Naomh Columba and runners-up Ardara.

Kilcar had a very lively 1980 and their U-21 team were unlucky to lose to Ardara in the county final at Fintra by a final score of 1-9 to 1-4.



KILCAR U-21s, RUNNERS-UP v ARDARA, 1980. Front row, l. to r.: Michael McFadden, Seán Hegarty, Gabriel O'Donnell, Alan Erskine, Cornelius Diver, Francis Gallagher, Michael J. Gillespie, Maurice Carr, James McHugh, James McGinley. Back row: Martin McHugh, John Doogan, Charlie McGroarty, Padraig Bourne, John Hegarty, Christy Gillespie, Paddy O'Donnell, Gerard Shovlin, James Carr, Gerard McBrearty.

In 1981 Kilcar were dethroned by Ardara from the championship at Fintra with a final score of 1-5 to 0-5.

The goal which separated the sides at the end was of an easy nature having got a deflection off one of the Kilcar players past a stranded goalkeeper. This game was a repeat of the 1980 championship and was over physical and thus the standard of football was poor. The Kilcar attack failed to make most of their opportunities. They shot eight wides in the first half and four in the second half. The Donegal Democrat reported:

“Apart from the opening five minutes in which they scored a goal and a point and the final seven minutes during which they scored two more points, Ardara were always playing second fiddle to the champions, Kilcar, who were the better side. Aodh Cannon and Danny Gillespie had the better of Anthony Harkin and Connie Molloy at midfield and the pressure for most of the hour was on the Ardara defence”.

Kilcar won the League by defeating Ballyshannon in the final game 1-4 to 0-6 at Glencolumbkille (as the Michéal Óg McFadden Park was waterlogged) on the 27th of October.

Charlie Byrne scored the important goal in this game in the first half when Kilcar played with the wind on a very windy day and other scorers were a point each for Aodh Cannon, Christy Gillespie, John Carr and Sean McGinley.

In 1981 pride of place went to our second team who played in Division III of the Co. League and in the Junior Championship. Under team manager Sean Brady this team reached the county final of the Junior Championship, to be beaten by Red Hugh's, Killygordon, by 2-14 to 0-4. In ten short years we had progressed from having a team which was capable of winning the junior championship (1971) to having a second team capable of reaching a county Junior Championship final, without the services of twenty of the best footballers in the parish.

In the quarter-final the second team beat the Ballyshannon second team and in the semi-final they defeated Naomh Mhuire 2-10 to 0-1.

In the report on this game from the Donegal Democrat it states:

“Apart from their lack of punch in attack Kilcar looked good on Sunday but one feels that the deficiencies in their forward line could prove disastrous against stronger opposition than that offered by Naomh Mhuire.”

The Kilcar team versus Naomh Mhuire was P. Sweeney, C. Diver, C. Boyle, J. O'Donnell, J. McHugh, P. Conroy, S. Brady, S. McBrearty, James Carr, A. Erskine, Paddy Cannon, T. Driscoll, G. McBrearty, J. McGinley, Vernon Hegarty. Subs. were Martin Gillespie and Padraig Bourne.



LEAGUE WINNERS, 1982. Front row, l. to r.: Martin McHugh, Seamus McBrearty, James McHugh, Michael Carr, Danny Gillespie, John Quinn, Tommy McFadden, Seán McGinley, Neilly Byrne. Back row: Aodh Cannon, Christy Gillespie, John Carr, John Hegarty, Denis McBrearty, Francis Gallagher, Vernon Hegarty, Maurice Carr, Charles Byrne, Charlie McGroarty.

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LEAGUE WINNERS, 1982. Front row, l. to r.: Martin McHugh, Seamus McBrearty, James McHugh, Michael Carr, Danny Gillespie, John Quinn, Tommy McFadden, Seán McGinley, Neilly Byrne. Back row: Aodh Cannon, Christy Gillespie, John Carr, John Hegarty, Denis McBrearty, Francis Gallagher, Vernon Hegarty, Maurice Carr, Charles Byrne, Charlie McGroarty.

Kilcar were also winners of the 1981 Shield which was not finished until March 1982 by defeating Naomh Columba in the final by 1-10 to 1-5.

Martin McHugh was the man of the match here in scoring a total of eight points and even though Naomh Columba were in the lead in the 10th minute with a goal by Paddy Gavigan the Kilcar defence well marshalled by Michael Carr played well against the wind and team captain Sean McGinley had a great second half in carrying the ball at the Naomh Columba defence. The Kilcar team was J. Hegarty, John Carr, D. McBrearty, John

Quinn, C. McGroarty, Danny Gillespie, Peter Conroy, Aodh Cannon, Michael Carr, M. McHugh, Maurice Carr, S. McBrearty, J. McHugh, S. McGinley and C. Byrne.

In 1982 Kilcar defeated Naomh Columba in the semi-final and Ardara in the final of the Donegal Comórtaisí Peile na Gaeltachta at Glencolumbkille. The score in the final was 1-7 to 0-7 with the goal which separated the sides being scored by Christy Gillespie.

In the All-Ireland Comórtaisí Peile Na Gaeltachta Kilcar were defeated in the first game by Moycullen. These competitions were held in Gaoth Dobhair.

In the Championship Kilcar had a terrific battle with St. Eunan's in the first round. St. Eunan's won in Towney, the important goal being scored by Charlie Mulgrew. Kilcar won in Letterkenny with James McHugh playing great football and scoring a great goal. Then in the replay in Ballybofey Kilcar won well with Martin and James McHugh being the chief scorers.

In the semi-final Kilcar beat Downings by the narrow margin of one point in a game in which Kilcar did not play at their best. Kilcar played in the same disappointing manner in the county final versus Donegal Town to lose 1-4 to 0-6 with the important goal being scored by Brendan Martin in the second half.

20 November, 1981

G.A.A. SHIELD TABLES

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Kilcar	4	4	0	0	8
Four Masters	6	3	1	2	7
Naomh Columba	5	3	0	2	6
St. Eunans	6	2	2	2	6
Ardara	5	2	1	2	5
Aodh Rua	3	2	0	1	4
MacCumhailis	6	1	2	3	3
Bundoran	4	1	1	2	3
Urris	5	1	1	3	3
Killybegs	4	1	0	3	2



1982 DINNER DANCE with League, Shield, Sandy Harpur and Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta trophies.



Micky Cannon and the Kilcar Pipe Band parading through Kilcar with Martin McHugh and Maurice Carr held high.



SOME OF THE DONEGAL U-21's in Kilcar after their All-Ireland success with some of the Kilcar U-12s.

Remarkable record

Kilcar played 26 games in the 1981-'82-'83 Leagues. They won an incredible 23 games, drew twice (St. Eunan's 1983 and Bundoran 1981) and lost only one game in three league campaigns (to Aodh Ruadh in 1982 by 1-5 to 0-5). One doubts if this record will ever be equalled.

