



Craobh Chluichí Iomána Thiobraid Árann 2021

*Stáid Semple,
Dúrlas Éile*

*14ú Samhain
2021*

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Clár an Lae

- 12.43 Killenaule** amach ar an bpáirc
- 12.45 Templederry Kenyons** amach ar an bpáirc
- 1.00** Tús an chluiche – **FBD Insurance Séamus Ó Riain Cup Final:**
KILLENAULE v **TEMPLEDERRY KENYONS**
- 1.33** Leath-am
- 1.43** Tús an dara leath
- 2.15** Críoch an chluiche
- 2.25** Presentation of the **Séamus Ó Rian Cup** to the winning captain by Séamas Ó Muineog, Leas Cathaoirleach an Chontae, followed by the presentation of the 'Man of the Match' award (sponsored by John Quirke Jewellers, Cahir)
- 2.40** Presentation to Player of the Year "Tipperary Supporters Club"
- 2.53 Loughmore-Castleiney** amach ar an bpáirc
- 2.55 Thurles Sarsfields** amach ar an bpáirc
- 3.10** Pre-Match Parade lead by the **Moycarkey-Borris Pipe Band**
- 3.14** Amhrán na bhFiann
- 3.15** Tús an chluiche – **FBD Insurance Senior Hurling Championship Final:**
LOUGHMORE-CASTLEINEY
v **THURLES SARSFIELDS**
- 3.48** Leath-am
- 3.58** Tús an dara leath
- 4.30** Críoch an chluiche
- 4.40** Presentation of the **Dan Breen Cup** to the winning captain by Seosamh Ó Cinnéide, Cathaoirleach an Chontae, followed by the presentation of the 'Man of the Match' award (sponsored by John Quirke Jewellers, Cahir)

There is no extra time in today's games

Buíochas

Today's programme has been compiled with assistance of Tom Maher (Assistant County Secretary), Tim Floyd (County Secretary), Jonathan Cullen (Tipperary PRO), Jason Lyons (Killenaule), Cora Ryan (Templederry Kenyons), Richard Maher (Loughmore-Castleiney) and Thomas Callanan (Thurles Sarsfields). Many thanks to all who contributed articles: Seamus O'Doherty, Noel Dundon, Séamus Ó Dubhagáin, Andy Ryan, S.J. King and Jim O'Shea. Finally míle buíochas to our photographers whose images capture the moments and memories so well: Eamonn McGee, Bridget Delaney, Odhran Ducie, Michael Boland and Sportsfile.

GER CORBETT, Programme Editor

Programme Cover – Action from County Senior Hurling Final 2014 – Aidan McGrath (Loughmore-Castleiney) and Aidan McCORMACK (Thurles Sarsfields) tussle for possession of the sliotar. [Photo: Diarmuid Greene, Sportsfile]



Fáilte ón gCathairleach



Is cúis mhór áthais dom fíorchaoín fáilte a fhearadh roimh go léir go dtí Stáid Semple inniu.

On behalf of Tipperary GAA, it gives me great pleasure to welcome our four competing teams and their management and supporters to Semple Stadium today.

The four teams competing in today's final have proved themselves to be the best in their respective competitions and are in the finals on merit. The structure of our championships, with sixteen teams in each grade, has given us great games at each stage of the championship and whichever teams win the finals will have certainly earned the right to be Champions.

In the Séamus Ó Riain final, both Killenaule and Templederry Kenyons have been very impressive over the course of the competition. Killenaule, who were relegated last year, are one game from making a quick return to the Dan Breen Competition. Templederry, who have been

one of the top teams over the past number of years, hope today is the day they get their hands on the Séamus Ó Riain trophy.

The Senior final has two teams who are no strangers to each other and hope that their championship form continues, which should make for a very entertaining final. Thurles Sarsfields make a return to the final after four years and if they produce the same form today as in the previous rounds they will be very hard to beat.

Loughmore-Castleiney, who have won many admirers for their heroics in reaching both finals again, carry the hurt of losing last year in the final, which will make them dangerous opponents. They will be hoping for one more big performance to lift the Dan Breen Cup.

We wish all four teams and their management the best of luck and look forward to two very entertaining games.

We want to welcome our sponsors FBD Insurance to

our games and thank them for their generous support.

We would like to welcome all our patrons for their support over the last number of months. Thankfully we have unrestricted attendance today and a large crowd will add to the occasion.

Best wishes to our referees Conor Doyle and John Dooley and their officials and hope that they too enjoy today.

Finally, without the use of Semple Stadium for the concluding stages of our senior hurling championship, we would have great trouble in advancing our fixtures to reach today's conclusion, our thanks to Padraic Greene and his staff who have kept the pitch in such immaculate condition at all times.

SEOSAMH Ó CINNÉIDE

Cathaoirleach Chontae Thiobraid Árann



LEFT:

Tommy Maher (Loughmore/Castleiney) goes on a solo run with Eddie Ryan (Borris-Ileigh) in close pursuit.

[Photo: Bridget Delaney]



RIGHT:

Stephen Cahill (Thurles Sarsfields) gets away from the challenge of Billy Seymour (Kiladangan) during the semi-final.

[Photo: Bridget Delaney]

Meet the Match Officials

CONOR DOYLE

Senior Final Referee

CONOR DOYLE is 37 years old and is a Primary School Teacher in St. Colmcille's Primary School, Templemore.

Conor began refereeing in 2015 after retiring from playing. Conor hurled for Holycross-Ballycahill and won a County Junior A title in 2010 before moving to Silvermines in 2014.

Since taking up refereeing, Conor has officiated at the County Intermediate Hurling Final in 2018, All-Ireland Celtic Challenge Final 2019, County Senior Hurling League Final 2021. Conor is a member of the Munster referee panel and the National Support referee panel. He is actively involved with his club Silvermines and was part of the Senior management team in 2021, as well as helping out with Silvermines Juvenile Camogie Club, where his daughters are playing.

OFFICIALS

Standby Referee:

John McCormack
(Knockavilla-
Donaskeigh
Kickhams)

Linesman: Michael

Kennedy
(Newcastle GAA).

Sideline Official:

Peter Carroll
(Burgess).

Umpires: Michael

Doyle and Adrian O'Keeffe (Holycross-Ballycahill); Liam Keogh and Ciarán Timmons (Silvermines).



JOHN DOOLEY

Seamus Ó Riain Final Referee

JOHN DOOLEY took up refereeing in early 2018. He felt there was a shortage of referees in the county and it was a way of giving something back for all the years of enjoyment he got through hurling.

With good fitness levels and combined with years of hurling he decided to give refereeing a go having spoken with club mate and inter-county referee Kevin Jordan.

So four years into his refereeing career, John is proud to represent his family and club Thurles Gaels in today's Seamus Ó Riain final.

He passes on best wishes to both clubs involved.

OFFICIALS

Standby Referee:

Sean Everard

Linesman: Kevin

Jordan

Sideline Official: Mark

Dunne

Umpires: Gerry Carew, Pat Flanagan, Christy Moore, David Coppinger.



TODAY Conor Doyle has the distinction of being the first son of a father who previously refereed a Dan Breen Final.

Michael Doyle was the man in the middle for the 1994 clash of Toomevara and Cashel King Cormacs.

Conor's late grandfather John Doyle won three County Senior Hurling Championships in 1948, '51 and '54 with his native Holycross/ Ballycahill.



Andy O'Gorman - A familiar and friendly face to all in the press box on match days in Semple Stadium.

FBD INSURANCE - PROUDLY SUPPORTING TIPPERARY HURLING

On behalf of FBD Insurance, Ireland's local Irish insurer,
I would like to welcome you all to Semple Stadium.

We are proud to be the sponsor of the Tipperary GAA Club Championships. With 34 branches across the country we are dedicated to supporting our local communities and so we are delighted and privileged to have the opportunity to partner with Tipperary GAA on this exciting journey which culminates in today's finals.

FBD Insurance is the largest Irish owned Insurance company in the market and has local branch offices in Thurles, Clonmel and Nenagh with over fifty years' experience providing a wide range of insurance cover for cars, homes, farms, shops and a broad range of general business.

Best of luck to the teams in today's County Finals - **Killenaule & Templederry Kenyons** in the Seamus O'Riain Cup and **Loughmore Castleiney & Thurles Sarsfields** in the Dan Breen Cup.

Michael Berkery

Chairman, FBD Trust

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County Final sound is music to our ears

By: NOEL DUNDON
(Tipperary Star)



THE STANDS will be alive with the sound of music.

Paraphrasing that famous line from the musical, *The Sound of Music*, seems perfectly appropriate when describing the acoustics around Semple Stadium these last few weeks of the FBD Insurance County Senior Hurling Championship.

The place has been reverberating to the sound of supporters cheering, clapping, groaning, giving out to the referees, arguing with each other, and enjoying the magnificent fare served up by our Premier players.

It's a long way to the Tipperary we had last

year for the county championship concluding stages when every single murmur and puck of the ball could be heard very clearly in the deafening silence of the Covid championship, with no supporters.

Last year's decider had a few spectators back in and they made plenty of noise, especially the Kiladangan folks when they snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, to make history. Loughmore-Castleiney won't want to be reminded of that, and yet, it is from there that they draw their reserves of strength as they bid to rectify the situation this time round.

Sarsfields and Loughmore-Castleiney supporters will be vocal again and the stands will ring out amid the din of combative cheer – there's nothing quite like local rivalry to get the emotions stirring and the blood boiling. The rivalry between the clubs is magnificent and it is underpinned by a deep respect and mutual appreciation of the achievements of the other.

The fact that so many of the players are so very friendly with each other, socialise with each other, and have even married-in to each others groups, ensures that the ties are very close . . . off the pitch at least. But, when they cross the whistewash and the red heat of battle rises, it is a different story.

Sarsfields have had the upper hand on the Loughmore-Castleiney men in recent times – the Mid final being the latest clash between them. But, both management teams and players, have expressed the view that the divisional showcase counts for nothing now as they ready themselves for the battle on the ultimate day. They are probably right too –



Loughmore-Castleiney's Ciaran Connolly about to collect the sliotar as Borris-Ileigh's moves in to challenge Kieran Maher semi-final. [Photo: Bridget Delaney]

ur ears as the stands come alive



Conor Stakelum (Thurles Sarsfields) attempts to evade Alan Flynn (Kiladangan) during the semi-final.

[Photo: Bridget Delaney]

Loughmore-Castleiney as a team, has improved out of sight since that day in Holycross and the return of Liam McGrath and Ciaran Connolly has been very important to them too. They have the bit between their teeth now and as anybody in Thurles will testify, Loughmore-Castleiney are extremely hard to defeat in finals.

As for Sarsfields? Well, they have had all the answers so far this campaign and have been impressive with every game. They have won their games convincingly and when their backs were to the wall in the semi-final against the reigning champions Kiladangan, they found a way to win the game as well, despite having given away two softish goals.

The Blues just seem to have an edge about them this time round and they have a freshness which has infused the veins of the team with young oxygen-filled blood. They have an energy about them which revels in the expanses of Semple Stadium, and Loughmore-Castleiney's big goal will be to

put the clamps on the Sars' legs, limit their mobility, and then try to make the most of the possession they can mine.

It promises to be a great final, full of intrigue and mystery. There are many questions to be asked going into the game: Will Sarsfields go long with the ball as they did in the semi-final? Who will pick up John McGrath? Will Loughmore-Castleiney operate a two man full forward line? Will Sarsfields use Billy McCarthy from the start? Which side the answers to these questions, and many others, will fall on, will determine the outcome.

Let's hope we get a game befitting the occasion; let's hope we get an occasion befitting the game too.

We started with a musical, we'll finish with one – *County Final, Here we Go Again* as ABBA might have written had they been fortunate enough to experience the Premier buzz!!

Enjoy.

Top form

THE performance of Paudie Maher at full back for Thurles Sarsfields in the semi-final win over Kiladangan was impressive. One particular intervention to foil Billy Seymour's scoring attempt in the 56th minute, when the game was in the balance, proved significant.



Padraic Maher

Paudie is positioned at full back, where he played in his first county final against Toomevara in 2008 and continues to inspire his colleagues. Having captained his club to four county titles – a feat only surpassed by Tom Semple and Jim Lanigan – and the Munster crown in 2012, it is fair to say that Paudie is still giving displays to match those of his heyday.

On this date

THERE have been several county finals played in the month of November (most recently 2019) and if the split county/club season is retained, there will be more late finishes to the last domestic occasion before the winners head into provincial action.

The only previous Dan Breen Cup county final played on November 14th was in 1965 and coincidentally it featured Thurles Sarsfields. The Blues were in search of a fifth consecutive title, but they met an emerging force in the Mick Roche inspired Carrick Davins. The match at Clonmel ended in a draw – Thurles Sarsfields 2-7, Carrick Davins 3-4. A week later, the replay was hosted in Cashel, and while Sarsfields won their five in a row (3-11 to 2-7), Carrick Davins made the breakthrough and won the 1966 (v Lorrha) and 1967 (v Roscrea) county titles.

County final

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



Occasional

WHILE Thurles Sarsfields and Loughmore-Castleiney have been regular opponents in the Mid championship, including this year's decider, which was won by the Blues on August 22nd, their clashes at the knock-out stage of the county championship have been less frequent.

The clubs met twice at the quarter-final stage, with Sarsfields winning both clashes. In 2010 the score was 2-19 to 2-13 and in 2011 the result was 3-17 to 2-16. There were also two semi-final encounters, both of which were won by Sarsfields. They triumphed by 3-13 to 4-7, at Templemore in 2002, while in 2005 the score was 2-19 to 2-14 at Semple Stadium.

The only final clash was in 2014, when Loughmore-Castleiney, who had won the Senior county double in 2013, were overcome by a sparkling Sarsfields display which saw them victorious by 2-22 to 3-11.

ATTENDANCES

ONE THING certain about this year's decider is that the Covid-19 enforced two hundred supporters limit admitted to see the 2020 decider will be exceeded. Loughmore-Castleiney's last county title win against Nenagh Éire Óg attracted an attendance of 7,195, while their 2014 encounter with Sarsfields had 5,752 patrons in Semple Stadium to see them dethroned.

