

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME



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National Hurling
League 1997



Tiobraid Árann



v.

Uíbh Fháilí

2 p.m. An Ardán Nua arna Oscailt go hOifigiúil
ag Seosamh Mac Donnchadha, Uachtarán-Tofa, Chumann Lúthchleas Gael



**Pairc Mhic Donnchadha
Aonach Urmhumhan**

Sunday, 9th March 1997 at 3.30 p.m.

Reiteoir: **GER HARRINGTON** (Cork)

Luach:
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Ba mhaith liom mo bhuiochas a chur in iúl do gach aon duine go raibh baint aige nó aici leis an bhfiontar seo.

Bhí sibh fial flaithiúil le bhúr gcuid ama agus le bhúr gcuid airgid. Tá súil agam go mbeidh toradh fóna ar bhúr saothar agus go gcothófar ár geluichí Gaelacha go ceann i bhfad eile san Aonach agus ar fud na hÉireann.

It is my privileged honour as Chairman of the Nenagh Éire Óg Club to extend a welcome to our President-elect, Joe McDonagh and patrons who assembled here today for the official opening of our new Viewing Stand and the first round of the new format National Hurling League Offaly v Tipperary.

Fifty-five years ago this year was a milestone in the history of the G.A.A. in Nenagh when that great Gael Frank McGrath officially opened this Gaelic Park named after Tom MacDonagh from Cloughjordan who 26 years earlier gave his young life for love of country.



Seánus Ó Muiris,
Cathaoirleach, Nenagh Éire Óg

The next giant step within these grounds took place in 1989 when the Éire Óg Club officially opened their new complex. This was followed by intense activity in upgrading of the grounds from 1992 onwards, with the culmination of this modern viewing stand that we have assembled to bless and open today.

It can be truly said that our national games of hurling, football and handball is flourishing within the boundaries of these G.A.A. grounds. The foregoing is aptly summed up by that great Irish patriot and poet, Tomas Davis when he wrote:

*Lead him to fight for native land,
His is no courage cold and wary,
The troops live not an earth would stand,
The headlong charge of Tipperary.
Yet meet him in his cabin rude,
Or dancing with his dark-haired Mary,
You'd swear he knew no other mood,
But mirth and love in Tipperary*

Beannacht Dé ar an obair.

Seánus Ó Muiris,
Cathaoirleach.

Ger Gavin

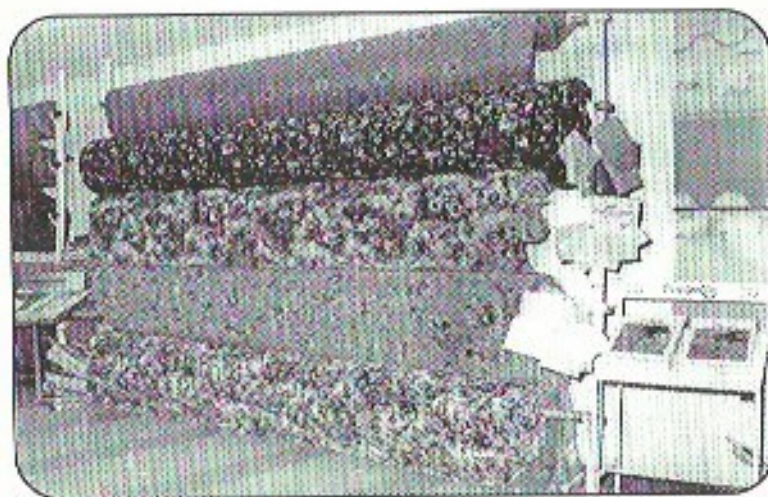
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Seosamh MacDonncha

(Uachtarán-Tofa C.L.G.)

Although born in the football heartland of Cortoon in North Galway, Joe McDonagh grew up in the hurling stronghold of Ballindereen in the south of the county. It was here that his love and enthusiasm for hurling was fostered. It was here also that Michael Cusack first worked as a teacher Joe grew up at a time which coincided with the renaissance of Galway hurling which took roots in the mid-seventies with the formation of Coiste Iomána.

It was the beginning of organised competitions at under age level and in 1965 he lined out in the county U-14 final with his club against Castlegar. Although defeated it marked the start of an illustrious career for Joe McDonagh.

His secondary education took him to Colaiste Einda in Galway City and although not noted as a hurling school, nevertheless Joe continued his hurling 'education' by spending many hours practising in the school handball alleys. By 1970 he had made the county minor team who caused somewhat of a shock by defeating Wexford in the All-Ireland semi-final in Athlone. In the final they were defeated by a powerful Cork side. Nevertheless Joe found that the experience left a lasting impression and a determination to return.

1972 was a special year in the history of Galway hurling as it really marked the arrival of the county as a hurling force when they won their first All-Ireland U-21 title. Joe was in the U.S. for the earlier rounds of the championship but had returned in time to join the panel as they prepared for the final against Dublin. However an injury in training deprived him of a starting place but he came on at midfield in the second half thereby capturing his first All-Ireland medal. He made his senior debut against Offaly in the National League in Birr, lining out at centre forward. However in the next outing against Tipperary he lined out at right half back. This position became his own as together with Sean Silke and Iggy Clarke they formed an outstanding half back line.

Galway's star continued to rise culminating in the winning of the National League in 1975. Later that summer Galway caused another shock by defeating Munster champions, Cork, in the All-Ireland semi-final. However Joe and his colleagues were well beaten by Kilkenny in the final. In 1976 Joe produced some outstanding performance and his efforts were rewarded as he was selected at right half back on the Carrolls' All-Star team.



*Joe McDonagh,
President-Elect C.L.G.*

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His club qualified for the county senior final in 1978 but after a marathon encounter they eventually lost to neighbours Ardahan. During this period Joe was involved with U.C.G. winning a Fitzgibbon title in 1977. In 1979 he was appointed captain of the county team and it turned out to be a frustrating year for the county as they finished runners-up in the Railway Cup, League and All-Ireland finals. A lengthy illness then interrupted his playing career but nevertheless he rejoined the panel in 1980 and was very much part of the panel that made the great breakthrough as Galway captured their second All-Ireland title and Joe's rendering of *The West Awake* filled Croke Park with emotion.

Although 1983 marked the end of his inter-county career, he continued to play for his beloved Ballindereen and in the second Sunday in December 1996 he filled the full back position as his club captured the county junior 'B' title. Assisting him in the back line was his son, Eoin, and scenes of great joy greeted the final whistle as those who were lucky enough to be present in Athenry saw history being created in front of their eyes. It is also worth recording that Joe was also a fine footballer and during his college days, took part in five Sigerson Cup competitions.

It was almost inevitable that Joe McDonagh would become involved in administration. His father Maitias was County Board Registrar for thirty one years and Joe became extremely familiar with the structures of the Association from an early age. His first 'official' involvement was in 1979, while still a player he became a member of the County Board. In the early 'eighties he was appointed to the Association's Cultural Committee and later he became Galway's representative on Central Council. In 1988 Joe was appointed to the position of National Hurling Work Group chairman and he held this position until 1991. During that period he was also chairman of the Coaching and Games Development Committee.

Later he became chairman of the National Youth Committee as well as being a member of the Committee for Liaising with the National Coaching and Training Centre. Together with this, he became involved with the Connacht Council where he became chairman of the Activities Committee, chairman of Scór and chairman of the province's Coaching and Development Committee. He has also become involved with the Coiste Iomana and the Cultural Committee of the province.

With such an imposing administration record it was no surprise that he should set his sights on the Presidency and in 1993 he shocked even his most optimistic supporters, as despite his youth, he came within thirty votes of securing the position. However, it was a case of biding his time and Easter 1996 saw Joe McDonagh become the first Galway man selected to the highest office in the Association since 1889. A fluent Irish speaker he has an incredible appetite for work and to add to his other activities he has acted as M.C. for the Galway final of the Rose of Tralee competition for a number of years as well as being compere for a host of Scór competitions and other concerts all over Connacht.

In between he has found time to record several best selling songs commemorating some of Galway's most memorable victories in the 'eighties. It is most gratifying for the Association to see a man who has come through the system as a player and administrator willing to channel his energies into making the organisation a more vibrant one for the changing times in which we now live in. No doubt Joe McDonagh possesses all the qualities required to mastermind the necessary changes as he leads our great organisation into the twenty first century.

We wish him well.

-JIMMY CONROY

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Tomás MacDonagh

Patriot, Poet and Educationalist



One of the seven signatories of the 1916 Proclamation, this noble son of Tipperary was born in Cloughjordan in 1876 into a school teacher's home. A cool and calm man, outwardly even in the most trying circumstances but inwardly he was made of steel. He became one of the principal plotters of the Rising along with Tom Clarke, Sean MacDiarmada and of course, Padraig Pearse (all I.R.B. men). They had from the outset a different course of action in mind to their chief Eoin MacNeill.

However, MacDonagh in a letter written on Easter Sunday, paid a tribute to him as an honest and sincere patriot, despite their completely different approach to the need for military action. As commandant in charge of operations at Jacob's factory and surrounding areas he was next in line of command to Pearse and Connolly. He displayed all the qualities of leadership that was so much a part of his make up, cool, calm and resolute. This was demonstrated by the matter of fact style of his discussion with General Lowe after he had refused to surrender even on the receipt of Pearse's note on the grounds that as he (Pearse) was a prisoner and could not issue orders.

Father Augustine who was present observed that, of the two men, MacDonagh was by far the cooler. After eventually accepting the surrender terms he was taken to Richmond Barracks and court-martialed and condemned to death. An extract from his address runs thus:

"... while Ireland has the brains and brawn of her manhood it will strive to destroy the last vestige of British rule in Ireland".

An extract from his last letter written within hours of his death states:

"I have been actuated by one motive only, the love of my country and the desire to make her sovereign and independent. I am ready to die in a holy cause and my country will reward my deed.