In 1983 the results were: Kilcar 3-5, N. Columba 0-1; Kilcar 2-12, MacCumhailis 0-5; Kilcar 0-9, St. Eunan's 0-9; Kilcar 3-10, Ardara 1-6; Kilcar 2-12, Red Hugh's 1-4; Kilcar 1-14, Aodh Ruadh 0-8; Kilcar 2-10, Four Masters 2-7; Kilcar 2-11, Downings 0-5.

It is also Kilcar's fourth League title in five years. The three-in-a-row has not been achieved since Gweedore's four-in-a-row in 1936-'39.

LEAGUE TABLES 4/11/'83

LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	Pts.
Kilcar	8	7	1	0	15
Aodh Rua	8	5	0	3	10
Four Masters	8	4	2	2	10
Ardara	6	3	1	2	7
St. Eunan's	6	2	3	1	7
Naomh Columba	8	3	0	5	6
Downings	8	3	0	5	6
Bundoran	7	1	2	4	4
McCumhailis	7	2	0	5	4
Red Hughs	6	1	1	4	3

SHIELD DIVISION TWO

Urris	6	6	0	0	12
Robert Emmets	7	4	1	2	9
Gweedore	7	4	0	3	8
Cloughaneely	7	4	0	3	8
St. Naul's	8	3	1	4	7
Glenfin	4	3	0	1	6
Kilcar	5	2	0	3	4
Na Rossa	4	2	0	2	4
Naomh Conal	7	0	2	5	2
Dunkineely	7	1	0	6	2

SHIELD DIVISION 4 SOUTH

Dungloe	7	7	0	0	14
Pettigo	7	6	0	1	12
Four Masters	7	5	0	2	10
Kilcar	7	3	0	4	6
Glenfin	7	2	1	4	5
McCumhailis	6	2	0	4	4
Naomh Columba	7	1	1	5	3
N. Conal	6	0	0	6	0

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In the 1983 Shield which was finished in March of '84 saw Kilcar and Ballyshannon in the final at Ballybofey with Ballyshannon as favourites. Aodh Rua had the lead early but a great save by John Hegarty in goals and a fine punched goal by Christy Gillespie took the steam out of Ballyshannon to leave the half time score at 1-4 to 0-7. Martin McHugh was again man of the match and it was he who was fouled to produce the penalty from which the second goal was scored to leave a final score of 2-10 to 0-10.

The Kilcar team was John Hegarty, Sean McGinley, John Carr, John Doogan, Seamus Gallagher, Michael Carr, Charlie McGroarty, Neilly Byrne, Aodh Cannon, Martin McHugh (capt.), Christy Gillespie, Neilly Cannon; James McHugh, James Carr, Danny Gillespie. Sub., Gerard McBrearty for James McHugh.

Kilcar won the Sandy Harper Tournament for the second time by defeating Robert Emmets in the final in a very tough and close game.

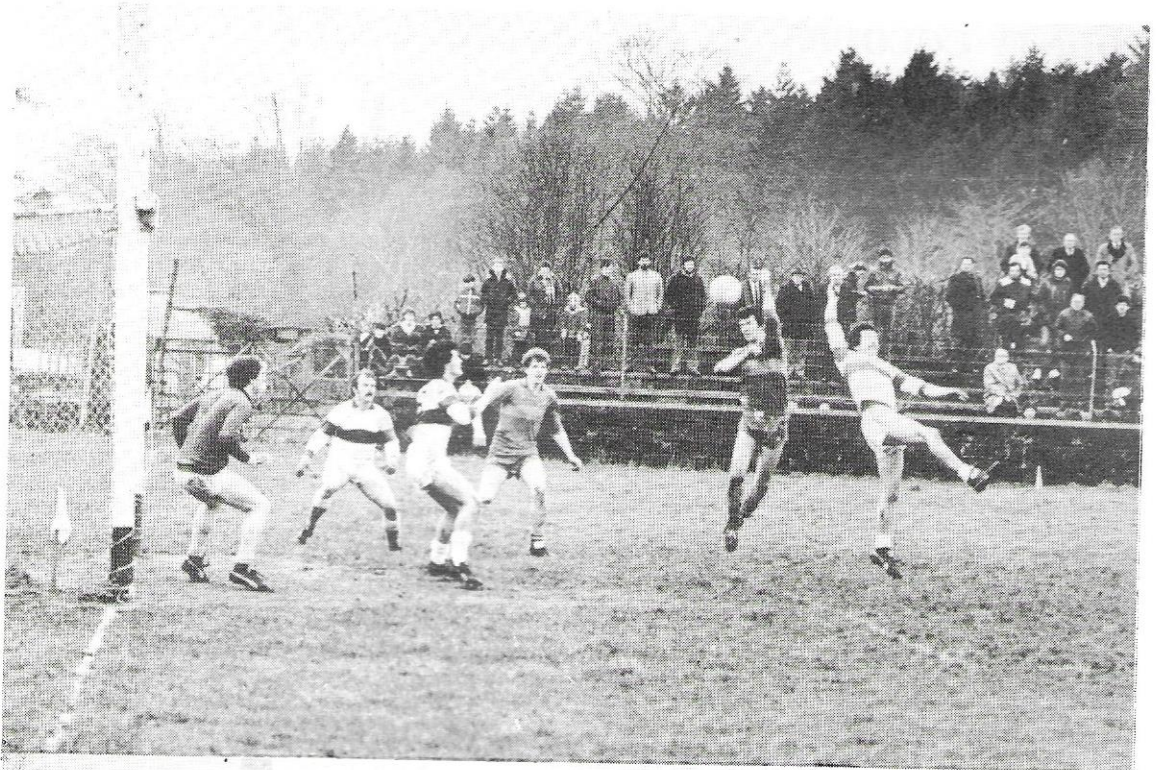
Our second team held their own in Division II of the League and our third team continued to improve in Division IV.

So our success on the football field has been considerable in the last few years. With our young population it is encouraging to see so many of them playing for the club and our second and third teams have been a tremendous boost to football in the parish.

Two of our senior players have also been prominent at county level over the past few years.

In 1984 Kilcar had a successful run in the Sandy Harpur Tournament only to be beaten by Sean McCumhailis in the final. In the early games Kilcar defeated Owen Roe's of Tyrone and Aghharan of Tyrone and then Cloughaneely in the semi-final. It seemed as if the three in a row was ready for taking but McCumhailis had other ideas and won convincingly by 1-12 to 1-6.

In the championship of 1984 Kilcar were unlucky in the first round when they beat Four Masters in Donegal Town but lost the return leg at Towney and then drew the replay in Ballybofey. In the fourth game the sides were level but for Four Masters scoring a point in the last seconds of the game.



THE IMPORTANT SCORE in the 1983 Shield final v Ballyshannon at Ballybofey with Christy Gillespie, the scorer, and James Carr.

COUNTY COLOURS

Michael Carr has been a regular on the Donegal senior team since September 1973 and has played in many positions, but 1983 will be the year that Michael will always remember when he won his second Ulster Championship medal with Donegal and received the 'man of the match' award for his display in the Ulster final against Cavan. He was also a member of the Ulster team which won the Railway Cup this year.