Thurles Sarsfields' last win in 2017 against Borris-Ileigh attracted 8,376 gael, while their most recent final loss against Toomevara, in 2008, was seen live by 5,835 supporters.

Local Memories

By ten

THE names of the leading marksmen in the county senior hurling finals, through the decades, are sure to rekindle memories of great days for their clubs and families.

The scoring stars were:

- 1931 Martin Kennedy (Toomevara) 3-1 v. Moycarkey-Two Mile Borris
- 1941 Jer Looby (Boherlahan) 1-1 v Éire Óg (West)
- 1951 Ned O'Gorman (Holycross-Ballycahill) 3-0 v Clonoulty-Rossmore
- 1961 Kevin Houlihan (Thurles Sarsfields) 2-0 v Toomevara
- 1971 Martin O'Grady (Moynemount) 1-1 v Roscrea
- 1981 Noel O'Dwyer (Borris-Ileigh) 0-8 v Roscrea
- 1991 Tommy Grogan (Cashel KC) 1-4 v Holycross-Ballycahill
- 2001 John Enright (Thurles Sarsfields) 1-9 v Toomevara
- 2011 Seamus Callanan (Drom-Inch) 0-6 and Timmy Hammersley (Clonoulty-Rossmore) 0-6.



Martin O'Grady



Seamus Callanan

Staying local

TODAY'S final will be the twenty second between clubs from the same Division. The first encounter was in 1962 when Thurles Sarsfields beat Moycarkey-Borris by one point. There have been fourteen all North (1972 to 2019) and seven all Mid (1962 to 2014) county finals. Thurles Sarsfields have played in six of these local contests, winning them all. Loughmore-Castleiney have appeared in two, beating Drom-Inch in 2007 and losing to Sarsfields in 2014.

Seven finals

THURLES Sarsfields have been victorious in their last seven county final appearances. Their last defeat in a Dan Breen Cup decider was by Toomevara in 2008.

2009 beat Drom & Inch 0-14 to 0-5

2010 beat Clonoulty Rossmore 1-16 to 1-7

2012 beat Drom & Inch 1-21 to 2-15

2014 beat Loughmore-Castleiney 2-22 to 3-11

2015 beat Nenagh Éire Óg 1-18 to 3-11

2016 beat Kiladangan 0-27 to 1-15

2017 beat Borris-Ileigh 1-24 to 0-11

Loughmore-Castleiney's record in their seven county finals is:

1983 lost to Borris-Ileigh 0-17 to 1-11

1987 lost to Cappawhite 1-17 to 2-13

1988 beat Borris-Ileigh 2-7 to 1-8 (replay), after 1-6 to 0-9 draw

2007 beat Drom & Inch 0-22 to 0-13

2013 beat Nenagh Éire Óg 1-17 to 1-16

2014 lost to Thurles Sarsfields 2-22 to 3-11

2020 lost to Kiladangan 1-28 to 3-20 after extra time.

FLYING WHITE

THE increasing number of points scored at inter-county level has also been observed on the club scene. This year's Tipp quarter-finals saw three teams landing over twenty points (white flags only), but none of the four semi-finalists reached that milestone.

At county final level, there have been some impressive tallies, with the standard set by Kiladangan, who landed 28, including five in extra time, against Loughmore-Castleiney in 2020.

The next highest on the list are -

Thurles Sarsfields 27 v Kiladangan (2016)
Nenagh Éire Óg 25 v Boherlahan-Dualla (1995)

Thurles Sarsfields 24 v Borris-Ileigh (2017),
Clonoulty Rossmore 23 v Nenagh Éire Óg (2018)

Loughmore-Castleiney 22 v Drom-Inch (2007)

Toomevara 22 v Thurles Sarsfields (2001)
Thurles Sarsfields 22 v Loughmore-Castleiney (2014).

Best of luck to Loughmore/Castleiney



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Best of luck to Loughmore/Castleiney

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SEAMUS Ó RIAIN CUP FINAL PREVIEW

A humdinger of a game in prospect

By: LIAM HOGAN



IF ONE is to be very honest, both Killenaule and Templederry were always going to be on the shortlist to reach the final of this year's Seamus Ó Riain Cup decider.

In the case of Killenaule, they have the pedigree of a team that could challenge for Dan Breen honours but never quite made it. They fell to Kiladangan in the 2016 semi-final and like every club descended into a valley period and that period arrived in 2019 when they were relegated from the Dan Breen with Portroe also making the drop.

Looking on Templederry's career path, they played senior hurling for a short period in the early noughties, returned to Intermediate in 2006, before winning the County Intermediate hurling final in 2008.

From there they maintained their steady progress and reached the Dan Breen semi-final in 2014. Their form dropped and before long they were relegated to the Seamus Ó Riain. Looking for a quick return to the Dan Breen has been tough but Templederry remain steadfast and they have reached the knockout stages over the last five seasons. They reached the quarter-final in 2017 but fell short. They were beaten semi-finalists in 2018 and 2019 with Burgess and Holycross denying them before falling short to Lorrha in the 2020 quarter-final. Now they have gone one step higher and who knows.

Looking at Killenaule's path to this year's final began with victory over Mullinahone to win the south senior hurling championship. They emerged from their group unbeaten before defeating Kiladangan in the quarter-final by six points. They didn't have it all their own way in the semi-final clash with Saint Mary's.

Depending on the day, Killenaule's form has been hit and miss but it's not because they are short of talent. Their defence has giving very little way as Paddy Codd, Killian O'Dwyer and Joe O'Dwyer can prove. Their attacking options are reliable also with Ciaran O'Dwyer, Mark

Stakelum and the evergreen Kieran Bergin displaying potential on the half forward line. On the inside line John 'Bubbles' O'Dwyer can inspire Killenaule single handily and has good support in Eoin Shaw and the experienced Michael Doyle.

On the other side of the coin, Templederry has produced very high scoring performances this year and their semi-final win over thirteen man Cashel was another high scoring production. Each of the six forwards can score, which is what any teams wants, but the performance of Sean Ryan at corner forward has elevated the side to new heights. The twenty year old has been inspirational and is mentioned as one that Colm Bonnar might call into the Tipp squad for 2022.

The experienced Gearóid Ryan is back to his best at half forward. The former Tipp star is the team captain this year and Templederry fans will be delighted to see he has recovered from a number of injuries endured over the past twelve months and is hoping to go the full sixty without any problems. Other players like Odhran Murphy, Adrian Ryan and Darragh Carey have had injury problems but they have recovered. As we have witnessed this year, Templederry can find scores anywhere and Eanna Murray, Pádraig O'Leary have not let the side down so far.

Christy Coughlan had his problems on the injury front too but the excellent full back is approaching full fitness and will be expected to line out on Sunday. The same might not be said about Brian Stapleton but in their absence the Templederry defence has done really well with Tomás Stapleton proving he is as reliable as ever either at three or six. Both Pádraig Hogan and Tadgh McLoughlin are reliable corner backs and have an ever improving goalkeeper in Tim McCutcheon behind them. Elsewhere, Dale Donnelly has played very well at right wing back while Mattie Hogan has caught the eye at midfield.

In summary we can look forward to a humdinger of a game. The two best teams are in the final and based on their ability to score I expect to see Templederry win. But they need to be aware that Killenaule have a defence that hasn't gave much away, only conceding one goal over the five games.

KILLENAULE



Back row (l.-r.): Cian Johnson-Croke, John O'Dwyer, Michael Doyle, Paddy Codd, Luke Ryan, Ciaran O'Dwyer, Graham O'Connor, Jonathan Gleeson, Eoin Shaw, Jack Hassett, Paudie Feehan, Gus Browne, Dean O'Connor, Joe O'Dwyer, Mark Stakelum. Front row (l.-r.): Jimmy Feehan, Kevin Prendergast, David McCormack, Eoin O'Connell, Liam Meagher, Killian O'Dwyer (Capt), Tom Stakelum, Dennis Fogarty, Kieran Bergin, Eoin Barry, Darragh Fitzgerald, Matthew O'Donnell. Missing from photo: Daniel Guinan, Tom Keavaney, Martan Fennelly.

Killenaule's Path to the Final

	Killenaule 0-19	Sean Treacys 0-19
	Killenaule 1-17	Ballina 0-17
	Killenaule 1-16	Gortnahoe/Glengoole 0-12
Quarter-final:	Killenaule 1-21	Kiladangan 0-18
Semi-final:	Killenaule 2-18	St. Mary's 1-16
	Scores for: 5-91	Scores against: 1-82



Killenaule Management Team – Back row (l.-r.): Anthony Doyle, Raymie Ryan, Niall O'Dwyer, Michael Gleeson. Front row (l.-r.): James Gleeson, Kenneth Browne, John Healy, Michael Guinan.

RIGHT:
Killenaule's John 'Bubbles' O'Dwyer is surrounded by St. Mary's players as he attempts to get in his strike during the semi-final.

[Photo: Michael Boland]



TEMPLEDERRY KENYONS



Templederry Kenyons panel that defeated Cashel King Cormacs in the Seamus Ó Riain semi-final at the Ragg. Back row (l.-r.): Tom Ryan (O), Odhrán Murphy, Gearóid Ryan (Capt), Liam McCutcheon, Tim McCutcheon, Michael O'Leary, John Kennedy, Colm Murray, Charlie Ward, Ross Donnelly, Michael Ryan (P), Mark Grisewood, Tadhg McLoughlin, Darragh Carey, Michael Hayes, Brian Stapleton. Kneeling: Matthew Hogan, Conor Looby, Christy Coughlan, Seanie Ryan, Thomas Stapleton, Eanna Murray, Adrian Ryan, Dale Donnelly, Harry Stapleton, Mike Ryan, Padraig Hogan. Issued from photo: Padraig O'Leary and Cathal O'Brien.

PLAYER PROFILES

Tim McCutcheon	21	Fencing Sales Exec.	Seán Ryan	21	Aircraft Technician
Darragh Carey	24	Aircraft Mechanic	John Kennedy	25	Trainee Accountant
Christy Coughlan	32	Secondary School Teacher	Ross Donnelly	24	Farm Manager
Dale Donnelly	28	Engineer	Brian Stapleton	29	Biochemist
Tom Stapleton	33	Primary School Teacher	Tadhg McLoughlin	30	Carpenter
Liam McCutcheon	24	Student	Tom Ryan	31	Ecologist
Mikey Ryan	19	Student	Colm Murray	20	Student
Odhrán Murphy	24	Farmer	Micheál O'Leary	35	Aircraft Maintenance Engineer
Michael Ryan	35	Fund Administrator	Mark Grisewood	28	Block Layer
Gearóid Ryan	33	Plumber	Conor Looby	22	Apprentice Electrician
Adrian Ryan	31	Fund Accountant	Pádraig Hogan	25	IT Technician
Pádraig O'Leary	33	Aircraft Engineer	Charlie Ward	19	Student
Matthew Hogan	27	Carpenter	Cathal O'Brien	18	Student
Eanna Murray	30	Tax Manager – Deloitte	Michael Hayes	18	Carpenter
			Harry Stapleton	19	Apprentice Fitter

PATH TO THE FINAL

- Round 1: Templederry Kenyons 5-20 Newport 1-17
- Round 2: Templederry Kenyons 1-25 Clonakenny 1-14
- Round 3: Templederry Kenyons 0-14 Silvermines 0-19
- Quarter-Final: Templederry Kenyons 3-28 Gortnahoe-Glengoose 2-15
- Semi-Final: Templederry Kenyons 4-23 Cashel King Cormacs 1-11



Templederry Kenyons Management (from left): Mark Gleeson (S&C), Cormac McGrath (Manager), Damien Bourke and Alan Ryan.

[Photos: Bridget Delaney]



Killenaule

Dathanna: Dearg agus Buí

Seamus Ó Rian Cup



S. Ó Gliasáin
JONATHAN GLEESON

	1 st LEATH	2 nd LEATH	IOMLÁN
CÓIL			
CÓILÍNÍ			
SEACHAÍ			
65m			
SADR POCANNA			



C. Ó Dubhuir (*Capt*)
KILLIAN O'DWYER



P. Mac Óda
PADDY CODD



S. Ó hAisí
JACK HASSETT



S. Ó Fiacháin
JIMMY FEEHAN



S. Ó Dubhuir
JOE O'DWYER



L. Ó Meachair
LIAM MEAGHER



T. Steaclúm
TOM STAKELUM



E. Ó Conaill
EIOIN O'CONNELL



D. Ó Conchúir
DEAN O'CONNOR



S. Ó Dubhuir
JOHN O'DWYER



C. Ó Dubhuir
CIARAN O'DWYER



M. Steaclúm
MARK STAKELUM



M. Ó Dúghaill
MICHAEL DOYLE



E. Seách
EIOIN SHAW

16. G. Ó Conchúir Graham O'Connor	20. P. Ó Fiacháin Paudie Feehan	24. C. de Priondrágas Kevin Prendergast	28. T. Ó Géibheannaigh Tom Keavaney
17. C. Ó Beirgin Kieran Bergin	21. G. de Brún Gus Browne	25. D. Ó Fógartaigh Denis Fogarty	
18. D. Mac Gearailt Darragh Fitzgerald	22. M. Ó Dónaill Matthew O'Donnell	26. C. Mac Seáin-Cróc Cian Johnson-Croke	
19. E. de Barra Eoin Barry	23. D. Ó Coinneáin Daniel Guinan	27. M. Ó Fionnalaigh Marten Fennelly	

Manager: Kenneth Browne Selectors: Niall O'Dwyer, Michael Gleeson, John Healy Coach: Raymie Ryan
 Physio: Des O'Meara Medic: Dr. Liam Meagher Kit Man: Michael Guinan Hurlley Carriers: Tony Doyle, Anthony Doyle

Templederry Kenyons

Dathanna: Glas agus Bán

Seamus Ó Riain Cup



	1 <u>A</u> U LEATH	2 <u>A</u> U LEATH	IOMLÁN
CÚIL			
CÚILÍNÍ			
SEACHAÍ			
6 <u>5</u> M			
SAOR POCANNA			

T. Mac Úistín
TOM McCUTCHEON



D. Ó Ciara
DARRAGH CAREY



C. Ó Cochláin
CHRISTY COUGHLAN



D. Ó Donnaile
DALE DONNELLY



T. Mac an Ghaill
TOM STAPLETON



L. Mac Úistín
LIAM McCUTCHEON



M. Ó Riain
MIKEY RYAN



O. Ó Murchú
ODHRÁN MURPHY



M. Ó Riain
MICHAEL RYAN



G. Ó Riain (Capt)
GEARÓID RYAN



A. Ó Riain
ADRIAN RYAN



P. Ó Laoire
PÁDRAIG O'LEARY



M. Ó hÓgáin
MATTHEW HOGAN



E. Ó Muirí
EANNA MURRAY



S. Ó Riain
SEÁN RYAN

16. S. Ó Cinnéide John Kennedy	20. T. Ó Riain Tom Ryan	24. C. Ó Lubaigh Conor Looby	28. M. Ó hAodha Michael Hayes
17. R. Ó Donnaile Ross Donnelly	21. C. Ó Muirí Colm Murray	25. P. Ó hÓgáin Pádaig Hogan	29. H. Mac an Ghaill Harry Stapleton
18. B. Mac an Ghaill Brian Stapleton	22. M. Ó Laoire Micheál O'Leary	26. C. Mac an Bhaird Charlie Ward	
19. T. Ó Lochlainn Tadhg McLoughlin	23. M. Grisewood Mark Grisewood	27. C. Ó Briain Cathal O'Brien	

Manager: Cormac McGrath Selectors: Alan Ryan, Damien Bourke S&C: Mark Gleeson Physio: Mikey Tynan
Logistics: Danny McGrath, Bryan Carey Stats: Elaine Gleeson, Yvonne Forde, Aileen Ryan, Cora Ryan Hurlie Carriers: Diarmuid Corcoran, Sean Collins



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'Greene' fingered Padraig tends to the Semple sod

By: NOEL DUNDON
(Tipperary Star)



SEMPLE STADIUM caretaker **Padraig Greene** has taken a circuitous route back to the scene of the goal he scored in 2004 with his native Moneygall – little did he think on that day that he would end up tending to the famous sod of the Field of Legends.