St. Francesa, his sister, on her last visit to him before he died, placed a rosary beads over his neck and asked the British officer in attendance could it be returned after the execution. MacDonagh quietly said it will be shot to pieces.

On the 3rd of May, 1916, at 3.25 a.m. just as dawn was breaking over the horizon he died before a firing squad of Crown forces in the stone brakers' yard in Kilmainham Jail. The last rites were administered by his close friend, Father Aloysius O.F.M., Cap.

At the North Tipperary convention of 1939 that illustrious gael the late Frank McGrath proposed that all medals in the division in future carry the bust of Tomás MacDonagh. This was carried unanimously.

In 1942 when the G.A.A. Park in Nenagh was opened it was called in honour of his name.

In the year of the golden jubilee of the Rising 1966, the field in Cloughjordan in his birthplace was also named in honour of his memory.

Nenagh Éire Óg's All-Ireland medal winners 1989



NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG players on 1989 All-Ireland winning team: John Heffernan, Conor O'Donovan, and Michael Cleary

The leaders of 1916 have become a treasured point of our history and will always take their rightful place in the annals.

A British Army officer, observer of the executions stated that they all died well but MacDonagh died like a prince.

Francis Ledwidge and kindred poet spirit on learning of his death wrote :

*He shall not hear the bittern cry
In the wild sky, where he is lain,
Nor voices of the sweeter birds
Above the wailing of the rain*

*Nor shall he know when loud March blows
Through slanting snows her fanfare shrill,
Blowing to flame the golden cup
Of many an upstet daffodil.*

*But when the Dark Cow leaves the moor
And pastures poor with greedy weeds,
Perhaps he'll hear her low at morn
Lifting her horn in pleasant meads.*

Nenagh Co-Op Offaly Link

Nenagh Co-Op has had a long and fruitful association with Offaly. This association goes back to the late '50s when milk producers in Offaly sent their milk in cans by lorry to Nenagh and later to the Society's Branch Creamery at Borrisokane in the '60s.

In order to cater for the expansion of dairying in South West Offaly Nenagh Co-Op opened a branch creamery at Birr in 1968. This Branch expanded rapidly and became one of the biggest Branch Creameries in the Society's catchment area. With the change over to bulk collection this Branch has been converted into a retail store and now provides the needs of farmers in the area for animal feed, fertiliser and light hardware.

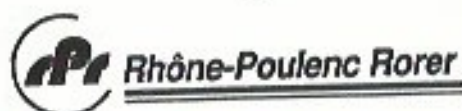
On the consumer side, Nenagh milk has been distributed in Offaly since the mid '50s. Nenagh Co-Op has a number of milk distributors in the Offaly area delivering fresh milk and other dairy products daily to shops and houses. Indeed our longest established agent in Offaly John Pilkington is closely associated with Offaly harling having two sons Johnny and Declan who have won the Offaly colours with distinction.

Nenagh Co-Op is particularly pleased that it is Offaly who provides the opposition to Tipperary on this historic day for Nenagh Éire Óg Harling Club.

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MacDonagh Park, Nenagh

Sunday, September 27th, 1942, saw the fulfilment of a dream come true for staunch GAA people in Nenagh and throughout North Tipperary. It was the occasion of the opening of MacDonagh Park. The blessing was carried out by Fr. J. Hannon, C.C., Nenagh the the opening ceremony by Frank McGrath, Chairman of the Park Committee. The Park was named after Tomas MacDonagh, one of the seven signatories of the 1916 Rising who was born in nearby Cloughjordan.

The total cost of the purchasing and development of the land came to £2,150.00. In today's terms this is hard to grasp but in 1942 this was a high capital outlay and demonstrated the generosity of the people of Nenagh and district who made their contributions in these difficult war years to ensure that the chief town of north Tipperary would have a venue on par with the best of its kind in Munster.

The committee as set up at the outset was independent of any of the clubs operating in the town at that time. This arrangement had great strength and proved its worth over many years. However, in time, particularly at the start of the early 1970s, turbulence manifested itself between the local Éire Óg Club and the Park Committee resulting in the County Board setting up a sub-committee to sort out the problem. A recommendation was eventually agreed by both sides. This was to last for a number of years until eventually in 1992 the club sought the assistance of the County Board to update and sort out what had become an impossible situation for the progress of the club.

Both the County Board and the Munster Council, together with the North Tipperary Board, appointed the Nenagh Éire Óg Club as the sole custodians of the MacDonagh Park property. This heralded a new era for the club.

Training facilities were now availed of as never before and brought a new dimension to club management.

However, much hard work and expense was now a major factor with a committee who had almost completed funding a £0.25 million enterprise. Work was begun with enthusiasm on the task of restoring the venue to its former status in the GAA world. Boundary fencing reclaimed, seating arrangements, press box, entrance gates were all upgraded. This work is on-going with a



Michael Moylan, has the unique distinction of been Secretary of the North Tipperary Board for a staggering 43 years

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FAS scheme at present including a new scoreboard, netting behind the goals and a complete overhaul of the dressing rooms at St. Canlan's Road. The cost of the work to date is in the region of £45,000 and is of course on-going.

STAND

The most important requirement for our venue is covered accommodation. This the committee proposes to take on board by the end of 1994.

* Since the above appeared on a National Hurling League programme Galway v Tipperary on 13th Feb. 1994, upgrading has continued apace with the most important work development that really marks out this venue as one of the finest of its kind in Ireland with the erection of a viewing stand in 1995, with toilets completed in 1996.

Total cost of this stand, with accommodation for 2,000, and park upgrading to date, stands at almost £0.25 million, making a grand total of £0.5 million of developments since 1989.

The funding of this has been raised with generous grants from CLG Munster Council, Croke Park and the National Lottery total £100,000 approx. The remaining £400,000 is been met by the Herculean fund-raising efforts of the Nenagh Éire Óg Club. The debt is now reduced to £55,000, a remarkable achievement by any standards. - S. Ó MUIRIS

FIRST COMMITTEE

The first Officers and Committee of MacDonagh Park in 1942 were:

Chairman, Frank McGrath

Vice-chairman: Tomás Cleary

Secretary: Martin Gleeson

Treasurer: Patrick McGrath

Committee: Patrick Hackett, Matt Hogan, Pat Crowe, Michael Brennan, James Mackey, Dan O'Keeffe, John Dwyer, Con Cleary, W. J. Chadwick, James O'Sullivan, Tomás Costello, J. Rice, Michael Moylan.

To Nenagh Éire Óg

*Congratulations on the
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Chairman Ger

- A REVOLUTIONARY

Ger Gavin's decision to resign as Chairman of Nenagh Éire Óg in December last, brought to a conclusion the most successful chairmanship in the club's history.

Ger took over the seat of Chairman in 1986 after being actively involved on committee for several years. Now, ten years later, he has drawn the curtain on a period of unprecedented success for the club, both on the field of play and the field of club development.

The club has enjoyed extraordinary success under his guidance - two North Senior Hurling titles (1992 and 1993), two Senior Hurling Leagues (1991 and 1995), two County Minor Hurling titles (1991 and 1992), a Minor County Football title (1990), two County U-21 Football titles (1991 and 1993), one County U-21 Hurling title (1993) and several divisional titles at all grades. A great deal of this success fed up from a highly organised and active Juvenile Club.

The ultimate success, of course, came for him in 1995 when Nenagh enjoyed their first senior hurling county title. His off the field diplomacy played a crucial role.

But Ger's ambition for his club spread far beyond titular success. From early days he aspired for club development and played a huge role in transforming the club's facilities, or lack of them.

Many of the attendants here today will have remembered what MacDonagh Park looked like some ten years ago. We had paltry dressing rooms and, besides a splendid playing field, had little else to offer. Look around today and see the transformation.

That splendid complex, Ger's brainchild, cost in excess of £250,000 and it is fully paid for. Equally important, it is maintained in impeccable condition and operated in an efficient and profitable manner.

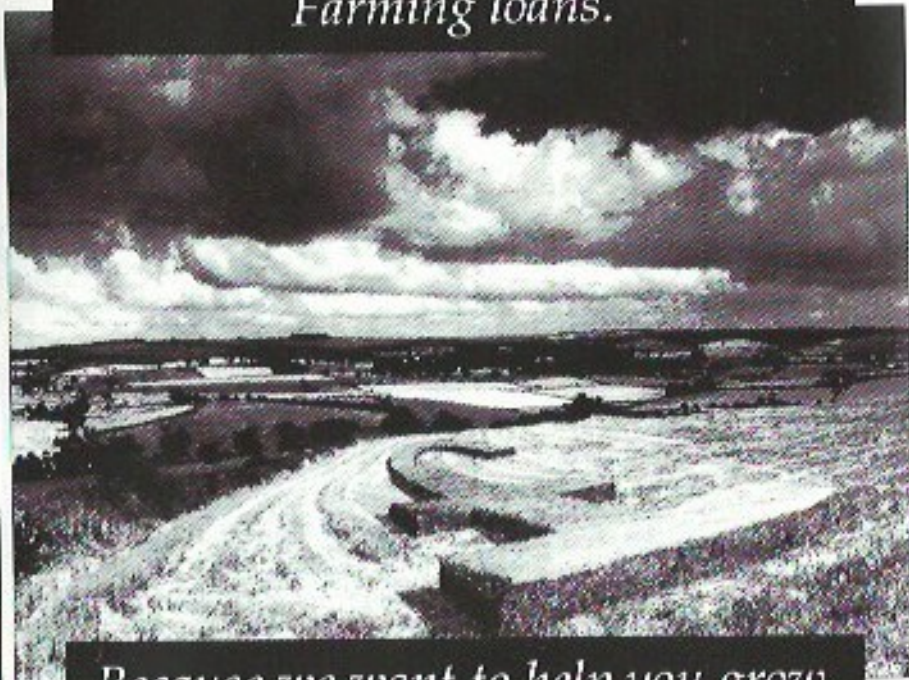
The fine stand being officially opened today was the next undertaking. The club assumed responsibility for the maintenance and running of MacDonagh ('the inside field') only three years ago. Ger and his splendid committee set about the momentous task of building a new stand. Now, two years later, he must be a very proud man to witness it's official opening after an outlay of £250,000 which is now almost paid for. These two splendid buildings are a wonderful accomplishment and stand as inspirational models to any aspiring G.A.A. official who may have such plans in mind.