He also won the Donegal Sports Star Award for Gaelic Football in 1980.

Martin McHugh, in his short career in the county jersey has made his name a household one in G.A.A. circles throughout the country. Since his debut with Donegal in October 1980 he has achieved what the rest of us can only dream of.

He has won one All-Ireland medal with the Donegal U-21 team in 1982, scoring 0-5 in the All-Ireland final against Roscommon.

He won an Ulster Championship medal with Donegal last year, and two Railway Cup medals with Ulster in '83 and '84. He was a replacement on the 1982 All-Star team which travelled to America and was selected at corner forward on the All-Star team of 1983.

He has also won the Donegal Sports Star Award for Gaelic Football in 1981, '82 and '83. The 'wee man from Bavin' has certainly graced the playing fields of Ireland in his short and illustrious career.

We tend to forget that many other current Kilcar players have also played for Donegal at various stages in their playing careers.

Senior for Donegal: Tommy McFadden, Sean McGinley, Seamus Gallagher, John Quinn, Charlie O'Donnell, Aodh Cannon, Danny Gillespie, Micheal Carr, Martin McHugh, Neilly Byrne and John Carr.

Under-age: Maurice Carr, Neilly Cannon, John Doogan, Dinny McBrearty, Alan Erskine, James McHugh and Roger McShane.

Roger has won an All-Ireland medal with the Donegal Vocational Schools team earlier this year.

Snippet

Donegal gained promotion to Division Two of the League for 1984 by getting second place to Monaghan in Division Three. They beat Carlow in the final game 2-11 to 0-3 at Carlow with Martin McHugh scoring 1-6.

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KILCAR RECORD

Championship:

1925, 1980.

League:

1933, 1935, 1959, 1975, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983.

Shield:

1981, 1983.

Sandy Harper Tournament, Senior:

1982, 1983.

Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta:

1975, 1982.

Junior Championship:

1971.

Junior League:

1961; 1969 joint winners with Convoy.

U-21 Championship:

1972, 1973, 1974.

U-18 Minor:

1964.

KILCAR AS RUNNERS-UP:

Championship:

1959, 1963, 1982.

League:

1940, 1962.

Sandy Harper Tournament:

1981 and 1984.

Intermediate Championship:

1984.

Junior Championship:

1948, 1981.

U-21 Championship:

1980.

There were 12 players involved with Killybegs in 1952 in winning the Championship.



COISTE NA mBÁN. Front: Ann McFadden, Martina O'Donnell. Back: Eithne Campbell, Bridie O'Donnell, Concepta Doogan.

SCOR 1982-'83

Scor is a relatively new concept in Co. Donegal and many clubs do not participate at all, as yet. Indeed our own club were slow enough taking an interest in Scor and it is true to say that we took a haphazard approach to it in the beginning. It is only now that we realise the importance of Scor to the club and I'm glad to say that we have a very active Scor Committee functioning at the moment.

Chief organiser of Scor is Maurice Hegarty (Ballymacfadden) ably assisted by Michael Erkin (Towney Road) and Patricia Murrin, a teacher in the Vocational School in Carrick.

In the adult Scor 1982 the club took part in six events —

(1) Recitation, Mary T. Byrne; (2) Solo Singing, Brid Cunningham; (3) Instrumental Music, Johnny Cunningham, Peter Carr; (4) Ballad Group, Johnny Cunningham, Peter Carr, Brid Cunningham; (5), Six Hand Reel, Teresa Byrne, Martina O'Donnell, Bernadette Carr, Mabel Hegarty, Marion Carr, Concepta Doogan.

Divisional Finals took place in Killybegs

and two of our entries qualified for the Co. Finals. They were: (1) Recitation, Mary T. Byrne; (2) Solo Singing, Brid Cunningham.

Co. Finals were held in Letterkenny, our two entries emerged as county winners to represent Donegal at the Ulster semi-finals which were held at Omagh. Unfortunately they failed to reach the Ulster finals.

SCOR NA nÓG '82

The club took part in five events in Scor na nÓg '82. They were:

(1) Set Dancing, Deirdre McShane, Una Gillespie, Geraldine Gillespie, Mary Byrne, Peter Carr, Declan Carr, Pat Byrne, Christy McGinley; (2) Instrumental Music, Peter Carr, Christy McGinley; (3) Ceili Dancing, Geraldine Gillespie, Mary Byrne, Christy McGinley, Pat Byrne; (4) Solo Singing, Mary Byrne; (5) Question Time, Patrick McShane, Peter Molloy, Paul McShane.

Our set dancers and instrumental musicians reached the county finals, but did not take any titles.



CAILÍNÍ SNATH GAELTARRA. Front, l. to r.: Marion Carr, Ann McFadden, Eithne Campbell, Michelle Gallagher. Back row: Isobel Carr, Bernadette Carr, Theresa Dolan, Theresa Byrne, Caroline McBrearty.

SCOR NA nÓG 1983-'84

For the first time in our involvement in Scor we fielded a full team for the Divisional Finals of Scor na nÓg in 1983.

Representatives were picked from all those who took part at club level during the social nights. The following representatives took part in the Divisional final in the Glenbay Hotel on Saturday, 17th December:

(1) Recitation, Carmel Hegarty; (2) Solo Singing, Caroline Byrne; (3) Instrumental Music, John Haughey, Peter Carr; (4) Question Time, Patrick McShane, Catherine McNelis, Declan McShane; (5) Set Dancing, Caroline Byrne, Ann Hegarty, Deirdre McShane, Geraldine Gillespie, Francis Byrne, John Haughey, Declan Carr, Patrick McShane; (6) Four Hand Reel, Edel Hegarty, Caroline Byrne, Francis Byrne, Declan Carr; (7) Novelty Act, Carmel Hegarty, Edel Hegarty, John Haughey, Peter Carr; (8)

Ballad Group, Peter Carr, Caroline Byrne, John Haughey, Declan Carr.

Five of our entries qualified for the Co. Finals held at Castlefin. They were No. 1, No. 3, No. 5, No. 6 and No. 8.

Our set dancers won the Co. Finals of Scor and reached the Ulster semi-final. Unfortunately they did not qualify for the Ulster final.

The following people represented the Kilcar club in Scair Simneac '83-'84, which was held in the Glenbay Hotel, Glencolumcille: Solo singing, Teresa Dolan; Recitation, John McFadden; Question Time, Alan Erskine, Michael Molloy, Damien Erskine; 8 Hand Dance, Bernadette Gillespie, Margaret Hegarty, Teresa Byrne, Mabel Hegarty, Francis Byrne, Thomas McHugh, Michael McFadden, Alan Erskine.

Our Recitation and 8 Hand Dance qualified for the Co. Finals in Castlefin. We did not qualify for the Ulster semi-finals.