Padraig – a selector with the Moneygall lads this season – studied horticulture in Kildalton College before heading to the famous Edmondstown College in Scotland where he embarked upon further studies in greenkeeping. He worked as greenkeeper in Roscrea Golf Club and in Dromoland Castle before deciding to head to Australia where he ended up working for the municipal authority in Melbourne looking after green areas and pitches – a sector of the profession he really loved and had a flair for.

“ The challenge of maintaining the pitch to its very high reputation is a big one. ”

So, upon return to Ireland, he submitted a CV to Croke Park and as luck would have it, a position came up there shortly after and Padraig was hired. He remained in Croker for four years before moving to Abbotstown where he spent five and a half years before taking up his position in Semple Stadium in June.

“The challenge of maintaining the pitch to its very high reputation is a big one. It gets a lot of usage and therefore requires a lot of attention. Semple has hosted 50 games since June – normally Croke Park would only just about host that number in a full season. And, Croke Park is a sand based pitch, whereas in Semple it is soil based and therefore requires a lot more care in terms of spiking, aeration and drainage,” Padraig says.

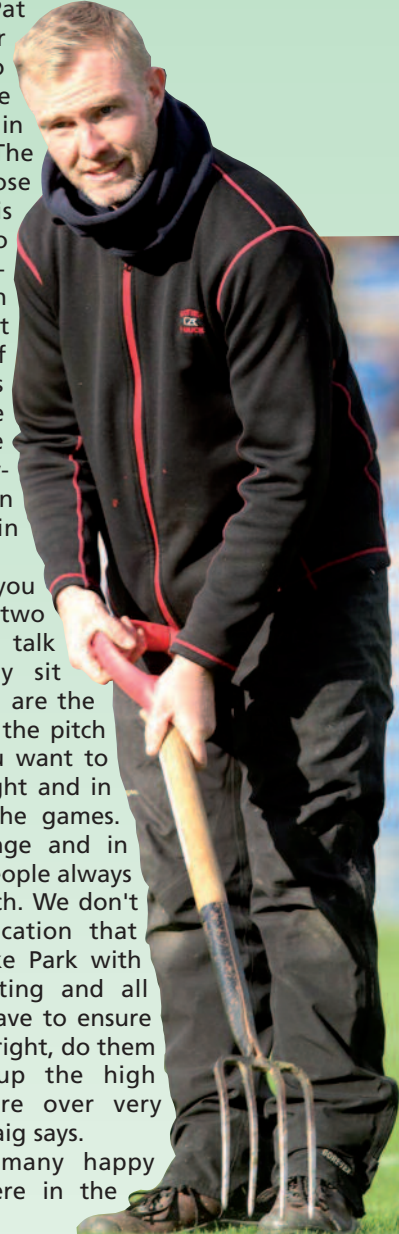
The key to pitch maintenance is ensuring that when there is strong growth that reseeding

and fertilising takes place – that way, you give the sod the best chance possible to be resilient when the non-growth, pressure time comes on.

Padraig works in conjunction with Pat O'Callaghan in Dr Morris Park to ensure that the pitches there are in top shape too. The demand on those three pitches is extremely high, so careful consideration has to be given to the treatment and handling of them. This work is a labour of love though and the satisfaction of having the pitches in good condition is huge.

“At any game you go to, the first two things people will talk about when they sit down in the stand are the weather and how the pitch is looking. So, you want to have it looking right and in great shape for the games. That's the challenge and in Semple Stadium people always talk about the pitch. We don't have the sophistication that they have in Croke Park with underground heating and all that, so we just have to ensure that we do things right, do them well and keep up the high standards set here over very many years,” Padraig says.

We wish him many happy years of work here in the Field of Legends.



“My Photograph of the Year”



By: **BRIDGET DELANEY**
(Photographer)

Tauri Shayanewako is totally focused on gaining possession against Kerry in the Munster MHC at the Gaelic Grounds. Tauri is a member of Nenagh Éire Óg club and has a bright future.



County Final Memories

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



RETENTION

SINCE the Dan Breen Cup was first presented to the winners of the county senior hurling championship in 1931, only eight clubs have managed to retain it. Thurles Sarsfields have won the five in a row twice, a four in a row, a three in a row and three doubles.

Toomevara have claimed a four in a row, a trio and a double Roscrea won a trio and a double, Moycarkey-Borris and Kilruane MacDonaghs won three in a row, while Carrick Davins, Borris-Ileagh and Moneygall claimed a double.

Reward

THE winners of today's county final will have a chance to recover from their county final exertions because the Munster semi-final is fixed for the week end of December 11/12, when the winners of the Ballygunner v Inagh-Kilnamona or Ballyea, first round clash, will provide the opposition in the provincial semi-final.

Loughmore-Castleiney were Munster champions in 2007, while Thurles Sarsfields lifted the title in 2012. Neither club got past the semi-final, with Portumna and Kilcormac-Killoughey respectively proving too good for Munster's best in those seasons.

Fair exchange

IT IS noticeable that Thurles Sarsfields have a Kilkenny influence in their management team this year. The club has only occasionally engaged external assistance in the past, with the 2005 return to power, helped enormously by the contribution of Ger Cunningham of Newtownshandrum.

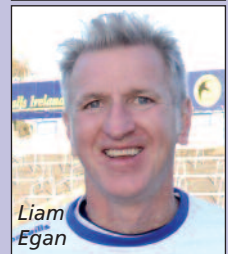
On the line for Sarsfields this year is Mark Dowling who, inter alia, won a county senior title at right half back with Dicksboro in 1993 and managed them to the 2017 victory. Mark was also in charge for the 2020 Kilkenny county final, but they came up against a top class Shamrocks team, which went on to win the title. Also on the line is Liam Egan from Callan, a former colleges, under age and Kilkenny senior hurler, who was Dicksboro trainer in 2017 and has always impressed in his management roles.



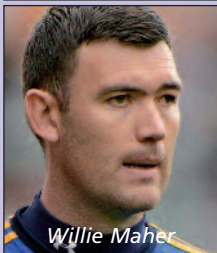
Mark Dowling



Bendan Carroll



Liam Egan



Willie Maher

Selector Brendan Carroll is the son of Mick from Lisdowney, who has made a major contribution to his adopted town, and while there is no doubt about Brendan's allegiance, his late uncle Ted Carroll was Hurler of the Year in 1969 and his cousin P.J. Kenny is the current Kilkenny Vice-Chairman.

It works the other way too and Colm Bonnar (Coach/Trainer) famously served with Andy Moloney (Manager) in leading Shamrocks to Kilkenny, Leinster and All-Ireland honours in the 2014/15 season. This year Colm was Coach/Selector with Dicksboro, before being appointed Tipp Bainisteoir in September.

Willie Maher (Ballingarry) spent the season as a selector with Bennettsbridge, who won the Kilkenny Senior League and Roscrea's Emmett Dunphy was a selector with the Carrickshock Intermediate team.

Other Tipp men, who have worked with teams in Kilkenny over recent seasons include Declan Browne (Moyle Rovers) with Graigue-Ballycallan, Stephen Hogan (Lorrha) with O'Loughlin Gaels and James McGrath (Toomevara) with Bennettsbridge.

Saol is sláinte don stiúrthóir dílis

TODAY sees what promises to be a real classic at Semple Stadium with the field dotted with more than a sprinkling of class players from clubs that epitomise all that is best in Gaelic games, one urban, the other rural.

Last year's final was one for the ages and Loughmore-Castleiney return again to do battle with their local and greatest rivals, Thurles Sarsfields. Patrons will recall great battles and golden days but one significant part of the backdrop will be missing – the voice that has directed, oiled and ordered the workings of the stadium for four decades will be absent from the communications centre beneath the roof of the old stand.

That voice that is immediately recognized all over Munster and much of Ireland and has witnessed the excitement, the passion and the sheer joy of hurling's greatest days will no longer boom to the four corners of this magnificent venue.

Liam Ó Donnchú has been part and parcel of this cultural jewel for as long as any of us care to remember. Sadly, he has decided to step down and even though the team that will replace him will no doubt perform the onerous duties of the post admirably well, there will definitely be a widespread sense of loss among the patrons of the old field.

Behind the unique voice was a constant and unrelenting love of hurling nurtured from the moment of his arrival as a young boy in Thurles in the early sixties.



Liam Ó Donnchú

Travelling on the rickety team bus of one of the finest club teams of all, Thurles Sarsfields, he sat among giants like Tony Wall and Jimmy Doyle. Thurles was a hotbed of hurling fervour which he imbibed with relish. Soon he

“ The quality of remaining calm while a stadium rocks around you is what has earned Liam the height of respect over the years ”

was playing with the underage teams, graduating to third level college teams at St. Patrick's Training College and Trinity College and laying the basis for a life steeped in hurling. Part of the successful senior hurling panel of 1974 county championship, Liam would witness the unthinkable decline of the club over the next number of years. Not

one to stand idly by, he became club secretary and club chairman and through sheer hard work, laid the foundations for the recent return to success and the revitalising of the club's fortunes in the past decade.

His qualities did not go unnoticed. As editor of the Semple Stadium programme for all games, he broke new editorial ground in the publication of interesting and stimulating programmes that today are keepsakes for the hurling faithful. A winner of the MacNamee award, he has also overseen a programme exchange project that is much loved by afficiendos. He also became editor of the Tipperary G.A.A. annual, beloved of many parents as Christmas stocking fillers but more importantly a thorough and entertaining end of year account of the full range of our activities throughout the county. He was soon public relations officer of the Semple Stadium Committee and embraced the supreme challenge that was the 1984 All-Ireland in Thurles, the centenary commemoration of the founding of the association that was a huge success. Burning the midnight oil was commonplace for him and that major achievement, particularly in the area of communications, owes a lot to his skill set, determination and above all his affable character along with his ability to function perfectly under pressure.

This quality of remaining calm and in control while a stadium rocks around you is what has earned Liam the



height of respect over the years. From the little hut above the players' entrance in the old stand in the company of Paddy Prior to the lofty communications centre under the roof of the same stand, he has kept the wheels of the stadium turning for all of forty years. Patrons have been directed safely, informed of last minute team changes, reunited with their children, whisked by helicopter to cardiac units or quite simply brought down from an ecstatic adrenaline induced high by a calm assured voice in the maelstrom that is Munster final day. Liam has witnessed all the great moments – a hurleyless Nicky English side-footing the Cork goalkeeper, Aidan Ryan scoring one of Semple Stadium's greatest goals, likewise Maurice Fitzgerald in football's classic sideline score, John Fenton rocking the net from so far out, listening to talk of whipping boys or many other ecstatic acceptance speeches and of course the great scores, defensive play and

superb skills in so many county finals.

What an array of memories to take with you! But Liam also understood that whereas the green sward in front of him was the nation's personal Colosseum of a sport that existed before Rome, we also need a time and a place to

“ Ádh mór a Liaim agus ár mbuíochas leat ”

remember and celebrate heroic events and personages of the past. Following on his early academic research on the foundation of the G.A.A., Liam has committed to print the *History of Thurles Sarsfields* (two volumes) the second of which Liam recently launched at the Sarsfields Centre that owes so much to his leadership, tenacity and vision, *The Story of Tom Semple* and the recent publication on *Semple Stadium* itself, surely a best seller ó cheann ceann na tíre. Memories are also stored in song and his col-

laboration with Clare's Jimmy Smyth and our own Séamus King on the songs and ballads of hurling is by now a collector's item. Working with Seamus and the Thurles Development Association, he has been instrumental in the founding and operation of Lár na Páirce, the Thurles G.A.A. museum, now enjoying a new lease of life.

Semple Stadium is often packed to the rafters and so too has been the life of this dedicated and accomplished National Teacher whose generosity of spirit and that of his family has been inspirational. Tá meas thar cuimse ag Liam ar an nGaeilge, é iontach líofa agus iontach bródúil as, rud a chuir go mór le taithí na gcéadta mílte ag Stáid Semple thar na blianta..

Cuirimís fáilte roimh na laochra ó Luach Maigh agus na Sairséalaigh agus fágaimís slán ag ard fhear a threoraigh sinn agus a chuidigh linn ar na laetanta ab ansa linn inar saoil. Ádh mór a Liaim agus ár mbuíochas leat.