Ger Gavin, receiving the Ciba Geigy Clubman of the Year pictured with the then Minister for Agriculture, Michael O'Kennedy at the presentation of the award.

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Tabhair aire do na pingín

How did Ger achieve so much in a mere decade? From early days he applied his business acumen to running the club in a very organised manner. With his 'Band of Twenty-Two' active committee members, he divided the club's functions amongst ad hoc sub-committees. Then with leadership and total commitment, he set about achieving his objectives both on and off the field of play. Ger will recall 1989 with special cherish. The club took the three major awards in North Tipperary – Hurler and Footballer of the Year and Club of the Year. To put icing on the cake, Ger was awarded the Munster Ciba Geigy Clubman of the Year at a memorable function in Dublin.

As a result of Ger's vision, courage, enterprise and commitment, we in Nenagh now have a club with a business management structure which provides a model foundation for ensuring the continued success and development of the club.

In his period as Chairman, he displayed extraordinary strength and courage. Cool, calm and collected by nature, he epitomised what a good Chairman should be – sensitive, kind, caring and where necessary, supportive of any of his team of workers and selectors who came under pressure – too often a dilemma for those in voluntary positions. He has gained extraordinary popularity during his reign, both inside the club and with clubs throughout the county.

In conclusion, a sincere thanks to Bridie and their family who had to forfeit much so that Ger could give so much to Nenagh Éire Óg.

A class Chairman indeed.

—JERRY QUINLAN

Buiochas

To all who made this day possible. The generosity of the people of Nenagh has never been found wanting, your financial support is something to be proud of. To our tireless band of Lotto and County Board Draw sellers your work rate is the admiration of many.

To those who organised and helped at our Golf Classics, Race Nights, etc. all has made an enormous contribution to paying off our debt.

Special word of thanks to Tipperary Co. Board and senior team management who kindly agreed to our venue for today's game. To our advertisers may our public reward you with their costume and finally to the engine room staff of *Nenagh Guardian* for their patience. Last but not least to Liam Hogan, Mr. Programme Himself for his assistance in compiling a number of facts, etc.

— S. Ó M.



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Today's Referee:

Ger Harrington (Cork).

Today's referee, Ger Harrington began his refereeing career in 1980. He is a National School teacher by profession, where he teaches in Crosshaven boys N.S. He began teaching there in 1973.

Married to Angela, with a family of three girls and one boy, Ger's refereed his first Inter county game in 1992, when Clare played Waterford in the Munster Junior Hurling Championship, before progressing to the National Hurling League later that year when Kilkenny played Limerick.

Other noteworthy games include the 1994 Railway Cup Hurling Final between Connacht and Leinster. The 1994 Munster Senior Club Final between Toomevara and Kilmallock. One year later there was the Munster Junior Hurling Final between Clare and Waterford plus the All-Ireland semi-final between Galway and Kilkenny in the same grade.

Just last year he officiated in the North American Bord final in Boston.

On the local scene he has taken charge of many games, in many grades. The County Senior Finals has eluded him. He did however officiate at both County Intermediate hurling and football finals.

While Ger admits that his playing career was limited, he did win a Cork South East Junior hurling medal.

Today's umpires include: Ml. Donnellan, Willie Walsh, Tom Jones and Kenny O'Mahoney.

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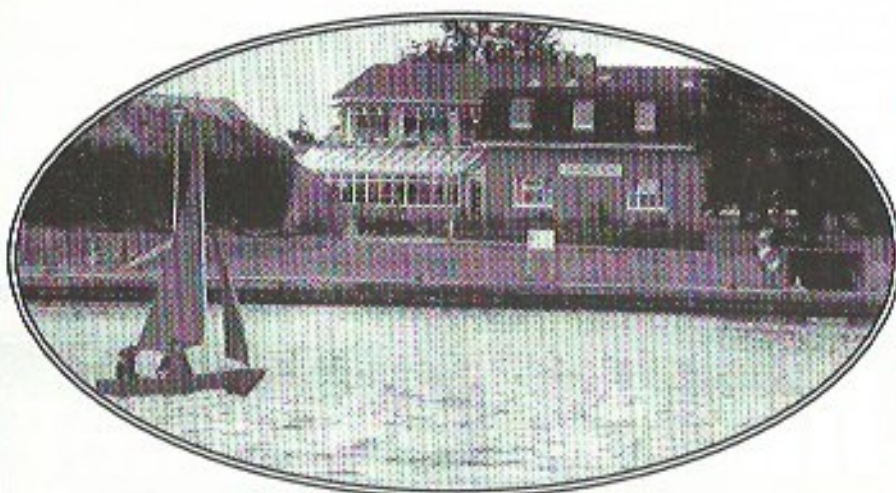


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Did you know that . . .

Three Tipperary clubs have won All-Ireland Club honours since the competition began. The three are Roscrea, Kilruane MacDonaghs and Borris-Ileigh.

Four Tipperary clubs have won the All-Ireland Kilmacud Sevens, Roscrea, Kilruane MacDonaghs, Borris-Ileigh, and of course last year Nenagh Éire Óg joined that elusive list.

Mick Burns, Nenagh Éire Óg and Tipperary has won a lot of honours which include 5 All-Ireland S.H. medals, 1 All-Ireland minor medal, 8 Munster S.H. plus 6 N.H.L.'s.

Conor O'Donovan, Nenagh Éire Óg and former Tipperary full back is a nephew of former Tipperary goalkeeper, Terry Moloney.

Jimmy Doyle, Thurles Sarsfields and Tipperary played in four successive All-Ireland Finals 1954 to 1957 inclusive, winning the later three.

W.J. Spain, Nenagh was the first player to win All-Ireland medals in both hurling and football, neither with his native Tipperary.

Brian Heffernan, Nenagh won three All-Ireland U/21 Hurling medals 1979 to 81, together with Pat Fox and Donie O'Connell. He also played in the Centenary Munster S.H. of 1984 until a brilliant hurling career was cut short by a permanent injury in 1985.

Philip Kennedy, Nenagh Éire Óg has the distinction of being the only captain to capture two All-Ireland U/21 hurling titles in 1980 and 81.

Nenagh Éire Óg, captured seven North and County titles from 1977 to 1983.

Minor Hurling 1977, 78.

U/21 Hurling 1979, 80, 81, 82.

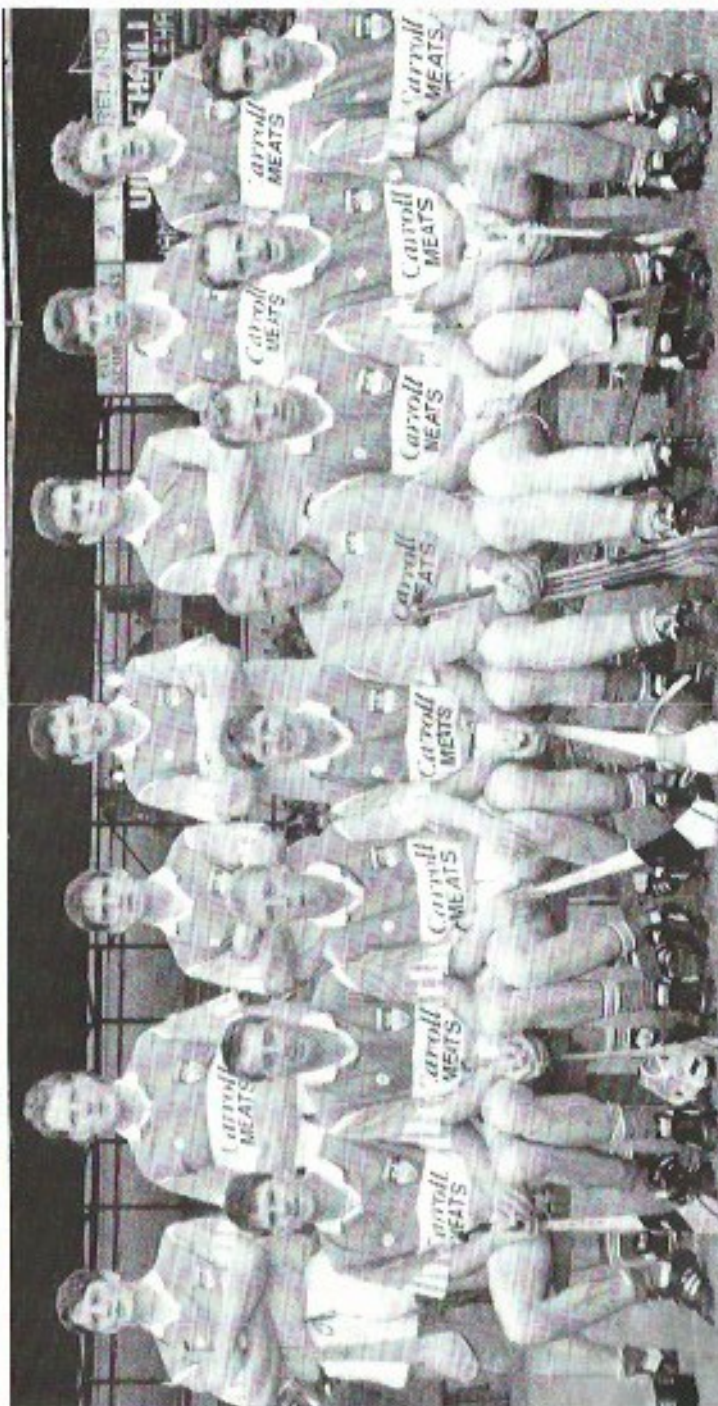
Junior Hurling 1983.