1984 UNDER-12 with John Hegarty, Hugh Shovlin and Ann McFadden. Front row, l. to r.: Stephen Lyons, John Haughey, Noel McDevitt, Gerry Carr, John Deane, Eamonn Carr, Ciarán O'Donnell, James Deane, Alan McBrearty, Johann Cronin, Stephen O'Donnell, Derek McBrearty. Back row: Roman Hegarty, Finlay McIvor, Jim Byrne, Dara McShane, Gerard Gallagher, Stephen Byrne, Ciarán Boyle, Seamus Cunningham, Stephen Byrne (Roxboro), Michael Curran, Charles Hegarty.



UNDER-14 PANEL who reached the Divisional Final, 1984. Front row, l. to r.: James Haughey, Michael McShane, Finlay McIvor, Dara McShane, Dermot Sweeney, Ciarán O'Donnell, Gerry Carr, Stephen O'Donnell, Noel McDevitt, Jim Byrne, Don Cronin. Back row: Reamonn O'Donnell, Declan McDevitt, Fabian McShane, Stephen Byrne, Aiden Byrne, John O'Donnell, Marc McShane, Connell Lyons, Noel Hegarty, Thomas Hegarty, Malachy Haughey, Morgan Carr.



MICHAEL CARR

Michael Carr received the Donegal Sports Star award in Gaelic football in 1980 and Man of the Match award in the Ulster final 1983 against Cavan and was one of the seven Donegal men nominated for All Star positions in 1983. Michael won an Ulster medal in 1974 when still nineteen, when beating Down after a replay at Clones. He won a Dalton Cup medal with Falcarragh Community School in 1973 and was involved in the Kilcar U-21 success in 1972, 1973 and 1974. He played his first game with Donegal in 1973. Then, along with the Ulster medal in 1974 he won a McKenna Cup medal in 1975 and League medals with Kilcar in 1975, 1979, 1981, 1982 and 1983, and one of his most memorable games was in winning the championship medal in 1980.

Michael's other memorable games were the Ulster finals of 1974 and 1983 and, of course, playing for Ulster in 1984. His best moment in all those games was getting Man of the Match in the Ulster final 1983. His most disappointing game was in losing to Cavan in 1975 because he maintained that there was an All-Ireland in that Donegal team.

Michael's favourite team is the Kerry team of 1979 and he thinks a lot of the present Dublin team. His favourite players are Martin McHugh, Frank McGuigan, Jack O'Shea and Matt O'Connor and he finds all his opponents difficult at every level, club and county, and he maintains that playing well depends on your form on the day.

There were a lot of influences on Michael's playing career but main influence was that of Fr. Michael Sweeney in Falcarragh Community School and in later years Brian McEniff.

In the future Michael would like to win an All-Ireland medal and another county championship.



MARTIN McHUGH

Martin McHugh has been Player of the Year for 1981, 1982 and 1983 in Donegal and also he has been an All Star replacement in 1982 and received an All Star award for 1983.

This is really a fitting tribute to this Kilcar player who has shown great consistency and temperament over the past number of years and a willingness to be extremely fit.

The early days in Martin's life were influenced by Hugh Shovlin in the local battles around Bavin and later Barry Campbell helped Martin to win under-14, 16 and 19 Vocational Championship medals with Carrick Vocational School. From 1979 onwards Martin was in the Kilcar senior team under the influence of Ian Hegarty but possibly Brian McEniff had the most influence when in charge of the Donegal and Ulster teams from 1980 on. Martin's scoring record from frees and play is one of the best in the country and normally Martin is scoring an average of 6 pts. per game. Martin McHugh's most memorable games were the county final of 1980, the All-Ireland U-21 final and his first game for Ulster in Croke Park and of course a great moment in his life was the final whistle in that All-Ireland U-21 final. The worst moment was when Val Daly of Galway scored the goal against Donegal in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1983.

Martin's favourite team was the Kerry four-in-a-row and the best team he ever played on was the 1984 Ulster team, and his favourite players are Michael Carr, Matt O'Connor, Frank McGuigan, Eugene McKenna and Jack O'Shea.

Martin rates all his opponents as being difficult and in looking to the future he would like to win a senior all-Ireland with Donegal and another county championship, and he thinks a lot of the present Kilcar Under-14 team.

THE A.I.B. G.A.A. CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARDS 1982-1984

The A.I.B.-G.A.A. Club of the Year Award Scheme was designed to acknowledge and give recognition to the voluntary efforts of G.A.A. Club workers and to highlight exceptional achievement and to encourage further improvement in standards.

There were three divisions in each county — Division A for large clubs with 10 teams or more and with well developed facilities.

Division B, medium sized clubs with six to nine teams.

Division C, for small clubs with two to five teams.

The clubs were assessed by a county committee for their exceptional games achievement and development work for the two calendar years 1982 and 1983.

St. Eunan's (Letterkenny) won the Special Centenary award for large clubs. Kilcar won the award for medium clubs and Glenfin won the award for small clubs.

The County Club of the Year was chosen from the three division winners and Kilcar came out top with most marks and this was announced at a banquet in Monaghan in April.

The assessors then visited each county winners to check the marks given and to rectify any errors made earlier. Two past presidents of the G.A.A. visited Kilcar in May, Alf Murray of Armagh and Paddy McFlynn of Down.

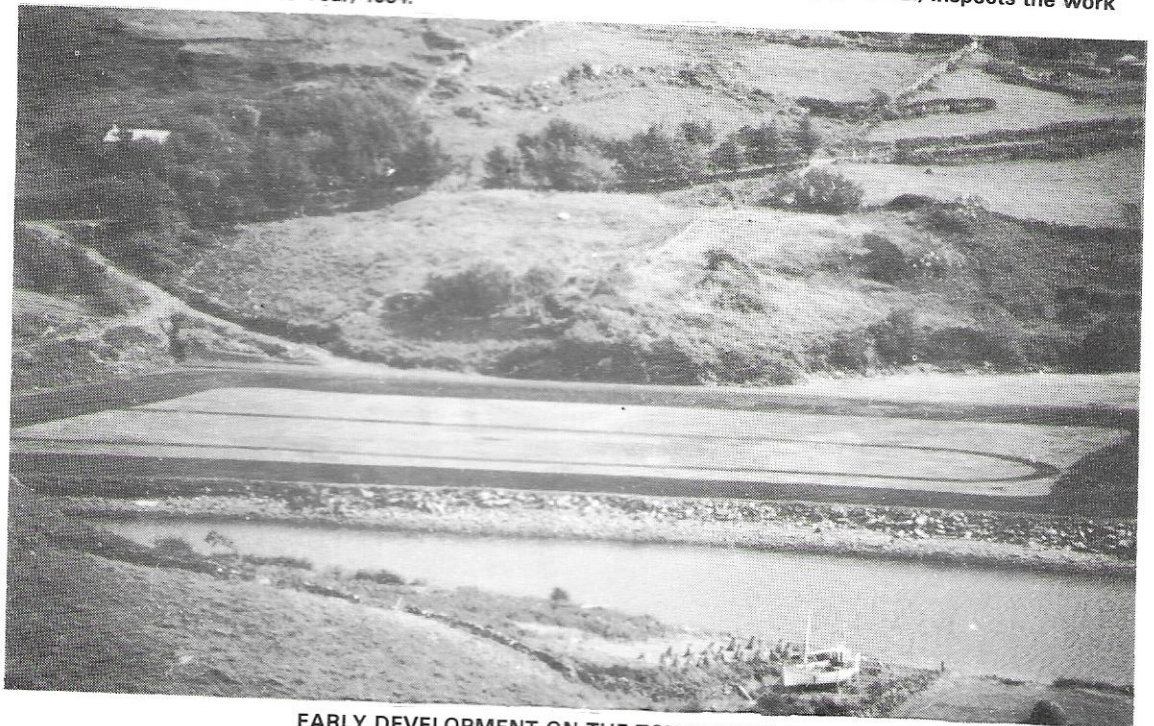
Kilcar picked up a few extra marks here and were one of the four small clubs with 28 large clubs at the final function in the Allied Irish Banks premises in Dublin. St. John's of Antrim won the Ulster Club of the Year, Kilcar were awarded £300 for being Donegal Club of the Year and St. Finbarr's of Cork with teams in all grades of hurling and football and with great facilities, won the All-Ireland Club of the Year receiving a development grant of £5,000.