– Séamus Ó Dubhagáin

When we were young

In the lead up to County Final day, Andy Ryan, Games Development Administrator met up with a number of the players who will grace the Field of Legends today. They, like their former teachers, were delighted to recall their fond memories of life in school, both on and off the field. Mar a déarfá, mól an óige agus tiocfaidh siad.

SEAN RYAN

Club: Templederry Keynons

Primary School: Templederry NS

Your principal in school: Gurty Rusell

Most influential GAA person in school whilst you were there: Brendan Maher who taught me in 5th and 6th class.

Best GAA memory in primary school: Winning the school league was a big deal when you were 8 years of age.

Advice for school kids today: It's not enough to just go training you must work on your skills at home to perfect them.

School comments on Sean: We have always been very proud of Seán here in Templederry N.S. We are delighted that he is getting to represent his parish in the green and white of Templederry on County Final Day in Semple Stadium, the field of dreams! Seán and all his teammates are great role models for our pupils and we wish them all the very best. (Brian Boyle, Principal Templederry NS)



CIARAN CONNOLLY

Club: Loughmore Castleiney

Your Principal in school: Louise McCullagh

Most influential GAA person in school whilst you were there: I would have to say Paddy Moore as he came to the school every Thursday to train us.

Best GAA memory in primary school: Winning the U13 hurling county final when I was in 6th class

Advice for school kids today: Keep practising at home for a few minutes a day and listen to all your mentors and coaches when they give you advice. Also just enjoy it, don't take it too serious!

Schools comments on Ciaran: In Leugh NS, we are proud to have had Ciaran Connolly as a pupil. From his first day in Junior Infants, he always had either a football or a hurley in his hand coming into school. He happened to be in school with a group of pupils who loved sport too, and although there were only five pupils in 6th class in 2012 (Ciaran



By: ANDY RYAN



included), they managed to be crowned Cumann na mBunscoile County Champions 2012. Ciaran was our top scorer (so much so, that there were times I had to ask him to stop scoring for the sake of the opposing school. He is a terrific all-rounder – the crowd in the stadium today will not realise that he is a talented pianist and in Leugh NS, whilst he is remembered for his killer instinct on the GAA pitch, we remember that same instinct came alive when playing the part of 'The Wolf' in our Little Red Riding Hood Panto! (Ms Louise McCullagh, Principal Leugh NS

DARRAGH STAKELUM

Club: Na Sairsealaigh Dúrlas Éile

Bunscoil: Gaelscoil Bhríde Dúrlas

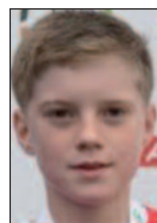
Príomhoide: Labhaoise Ní Chuinneagáin

Duine mór le rá sa sport dom sa scoil: Labhaoise Ní Chuinneagáin agus Paddy Moore

Cuimhne CLG b'fhearr liom sa bhunscoil: Cluiche ceannais an chontae a bhuac an Stáid Semple nuair a bhí mé i rang a sé

Comhairle do pháistí scoile an lá atá inniu ann: ná géill go deo

Trachtanna scoile ar Darragh: Bímid i gcónaí bródúil as n-ár ndaltaí is n-iardhailtaí agus is mór an cúis mórtais dúinn é an méid sin dóibh a fheiscint ag imirt leis na Sáirséalaigh sa Chraobh Contae. Laoch mór in a measc ná Darragh Stáicliúm. B'ímreoir agus dalta den scoth é Darragh agus é ag freastal ar Ghaelscoil Bhríde. Ceannaire iontach ar an bpáirc is den pháirc. Ba léir i gcónaí an cumas agus an scil a bhí aige, ní hamháin san iománaíocht ach i réimse mór spóirt! Bhí sé ina chaptaen buacach ar fhoireanna scoile i Staid Semple, chaith sé an geansaí Primary Game, d'imir sé i gCluiche Ceannais na hÉireann sa Spike Ball lena rang agus bronnadh an teideal 'Player of the Tournament' air agus an scoil ag imirt i gCraobh Sacair F.A.I.S. na hÉireann san Aviva! Ba mhaith le pobal uile na Gaelscoile gach ádh a ghuí ar an bhfoireann uile, ar Darragh, Stephen, Aidan, Conor, Seosamh, Cathal, Billy, Cian, Dr. Paul & Luke! Go n-éirí libh go léir! (Labhaoise Ní Chuinneagáin, Príomhoide Gaelscoil Bhríde)



BRIAN McGRATH

Club: Loughmore Castleiney

Primary School: Loughmore N.S

Your Principal in school: Stephen Maher (aka, Sir)

Most influential GAA person in school whilst you were there: Stephen Maher

Best GAA memory in primary school: Captaining our U13 team to win the Roinn C hurling final when I was in 6th class

Advice for school kids today: Enjoy your school days and make as many friends as you can. Do the things that you enjoy the most and that make you happy and don't be afraid to try new things.

School comments on Brian: Brian McGrath attended Loughmore NS between the years of 1992 and 2000. He was by all accounts, a very happy and hardworking young man, with utter dedication to sports training, and a great team-player exhibiting leadership skills from a young age. The staff of Loughmore NS are proud of the rich legacy left in the school by so many past pupils, including Brian. They are fantastic role models for our young pupils, who aspire to follow in their footsteps – both on and off the field. We wish the Loughmore-Castleiney Senior Hurling Team the very best of luck in their upcoming County Final from all in Loughmore NS. (Angela Dunne, Principal Loughmore NS)



SEANIE BUTLER

Club: Thurles Sarsfields

Primary School: Scoil Ailbhe

Your Principal in School: Flan Quigney

Most influential GAA person in school whilst you were there: Fergal O'Reilly and Donal Ryan.

Best GAA memory in primary school: The Yard League. The buzz of playing in a yard league final as a young lad would be hard to beat.

Advice for school kids today: Work hard but have fun because they're the best days of your life.

School comments on Seanie: Seanie joins a distinguished list of highly skilled left-handed forwards to have honed their skills on the yards and fields of Scoil Ailbhe, Thurles and who have progressed to wearing the famed blue jersey on County Final day. Seanie will always be remembered here in the school for his velcro like touch, assassin's eye with goal in sight and of course the permanent smile irrespective of weather, opponent, or result. Scoil Ailbhe is extremely proud of Seanie's achievements to date, and we wish him and his teammates every success on Sunday.



KILLIAN O'DWYER

Primary School: Moyglass NS

Club: Killeanule

Your Principal in school: Michael Hayes

Most influential GAA person in school whilst you were there: The principal Michael Hayes and the school coach Anthony Doyle

Best GAA memory in primary school: Winning the school's first ever county final in 3rd class.

Advice for school kids today: Most importantly enjoy playing with your friends and try to get out to the wall at home every day to practice improving your skills.

School comments on Killian: Killian was a great student who could play any sport. Not alone hurling and football etc. but he was also a brilliant Cross Country runner for Moyglass NS. winning many County titles. Many have the talent but what made Killian stand out was his attitude, hard work and leadership qualities. A pleasure for any coach to work with (Michael Hayes, Principal Moyglass NS)



PADDY CREEDON

Primary School: Rahealty National School

Principal: Edel Kelly

Most influential GAA person: Paddy Moore

Best GAA memory in primary school: Going to the primary games trials but unfortunately I didn't make the team

Advice for school kids: Keep practicing your skills every day and to enjoy playing your sports



ED MEAGHER

Club: Loughmore Castleiney

Primary School: Castleiney National School

Your Principal in school: John Treacy and Kathryn Maher.

Most influential GAA person in school whilst you were there: John Treacy

Best GAA memory in primary school: In 2013 when we won the the double both the Dan Breen and the O'Dwyer Cups were brought back to school.

Advice for school kids today: Focus on the basic skills of the game and enjoy every minute you get to represent your school/ club.

School comments on Ed: Edward and his family have represented Castleiney NS and their Club with distinction throughout the years. Edward represented CNS in the Primary Game and always played a huge role in our school teams. We are very proud of him and his teammates today and always. Best of luck. (Jody Harkin, Principal Castleiney NS)





*Best wishes to Loughmore-Castleiney
in both County finals
from Michael and Staff*



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County Final Memories

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



Consecutive

HAVING lost last year's decider in the dying seconds of extra time, Loughmore-Castleiney were not short of motivation this year. Despite losing their opening group game to Kiladangan, the green and red have been improving all season and few are surprised to see them playing in another final.

The last time a club lost consecutive county finals was in 2010/2011, when Clonoulty-Rossmore lost to Thurles Sarsfields and Drom-Inch respectively. Thurles Sarsfields lost four consecutive finals, 2000 to 2003, but since their memorable win in 2005, they have been the main winners in the county.

Father's feat

JOHN McGRATH'S scoring exploits in recent games have seen him take top spot in the individual returns at the quarter-final and semi-final stages. If he tops the field today, he will emulate his father, Pat, who was the leading individual scorer in the three knock out rounds of the 1983 championship.



John McGrath

No doubt John would be happy if his club wins, regardless of who does the scoring. Anything else, would be contrary to his club's culture and team ethos.



Evan Sweeney

Club heroes

COUNTY final day formalities usually end with a presentation to the Man of the Match and these awards, sponsored by John Quirke, Cahir, are highly valued by the winners. Loughmore-Castleiney have won this prize on three occasions through Pat McGrath (1988), Evan Sweeney (2007) and Noel McGrath (2013). Their opponents, Thurles Sarsfields, have claimed seven awards per Padraic Maher (2009, 2010, 2017), Stephen Cahill (2014, 2015), Aidan McCormack (2012) and Ronan Maher (2016).



Stephen Cahill



“ We had an outstanding season in 2020. To fall short at the final hurdle by a whisker was tough to take at the time, but when you weigh it up, it was a fantastic season. That confidence from last year is still within the team – OK there is a little bit of hurt that we got pipped and all that, but that's not the driving force for us. The driving force for us was that we had a brand new season and we had the opportunity to write this year's history, especially over the next few weeks, and that's what we are endeavouring to do. If what we produce is good enough to win the big trophies, then that is great – we will still have a bit of history to write regardless. ”

Frankie McGRATH



LOUGHMORE/CASTLEINEY MANAGER

Loughmore-Castleiney



Loughmore/Castleiney panel that defeated Borris-Ileigh in the FBD Insurance County SHC semi-final. Back row (l.-r.): Denny Brereton, Shane Hennessy, Henry Maher, Conor Ryan, Martin Meagher, Brian McGrath, Michael McGrath, Martin O'Connell, Ciaran McCormack, Daragh McCahey, Ed Connolly, Ciaran Connolly, Anthony Ryan, Joey Hennessy, Tommy Maher, Conor McGrath, Lorcan Egan, Devid Kennedy, John Ryan. Kneeling: Eamon Connolly, Cian Hennessy, Liam Treacy, Ed Meagher, John Meagher, Diarmuid Meagher, Noel McGrath (Capt). John McGrath, Willie Eviston, Aidan McGrath, Evan Sweeney, Liam McGrath, Tomás McGrath, Noel Molony, Ciaran McGrath.

PLAYER PROFILES

Aidan McGrath	29	Agricultural Advisor and Farmer	Conor McGrath	20	Student
Willie Eviston	30	Actuary	Ciaran McCormack	19	Student
Joey Hennessy	27	Primary Teacher	Ciaran McGrath	34	Civil Servant
Lorcan Egan	27	ESB Engineer	Antony Ryan	23	Secondary Teacher
John Ryan	29	Ag College Teacher	Cian Hennessy	30	Civil Servant
John Meagher	28	Primary Teacher	Shane Hennessy	31	Primary Teacher
Tomás McGrath	29	Primary Teacher	Ed Meagher	18	Student
Ciaran Connolly	22	Student	Henry Maher	31	Quantity Surveyor
Tommy Maher	27	Business Development Manager	Denny Brereton	27	Farmer/Al Technichian
Evan Sweeney	37	Civil Servant	Eamon Connolly	29	Farmer
Liam McGrath	28	Technichian	Daragh McCahey	19	Student
Noel McGrath	30	Account Manager	Niall Molony	24	Farmer
Ed Connolly	19	Student	David Kennedy	43	Garda
Liam Treacy	28	Primary Teacher	Brian McGrath	24	Bank Clerk
John McGrath	27	An Post Official	Martin O'Connell	24	S&C Coach
Micheál McGrath	22	Student	Martin Meagher	27	Engineer
			Diarmuid Meagher	24	Engineer
			Conor Ryan	20	Student

LOUGHMORE-CASTLEINEY PATH TO THE FINAL

Loughmore-Castleiney 2-22	Kiladangan 2-23
Loughmore-Castleiney 1-26	Moycarkey-Borris 3-17
Loughmore-Castleiney 0-21	JK Brackens 1-13
Loughmore-Castleiney 2-21	Killenaule 0-12
Loughmore-Castleiney 4-15	Kilruane MacDonaghs 0-21
Loughmore-Castleiney 1-18	Borris-Ileigh 1-15

Scored – 10-123 Conceded – 7-101

SUMMARY John McGrath 7-53, Noel McGrath 1-13, Ed Connolly 1-08, Evan Sweeney 0-09, Brian McGrath and Liam Treacy 0-08 each, Liam McGrath 0-07, Ciaran Connolly 0-05, Ciaran McCormack 1-01, Tommy Maher and Ciaran McGrath 0-03 each, Conor McGrath and Aidan McGrath 0-02 each and Tomás McGrath 0-01.



NOEL McGRATH
(Loughmore-Castleiney
Captain)



Loughmore/Castleiney Management (l.-r.): Murtagh Brennan, Michael Dempsey, Frankie McGrath (manager), Eamon Sweeney (coach), Taffy McGrath, Maureen Connolly and Eugene Stapleton.

[Photos: Bridget Delaney]

Extra panel members – (31) Martin O'Connell, (32) Martin Meagher, (33) Diarmuid Meagher, (34) Conor Ryan.