First North Final in MacDonagh Park was played in 1942 when Roscrea defeated Kildangan by 7-5 to 7-4 on August 16th. Con Heffernan, Kilruane MacDonaghs was the referee.

Mick Kenny has the unique distinction of captaining two different counties in All-Irelands. He led Tipperary to win the 1953 All-Ireland Junior Hurling Final when Tipp. defeated Offaly in the "Home Final" which was played in Birr on September 15th. Later Tipperary defeated Warwickshire in the "Real Final". 1950 he led his native Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Snr. Final when they lost to Tipperary by the narrowest of margins.

Nenagh Éire Óg became the only club in Tipperary in 1993 to complete an U/21 double when they won both hurling and football.

Offaly, All-Ireland Champions, 1994



Back row: Shane McGuckian, Daithí Regan, Johnny Pilkington, Kevin Kinehan, Kevin Martin, Hubert Rigney, Brian Whelehan. Front: Declan Pilkington, Billy Doooley, John Troy, Martin Hamany (capt.), Jim Troy, Brendan Kelly, Joe Doooley, Johnny Doooley.

Offaly Snippets

In the 1989/'90 and 1990/'91 League campaigns Offaly finished third in Division II of the National Hurling League, therefore just failing to be promoted to Division I, they where they were relegated and the end of '88/'89 season.

Damian Martin first played for Offaly against Laois in 1969. He also has the distinction of been the first ever All-Star goalkeeper when the awards were initiated in 1971.

20 years ago, on March 13th 1977, Offaly defeated Wexford by 1-12 to 1-8 in the quarter final of the National Hurling League. Subsequently Offaly later lost to Clare (the eventual league champions) in the semi-final.

In December 1903 John Dooley, Offaly proposed at the resumed Congress that the original name of Offaly be substituted for the then current one of the King's County for the purpose of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Ned Nolan of Tullamore was the first Offaly player to win Leinster hurling and football medals – hurling 1929, football 1925.

In 1970/'71 Offaly won the Leinster Club double – St. Rynagh's (hurling) and Gracefield (football).

Offaly's three-in-a-row: Offaly scored 18 goals and 88 points (142) and conceded 11-62 (95 points) on their way to claiming a three-in-a-row Leinster senior hurling championship titles 1988 to 1990 inclusive. In their six games to success Offaly defeated Dublin and Wexford ('88), Laois and Kilkenny ('89) plus Kilkenny and Dublin ('90).

Cutting a rod: Gestures of sportsmanship and hospitality can sometimes be counter-productive as Offaly hurling mentors discovered to this cost on the occasion of a vital Leinster championship game almost 90 years ago. When Laois arrived in Birr for the first round tie they were less than well prepared – or well armed – for the fray, for after the game has been in progress for about ten minutes when one of their players broke his hurley. There wasn't a replacement stick to be found among the Laois contingent. With half a hurley the unhappy Laoisman struggled on, but when a second Laois stick shattered almost into splinters, the Offaly chairman, Rev. Father Culligan of Kinnitty, decided that a sporting gesture was called for and from the Offaly stocks supplied the shorn opposition with the hurleys necessary to carry on the game. Whether or not his actions met with the approval of his fellow mentors, was not recorded, but one can imagine that in the aftermath of Offaly's two point defeat they must have been some grumbling about 'cutting a rod to beat ourselves'.

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Meet the Managers:

Tipperary's Len Gaynor

Last July Tipperary lost the replay of the Munster Hurling Final to Limerick. Fr. Tom Fogarty's two year reign as Tipperary manager came to an end. A committee was set up to find a replacement. Many names were thrown out as possible successors. Would Babs Keating return? Would there be an outsider? Remember Tipperary had never gone for an outsider, as seemed to be the popular trend. Offaly had gone for a Tipperary man in the guise of John McIntyre and Waterford had acquired the services of Gerald McCarthy.

However, the appointed committee stood firm and went for home brew. Kilruane's Len Gaynor was appointed, much to the surprise of many, but to the delight of many, many more. For four decades Len Gaynor has provided great service to Tipperary both as a player and a selector.

As a player he won three All-Ireland medals and five Munsters. In 1964 he won an All-Ireland U-21 a noted distinction as it was the first ever All-Ireland at that grade. His club career is also littered with honours which include three county and three North medals. His last year in the Kilruane colours was in 1985 when the MacDonaghs won the North and county junior title.



By this stage Len was well renowned as a club coach and manager. There were endless successes where many outside clubs had called on his knowledge and coaching skills. With his help clubs such as Moycarkey, Clonoulty-Rossmore earned county titles; Moneygall brought back the coveted U-21 hurling title. Indeed there seemed an endless stream of clubs wanting to acquire his help. Newport and Shannan Rovers won the county intermediate title under his tuition. Lorrha reached the North senior hurling final in 1992 when they heavily lost to Nenagh Éire Óg. The game might have been closer but for a tough three game marathon with Toomevara in the semi-final.

All this came after a successful decade with his home club Kilruane MacDonaghs. Under-age wins with minor and U-21 in the seventies at both North and county; seven North senior titles and four county titles as both coach and player manager which eventually led to that great Munster and All-Ireland success in 1986.

1982 to 1986 saw Len Gaynor play his part as a team selector with the Tipperary senior team. Tipp reached two Munster finals only to be beaten in both of them. 1986 turned out to be a disaster and we later saw Michael Keating been appointed manager. Had Tipp turned its back on Len Gaynor? However, he continued coaching with his club plus helping out many other clubs.

Six years on Clare appointed him to become manager of the Clare senior hurling team. From 1992 to 1994 Len helped lay the groundwork for an All-Ireland win 1995. The rest is history.

• Len Gaynor's co-selectors are Michael Doyle, Holycross and Murt Duggan, Ballingarry.



Tiobraid Árann

1.
BRENDAN CUMMINS
(B. Ó Ceimin)
Ballybacon Grange
2.
PAUL SHELLY
(P. Ó Sealbhaigh)
Killenaule
3.
NOEL SHEEHY
(N. Mac Sithigh)
Silvermines
4.
PAUL DELANEY
(P. Ó Dulainne)
Roscrea
5.
BRIAN GAYNOR
(B. Mac Fionnbhair)
Kilruane MacDonaghs
6.
CONOR GLEESON
(capt) (C. Ó Ghláslán)
Boherlahan Dualla
7.
GEORGE FREND
(S. Frend)
Toomevara
8.
COLM BONNAR
(C. Ó Cnaimshí)
Cashel King Cormacs
9.
PAT MAGUIRE
(P. Mac Uidhir)
Lattin Cullen
10.
MICHAEL CLEARY
(M. Ó Cléirigh)
Nenagh Éire Óg
11.
BRIAN O'MEARA
(B. Ó Mara)
Mullinahone
12.
LIAM McGRATH
(L. Mac Craith)
Burgess
13.
JOHNNY ENRIGHT
(S. MacLonnrachtaigh)
Thurles Sarsfields
14.
DECLAN RYAN
(D. Ó Riain)
Clonoulty-Rossmore
15.
LIAM CAHILL
(L. Ó Cathail)
Ballingarry

FIR IONAD:

16. **Kevin O'Sullivan** (C. Ó Suilleabháin) Cashel King Cormack.
17. **Michael Ryan** (M. Ó Riain) Upperchurch-Drombane
18. **Liam Sheedy** (L. Ó Shíoda) Portroe
19. **Thomas Dunne** (T. Ó Dúinn) Toomevara
20. **Stephen Hogan** (S. Ó h-Ógain) Lorrha
21. **Dinny Hogan** (D. Ó h-Ógain) Portroe
22. **Aidan Flanagan** (A. Ó Flannagáin) Boherlahan-Dualla
23. **Tom Madden** (T. Ó Maidín) Lorrha
24. **Kevin Tucker** (C. Ó Tucéir) Nenagh Éire Óg.

Selectors: **Len Gaynor** (Manager) Kilruane MacDonaghs;
Michael Doyle (Holycross-Ballycahill), **Murt Duggan** (Ballingarry).

Uíbh Fháilí



1.
DAVID HUGHES
(D. Ó hAodha)
St. Rynagh's
2.
SHANE MCGUCKIN
(S. Mac Eocháin)
St. Rynagh's
3.
JOE ERRITTY
(S. Ó Erriti)
Birr
4.
MARTIN HANAMY
(M. Ó hAinfaigh)
St. Rynagh's
5.
BRIAN WHELEHAN
(B. Ó Fáilteacháin)
Birr
6.
HUBERT RIGNEY
(H. Ó Ríolne)
St. Rynagh's
7.
KEVIN MARTIN
(C. Ó Mairtín)
Tullamore
8.
JOHNNY PILKINGTON
(S. Pílineach)
Birr
9.
GER OAKLEY
(G. MacDarachlaolich)
Carrig & Riverstown
10.
JOHNNY DOOLEY
(S. Ó Dulaoich)
Seir Kieran
11.
JOE DOOLEY
(capt.) (S. Ó Dulaoich)
Seir Kieran
12.
GARY HANNIFFY
(G. Ó Hainfaigh)
Birr
13.
BILLY DOOLEY
(L. Ó Dulaoich)
Seir Kieran
14.
JOHN TROY
(S. Ó Tríchigh)
Lusmagh
15.
MICHAEL DUIGNAN
(M. Ó Duigeannáin)
St. Rynagh's

FIR IONAID:

16. **Liam Coughlan** (L. Ó Cochláin) Seir Kieran
17. **Henry Kilmartin** (H. MacGiolla Máirtín) Kilcormac/Killoughey
18. **Brian Gath** (B. Gath) Drumcullen
19. **Roy Mannion** (R. Ó Mainnín) St. Rynagh's
20. **Pat O'Connor** (P. Ó Conchúir) Coolderry
21. **Eunan Martin** (E. Ó Mairtín) St. Rynagh's
22. **Killian Farrell** (C. Ó Fearail) Edenderry
23. **Gary Cahill** (G. Ó Cathail) Birr
24. **Kevin Flynn** (C. Ó Floinn) Belmcent

Manager: **John McIntyre** (Lorrha).