THE FIELD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: Michael Byrne, Charlie O'Donnell, Morris Hegarty and (inset) Paddy McDevitt with past presidents of the C.L.G. Paddy McFlynn (Down) and Alf Murray (Armagh) and Michéal Mac Giolla Easbuic (County Board Chairman) and club officers Seán McGinley, Charlie McDevitt, Seámas Doogan and club president, Michéal Ó Domhnaill.



A STROLL AND A CHAT AROUND TOWNEY. Aif Murray, former President of C.L.G., inspects the work done for the Club of the Year, 1984.



EARLY DEVELOPMENT ON THE TOWNEY FIELD

PROUD DAY FOR KILCAR AT OPENING OF NEW PITCH

Sunday, August 5th, 1984, was a proud day for C.L.G. Cill Chartha as they officially opened their new £80,000 pitch, dressing rooms and tea rooms at Towney. The new grounds were officially opened by Donegal's Central Council representative, Mr. Pádraig S. Mac a Ghoill (Ard an Ratha) and were blessed by the Bishop of Raphoe, Most Rev. Dr. Seamus O h-Eigheartaigh, a native of Kilcar.

The pitch opening was marked by a senior inter-county challenge between Donegal and Ulster champions, Tyrone, which Tyrone won by eight points against a depleted Donegal side. Before the opening there was a number of short football matches involving the under-age teams and then a senior game between Naomh Columba and Cill Chartha for the Fr. McClafferty Cup and this game was won by Kilcar by three points.

Then the pipe band led a parade of the club's under 12 and under 14 players which included a presentation of all the different county colours. Also included were flag bearers carrying the national flag, the centenary flag, the Donegal flag and the local club colours.

These were carried by James P. McGinley, long serving member of the club and honorary president; Frank O'Donnell, who played with distinction in the fifties and early sixties; Proinnsias Carr who was club treasurer for many years, and Packie Haughey, chairman of the Minor Board C.L.G. Cill Chartha, and excellent player of the sixties and early seventies.

Speaking at the opening were P. S. Mac a Ghoill; Bishop Hegarty; county chairman, Micheal Gillespie; Willie Joe Cunningham, Donegal Man of the Year; Fr. Dermot McShane, P.P., and Mr. Michael O'Donnell, President of the Club and Oifige na Gaeilge and chairman of the Parish Council.

Snippet

Nominated for All-Star places in 1984 were Michael Carr and Martin McHugh with Martin McHugh getting the award at the All-Star Banquet in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin.

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OIFIGÍ FÓ CHUMANN CHILL CHARTHA. Front: Michéal Ó Domhnaill (Uachtarán agus Oifigeach na Gaeilge); Cathal Mac Dabhráid (Cathaoirleach). Back: Seán Mac Giolla Ceasa (Cisteoir); Seamus Ó Dubhghán (Runaí).



Seamus Doogan, Secretary, Cill Chartha, receiving their prize as A.I.B./G.A.A. Club of the Year in A.I.B. Bank centre, Ballsbridge, Dublin, on Saturday, 2nd June, 1984. Also in the picture from left, Liam Mulvihill, Director General, G.A.A.; Jerry McAuliffe, Chief General Manager, Domestic Division, Allied Irish Banks.

THE INTERMEDIATE TEAM



THE INTERMEDIATE TEAM, 1983. Front row, l. to r.: Roger McShane, Peter Conroy, John Hegarty, Michael Molloy, Timmy Driscoll, Charlie O'Donnell, Pádraig Bourne, Cartha Boyle, John O'Donnell. Back row: Seamus McBrearty, Seán Brady, James McGinley, Pádraig Sweeney, Micky McFadden, Micky Doherty, Cornelius Diver, Gerard Shovlin, Michael Carr.

THE JUNIOR TEAM



THE JUNIOR TEAM, 1983. Front row, l. to r.: John Byrne, John Hegarty, Anthony Diver, Seamus Cunningham, Hugh Shovlin, Pete Boyle, Michael Molloy, Paddy Carr, Donie Cronin. Back row: Michael Carr, Joseph Diver, Seán McHugh, Bobby Cunningham, Charlie Cannon, Peter Hegarty, Roger McShane, Paddy Gallagher, Pat Diver, John Hegarty (team manager).

AN CATHAOIRLEACH C.L.G. DÚN NA nGALL

Rugadh Micheál Mac Giolla Easpaig ar Aoine an Chéasta 1942 i nDachtan, Cill Charthaigh, áit ar tógadh é chomh maith. 'Sé is sine de sheisear clainne a bhí ag Anna agus Pádraig Mac Giolla Easpaig, nach maireann ó 1959. Fuair sé a chuid scolaíocht bunscóile in Scoil Náisiúnta Mhucrois, scoil aon-oide a bhí chúram Bhríd Nic Aodha as an Mhucrois atá anois ina bean rialta agus ag teagasc ins nGleanntaí. I 1955 chuaigh Micheál go Coláiste Éinde i nGaillimh agus i 1959 go Coláiste Phádraig, Droim Conrach, áit a bhfair sé bonn óir sa Tíreolaíocht i 1961. Thosaigh sé ag teagasc mar Mhúinteoir scoile in Iúil 1961 i S.N. Loch Thoir a Thoirce i bparóiste Ghleann Cholm Cille. Ag deireadh na bliana sin ghlac sé post mar Phríomhoide i S.N. Sealbhuí i gCill Charthaigh agus i 1969 comhnascadh an scoil sin le S.N. Chill Charthaigh, áit a bhfuil sé ag teagasc go fóill (i scoil úr Naomh Carthach a fosclaíodh i 1979).