Loughmore-Castleiney

Dathanna: Glas agus Dearg

SENIOR



	1 ^{AM} LEATH	2 ^{AM} LEATH	10MLÁN
CÓIL			
CÓILÍNÍ			
SEACHAÍ			
65 ^M			
SAOR POCANNA			



A. Mac Craith
AIDAN McGRATH



L. Eviston
WILLIE EVISTON



S. Ó hAonasa
JOEY HENNESSY



L. Mac Aogáin
LORCAN EGAN



S. Ó Riain
JOHN RYAN



S. Ó Meachair
JOHN MEAGHER



T. Mac Craith
TOMÁS McGRATH



C. Ó Conghaile
CIARAN CONNOLLY



T. Ó Meachair
TOMMY MAHER



E. Mac Suibhne
EVAN SWEENEY



L. Mac Craith
LIAM McGRATH



N. Mac Craith (Capt)
NOEL McGRATH



E. Ó Conghaile
ED CONNOLLY



L. Ó Treasaigh
LIAM TREACY



S. Mac Craith
JOHN McGRATH

16. M. Mac Craith Micheál McGrath	20. A. Ó Riain Antony Ryan	24. A. Ó Meachair Henry Maher	28. N. Ó Maolomhnaigh Niall Molony
17. C. Mac Craith Conor McGrath	21. Cian Ó hAonasa Cian Hennessy	25. D. Bréartún Dinny Breton	29. D. Ó Cinneide David Kennedy
18. C. Mac Cormaic Ciaran McCormack	22. S. Ó hAonasa Shane Hennessy	26. E. Ó Conghaile Eamon Connolly	30. B. Mac Craith Brian McGrath
19. C. Mac Craith Ciaran McGrath	23. E. Ó Meachair Ed Meagher	27. D. Mac Cahey Daragh McCahey	

Manager: Frankie McGrath Coach: Eamon Sweeney Selectors: Maureen Connolly, Eugene Stapleton, Taffy McGrath, Michael Dempsey
S&C: Murtagh Brennan, Martin O'Connell Physio: Cathy Doran Kit Man: Dick Egan Hurley Carriers: Pat McGrath, Mick McGrath

Thurles Sarsfields

Dathanna: Gorm agus Bán

SENIOR



	1ARU LEATH	2ARU LEATH	DOMLÁN
CÚIL			
CÚILÍNÍ			
SEACHAÍ			
65M			
SAOR POCANNA			



P. Mac Cormaic
PADDY McCORMACK



P. Ó Meachair
PAUL MAHER



P. Ó Meachair
PADRAIC MAHER



S. Ó Riain
SEOSAMH RYAN



D. Ó Coirbín
DAVID CORBETT



R. Ó Meachair
RONAN MAHER



S. Derby
JACK DERBY



S. Ó Cathail
STEPHEN CAHILL



M. Ó Cathail
MICHAEL CAHILL



D. Steaclúm
DARRAGH STAKELUM



C. Steaclúm
CONOR STAKELUM



A. Mac Cormaic
AIDAN McCORMACK



P. de Búrca
PA BOURKE



D. Ó Meachair (Capt)
DENIS MAHER



P. Ó Críodáin
PADDY CREEDON

16. C. Ó Breacáin
Kevin Bracken

20. E. Ó Púrséil
Eoin Purcell

24. C. Ó Lonagáin
Conor Lanigan

28. S. Ó Labhraí Tréan
James Armstrong

17. P. Ó Doinn
Pa Dunne

21. S. de Buittéir
Seanie Butler

25. H. Mac Giobúin
Harry Fitzgibbon

18. C. Ó Maolomhnaigh
Cathal Moloney

22. C. Mac Coisteala
Kieran Costello

26. B. Mac Cárthaigh
Billy McCarthy

19. C. Ó Maolomhnaigh
Kieran Moloney

23. S. Ó Meachair
Stephen Maher

27. Cian Steaclúm
Cian Stakelum

Manager: Mark Dowling Selectors: Brendan Carroll, Eamon Walsh, Liam Egan Coach: Luke Jordan

Physio: Mick Clohessa Medic: Dr Paul Ryan Kit Man: John Stakelum Hurley Carriers: Johnny Cahill, Paul Lanigan

Mark DOWLING



THURLES SARFIELDS MANAGER

“ From where I stood, I came in with a blank canvas in front of me and took the players at face value. We looked at all available players and everyone was given a run at it. The team evolved over the season, but it is a moveable feast in that sense because there are plenty of other guys who could feature on any given day, and may well feature yet too. They are in good shape and like all senior hurlers and footballers around the country, you have to look after yourself and make sure you are in good shape. The lads have done that and a lot of that is down to themselves and we just try to put the finishing touches on them. ”





Thurles Sarsfields



The Thurles Sarsfields team that defeated Kiladangan to reach the County Hurling Final. Back row (l-r): James Armstrong, Cian Stakelum, Seosamh Ryan, Pa Bourke, Declan Ryan, Kieran Costelloe, David Corbett, Jack Derby, Ronan Maher, Pdraic Maher, Conor Stakelum, Denis Maher (Capt), Darragh Stakelum, Stephen Maher, Billy McCarthy. Front row (l-r): Cathal Moloney, Michael Cahill, Harry Fitzgibbon, Kieran Moloney, Kevin Bracken, Stephen Cahill, Seanie Butler, Eoin Purcell, Paddy Creedon, Paul Maher, Aidan McCormack, Pa Dunne, Conor Lanigan.

PLAYER PROFILES

Patrick McCormack	37	Secondary School Teacher	Paddy Creedon	19	Student – Environmental Engineering
Paul Maher	28	IT Project Manager	Pa Dunne	29	Secondary School Teacher
Padraig Maher	32	Garda	Cathal Moloney	24	Legal Executive
Seosamh Ryan	23	Fund Accountant	Kieran Moloney	21	Student – Science
David Corbett	28	Biomedical Engineer	Eoin Purcell	20	Student – Actuary
Ronan Maher	26	Garda	Darragh Stakelum	18	Student
Jack Derby	24	Secondary School Teacher	Kieran Costello	20	Student – Civil Engineering
Stephen Cahill	26	Supply Chain Executive	Stephen Maher	29	Secondary School Teacher
Michael Cahill	32	Physiotherapist	Conor Lanigan	23	Electrician
Pa Bourke	33	Murphy's & Sons	Harry Fitzgibbon	23	Bar Tender
Conor Stakelum	23	Retail Executive	Billy McCarthy	24	Trainee Accountant
Aidan McCormack	29	Army	James Armstrong	18	Student
Seanie Butler	25	Electrician	Cian Stakelum	20	Student – Commerce
Denis Maher	30	Garda			
Kevin Bracken	21	Student Teacher			



Thurles Sarsfields 4-25
 Thurles Sarsfields 4-19
 Thurles Sarsfields 3-22
 Thurles Sarsfields 5-19
 Thurles Sarsfields 2-30
 Thurles Sarsfields 3-24
 Thurles Sarsfields 2-19
 Thurles Sarsfields 1-19

Holycross-Ballycahill 1-20
 Upperchurch-Drombane 1-17
 Loughmore-Castleiney 1-19
 Drom & Inch 1-18
 Éire Óg Annacarty 1-13
 Upperchurch-Drombane 1-20
 Clonoulty-Rossmore 1-14
 Kiladangan 2-14



Thurles Sarsfields Backroom Team – Above: John Stakelum, Cian Treacy, Kevin Smith. Below: Luke Jordan, Aoife Lonergan, Mick Clohessy.



Thurles Sarsfields management Eamon Walsh, Brendan Carroll, Mark Dowling (Manager) and Liam Egan.

[Photo: Eamonn McGee]



THURLES SARSFIELDS GAA STORY

Volume 2
1960 - 2019

LIAM Ó DONNCHÚ

ON SALE AT

Bookworm

(Parnell Street)

and

Easons

(Thurles Shopping
Centre)



Jim Stapleton
Tipperary Senior Hurling
Winning Captain 1887



Tom Semple
Tipperary Senior Hurling
Winning Captain 1906/08



John Joe Callanan
Tipperary Senior Hurling
Winning Captain 1930



Jim Lanigan
Tipperary Senior Hurling
Winning Captain 1937



John Maher
Tipperary Senior Hurling
Winning Captain 1945



Tommy Doyle
All Time All-Star
Award 1986



Mickey Byrne
A record fourteen Tipperary
SH Championships



Tony Wall
All-Ireland Hurler of the Year
1958; Tipperary Senior
Hurling Winning Captain 1958



Jimmy Doyle
All-Ireland Hurler of the Year
1965; Tipperary Senior Hurling
Winning Captain 1962/'65



Michael Murphy
Tipperary Senior Hurling
Winning Captain 1964



Eddie Enright
Hurling All-Star
2001



Lar Corbett
All-Ireland Hurler of
the Year 2010; Hurling
All-Star 2009, '10, '11



Pádraic Maher
Hurling All-Star 2009,
'11, '14, '16, '17, '19



Michael Cahill
Hurling All-Star
2011



Ronan Maher
Hurling All-Star
2016, 2019



REFLECTIONS

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



CLUBS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ANYONE who had initial doubts about the split season has been won over at this stage. The April club month idea – following the completion of National Leagues – was well intentioned but always threatened by the demands of inter-county teams preparing for the championship season ahead.

It seems so logical now to concentrate on inter-county action first, finish early and give the clubs some late Summer days to get their competitions started. Clubs thrive in such circumstances and one only has to see how well their own season has worked from all perspectives, including media coverage and live transmissions on national television. The advent of streaming has also enhanced the profile of club games and County Boards have established a progressive marketing strategy, which offers choice and deals that provide value for money.

The national and provincial newspapers are more generous than ever with their coverage, while local radio will never tire of debating the finer points of local contests. All politics may be local, but there is nothing more enticing than trying to beat your neighbouring club.

Tipperary has proceeded in great style with their championship programme and we acknowledge the CCCC efficiency, led by Jimmy Minogue, Tom Maher and the other members, who have kept fixtures moving smartly.

INTER-COUNTY

It was a disappointing year for Tipperary

at inter-county level. The senior team started the League with two draws, against Limerick and Cork, despite not scoring a goal in either. A win against fancied Galway at Semple Stadium offered encouragement, a runaway win over Westmeath was good for morale, but the campaign ended on a bad note, as Waterford ran riot at Walsh Park. The final score was 2-29 to 3-21 – numbers we saw again in July.

It was Galway who topped the group, but because they did not meet Kilkenny – table toppers in the other group – there was no double up, with a championship game, so the title was shared. Hopes were high for the Munster championship, but Clare surprised Waterford in Round One, so we went to Limerick for the semi-final with modest support.

The talking point was the Tipp penalty, which Jason Forde blasted to the Clare net. There



Jason Forde

were some good patches of play but also some periods where the intensity and desire seemed to fade. Limerick made the most of Cork errors in the other semi-final without stretching themselves, but the champions were still favourites to win the Munster title.

A hot day on Leeside saw Tipp scorch into a



Tom Maher – busy on match day.

ten point half-time lead (2-16 to 0-12), but Limerick's third quarter rally wiped it all away. Cian Lynch had a phenomenal influence on the game, but it was Kyle Hayes' goal which flattened Tipp. Despite scoring 3-21 (Limerick hit 2-29), we were well beaten.

Thirteen days later, it was back to Cork to face Waterford in the quarter-final. The Decies had improved after beating Laois and then took Galway's scalp. Despite scoring freely again (2-27), we ended up conceding a record championship score of 4-28. It was that tally, rather than a couple of missed chances on our part, which saw Tipp out of the championship.

Waterford wilted under Limerick's power and their own exhaustion in the semi-final. It was no surprise that Liam Sheedy ended his second stint soon after losing to Waterford. An All-Ireland title in year one of three, was not a bad return.

The under-20 team went to extra time with Waterford in their opening game at Semple Stadium. The teams also needed extra time last year. Fortunes swayed back and forth, but Tipp moved on to the semi-final – 3-24 to 2-21. Another home game in the semi-final saw a good start by the blue and gold, but a half-time lead of 1-13 to 0-10 was not enough. Cork took over in the second half and won comfortably by 3-20 to 2-17. Subsequent events showed how good Cork were, as they retained their Munster and All-Ireland titles.

The Minors started against Kerry in Limerick and won easily 2-27 to 1-14, but Waterford over powered them in the semi-final by 2-25 to 4-11 and it could have been more decisive. The scoreboard read 2-22 to 1-9 with seven minutes to play. Cork's demolition of Waterford (and everyone else) gave us a clear picture of where we stood in the rankings. Team manager James Woodlock spoke afterwards about the difference in conditioning between the teams. He felt that Waterford were more powerful and physically way more developed than Tipp. He sought a review of S&C at under 14/15/16 levels and asked for more to be done in this area.

Interestingly, a similar call was made by Paddy Christie, Manager of the under 20 footballers. He felt that S&C needs to become a culture – a way of life – in Tipp rather than something players do when they are called to inter-county training. Hopefully, 2022 will see the survivors from this year's Minor team with more experience taking a leadership role in pursuit of honours.

OFF SEASON

Since the inter-county year ended, much of the media narrative has centred on a structure for running the All-Ireland football championship, All-Star business, and cross-overs between Gaelic Games and other sports, with some high profile back room personnel being enticed to professional rugby teams, having proved their worth with multiple victories on the GAA stage.

Of course, Tipperary senior hurlers had rugby international Denis Leamy involved during 2016. Another issue which has arisen again is the growing concern about some county's Governance structures. Everyone knows that the duties and responsibilities of County Board officers have increased significantly over the past decade, with accountability and outcomes being as important as the process.

It was interesting to note that on the same agenda, as football championship reform, at last month's Special Congress, were the motion to create two new roles in each county – Planning & Training Officer along with Safety & Facilities Officer.

Another motion proposed that every county should install an Audit and Risk committee. Essentially the GAA is proceeding to professionalise its operations and the use of tickets rather than cash for club matches in several counties this year is an indication of the future direction. Handling large sums of cash is always a major responsibility, so the less that is around, the greater the control over the income. There have been accounting and balancing issues in some County Boards in recent years and some overworked volunteers have found themselves in difficulty. Running a County Board operation these days is akin to managing a large business and I marvel at the time commitment, volunteers are still prepared to give to help the full time staff.

Tipperary has a massive area to administer and it is challenging for Board officers to be up to date on all that is happening from Lorrha to Carrick-on-Suir. Modern communication systems and Divisional Boards are helpful, but the responsibility rests in Thurles. It may not be too long before all counties are instructed to conduct annual independent reviews of their activities to ensure that items of concern can be reported promptly to the Board officers and Management committee for consideration.