Meet the Managers:

John McIntyre, Offaly

Like Tipperary Offaly needed a new manager last Autumn following the resignation of Eamon Cregan. As usual the Faithful County went for an outsider and to the surprise of many Lorrha's John McIntyre had taken over the reins.

Probably the youngest county senior team manager at present John McIntyre has a hard act to follow. Following the footsteps of Dermot Healy and Eamon Cregan nothing less than an All-Ireland win will suffice.

His first big test begins today against his native Tipperary. And like Len Gaynor, John has served his county well. A holder of an All-Ireland U-21 medal in 1981, he is probably better known for his brilliant display in the 1984 Munster senior hurling final when he lined out at centre back.

Len Gaynor was selector that day and the two would link up again in that never to be forgotten 1992 North Tipperary senior semi-final against Toomevara.

On the home front John McIntyre has two North senior medals which he received in 1984 and '89. He played in last year's North decider when they finished runners-up to Newport. Perhaps he shouldn't have played that evening as a persistent Achilles Heel, injury kept his involvement to a half an hour. He says he will give it one more year at least and continue a career that began back in 1980.

Sports Editor of the *Connacht Tribune* John McIntyre began his managerial career in 1983 with Abbeyknockmoy when he guided them for two seasons. They reached the county intermediate semi-final in both years. In 1989 he helped Sarsfields to a county senior hurling success. They were later to lose to the eventual All-Ireland champions, Ballyhale Shamrocks in the All-Ireland semi-final.

The years 1991 and '92 saw him as player-manager with his native Lorrha. Under his guidance Kinvara came from nowhere to reach the last four of the Galway county championship before losing to Athenry by just one point. That was in 1994 and last year he helped Cammore to reach the final.

• John McIntyre's co-selectors are Jim Troy, Lusmagh; Willie Dooley and Seanie White.



10 Years ago: Tipperary were placed on top position in Division II in the National Hurling League, having attained 12 points (6 wins) out of a possible 14. Offaly played in Division I but finished up in eight and last position with just one point.

The Guardian: N.H.L. Quarter-final: April 8th 1979:

Tipp fail to impress as Offaly snatch draw

Tipperary 1-17, Offaly 4-8

The recent revival in the fortunes of Tipperary hurling took something of a set back at Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, on Sunday when a much underrated Offaly outfit held the Premier County to a draw in the National Hurling League quarter final, with the last puck of the game. But Paddy Kirwan's point from all of 50 yards was only justice for a fine spirited display from Offaly, which saw them take the lead themselves with only minutes remaining only for it to be snatched from them as well.

A draw was probably a blessing in disguise to Tipperary, for on this showing they will have to improve markedly if they are to continue their interest in this competition and nurture any glimmer of hope in dethroning the All-Ireland champions, Cork at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, in the first round of the Munster championships on June 3rd.

Looking back on a game that had the misfortune – if one could use that word – to follow on an excellent relegation battle between Kilkenny and Wexford, little stands out apart from the last twenty minutes which saw Offaly take the lead with a scrambled goal and Tipp fight back into the front with a fine display of determined hurling. In those last few minutes Francis Loughane was put in the agonising position of having no fewer than two penalty strokes to take both of them crucial.

The first came after Pat Carroll had put Offaly into the lead with about two minutes remaining. Noel O'Dwyer who was roving throughout the field, was upended inside the box and referee Noel O'Donoghue (Dublin) had no hesitation in pointing to the spot. Loughane calmly decided to take his point and leave the scores. However, as if that wasn't enough, he was called upon again, two minutes later, when Peadar Queally was taken down, again inside the box.

SANITY PREVAILED

With Tipperary on level terms, many in the crowd of almost ten thousand felt that the burly Roscrea man, should go for the goal. Wisely, however, sanity prevailed and Loughane accepted the safer path. In hindsight, this was undoubtedly the correct decision because after the puck-out while numerous Tipperary hearts implored the final whistle Paddy Kirwan stole through the Tipperary backs, was illegally stopped and pointed the resultant free.

Luckily, the crowd had this flurry of excitement to warm them on their homeward journey. Certainly it can be stated that neither of these sides showed either sufficient skill or teamwork to suggest that whichever finally triumphs in the replay will continue an interest in the semi-final. However, in saying that, one probably should take into account the fact that both sides are only reemerging into the honours stakes and that could possibly explain the nervousness with which both teams approached the game.

FLATTERING

At half time the sides turned over with Tipperary leading by a rather flattering five points.

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However, danger signals were evident not alone from the fact that Offaly had twice as many wides as Tipp but also because the Tipp goalie P. Moloughney was called on time and time again to execute quite a few difficult saves.

On the resumption Offaly issued a statement of intent with Paddy Kirwan soloed down the right wing and hit a shot which Moloughney appeared to have covered only to let it slip behind him for a goal. It was a measure of this Tipp side that they could recover so well after such an unfortunate start and within three minutes, points from Noel O'Dwyer, Paddy O'Neill, Jim Kehoe had restored the lead to put the scores at 1-9 to 1-4.

A mistake by the Tipperary backs gave the Offaly's Joachim Kelly the chance to reduce the the to two points again. Loughnane had a pint before another Offaly goal, this time come from Michael Cleere who steered a clearance from a penalty stroke to the roof of the net.

Francis Loughnane restored the Tipp team with a point from a free. Offaly levelled a few minutes later and a chance for them to take the lead was squandered after twenty minutes, when with Moloughney stranded out of goal, Padraig Horan blazed the ball wide of an empty net.

Pat Fitzelle opened another one point gap for Tipp with a marvellous sideline cut from out on the right and Eamon O'Shea got his name on the scoresheet to leave the score at 1-14 to 3-6. At this stage there was about five minutes remaining and it looked at last as though Tipperary had the measure of the opposition. Pat Fitzelle had restored some of the ball hereto lost by the hard work of Joachim Kelly and the speedy O'Neill and hardworking Quigley were continuing to cause a good deal of problems for the Offaly defence.

However, Horan made up for his earlier blunder by at last putting Offaly into the lead with a well goal from the square which, unfortunately for Pat Moloughney struck fast in the muddy environment of the goalmouth, and the outcoming goalie failed to get contact with the ball leaving the goal at the mercy of Horan. The game finished with Loughnane's points being equalised by Carroll and Kirwan.

FIGHTING ABILITY

While it wasn't a particularly memorable game, those last remaining minutes showed that both sides had quite a deal of fighting ability. The most disappointing aspect for Tipperary was the poor showing of the defence. At times it appeared that there was only Paddy Williams and Noel O'Dwyer between the Offaly forwards and the net.

Goalkeeper Moloughney could really only be faulted for one of the goals and he had quite a good game, particularly in the first half. Pat Fitzelle had his moments at midfield, while Loughnane and Jim Williams played soundly in the attack. However with some of the foraging of the lively pair of Paddy O'Neill and Peadar Quigley then Tipp's visit might have been in vain.

For Offaly Damien Martin had his usual top class performance, and in front of him Eugene Coughlan and Pat Fluery impressed. For stages of the game Joachim Kelly practically owned midfield and Paddy Kirwan, Michael Cleere, Padraig Horan and Pat Carroll had solid games.

TIPPERARY: P. Moloughney, P. Burke, J. Keogh, P. Williams, J. Guilfoyle, N. O'Dwyer 0-1, P. Ryan, P. Fitzwell 0-2, J. Grace, J. Williams, T. Butler, P. Quigley 0-1, F. Loughnane 1-8, K. Keogh 0-1, P. O'Neill 0-3. Subs: J. Moloughney for Ryan, E. O'Shea 0-1 for Butler.

OFFALY: D. Martin, F. Monaghan, M. Kennedy, P. Fluery, J. Mooney, C. Coughlan, B. Keeshan, P. Delaney, J. Kelly 1-0, K. Mooney, P. Kirwan 1-4, P. Carroll 0-2, M. Cleere 1-0, P. Horan 1-2, B. Birmingham. Subs: P. Pardy for Monaghan; B. Coolehan for Mooney.

Referee: N. O'Donoghue, Dublin

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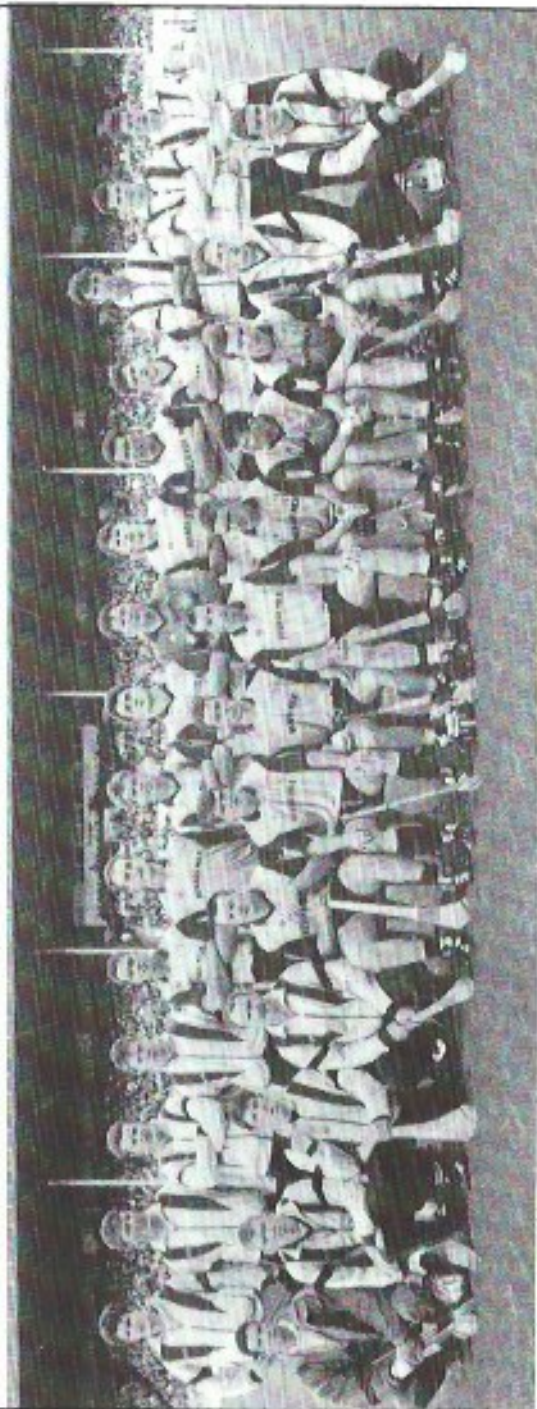
Presidential Advice

John Dowling's advice prior to opening of complex 1989: "Now that you have built your first class club complex don't fall into the trap of neglecting your teams". Advice well heeded. From 1990 to 1996 Nenagh Éire Óg has won no less than 25 titles in hurling and football from minor to senior.