Deirtear go mbriseann an dúchas tré shúile an chait agus ba é a dhalta sin ag Micheál é mar gurbh peileadóirí maithhe iad a athair Pádraig, go ndéana Dia grásta air, beirt dá chuid uncail, Séamus agus Dónall, agus a chuid gaolta i nGleann an Bhaile Dhuibh, áit a bhféadfaí tobair na peile a thabhairt air i gCill Charthaigh. Níor bhain duine leis an saol seo munar imir sé peil sa ghleann sin. Bhí peileadóirí maithhe in áiteacha eile sa pharóiste fosta ach ní raibh siad chomh tiubh sin ar an talamh.

Níor bhain Micheál mórán ar pháirc na himeartha taobh amuigh den Sraith Sóisir i 1961 agus mar fhear ionaid ar an fhoireann a bhuaigh Craobh na Sóisear i 1971. Toghadh ina rúnaí ar Chlub Chill Charthaigh é in 1962 agus bhí baint dhíreach nó indíreach aige leis an chlub o shin taobh amuigh den am a raibh obráid aige ar "slipped disc" i lár na seascaidí. Bhí sé mar bhall de Choiste na gCoinni sa Chontae i 1978 agus 1979 agus toghadh mé mar leas-Chathaoirleach ar Bhord an Chontae i 1979 chomh maith.

Tá baint ag Micheál le Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta ó 1970 agus bhí sé ina Chathaoirleach ar Choiste Láir na gComórtaisí ó 1978 go '81. Bhí sé mar bhall den fhoireann a bhuaigh comórtas Cabaret Gaeltachta in 1971, '73, '74 agus '76. Bhí sé mar bhainisteoir ar fhoireann sinsir Chill Charthaigh a bhuaigh Sraith an Chontae i 1975.

Tá an-dúil ag Micheál sa cheol Ghaelach. Rine sé dhá shraith ceoil, "Ón tSean-am anall", le Raidió na Gaeltachta i 1976-'77-'78. Tá sé cáilithe le gar-tharrtháil (first aid) a theagasc ó 1968 agus bhí sé ar dhuine dena múinteoirí a theagasc foireann Chill Charthaigh a fuair an dara áit i gComórtaisí Gar-tharrthála na hÉireann (Coasint Sibhialta) i 1978 agus an chéad áit i 1980. Tá an-suim aige i gcúrsaí drámaíochta chomh maith. Imríonn sé beiriste nuair a bhíonn faill aige! Pósaidh é in 1978 agus tá duine clainne aige.

Toghadh é ina Chathaoirleach ar Choiste Contae Dhún na nGall de C.L.G. i mí Eanáir 1980. Ba mhaith le Micheál nuair áirithe atá tábhachtach ina aigne féin a fheiceáil ag tarlú sa chontae:

(i) Cúrsaí airgid a bheith go maith sa dóigh is gur féidir níos mó a chaitheamh ar an aos óg le saol maith Gaelach a chur os a gcomhair mar go bhfuil saol na ndraganna ag buaileadh isteach orainn. Is fríd aithmeanna C.L.G. a chur i bhfeidhm i gceart a bhéas cóir cheart Ghaelach ar gach paróiste. Dar le Micheál gurb é C.L.G. an t-aon eagrais a bhfuil cumann leathan acu ar féidir leo seo a dhéanamh.

(ii) Oifigeach nó cláireach lán-aimsire a bheith fostaithe ag C.L.G. sa chontae.

(iii) Gach club a bheith ag obair don óige ('coaching', etc.)

(iv) Cúrsaí airgid a bheith sa dóigh gur féidir iománaíocht a thosnú leis an aos óg.

(v) Gach duine a bheith ag obair ar mhaithe le C.L.G. agus gan bacadh an oiread sin le paróisteachas agus gan bacadh ar chor ar bith le féin-phoiblíocht.



Officers of County Board G.A.A. From left, chairman, Micheal Gillespie; secretary, Bart Whelan, and treasurer, Francis Cunningham.

Cumann Luthchleas Gael in the Beginning

The G.A.A. was founded in 1884. Ireland were still feeling the effects of the famine. There was high emigration and the nation's spirit was low.

The Irish culture and language was threatened with extinction when a teacher from Clare, Michael Cusack, decided that something had to be done. With the help of Maurice Davin, an athlete from Carrick-on-Suir, he called a meeting in Hayes Hotel in Thurles on the 1st of November, 1884, at which only seven attended and which founded Cumann Luthchleas Gael on that historic day.

Soon after three of the top people in the country at the time became patrons of the new Association. They were Dr. Thomas Croke, Archbishop of Cashel, Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Davitt. From this a new spirit emerged which united Irishmen everywhere.

Snippet

"POINT POSTS"

These were posts which were five yards out from the present posts through which points could be scored as well as over the bar in the early days.

THE GAMES IN THE EARLY DAYS

Hurling, handball and Gaelic football are today the games of the G.A.A. Between 1884 and 1922 the Gaelic Athletic Association also promoted athletics and cycling but handed those over to the N.A.C.A. In that short time G.A.A. athletes set up 36 world records and won fifteen Olympic titles.

The rules were set for hurling and football in 1885. There were 21 players on a team and "point posts" were set on each side of the goals for scoring points. Wrestling which was allowed at one stage was banned with the new rules. The number on a team was reduced to 17 in 1892 and at this stage five points equalled a goal but this was reduced to three points in 1896.

The "pointposts" were discarded in 1910 and in 1913 teams were reduced to fifteen men.

Hurling is older than Irish history and Gaelic football was played long before soccer or rugby were played in Ireland, and handball dates back to pre Christian times.

The Donegal G.A.A. Board was formed in 1905 and the first county team was fielded on St. Patrick's Day 1906 to be beaten by Derry 18 pts to 2 pts.



THE UNDER-16 TEAM, 1984. Front row, l. to r.: Paul Haughey, Francis Gillespie, Michael McShane, Dermot Sweeney, Gregory O'Brien, Mark McShane, Dermot Cannon, Terence Sweeney, Mark O'Donnell, Matthew Erskine. Back: Conell Curran, James Hegarty, Enda McHugh, John Curran, John Haughey, John O'Donnell, Tomas Diver, Manus Brady, Patrick McShane.