Holycross-Ballycahill's Darragh Woods goals despite the attentions of Roscrea's Keith McMahon and goalkeeper Daryl Ryan as Roscrea were relegated to the Seamus Ó Rian championship. [Photo: Odhran Dúcie]

SEEDINGS

It is fair to say that players, officials, clubs and supporters have accepted the value of graded adult competitions in the county. There had been resistance to promotion and relegation for a long time, but once the structure is established it regulates itself. Subtle changes from year to year have been made to enhance the competitions and most clubs have something to play for in the final round of group fixtures.

The GAA ruling on the maximum number of senior clubs in a county will lead to some rebranding of competition titles next year. The immediate benefit will be that clubs qualifying for Munster action may be cast more appropriately than in previous years.

In relation to this year's Dan Breen Cup, most followers would have predicted six of the eight to qualify for the (prelim and) quarter finals. The only mild surprises were that Mullinahone (a fourth seed) topped their group and that Upperchurch-Drombane (a third seed) beat Drom & Inch.

If the status quo remains, there will again be four levels of seeds. I wonder if it is time to consider changing that structure, with only semi-finalists being seeded the following year and the rest of the groups being decided on an open draw basis? With four levels of seeds, the groups can be repetitive and the four bottom seeds in all probability will have little ambition beyond survival, unless they beat two of the seeds above them. Imagine the hope it would give newly promoted teams if they were drawn in a group with three similar ability clubs. Even if the top seed beat them all, one would qualify



Roscrea's Keith McMahon gets up above Holycross-Ballycahill's Seanie Nally. [Photo: Odhran Dúcie]

for the knock out stages. What a lift that would give the club and its supporters.

Five of the sixteen Dan Breen Cup teams in 2017 are gone from the top tier – Portroe, Ballina, Carrick Swan, Killenaule and Burgess. I think it is a pity that Éire Óg Annacarty-Donohill, for example, who were county semi-finalists in 2017, have been unlucky with their group draws in recent seasons and their key games were in the relegation play-offs. An open draw for three places in each group

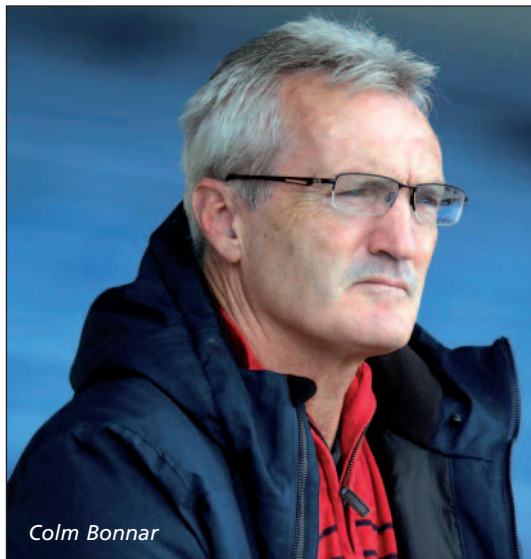
would produce more varied pairings, provide great discussion and what would be wrong, if there was a “group of death”?

It was sad to see two such respected clubs as Roscrea and Holycross-Ballycahill (1954 county final pairing, 1981 county semi-final pairing) battling for survival in the wind and rain at Templetuohy last month. The Mid men survived and now look forward to playing in the Dan Breen Cup next year. If the seeds are unchanged they will be a fourth, with a strong possibility of facing another relegation test in 2022.

Ironically, Roscrea, who won the first club All-Ireland title fifty years ago next month, have not played in a county final since 1985 and their conquerors that day, Kilruane MacDonaghs, went on to win the All-Ireland title at Croke Par, on March 16th, 1986.

FINALLY

There was probably more written about the appointment of inter-county team Managers than any other GAA topic since the All-Ireland Senior finals were played. Nationally, the most newsworthy appointment was in Galway (Supermacs have a new Head Sheff), but there were many other appointments made around the country. In response to the inconsistent manner of making appointments up to then, the GAA issued a set of guidelines in 2009, designed to help County Boards with the pro-



Colm Bonnar



John Costigan

cess. In recent months media outlets carried stories about experiences people had, when presenting for interview and unveiling their master plans.

The issue of loyalty was written about by some correspondents and Ciaran Murphy's article in *The Irish Times* (23/9/2021) praised Liam Cahill for his decision to stay with Waterford. A contrast was drawn with another high profile appointment, which seemed to have a different rationale.

“ But we have one now and a good one thank God. ”

In *The Sunday Times* (31/10/2021), Christy O'Connor wrote about the importance of succession planning and noted how if the timing is wrong, a Manager who is not with his native county when a vacancy arises there, can face the emotional dilemma of returning or staying put, “when loyalty and trust have been built and a project he has started looks to be going somewhere”.

“ To take on managing the Tipperary senior hurling team is nearly a full time job. You need a good man to manage thirty five players. ”

On October 3rd, Dermot Crowe's article in *The Sunday Independent*, focussed on former interview panel members and County Board Officers, including Tipperary's John Costigan, who shared his recollections of recruiting Liam Sheedy for Tipp Senior duty and Declan Ryan for Minor Management. John highlighted how Tipperary has become a breeding ground for county managers elsewhere. “But we have one now and a good one thank God” he said in relation to Colm Bonnar's appointment. John said in his time, the process was informal and potential candidates might be met for lunch and a chat. He insisted that “To take on managing the Tipperary senior hurling team is nearly a full time job. You need a good man to manage thirty five players”.

On that thought provoking note, let us wish for a memorable county final and a successful 2022 for Tipperary.

A shoeless Colin O'Riordan rings home after the Munster Football Final – the Tipperary footballer and AFL star was part of the team that defeated Cork to give the Premier side their first Provincial Football title in 85 years. The

Killea native had returned home due to Covid and received permission from his team Sydney Swan to line out for Tipp. With Covid 19 restrictions still in place at the time, the game was played with family, friends and fans resigned to watching the game at home. With only 200 allowed, including officials and media, I was very lucky to be there on the day to see history made. As I was packing my gear up after the game I saw Colin and a number of others return onto the field to call and video chat with family and loved ones at home. I can't imagine the level of excitement in Killea when the phone rang at home. One of the greatest days in Tipp GAA on the eve of the 100th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and wearing those beautiful Tipperary jerseys. A day I'll always remember.

“My Photograph of the Year”



By: **EAMONN MCGEE**
(Photographer)



LEFT – Killenaule’s Mark Stakelum and Liam Ryan (St. Mary’s) tussle for possession during the semi-final. [Photo: Michael Boland]

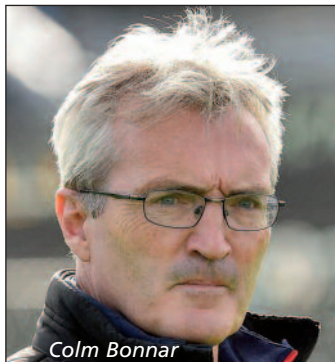


RIGHT – Templederry Kenyons’ Odhrán Murphy is challenged by Conn Bonnar (Cashel King Cormacs) in the semi-final. [Photo: Bridget Delaney]

Senior Hurling Inter-Divisional Championship re-ignited

COLM BONNAR and his management team of Tommy Dunne, Paul Curran and Johnny Enright have re-ignited the senior hurling inter-divisional championship and invited the best hurlers in each division of Tipperary to take part in this championship. The best for the South, North, Mid and West will play each other over three consecutive weekends, starting Saturday 20th November.

For senior hurlers, this is a unique opportunity to represent and play with players from their own division and one, no doubt, all will take great pride in. An old standing tradition is where the divisional team



Colm Bonnar

plays under the colours of their divisional championship winners, who this year are Clonoulty, Killenaule, Kiladangan, and Thurles Sarsfield. For those that might remember, this competition was called the Miller Shield.

The Tipp Management

team would like to thank the contribution of following who will take charge of the teams – the Mid team is managed by Eamonn Corcoran, Noel Morris, and Gary Mernagh, the West is managed by Brendan Bonnar, Will Ryan, Brian Leamy and Ger O’Neill. The North is managed by Willie Ryan, while the South is managed by Kenneth Browne and Sean O’Regan.

Representing your division is indeed a worthy aspiration in itself, and along with the championship games already played, these divisional games will be used by the Tipperary management team to select the Tipperary senior hurling panel for 2022.

MOYNE-TEMPLETUOHY

Tipperary Senior Hurling Champions 1971

50 YEARS AGO

Noel Dundon met with Jim to remember Moyn-templetuohy's 1971 triumph

JIM FOGARTY can hardly believe that 50 years have passed since his Moyn-templetuohy side won the Dan Breen Cup. 1971 was the year and Jim had the honour of leading his team mates into the final against a very fancied Roscrea outfit – the North men had players of the calibre of Tadhg O'Connor, Mick Minogue, Joe Tynan, Francis Loughnane, Kieran Carey and Liam Brussels to mention just a few.

But, the Moyn-templetuohy lads had a good record in finals and they were quietly confident that they could upset the bookies – indeed, they won a nice few bob off the bookies as a result of the outcome of the game, and it came in very handy in the days after the game as the celebrations commenced.

“Yeah, we took a few bob off the bookies alright and it was great. We had a great record in finals and we fancied ourselves in that '71 final. That was a very good Roscrea team, but we felt that if we performed, we

“Yeah, we took a few bob off the bookies alright and it was great”

could win the match. We had a good team at that time and we even had a few lads on the subs who had played for Tipperary at different levels, but could not get into our team.

“We had Johnny Everard over us and he



Jim Fogarty

was joined by John Travers, Phil Blake, Billy Sweeney and Hugh Craddock on the sideline. They were shrewd men and they knew what it took to win. We were supremely fit. Indeed, Cúlbaire wrote in the *Tipperary Star* that we were one of the fittest teams to play in a county final, at the time.

“I always think that the semi-finals are the games to win and we often came up short in those type of games, but we were a good team in a final. We came through the open draw to win that county final – Sarsfields beat us in the Mid championship that year and by God we had some right battles with them over the years,” Jim said.

Moyn-templetuohy had won the Intermediate county championship in 1961 and 1965, and a number of significant underage championships added to their growing sense of confidence. They won the Mid Senior final in 1970 and again in '72 and '76, and were regarded as one of the hardest teams to beat at the time – Roscrea gained revenge for the final defeat in '71, by beating them in the county semi-final in '72.



MOYNE-TEMPLETUOHY – Tipperary Senior Hurling Champions 1971

Standing (l.-r.): Martin Grady, Tom Russell, Mick Coen, Billy Grady, Tom Grady, Tom Quinlan, Michael Grady. Kneeling (l.-r.): Willie Fogarty, Martin Esmonde, Martin Troy, Tom Fogarty, Jim Fogarty, Paddy Sweeney, Jim Fogarty, Tom Egan.

“They were great days and I had the privilege of hurling with great men. We went off the boil after that for various reasons but I would love to see our current team getting back into the senior ranks by winning the intermediate title this year – it would be a nice way to mark 50 years since our win. They have a lovely team and I think that the likes of young Bowe and O’Connor are fine players who can be up there amongst the best in time,” Jim says.

Residing now in Golden, he is very proud of the facilities at the disposal of GAA players

and mentions the recent complaint former Irish soccer international Damien Duff had, when comparing soccer facilities to GAA facilities. But, things were very different for Moyne-Templetuohy in 1971.

“We’d tog out in the hall, run down to the field, do our training and then run back to the hall. We had no facilities, but we knew no better at the time. Nowadays clubs have wonderful facilities and it is great to see,” Jim said.

He is really looking forward to today’s final and says that it will be very tight indeed.

The article below is reproduced from a report by Gerry Slevin published in the Tipperary GAA Yearbook 1971

WAS there anything to stop Roscrea? That was the question bandied about during the season, and throughout the county SHC campaign it did seem as though the North men would once again remain as kingpins of Tipperary hurling.

Indeed as the competition progressed there was little to give anyone cause for doubting that the Reds would not take their fourth title in a row. They got the tougher end of the draw and there was that spirit of determination about their victories over



JIM FOGARTY

(Captain) (Full Back)

From his full back position, Jim kept control of his back line as well as being a tough uncompromising defender. Brother of Sean, former Mid, County and Munster Chairman

Lorrha and Borrisoleigh. Yes, Roscrea seemed to be heading for ultimate victory alright.

Meanwhile, in the other section, Moyne-Templetuohy

were quietly moving along; they weren’t causing any major upsets; indeed the way in which they bowed out of the Mid championship didn’t give any cause for alarm to the champions. Nevertheless they reached the final and Roscrea were odds-on to take the Dan Breen Cup back home again.

What a big surprise was in store for the big hosting in Semple Stadium. What a game was also in store; a really tremendous occasion, one befitting the status of the county in this All-Ireland year. Here, the Mid men showed

their true worth with a scintillating display right from the throw-in.

The champions were reeling, but they were playing the game like true champions. Up and down the field flowed the ball and the play. It was great stuff; plenty of first time pulling and ground hurling. It was what we all had wished to see for so long and here it was in the showpiece of the county's endeavour,

Moynemtempantuohy turned over one point to the good at the interval, 0-4 to 0-3, and with a quarter of an hour to go there was still only a point between the sides, 0-6 to 0-5. It was great stuff indeed. Would Roscrea make that break for which they were so noted? Not this time, the Mid men were about to have their day and it could not be denied them.

Murt Troy's goal, after a defensive slip by the Roscrea full back Kieran Carey, heralded that victory. From here on the new champions let it be known in no uncertain fashion that they were the masters. Another goal followed, this one from Martin Grady, and the champions had fallen. 2-8 to 0-6 was the final score, a convincing victory indeed and even more so when remembered that Roscrea scored but two points from

HISTORY MADE

History had been made.



Jim Fogarty and his son Tom enjoying the recent Thurles Sarsfields v Kiladangan semi-final.

Moynemtempantuohy, in their first ever final, had taken the honours. They had dethroned the mightily Roscrea and had shown themselves to be a team of boundless spirit, energy and determination.