*Nenagh Éire Óg, KILMACUD CROKES ALL-IRELAND SEVENS CHAMPIONS 1996:
Back (left to right): Declan O'Meara, Eddie Tucker, Christy McLoughlin, Donagh O'Donnell,
Conor O'Donovan. Front: John Kennedy, Ronan Burns, Michael Cleary, Noel Coffey.*

Nenagh Éire Óg, Tipperary Co. Champions, 1995



NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG TIPPERARY COUNTY CHAMPIONS 1995: Back (left to right): R. Foley, D. O'Brien, D. Conroy, S. Connolly, C. Howard, J. Heffernan, P. Kennedy, N. Coffey, C. McLoughlin, E. Tucker, F. Moran, D. Flannery, J. O'Donoghue, D. O'Meara, H. Flannery, Front (left to right): D. O'Donnell, L. O'Giara, G. Cleary, P. Hennessy, C. Bonar, M. Cleary, D. Quinn, C. O'Donovan (capt.), R. Tomlinson, K. Tucker, J. Kennedy, R. Burns, T. Conroy.

N.H.L. final 1988

Tipperary defeated Offaly in the final of the National Hurling League just nine years ago. The final score read Tipperary 3-15, Offaly 2-9.

TIPPERARY: Ken Hegan, Conor O'Donovan, Noel Sheehy, Seamus Gibson, Bobby Ryan, John Kennedy, Paul Delaney (0-4), Joe Hayes (0-1), Colm Bonnar (0-1), Declan Ryan, Dome O'Connell (0-1), Pat O'Neill, capt. (2-1), Pat Fox (0-3), Nicholas English (1-3), Aidan Ryan (0-1). Subs: C. Stakelum for D. O'Connell; J. Leahy for Aidan Ryan, M. Corcoran for S. Gibson.

OFFALY: Jim Troy, John Miller, Aidan Fogarty, capt., Martin Hanamy, Brendan Keeshan (0-3), Michael Coughlan, Ger Coughlan, Joachim Kelly (0-2), Joe Dooley, Pat O'Connor, Declan Fogarty, Mark Corrigan (1-3), Pat Cleary, Eugene Coughlan (1-1), Paddy Corrigan. Subs: P. J. Martin for M. Coughlan; M. Duignan for M. Corrigan; G. Cahill for P. O'Connor.

Do you know that Division I of the 1978 National Hurling League produced something of a rarity in that five teams finished level on six points. Seven teams contested the Division with Clare leading in first position on seven points while Cork, Galway, Kilkenny, Wexford and Offaly finished on six points. Tipperary were the seventh and last placed team on five points and thus relegated.

The ensuing play-offs gave Kilkenny, Wexford and Galway a place in the knock out stages of the league while Offaly needed a three points victory over Cork in a play-off to avoid relegation.

Football first: The Banagher-Cloghan Parish arguably the strongest hurling area in Offaly over the past thirty years was, for most of the lifetime of the GAA a football area with senior county honours being won in 1903 Cloghan, 1910 Banagher and Cloghan again in 1945.

But even well before the start of the official championships in 1896 football was the popular game by Shannonside. Banagher won the 1888 title (later deemed unofficial) by beating Killoughey, another area in which hurling eventually became the No. 1 sport.

FÁS Scheme

The Nenagh Éire Óg Club would like to acknowledge the contribution made by the staff of the local FÁS office.

Nick Malcolmson, Annette Moloney and Mary Kennedy have been most helpful at all times since our first scheme started in 1990.

Also a special tribute to our supervisor, Jim Flynn and his team of workers. The fruits of their work can be seen once you enter MacDonagh Park.

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Forty four years ago – The All-Ireland that split a parish

by GERRY SLEVIN

Tipp and Kilkenny, Tipp and Galway, Waterford and Kilkenny, Offaly and Galway... all All-Ireland final pairings that have had an extra special dimension because of the local derby attachment; neighbouring counties bring the best out of each other. It isn't such a frequent occurrence in football, the only such pairings that come to mind being those of Galway and Offaly in '71 and farther back still, the meeting of Meath and Cavan in '52, which saw a household divided through the presence of the Maguire brothers on each team.

All-Ireland finals between Tipp and Offaly have been something of a rarity. They met in the minor final of '87 and Offaly won, while in '89, their clash in the All-Ireland under 21 final in Portlaoise brought an attendance in excess of 30,000 for a thrilling game.

As we move back to 1953 we come upon a final clash which, if played today would engender huge publicity because of one very significant factor. It brought about the division of a parish, as the Tipp and Offaly junior hurlers battled it out in St. Brendan's Park, Birr, on September 13th in



OFFALY team which met Antrim in the 1953 junior hurling semi-final and subsequently lost the final to Tipperary. Back row, left to right: Tom O'Meara, Frank Nevin, Michael O'Brien, Paddy Molloy, Rory O'Brien, Johnny Minnock, Brendan Dolan, Jim Landy, Mick Walsh. Kneeling: Danny Leonard, Ted O'Brien, Paddy Walsh, Louis Darcy, Sean Grennan, Mick Spain, Jimmy Meacle, Eddie Grennan. Front: Paddy Dooley, John Lowry, John Connell, Mick Flynn.

the All-Ireland 'home' final.

The parish? Shinrone. Ecclesiastically speaking, Shinrone incorporates the area of Ballingarry/Knockshegowna and as such straddles both Offaly and Tipperary. In GAA affairs, Shinrone, the village and its surrounds attaches itself to the Offaly County Board, while the allegiance of Knockshegowna and Ballingarry is firmly planted within the jurisdiction of the Tipperary GAA authorities. Indeed the Knockshe' club colours of blue and gold are an emphatic sign of where their allegiance lies.

That '53 final saw players from both ends of Shinrone parish in opposition. Between the Tipp. posts was Mick Fogarty, brother of present Knockshe' masseur, Ned and wearing the number two jersey was Tom Kennedy. Just across the field from them in the Offaly colours was Jimmy Landy, playing at right full forward. Manning the left flanks in defence were Tom O'Meara and Paddy Walsh, both Shinrone.

Today it would probably be described as the mother of all battles and attracting an attendance in excess of 10,000 to the Birr venue shewed how seriously it was taken, not least in and around the border area. Indeed one could stretch the line of intensity even farther with Birr's nearness to the Tipp border and the fact that part of the parish, Carrig and Riverstown, is situated in Tipperary, though placing its GAA allegiance with Offaly. But that's another story!

Borrisokane had two representatives on the Tipp team. Son Kelly at left full back, a member of the famed Kelly's of Bawnmore and whose father Dan was a member of the De Wets side of the early days of the century. Frank McKenna at left full forward was a member of yet another noted hurling family. Lining out at midfield was Mick Conway from Shannon Rovers.

Team captain was Kilkenny native, Mick Kenay who was attached to the 13th Battalion in Clonmel and who, four years later would win a senior All-Ireland medal with his native county against Waterford.

Then there was Theo English from Marlfield, who would go on to add five senior All-Ireland medals to his collection between 1958 and 1965.

It had been a rather strenuous campaign for Tipp starting on May 17th when they beat Limerick in the Munster semi-final in Tipp. Town, by 4-5 to 1-5. They had to wait almost two months for the final against Cork and on July 9th in Mitchelstown, they drew with them, 4-8 to 5-5. The replay in Kilmallock was won by the least of margins, 4-7 to 4-6. Cork had got off to a flying start and had 2-4 on the board before Tipp got into their stride. However they added only a point before half time, while Tipp hit back with 3-2 to enjoy parity at the break.

The second half was very evenly contested and with Tipp, hanging on to a one point lead, it took a brilliant save from Mick Fogarty to deny Cork the title.

August 23rd saw Tipp and Galway line out in the All-Ireland semi-final in Ballinasloe. Another draw, 3-5 each. Birr was the replay venue a week later and this time Tipp came out on top handsomely, by 6-8 to 2-4, having led 5-4 to 0-2 at half time.

The final.. or 'home' final.. was all it promised to be. Close, tense, exciting with no quarter asked or given. Offaly had the upperhand in the first half, leading at the break by 1-1 to 0-2, Landy scoring the goal. They had enjoyed wind advantage in that half, but would rue their many missed chances. However they were to extend their lead early in the second half, but that would be that. A high ball from Mick Conway could not be controlled by the Offaly defence which had to contend with a strong sun in their eyes. The green flag was raised and Tipp were level. The remainder of the game belonged to Tipp and to team captain, Mick Kenny who sent over five points to add to one with which he had opened the first half scoring.

Try as Offaly did, they could not counter the flow of the Tipp lads and the fight was gone out



Tipperary - All Ireland Junior champions 1953. Back from left - John Joe Callinan (selector), Sean Organ, Tom Sweeney, Mick Fogarty, Mick Doheny, Tom Foran, Son Kelly, Joe Ryan, Paddy Kenny (selector). Front from left: Mick Conway, Eamonn Hayes, Frank McKenna, John Callinan, Mick Kenny (Capt), Theo English, James Hannon, Tom Kennedy.