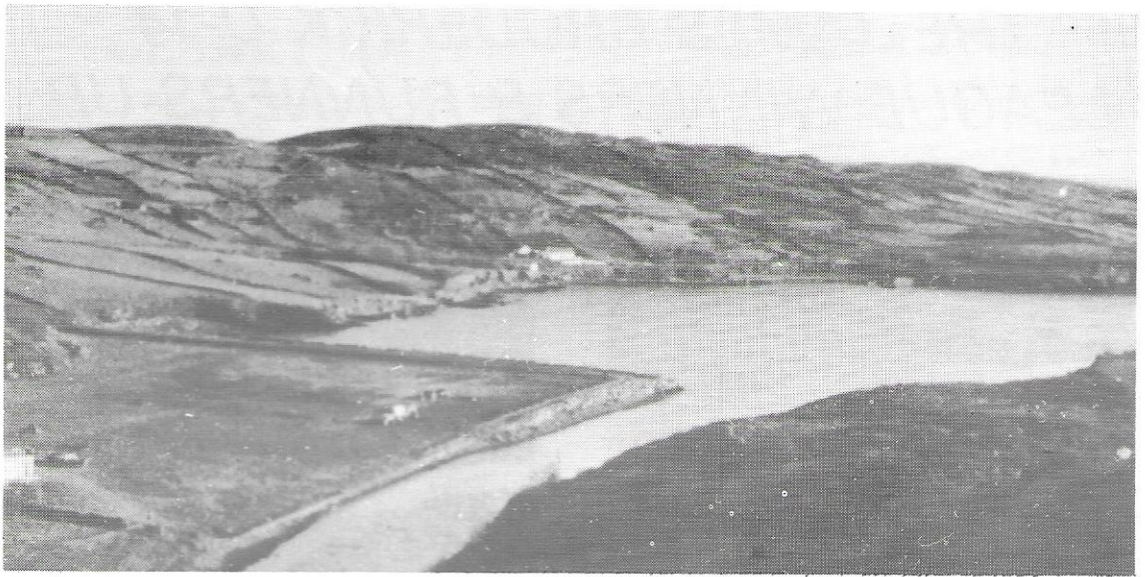
Carrick-on-Shannon 1982 All-Ireland U-21 Final



Maurice Carr and Martin McHugh with Ian Hegarty in Carrick-on-Shannon after the U-21 All-Ireland win.



Martin McHugh with a group of happy supporters on All-Ireland U-21 final day, 1982, 17th October.



TOWNEY BAY

TOWNEY BAY

*Let poet's sing of other scenes where
nature's charms abound,
Where glorious deeds and thrilling tales that
made the hills resound,
But I now write these simple lines where leaps
the salt sea spray,
For to meet the cliffs which overhang, my
own sweet Towney Bay.*

II

*I roamed Loch Lomond's bonnie banks and
Arrand's swing goats fail,
I heard men sing the praises of Killarney's
lakes and dales,
But should I get my choice of those, I'd throw
them all away,
To spend a sunny afternoon upon sweet
Towney Bay.*

III

*How often in those summer hours with
comrades I have been,
Beside those rippling water falls, how glorious
was the scene,
How grand to watch the sun sink, one last
retreating say,
As it kissed the gentle bosom of dear old
Towney Bay.*

IV

*I oft recall those happy hours I wandered free
from care,
To the little pier by the garrel near, a spot of
beauty rare,
And sit on Dooneen's lofty height and while
the hours away,
And watch the seagulls's wing their flight o'er
lovely old Towney Bay.*

V

*There's Galway and Bantry Bay, Sheephave
and Mulroy,
Old Killybegs and Teelin too, I roamed when
yet a boy,
And if the Lord allows me a'er he calls my
soul away,
To see the harvest moon go down above old
Towney Bay.*

VI

*O lovely land of boyhood years why did I
from you roam,
To shed the exiles bitter tears far from my
native home,
No more I'll love the happy scenes I loved in
life's long day
No more I'll plough my active oar's upon
sweet Towney Bay.*

JAMES MAGUIRE

THE JAMES BRODERICK U-14 LEAGUE WINNERS & RUNNERS-UP



WINNERS, JOHN O'DONNELL'S TEAM. Front, l. to r.: Fabian McShane, J. O'Donnell (capt.), Dermot Sweeney, Ciarán Ó Domhnaill. Back row, Dermot Cannon, Matthew Erskine, Paul McBrearty.



RUNNERS-UP, MARK McSHANE'S TEAM. Front, l. to r.: Ciaran McShane, Terence Sweeney, Mark McShane (capt.), Kevin Lyons. Back row: Aiden Byrne, Connell Cuman, Morgan Carr.



Martin McHugh presenting the Coiste Culturtha Cup to Dara McShane, captain of his U-10 team.

GEARRTHÓGA

Bhuaidh Gleann a' Bhaile Dhuibh ar Bhaile an Droichid i gcluiche sacar sa ghleann. Bhí an tírghrá múscaíte ins na daoine san am agus shocraigh foireann Baile an Droichid, i ndiaidh comhairle ó Mhicheal Ó Coilín, Cianachán, go dtógfadh siadsan an phéil den talamh nuair a thiofach an Gleann le h-iadsan a imirt an Domhnach ina dhiaidh sin, rud a rinne agus ba é sin fíor thús C.L.G. sa cheanntar.

* * * * *

Nuair a d'imir foireann Chill Chártha ar trá i gCaiseal, Gleanncholmille don chéad uair i 1924, ba trí charr a dtarraingt ag capaill an córas iompar a bhí acu. Ba iad Aodh MacGiolla Chearra agus Seán Mac Seáin as Druim Righeach, agus Pádraig MacDaibhid as Baile an Teampaill na tiománaithe. Ba ar lorráí Phádraig Ua Gadhra, nó Paddy Tim nó Bradley mar a tugtaí air, a thaistéal siad ina dhiaidh sin.

* * * * *

Bhuaidh Gleann a' Bhaile Dhuibh corn Shliabh Liag i 1930-'31, Baile an Droichid i 1931-'32. Níor críochnaíodh an comórtas i 1932-'33. Ba é an t-Athair O Gríofa a bhí ar an Charraig a chur tús leis an comórtas seo.

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Ba ar an chaorthán in Umeascaun a gníodh Gleann a' Bhaile Dhuibh a gcuid cleachtadh. Ba mhínic gur liathróid éadaí a bhíodh acu agus bhíodh ag cleachtadh ar oícheanta reabghealaí. Deir fear acu sin, imreoir agus moltóir cliútach as na Caisliní, Seán Ó Dorraidhin, go mbeadh na lads óga ní bhfearr anois dá mbeadh siad i gcónaí ag cleachtadh leis an liathróid éadaí ar an chaorthán céanna.

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Le tamall anuas tig morán d'imreoirí Chill Chartha as Gleann a' Bhaile Dhuibh nó tig a n-athracha nó a máthracha as an gleann ceanna.

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Ins na caogadaí agus ag tús na seascadaí bhí piochadh ag Fo-Chumann Chill Chártha ón Phort i nGleanncholmille go dtí droichéad Inbhear, ceanntar ina bhfuil ocht foireann agus páirt d'fhoireann eile anois.