From Tom Russell between the posts to left corner forward Paddy Sweeney they were supreme and chastened were such vaunted men as Francis Loughnane, Jackie Hannon, Kieran Carey and Jimmy Crampton.

Russell did all that was asked of him in goal, while the full back line of Tom Grady, Jim Fogarty and Tom Fogarty was soundness personified. Perhaps it was the half back line that really set the Mid supporters' hearts aflame. Here Martin Esmonde eclipsed Francis Loughnane to such an extent as to make his contribution minimal and Jim

Fogarty in the centre offset the best efforts of Liam Spooner, with Michael Coen was in brilliant form on the other wing.

In Moynemtempantuohy's eyes, Loughnane was the big danger man, but Esmonde didn't yield an inch and this performance was surely a headline for his colleagues which was emulated in the remainder of the field.

Full marks, too, to the mid-field pairing of Michael Grady and Martin Grady. They ruled the roost here and Roscrea had no answer whatever. Then in attack, there was the contribution of Willie Fogarty and of Tom Egan, the opportunism of Murty Troy, and inside them the snappy Willie Grady and the menacing Tom Quinlan and Paddy Sweeney. Yes, a team of heroes indeed and worthy champions.



*LEFT and RIGHT:
Photographer John O'Loughlin captures a moment in time.*

[Photo: Bridget Delaney]



DECEMBER glory

By: SEAMUS O'DOHERTY



THE GAA Congress of 1970 approved a motion to extend Provincial club championship competitions to All-Ireland level. Roscrea won the last of the Munster finishes – beating Glen Rovers in the 1969 final.

They won the 1970 Tipp final against Thurles Sarsfields and then went in search of further honours. Roscrea were fortunate to enjoy home venue, at St Cronan's Park, for the first round outing, 10-9 to 1-8 v Kilmoyley (Kerry) on February 7th, 1971 and then a 3-10 to 1-10 win v Ballyduff/ Portlawn (Waterford) in the semi final on February 21st.

Amazingly, the final was played at Limerick on the Wednesday night, August 18th, after Tipperary, inspired by captain and right half back Tadhg O'Connor and right half forward Francis Loughnane had beaten Galway, in the All-Ireland semi final at Birr.

Clarecastle couldn't match Roscrea's scoring power and Tipperary's best won by 4-11 to 1-6. The All-Ireland semi-final – played on November 14th – two weeks after Moyne-Templetuohy had beaten Roscrea in the county final, saw the Munster champions under strength, when travelling North to play Ulster champions Loughgiel Shamrocks, who had beaten Down's Ballygalget in their Provincial final. Despite their absentees, Roscrea won easily by 6-10 to 2-8.

The All-Ireland final saw St Rynagh's from Offaly

as Roscrea's opponents. The Leinster champions had beaten Rathnure in the final and received a walk-over from Connacht champions Liam Mellows, Galway in the semi-final. Ironically, like Roscrea, they had been beaten in the current county final with Birr pipping them.

The historic first All-Ireland final was fixed for St Brendan's Park, Birr, on Sunday December 19th. Roscrea were aware of the talent in their opponents' line out, which included Damien Martin, Paudraic Horan, Barney Moylan, P.J. Whelahan, Gerry Burke and Paudge Mulhare.

Playing with the strong wind in the first half, Roscrea took command with the half back line dominating the game. Mick Minogue and Donie Moloney were on top at midfield so the forwards had a great supply, which was used productively by Francis Loughnane, Joe Cunningham and top scorer Joe Tynan.

St Rynagh's tried their best in the second half, but could not bridge the gap as Tynan and Cunningham goals ended their rally. When Cork referee Frank Murphy blew the final whistle the score was 4-5 to 2-5.

Roscrea team and scorers – Tadhg Murphy, Mick Hogan, Kieran Carey, Brendan Maher, Patsy Rowland (0-2), Tadhg O'Connor, Jimmy Crampton, Donie Moloney (C), Mick Minogue, Francis Loughnane (0-3), Jackie Hannon, Joe Cunningham (1-0), Joe Tynan (2-0), Mickey Nolan (1-0), Willie Stapleton. Substitutes, all of whom were involved in earlier games, Liam Spooner, Barney Hogan, Liam Brussels, Michael (Jackie) Shanahan, Jody Spooner, Francis Dooley, Josie Fitzgerald, Pat Dynan. Unfortunately there wasn't a match programme produced for the final and the team list, which some people say was available on the day is still being sought.

After the match Sean Ó Siócháin, Director General of the GAA, presented the All-Ireland Club Championship Shield to team captain Donie Moloney, in the presence of long serving club Secretary John Joe Maher.



Roscrea team photo taken on County Final day – October 31st 1971

Back row (l.-r.): Jack Moloney, Willie O'Reilly, Mick Minogue, Kieran Carey, Liam Brussels, Liam Spooner, Jody Spooner, Jackie Shanahan, Willie Stapleton, Jackie Hannon, Barney Hogan, Tadhg Murphy, Frankie Dooley, Joe Fletcher, Jimmy Crampton, Billy Brussels, J.J. Maher, Martin Loughnane, Tony Murphy. Front row (l.-r.): Dinny Moloney, Francis Loughnane, Joe Tynan, Mick Hogan, Joe Cunningham, Donie Moloney (Capt), Patsy Roland, Brendan Maher, Mickey Nolan, Tadhg O'Connor.

The great JIMMY FINN

On Tuesday next, November 16th, Jimmy Finn Borrisoleigh will celebrate his 90th birthday. On Sunday December 12th in Borrisoleigh his Biography "*Jimmy Finn – A Tipperary Legend*" by Clonmore man, Martin Bourke, will be launched by Brendan Maher. After two and a half years research, which was severely curtailed by Covid, the book will finally see the light of day, and will be a much sought after publication for Tipperary GAA supporters

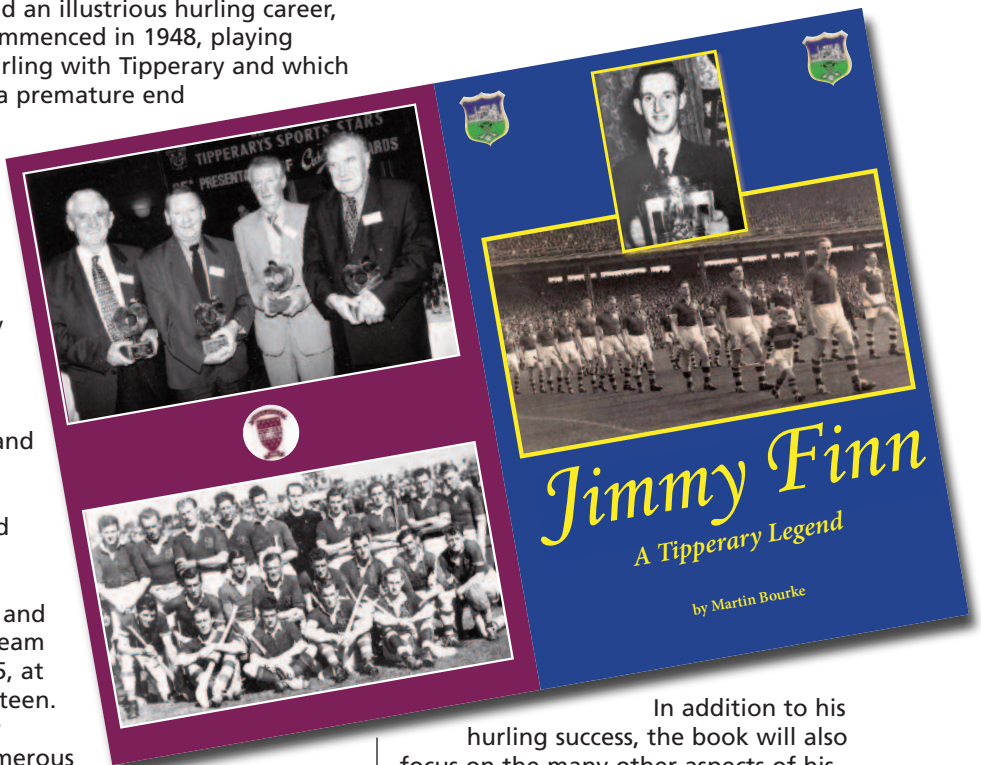
JIMMY had an illustrious hurling career, which commenced in 1948, playing minor hurling with Tipperary and which came to a premature end in 1959

after he sustained an eye injury playing with his club against Roscrea in the North Tipperary championship.

During this short time he won an All-Ireland minor hurling medal in 1949, three All-Ireland senior hurling medals in 1950, 1951 and 1958, and captained the team to victory in 1955, at the age of nineteen.

He played for Munster on numerous occasions, winning four Railway Cup medals, played three times for Ireland against Combined Universities/The Rest, and he also won six National Hurling League medals and played in two more finals.

He won three county Senior Hurling Championships with his club in 1949, 1950 and 1953, and was awarded numerous awards at local, provincial and national level, his greatest being his selection on the Team of the Century in 1984, a fitting tribute to his ability as a top class hurler. In early March this year he received the belated Tipperary Association Dublin 'Hall of Fame' award for 2019.



In addition to his hurling success, the book will also focus on the many other aspects of his fulfilled life, school, farming, cattle dealing, horses/greyhounds, community life in Borrisoleigh, life growing up in the Ireland of the 40/50/60's, etc.

It will also feature many articles on Jimmy from journalists and people who witnessed the great man performing in the late 'forties and 'fifties. Were it not for the serious eye injury, he would have featured on the great Tipperary teams from 1960 to 1965, teams that won four All-Irelands.

The book is a sizeable production of over 350 A4 pages, with a big number of photographs.



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Fifty years of



Éamonn de Stafford addressing the attendance at the Féile na nGael Golden Jubilee ceremony at Semple Stadium.



GAA President Larry McCarthy unveiled a plaque marking the 50th anniversary of Féile na nGael at the entrance to Semple Stadium.

RIGHT – Founder member of Féile na nGael Eamon de Stafford and his daughter Gráinne with GAA President Larry McCarthy and County Board Secretary Timmy Floyd at the Commemoration of 50th Anniversary of the Founding of Féile na nGael at Semple Stadium.



Philip Ryan accepts a presentation from GAA President Larry McCarthy on behalf of his late father Séamus Ó Riain, a founder member of Féile na nGael.



Present at the Féile na nGael Golden Jubilee ceremony at the entrance to Semple Stadium (from left): Larry McCarthy (GAA President), Philip Ryan (rep. his late father Séamus Ó Riain, a founder member), Eamon de Stafford (founder member), Roseanne Barrett (rep. her late father Tommy Barrett, a founder member) and Diarmuid Cahill (Féile na nGael Chairperson).



The late Séamus Ó Riain was a founder member of Féile na nGael and his four sons were present at the Golden Jubilee Ceremony at Semple Stadium (from left): Diarmuid, Eugene, Larry McCarthy (GAA President), Jack and Philip.

[Photos: Bridget Delaney]

Tipperary's 22nd title w

50 Years Ago – 1971

“What’s all the hullabaloo about, you’d think ye never won an Ireland before” It wasn’t said by a Tipperary man but by a man from another county and when I heard these words minutes after that glorious Croke Park victory on All-Ireland final day, September 5th 1971, I began to wonder if there wasn’t something in what he said. Sure, we had won many a title in the past, but somehow or other, this one seemed to bring out all the heart, all the fervour that only Tipperary people can experience. We are a proud people in Tipperary. We are proud of what we have contributed to the GAA since its foundation in Thurles in 1884. All-Ireland titles have been no bother to us. In the past we have walked through the best opposition that the country can offer and even though there were times when things looked precarious, yet that Tipperary drive and dash seemed to rear its head and was a signal for all our effort that brought the supreme award.

TIPPERARY 5-17 KILKENNY 5-14

ALL-IRELAND FINAL

TIPPERARY began well enough but it wasn’t until Noel O’Dwyer shook the net with a probing shot from far out that things began to take shape.

Half-time came and Tipperary were still ahead and they deserved their lead too. But the real threat didn’t come until midway through the second half when Kilkenny stormed back, drew level and then went ahead. Had Tipperary shot their bolt?

Kilkenny were now going abomb and looked the part of champions, but it was from here on that Tip’s true mettle showed itself. All the hard hours training, all the talk and discussion and most important, all the spirit of the Premier County men exerted itself in a fashion that delighted the hearts of all.

This was a comeback to be remembered. Roger Ryan doubling on an incoming ball, Dinny Ryan shooting past a helpless Ollie Walsh, substitute Paul Byrne tapping over a beautiful point – they were all to be savoured but nothing more than the dynamic display of Francis Loughnane at wing forward.

Four real beauts of points had emerged from his stick in the first half and when the chips were now down, he was on the trail again, probing, rooting, snapping up the ball and setting his colleagues in motion.

Then there was the leadership and strength of his club-mate Tadhg O’Connor on no less a man that Eddie Keher. Tadhg, captain of the side and a hurler of spirit and stamina, stamped himself out as one of remarkable qualities.

Peter O’Sullivan between the



Captains Pat Henderson (Kilkenny) and Tipperary’s Tadhg O’Connor with referee Frank Murphy (Cork).

was a victory to cherish



Back row (l.-r.): M. Keating, R. Ryan, J. Flanagan, L. King, J. Kelly, M. Roche, S. Hogan, N. O'Dwyer. Front row (l.-r.): J. Gleeson, F. Loughnane, D. Ryan, T. O'Connor (Capt), L. Gaynor, P.J. Ryan, P. O'Sullivan.

posts was cool and efficient. In front of him a solid line in Liam King, John Kelly and John Gleeson with Len Gaynor completing the back line, along with Noel O'Dwyer, whose switch with Mick Roche in the second half was to prove the really decisive stroke.

P.J. Ryan at midfield never letting a ball go to waste, Seamus Hogan trying for all he was



Roger Ryan (Tipperary) moves away from the challenge of Kilkenny's Pa Dillon during the 1971 All-Ireland Final.

worth and Babs, that schemer in chief, adding his weight and power to an efficient display; Jimmy Doyle coming on to play his part in winning his sixth All-Ireland senior medal; Mick



Tipperary captain Tadhg O'Connor lifts the Liam MacCarthy Cup after Tipperary's victory over Kilkenny in the 1971 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final.