OPENING OF NEW STAND, MACDONAGH PARK, NENAGH. MARCH 1997

of them before referee Callaghan from Westmeath sounded the long whistle.

THE FINAL

With all due respects to Warwickshire, this Offaly game was THE final. The English champions came over to Thurles for the All-Ireland final proper but succumbed to a 4-10 to 3-3 defeat. It gave Tipp their first title since 1933.

The Tipp team that won that famous victory over Offaly was: Mick Fogarty (Knockshewanna), Tom Kennedy (Knockshewanna), Mick Deheny (Gortnahoe), Son Kelly (Borrisokane), John Callanan (Boherlahan), Sean Organ (Carrick-on-Suir), Tom Sweeney (Newcastle), Joe Ryan (Knockavilla), Mick Conway (Shannon Rovers), Theo English (Marlfield), Mick Kenny (13th Batt.) (Capt), James Hannon (Lattin/Cullen), Tom Foran (Carrick-on-Suir), Eamonn Hayes (Moyearkey), Frank McKenna (Borrisokane).

Offaly J.H. line-out: F. Nevin, S. Grennan, B. Dolan, Theo Meara, J. Meade, T. O'Brien, P. Walsh, M. Spain, J. Minnock, M. Walsh, R. O'Brien, E. Brennan, J. Landy, M. O'Brien, L. Darcy.

Referee: Captain Callaghan, Westmeath.

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	U/16 Football	Nenagh Éire Og 3-8,	Kildangan 1-4.
	U/16 Hurling	Nenagh Éire Og 5-10,	Toomevara 4-9.
1991	U/12 Football		
1992	U/14 Football	Nenagh Éire Og 4-4,	Kildangan 1-5.
	U/16 Hurling	Nenagh Éire Og 1-8,	Kilruane MacDonagh. 1-7.
1994	U/12 Foot.	Nenagh Éire Og 1-3,	Roscrea 1-3.
		(r) Nenagh Éire Og 3-3,	Roscrea 1-2.
	U/16 Foot.	Nenagh Éire Og 2-5,	Roscrea 1-7.
1995	U/16 Foot.	Nenagh Éire Og 1-9,	Kildangan 0-7.
1996	U/14 Hurling	Nenagh Éire Og 2-7,	Moneygall 2-1.

The Guardian

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The Guardian; November 26th 1966.

Offaly topple Tipperary

SENSATIONAL VICTORY AT BIRR

Offaly 3-13, Tipperary 2-7

Offaly hurlers had their finest hour and scaled new heights when in St. Brendan's Park, Birr, on Sunday last, they scored a sensational victory over Tipperary in Division I of the National Hurling League. They led 2-8 to 2-2 at half-time after playing against a slight breeze.

Offaly followed up their victory over Waterford with one of the greatest upsets in hurling of modern times. This was the first win recorded by Offaly over Tipperary in a major hurling competition. Make no mistake about it, this was no fluke. On the day's play Offaly were far-and-away the better team and their final victory by 3-13 to 2-7 did not flatter than in the least. They (Offaly) were yards faster to the ball and simply swept Tipperary off their feet, leaving a trail of tarnished reputations in their wake.

If anything the margin between the sides should have been bigger at the end, for the Tipperary tally included two goals scored from 21 yard frees by Donie Nealon. Tipperary were first to score with a point and Nealon's goals but Offaly were on level terms after ten minutes' play, the scores coming for Offaly by Paddy Molloy and newly-arrived sub, Podge Mulhare. Offaly struck two deadly blows in the 25th and 26th minutes of this half with goals by Molloy and Mulhare to give them an incredulous six points lead at half time.

VAIN RALLY

After the resumption Tipperary challenged strongly but points by Flaherty and Moylan and a goal by Paddy Molloy put Offaly on the high road to victory. Tipperary tried every trick in the bag but they failed to break the stranglehold Offaly had exerted on them. There was no denying Offaly now and they went from strength to strength and ran out easy winners in the end.

Tipperary who were short John Doyle and Mick Roche looked a pale shadow of the side which last year seemed unbeatable. The absence of those two players could not be offered as an excuse for this defeat. Offaly were masters in almost every department. Their forwards gave the leg-weary Tipperary defence the run-around. Tipperary were never happy at midfield and their forwards lacked drive.

MOLLOY STARS

Railway Cup star, Paddy Molloy, despite a suspect ankle gave proof that he is one of the finest players in the game today. Molloy was his side's top scorer with 2-5 to his credit on the score sheet. He was here, there and everywhere. He lined out at half corner-forward and subsequently played at right corner, centre half forward and midfield. He got able assistance from Johnny Flaherty who gave a thrilling display of speed and ball control on the wing. Podge Mulhare, in the first half introduced as a sub, greatly strengthened the attack where Willie Gorman had the measure of a blow from Tony Wall. Brendan Moylan and Brendan Barry were also prominent in attack. Offaly were on top at midfield where J. J. Healy and Basil Johnston excelled.

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GALLAGHER BRILLIANT

Not far behind Molloy was goalkeeper Andy Gallagher. He gave a brilliant display between the posts and saved two rasps from Mick Keating and Donie Nealon in the closing half. Joe Murphy and Geery Kirwan dominated at half back and wing half-back respectively and they were ably assisted by Mick Kirwan and P. O'Meara.

DEVANEY BEST

What of Tipperary? None of the Tipperary players enhanced their reputations but Liam Devaney and Len Gaynor finished strongly. Devaney hurled hard for the whole hour and showed remarkable fitness for this time of year.

Len Gaynor never gave up and made a few sallies into the forward line in the closing stages in an effort to rally his side. Tipperary's troubles began at midfield where Theo English and Joe Fogarty were 'out of it'. Tony Wall, behind them, was far below his best form. Jimmy Doyle, an interested spectator, was sorely missed from the half-forwards where P. J. Ryan and Jimmy Ryan could never get going. Donie Nealon, John 'Mackey' McKenna and Mick 'Babs' Keating were the best of a poor attack. Noel O'Gorman, John O'Donoghue and Kieran Carey were the only other players to measure up to form. All in all, it could be said that the stars of Tipperary are on the wane and the younger players have not yet arrived.

Scorers for Offaly were: P. Molloy 2-5, P. Mulhare 1-2, J. Flaherty 0-3, B. Barry 0-2, B. Maylan 0-1. For Tipperary: D. Nealon 2-3, J. Ryan 0-2, L. Devaney 0-1, M. Keating 0-1.

OFFALY: A. Gallagher, P. O'Meara, M. Kirwan, J. Dooley, G. Kirwan, J. Murphy, J. Dooley, J. J. Healion, B. Johnston, B. Moylan, W. Gorman, J. Flaherty, B. Barry, L. Carroll, P. Molloy. Subs: P. Mulhare for Carroll, B. Flanagan for Dooley.

TIPPERARY: J. O'Donoghue, N. O'Gorman, K. Carey, J. Gleeson, L. Devaney, T. Wall, L. Gaynor, J. Fogarty, T. English, P. J. Ryan, J. Ryan, D. Nealon, M. Keating, J. McKenna, A. McLoughlin. Sub: P. Arrigan for Gleeson.

Referee: P. O'Brien (Westmeath).

From *Clár Oifigeamhail* Clare v Limerick 1955

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Ned Hassett: Senior Softball Doubles 1934-1938.

Joe Bergin: Senior Softball Singles 1950; Senior Softball Doubles 1949-1950; Junior Softball Doubles 1937; won four titles with Sligo.

Paddy Kennedy: Minor Softball Doubles 1940-1941; Junior Softball Doubles 1949; Junior Hardball Doubles 1949.

Jackie Sweeney: Minor Softball Doubles 1940-1941; Senior Softball Doubles 1949-1950.

Connie Cleere: Senior Hardball Doubles 1968, 1992, Junior Hardball Doubles 1959-1960.

Michael O'Gormon: Junior Softball Doubles 1937; Junior Hardball Doubles 1937; Junior Hardball Singles 1937.

Michael McMahon: Junior Softball Singles 1935; Junior Softball Doubles 1941.

Denis Carey: Junior Softball Doubles 1949.

John Rice: Junior Softball Doubles 1941.

Tommy Cleere: Junior Hardball Doubles 1960.

Nenagh Champions: The Hassett Brothers arrived on the inter-county senior scene in 1933. They reached the All-Ireland semi-final to be beaten by Roscommon's Paddy Perry and Mullaney. The following year the golden jubilee of the GAA they beat the Roscommon pair to take their first All-Ireland and went on to establish a unique record of winning five titles in a row.

1934: J. and N. Hassett beat P. Perry and Mullaney, Roscommon.

1935: J. and N. Hassett beat P. Perry and T. Gaughran, Roscommon 21-8, 18-21, 21-7, 21-7.

1936: J. and N. Hassett beat A. Finn and J. O'Rourke, Dublin 21-13, 21-16, 13-21, 21-11.

1937: J. and N. Hassett beat A. Clarke and J. J. Byrne, Dublin 21-20, 21-15, 15-21, 21-16.

1938: J. and N. Hassett beat H. Doherty and J. Hoare, Roscommon 21-13, 21-2, 21-11.

In 1939 They were defeated in the county championship by the up and coming Ballina brothers Connie and Anthony Collins. This was the end of that great doubles pair reign. Joe Hassett won many more All-Irelands with his adopted Kerry. The championships were not played in 1940 and 1941 and when they resumed in 1942 the final was unique as all four contestants were Tipperarymen. Connie and Anthony Collins, Tipperary v Joe and Stephen Bergin representing Sligo. After a thrilling game Tipperary won by 3 games to one.

One of the greatest county finals ever played was in 1947 between Joe Hassett and Michael O'Gormon, Nenagh against Connie and Jack Collins, Ballina. In the best of five games, the match was tied at two games each and in the last game Ballina just got there by 21-20 after several exchanges of hands for the last ace. Joe Bergin and Anthony Collins were in the Challenge Cup and brought back the gold medals beating A. Clarke and L. Rowe, Dublin.