KILCAR TOWN

*Though far away across the sea my thoughts will always be,
In that little place, with friends I left who were so dear to me.
And when upon my pillow, I lay my grey head down
My feet are here in London but my heart's in Kilcar Town.*

*Oh! many were the hours I spent on Muckcross golden sand
As barefoot through the waves I splashed, time at my command.
Through Towney fair, I then would stray, by fields of green and brown
And make my way to a cup of "tae" in lovely Kilcar town.*

*At night the neighbours gathered in, around the bright hearth blaze
The oil lamp and the clay pipes left the kitchen in a haze.
Everyone was happy, I could never see a frown
On those faces in at "Airneal" in dear old Kilcar town.*

*To Coguish all would journey, to cut the turf in Spring
And as we sweated at our work a hundred larks would sing.
Now and then a hare would cross towards Crove of sweet renown
Watched by men and women who came up from Kilcar town.*

*'Twas often up the Glen I went to dance 'till break of day
And hear the lively music, the fiddlers they would play.
I can recall no worries at all, no rush to make a poun'
Sure I must say, that life was gay in lovely Kilcar town.*

*On Sunday morn the Church was full of people from afar
From Crove and Stranakirka they travelled by sidecar.
The old and young from Bogagh were always to be found
Walking out each Holyday to Mass in Kilcar town.*

*To Cartha's well and Ciaran's the people used to go
In fervent prayer they'd thank the Lord for favours He'd bestowed,
They would test the Holy Water and kiss the Holy ground
I'll never again see such times in lovely Kilcar town.*

*Though far away tonight I pray for all the folk at home
In Leitir and in Bavin which is littered over with stone.
By Kilbeg and by Cashel I'd have to go the roun'
Returning home by Cashlings to lovely Kilcar town.*

*With my journey over in "Ard Raithe" I will rest
For in a little corner I'll lie here with the best,
By all my sweet companions I'll await the trumpet sound
To rise and march together though that lovely Kilcar town.*

REPORT ON UNDER-AGE FOOTBALL 1983/'84

At the annual meeting of the club in 1982 it was expressed that, not enough was being done for underage football in the parish. No coaching or training was being done on an organised basis resulting in young players being asked to play against ones much superior in the skills and basics of the game.

With this in mind the officers of the club suggested that a separate committee should be set up to cater for under-age players from the ages 9 to 18 years. This was agreed to with the vice-chairman and assistant secretary in charge.

Managers were elected to look after the teams concerned, under 12, 14, 16, 18 years.

New sets of players gear were ordered as badly dressed teams reflect badly on the club in general. It was also decided to try and get parents interested, as it is vital to the success of the young players.

In a small club area like Kilcar, success in under-age football will always be difficult, as we have to compete against clubs from bigger population areas; so it is felt that most success will be long term, i.e. progression of the better players to the three adult teams. With this in mind it was decided to pay special attention to the 9 to 12 year age groups, because it is at this age that the basics of the game are learned, and opinions formed.

Coaching sessions were organised, covering the basic skills of the game. This was done on twice weekly basis and proved to be a great success, with between 50 and 60 boys attending each session. Use was made of some of the senior players who came and instructed the boys in the skills required. This continued from April to the summer holidays; the under-14 age group were also given more advanced instruction about how the game should be played.

Four teams took part in the County Championship (under 12, 14, 16, 18) and played all their games. None of the teams reached the final stages of the competitions, but against bigger and stronger players their performances gave room for optimism.

A seven-a-side competition was run in the summer. This was confined to the parish. Eight teams from the under-12 to 14 age group took part. Special trophies were presented to the winners, with medals going to the runners-up.

While everyone was happy with the progress this year, the organisation must be on going, building on progress already made.

With this in mind, and in accord with the wishes the G.A.A. Bord na n-Óg has been set up in the parish, to build a strong and lasting youth policy in the club. Only this way can we hope to succeed.

At the first meeting of the new Bord nÓg new team managers were elected to take charge of the teams. They were: 1984

U-12s, Packie Haughey, Hugh Shovlin, John Hegarty.

U-14s: Paddy Sweeney, Brendan McShane.

U-16s: James McGinley, Gerard Shovlin.

U-18s: Seán McGinley, Seamus Gillespie.

Ann McFadden and Tina O'Donnell were elected secretaries.

In order to have the teams well prepared for the championships it was decided to start training as early in the year as possible. Special training was arranged in the parish hall for the under 12s and 14s in early March and continued until the start of the championships. Challenge games were arranged for the under 14s and these proved very successful. Great credit is due to the people who gave of their time and transport in the preparation of the teams, and the fruits of their work was seen in the games that followed.

The most successful team this year was the under 14s as far as results were concerned. On their way to the divisional final they defeated Killybegs, Ardara, Dungloe and Glencolmille. In all these games the young boys gave of their best and provided us with good football. More important their behaviour on and off the field left nothing to be desired, and were a credit to their parents and clubs.

The under 12s provided some very close and exciting games, and it was at this level that perhaps the most improvement was noted. Having done very well in their first games they were overcome by bigger and stronger teams later on. The highlight of the under 12s was their performance in the divisional final (losers) against Glenties.

The standard of football in this game was regarded by some people, as better than that of the "winners" final.

In conclusion we would urge parents and others to take a more active interest in the promotion of football among our young boys because we should never forget that their training in sport is just a small step in their preparation for that greater game, the game of life itself.



KILCAR PIPE BAND ON GOLDEN JUBILEE DAY



A youthful looking Michael Carr learning the skills.

THE ANTRIMS

One wonders how they got this name for the Curris, Bogach, Sliabh Liag team. But as the story goes some of them were returning from a dance one night or early in the morning and they had sung all their known songs and they started up the chant as they marched: "An trom", "an trom". Do bhí na cosa an trom an oíche sin. They were called the "Antrims" from then on.

Snippets

Team manager of the Donegal U-21 team in 1984 was Seamus Gallagher of the Kilcar senior team. They were defeated by Antrim at Casement Park, Belfast, by a narrow margin of one point.

* * * * *

Tá Conaill MacCuinneagáin as an Charraig, fear a d'imir ina oige le Cill Chártha, anois ar Bhord Chumann Lúthchleas Gael san Astráil.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

C.L.G. Chill Chartha in this the centenary year thank their very loyal supporters who have given great help and encouragement all through the years.

We would like to thank all the clubs in the county against whom Kilcar have played, especially our neighbouring clubs, Naomh Columba and Killybegs who gave the use of playing pitches and other items at various times.

Also a word of appreciation to the County Committees, referees and Referees Board for their help at all times which on occasions may have been difficult.

CLUB OFFICERS IN CENTENARY YEAR

Honorary Presidents:

His Lordship, Bishop Hegarty
Fr. D. McShane, P.P.
James Patrick McGinley
Proinnsias Carr

President:

Michéal Ó Domhnaill

Chairman:

Charlie McDevitt

Assistant Chairman:

Michael O'Byrne

Secretary:

Seamus Doogan

Assistant Secretary:

James McHugh

Treasurer:

John Carr

Assistant Treasurer:

Philip Garvey

P.R.O.:

John Hegarty

Oifigeach Na Gaeilge:

Michéal Ó Domhnaill

Finance Officer:

Seán McGinley

New Field Committee:

Charlie O'Donnell
Paddy McDevitt
Michael O'Byrne
Maurice Hegarty

Old Park Committee:

Seamus Gillespie
Peter Hegarty
Frank Sweeney
John Hegarty

Gatemen:

John F. Doogan
Phelim Molloy
Seamus Gildea
James McGinley
Maurice Hegarty

Finance Committee:

Seán McGinley
Philip Garvey
Bridie O'Donnell
John Doogan
Hugh Shovlin
John Carr
Charlie McDevitt
Seamus Doogan



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A campaign to promote the purchase of Irish Goods jointly sponsored by the Gaelic Athletic Association and Irish Cement



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