Roche hurling with such precision and courage when moved to midfield; John Flanagan, the dare-devil of the side, always in the fray.

A team of real heroes, a team of determined men set on bringing that title to the county; a team that succeeded and belied the many criticisms that were thrown at them such as lack of power in attack and lack of ability in defence. All-Ireland final day proved to all that here was a team that refused to die.

[Match report reproduced from an article by Gerry Slevin published in the Tipperary GAA Yearbook 1971]

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**25 Years
Ago
1996**

Boherlahan-Dualla

County Senior Hurling Champions 1996



Back row (l.-r.): Philip O'Dwyer, J.J. McGrath, Aidan Flanagan, T.J. O'Dwyer, Conor Gleeson, Michael Murphy, Seamus Hickey. Front row (l.-r.): Brian O'Dwyer, William Hickey, Liam Maher, Philip Ryan (Capt), Ger Flanagan, Tommy Dwyer, Michael Ferncombe, David Ryan.

BOHERLAHAN-DUALLA..... 1-16
TOOMEVARA..... 2-12

THE pairing for the County final was unusual as neither team had won divisional honours. Toomevara had been beaten in the second round of the divisional championship by the eventual winners.

Newport, in turn, had been beaten by Cashel at the quarter-final stage. The latter were beaten by Clonoulty-Rossmore in the West final, who were then beaten in the quarter-final by Toomevara, who defeated Thurles Sarsfields in the semi-final, after they had beaten Boherlahan-Dualla in the Mid final.

In the second semi-final, Boherlahan-Dualla beat Cashel, who had overcome Toomevara's earlier victors. It was really difficult to understand the way things were going.

Just under 10,000 spectators came to Semple Stadium on October 27 to watch the fare. Although Boherlahan-Dualla had the breeze in their favour in the first half, it was Toomevara who got the breaks and the scores which gave them a five point lead at the interval.

The North men got a goal in the 14th minute from Kevin Kennedy, which was deflected into the net by William Hickey. Five minutes later Michael Murphy got through for the Mid men but failed to score.

In the final minutes of the first half, Toomevara got three points without reply from Boherlahan, who, in fact had two scoreable opportunities driven wide by Aidan Flanagan.

As the teams went in for the interval break the signs were not good for Boherlahan. Only the optimists might claim that the goal should never have happened and Flanagan might have scored the two points. Had both these things happened, the sides would have been level at that stage.

For Toomevara there was the loss of Bevans after 15 minutes, a player who had been giving a lot of trouble to Tommy O'Dwyer. On the positive side, his replacement Terry Dunne was playing well and had scored two great points during the second quarter.

Boherlahan-Dualla resumed well and had two points in three minutes. But when their spirits were beginning to rise, Toomevara came back with a point from Liam Nolan and then the finest score of the hour, a goal by Kevin Kennedy, to put the Greyhounds seven points ahead and seemingly in an unassailable position. But the goal acted as a spur to the Boherlahan boys.

They responded swiftly with three points by J.J. McGrath, Ger Flanagan and Aidan Flanagan and then, in the 11th minute, a goal by Philip O'Dwyer. The game was now wide open. Boherlahan had a few lease of life.

Points were exchanged. The sides were level and in the dying minutes of the game Liam Maher sent over the bar to give Boherlahan-Dualla the lead for the first time and victory when referee Willie Barrett sounded the final whistle. It was a time to remember! After so many years in the wilderness, Boherlahan-Dualla had arrived in the promised land.

A jubilant Boherlahan captain, Philly Ryan, received the cup from county chairman Seán Fogarty as Semple Stadium became a sea of euphoric blue and gold.

Boherlahan-Dualla: Philip Ryan (Capt), William Hickey, T.J. O'Dwyer, Tommy Dwyer, Seamus Hickey, Conor Gleeson, David Ryan, Michael Ferncombe, J.J. McGrath, Ger Flanagan, Michael Murphy, Brian O'Dwyer, Philip O'Dwyer, Liam Maher, Aidan Flanagan.

Toomevara: Jody Grace, Pat Maher, Rory Brislane, Aidan Maxwell, George Frend, Michael O'Meara, Phil Shanahan, Tony Delaney, Pat King (Capt), Kevin Kennedy, Tommy Dunne, Ken Dunne, Michael Bevans, Kevin McCormack, Liam Nolan. *Subs:* Terry Dunne for Bevans, Liam Flaherty for McCormack, Bevans for King.

Referee: William Barrett (Ardfinnan).

[Reproduced from article by Seamus J. King in *Tipperary GAA Yearbook 1997*]



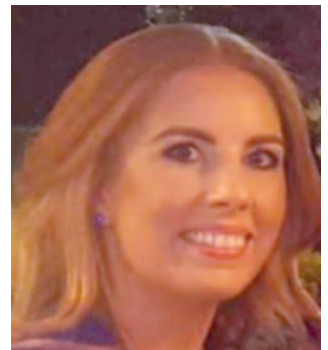
Sparrow Insurances send best wishes to our colleague Tom Stakelum and all of the teams in today's final.

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Bloody Sunday remembered at Lár na Páirce and on County Final Day

NOVEMBER 21st 1920 was one of the darkest days of the War of Independence. This November to coincide with the 101st anniversary, we recall that awful day when 14 people including two children and Tipperary captain Michael Hogan were killed by British forces.

Tipperary GAA Bloody Sunday Commemoration Committee have been involved in a number of remembrance events to honour the memory of the Bloody Sunday team. The Committee, in collaboration with the Heritage Office of Tipperary County Council, have produced a collection of pop up stands that hopefully will feature at future events to inform and recall the memory of that day.

Come along and see the stands on display during November at Lár na Páirce on Slievenamon Road in Thurles. The stands are also on display today in the Dome on County final day.

These stands act as another way to honour the memory of the players and officials from Tipperary Bloody Sunday team. The stands were recently featured at the launch night of the Michael Hogan Festival of Football, which was sponsored by the Friends of Tipperary football.

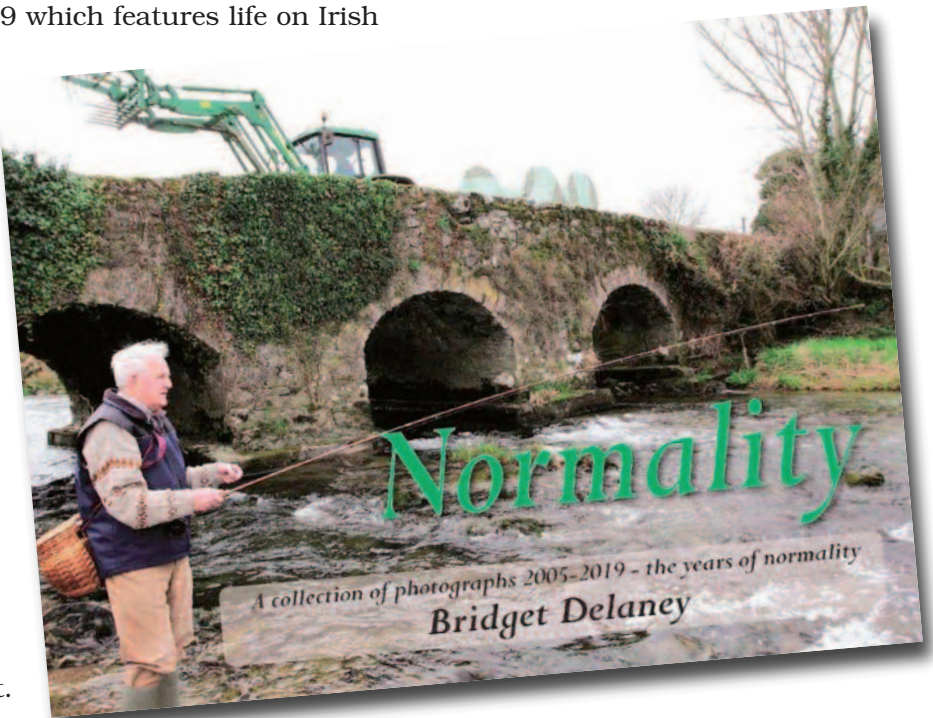


Seamus McCarthy, chair of the Tipperary GAA Bloody Sunday Commemoration Committee with Tipperary Footballer Brian Fox and the pop-up stands.



Members of the Tipperary GAA Bloody Sunday Commemoration Committee with the Friends of Tipperary Football.

This 257 page book contains photographs from Bridget Delaney's archive 2005-2019 which features life on Irish soil before Covid times. GAA gets much exposure as does other sports and every day life events. There are nearly 1,600 photos featured and the images should stand the test of time. 'Normality' was launched by Donie Nealon at Reidy's Newtown, Nenagh and is retailing at €25 and available in shops around North Tipperary Owhile stocks last.



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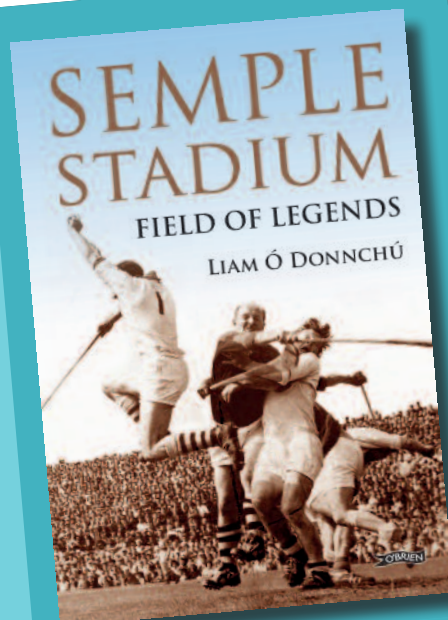
'here, the sliotar bounces true'

From the foundation of the GAA at Hayes's Hotel in 1884 to the present day, Thurles has been the beating heart of Gaelic games, particularly hurling. Author Liam Ó Donnchú leads us through the history of the GAA in Thurles and the development of the stadium, and the epic sporting moments that have taken place on this hallowed turf.

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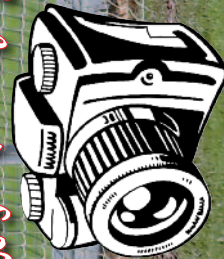
O'BRIEN



Roscrea keeper Daryl Ryan can't hide his disappointment after the final whistle as his side were relegated to the Seamus O Riain championship following defeat to Holycross-Ballycahill.

This was the big game of the weekend and so the plan was for a celebratory pic or a disappointment pic depending on the result. Unfortunately for Roscrea the result went against them and after Daryl was consoled by the umpires and a couple of players he took a moment to reflect on his own before joining up with his team mates.

“My Photograph of the Year”



By: ODHRAN DUCIE
(Photographer)



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MEMORABILIA FAIR

By: SEAMUS J. KING

remembers the past

A STATUE was unveiled for the only man to ever captain Kilkenny to three All-Ireland titles at Mooncoin club grounds by G.A.A. President, Larry McCarthy, on October 9, 2021. Richard 'Drug' Walsh from Rathkieran, Mooncoin boasts seven All-Irelands, eight Leinster championships and three Kilkenny senior championships.

Drug', as he was affectionately known, was born in 1877 into a farm labouring family in the south Kilkenny village and began his hurling career in the late 1890s. He made his Kilkenny debut in the 1904 championship – played in 1906 – and helped the Cats to their first ever All-Ireland crown. He would go on to add six more All-Irelands to his list of accolades, captaining the side to three, 1907, 1909 and 1913, a feat that has not yet been repeated by any Kilkenny captain.

In spite of the part that gaelic games play in our lives, we don't have a great record in erecting statues to our hurling and football heroes. We read about them in newspapers, biographies, articles, club histories, etc. and preserve their images in team photographs and pictures and their deeds in a plethora of poems and ballads. We preserve their names in our famous stadia and in many grounds and club houses, as well as roads and tunnels, but we rarely do what Mooncoin club did in October.

SOME STATUES

But we do have some! Christy Ring has got two in his honour. The first was erected in Cloyne in 1983. The nine-foot bronze by sculptor, Yann Goulet, stands proudly on a limestone pedestal at the entrance to Cloyne G.A.A. grounds. There is a second at Cork Airport and there was a suggestion in July 2017 to move it to the newly renovated Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

In 2002, Jack Lynch had a statue to him unveiled by his wife in Blackpool. The bronze, by Cork sculptor James McCarthy, was commis-



Statue remembering the first hurling All-Ireland at Birr, played Easter Sunday 1888.

sioned by Blackpool Developments, owners of the Blackpool Shopping Centre, close to the old Glen Rovers club, where the late Taoiseach began his sporting career.

In June 2012, a bronze statue of the well-known Kerry football manager Mick O'Dwyer was unveiled in his native Waterville by O'Dwyer's protege, Minister for Arts, Jimmy Deenihan.

Another great hurler, Mick Mackey, had a statue unveiled to him in May 2013 by G.A.A. President, Liam O'Neill, in Castleconnell, where he was born. It depicts the Limerick-born hurler in a traditional solo-run pose. Three years later the statue was vandalised, when the bronze hurley was

broken off and had to be repaired by the sculptor.

A bronze statue of Nicky Rackard was unveiled in Wexford's Selskar Square in March 2012. A larger than life statue, it was created by the British portrait sculptor, Mark Richards and cost €120,000. It was vandalised a number of times, stolen in April 2021 and damaged again three months later. To protect it, a fence had to be erected around it!

TIPPERARY?

It makes one wonder why no Tipperary hurling or football hero has been remembered in a statue, apart from Michael Hogan. What about Tom Semple, Johnny Leahy, Martin Kennedy, Mickey Byrne, Tony Reddin, John Doyle, Jimmy Doyle, Mick Roche, Nicky English, Declan Browne? And more!

They'll be no statues to vandalise at the Memorabilia Fair in the Dome, Semple Stadium on Sunday, November 28 from 12-4 pm but there will be plenty of programmes, books, pictures and other G.A.A. memorabilia. Everyone is welcome and the entrance fee is €5. If you want to book a table or have any questions you should contact Liam Ó Donnchú at 086-6036547 or Seamus J. King at 087-2246245.

*Best of luck to Loughmore/Castleiney in the
Hurling and Football County Finals*



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