Subs: How long to wait for your chance to play?

John Lyons, Cork full back, was a sub on the Cork bench for a full six years. Before playing in his first championship game and then went on to win three All-Ireland senior medals. Patience paid off!

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Pat Hartigan, Limerick's great full back, when asked by Jack Mahon in the book *The Game of Your Life* what his pet hates were, stated club teams and players that don't log out properly.

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NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG NORTH TIPP U-14 HURLING CHAMPIONS 1996. Back row, left to right: John Treacy, Sean Tanner, Ronan Spillane, Eamonn Hodgins, Derek Tucker, Trevor Connolly, John Paul King, David Ryan, John Donnellan, Brian Darcy, Kevin Flannery, David Glvens. Front row, left to right: Daniel Hassett, Robbie Bonfield, Paddy Kinehan, James Whelan, John Brennan, Ciaran Morris, Gerard Clifford, Thomas Kennedy, Hugh Moloney, Gary Burke, David Cody, David Hackett, Paddy Ryan. Inset Donnacha Ryan.



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NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE 1997

Round 1 – 9/3/1997

An Clár	v	Laois
Cill Chainnigh	v	Luimneach
Loch Garman	v	Gaillimh
Tiobraid Árann	v	Uíbh Fhailí

Round 2 – 23/3/1997

Luimneach	v	An Clár
Gaillimh	v	Cill Chainnaigh
Uíbh Fhailí	v	Loch Garman
Laois	v	Tiobraid Árann

Round 3 – 30/3/1997

Cill Chainnigh	v	Laois
Loch Garman	v	Luimneach
Tiobraid Árann	v	Gaillimh
An Clár	v	Uíbh Fhailí

Round 4 – 13/4/1997

Uíbh Fhailí	v	Cill Chainnaigh
Laois	v	Loch Garman
Luimneach	v	Tiobraid Árann
Gaillimh	v	An Clár

Round 5 – 27/4/1997

Cill Chainnaigh	v	An Clár
Tiobraid Árann	v	Loch Garman
Luimneach	v	Laois
Uíbh Fhailí	v	Gaillimh

Round 6 – 11/5/1997

Loch Garman	v	Cill Chainnigh
An Clár	v	Tiobraid Árann
Gaillimh	v	Luimneach
Laois	v	Uíbh Fhailí

Round 7 – 1/6/1997

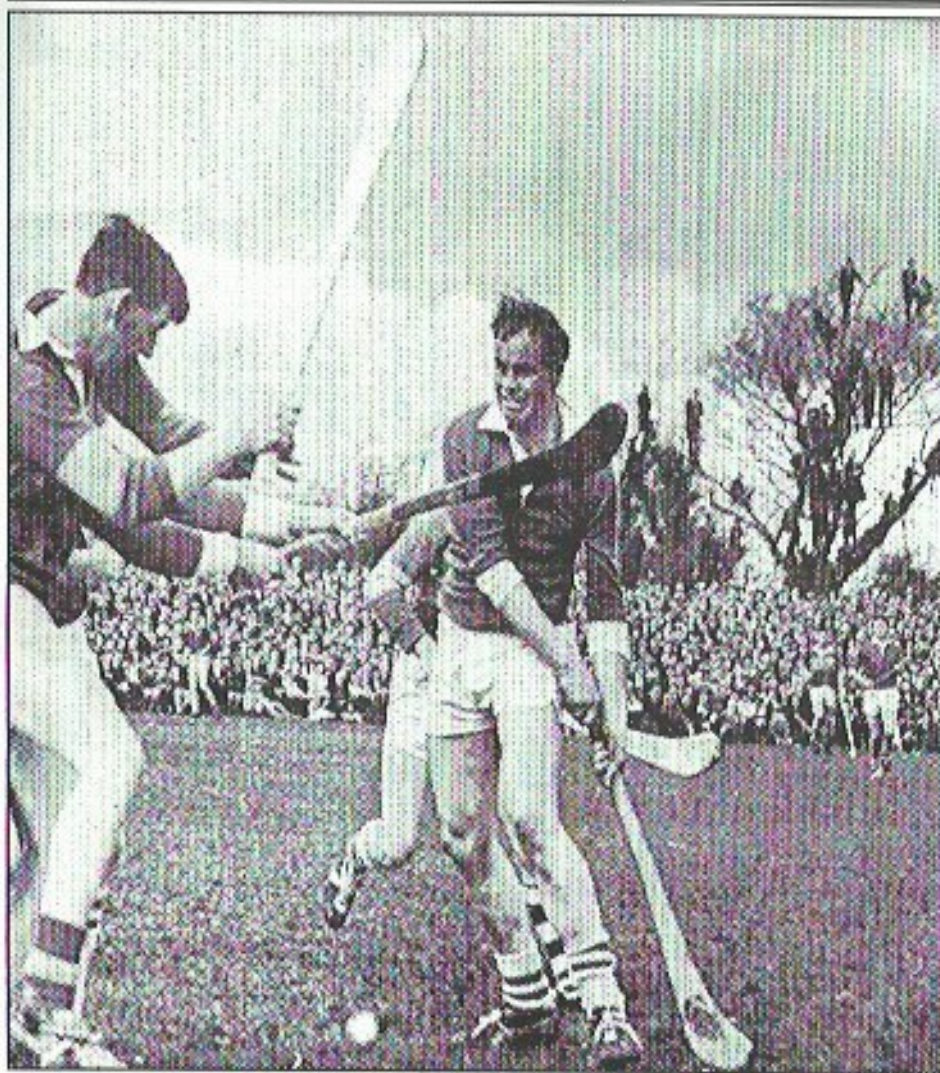
An Clár	v	Loch Garman
Tiobraid Árann	v	Cill Chainnaigh
Gaillimh	v	Laois
Uíbh Fhailí	v	Luimneach

HARTY CUP FINAL

Nenagh Éire Óg wish to congratulate Nenagh C.B.S. on reaching their second successive final and their third in the '90s.

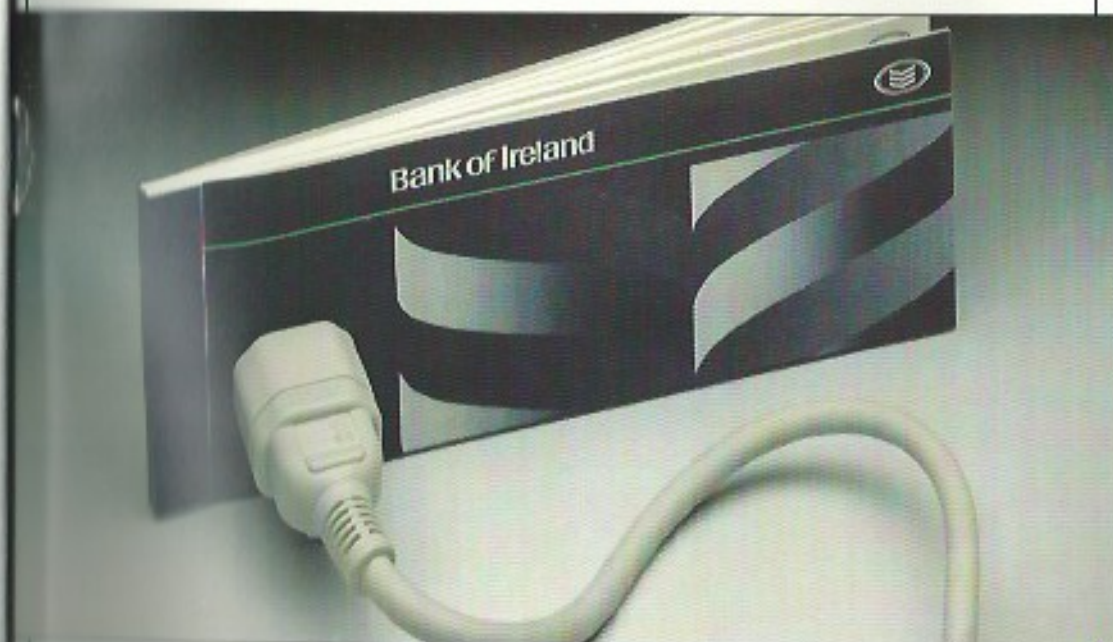
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The first 'stand' at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh



Spectators with heads for heights view the National Hurling League game between Tipperary and Limerick from MacDonagh Park's first 'stand' in 1964. Picture shows Sean McLoughlin of Tipperary (left) and Limerick's J. J. Bresnihan clash for a ground ball. Tipperary won 3-16 to 2-5.

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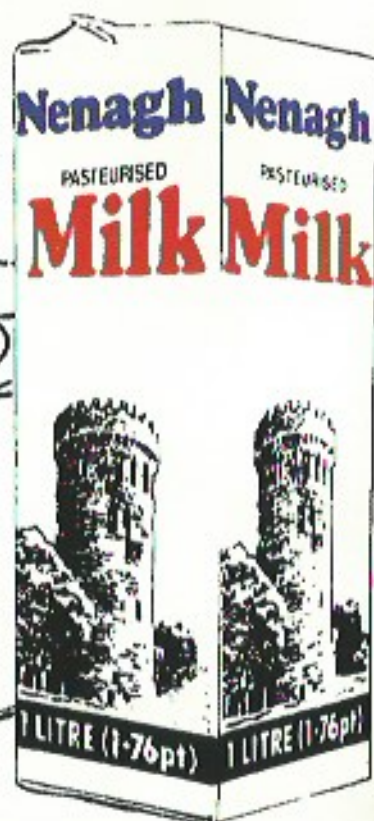
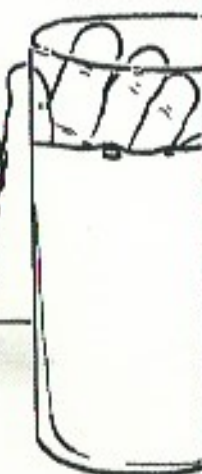
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