

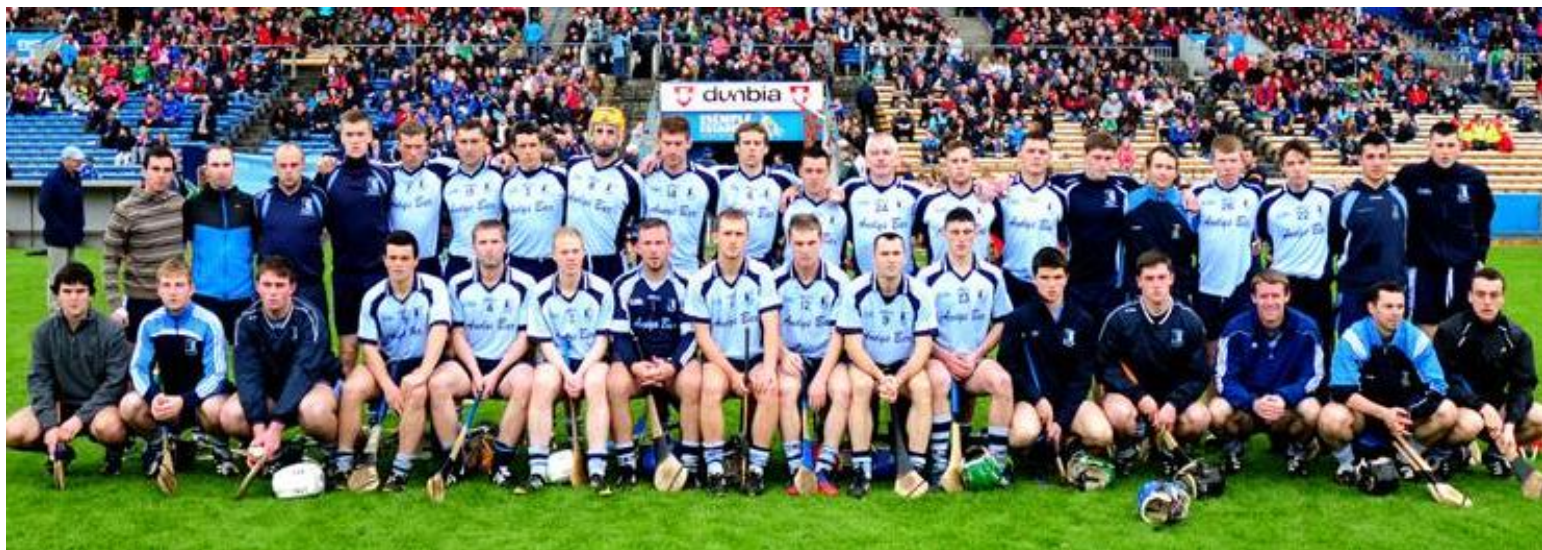


NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 6 OCTOBER 2013

NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG - TIPPERARY SENIOR HURLING FINALISTS OCTOBER 13TH 2013



Panel: Back row left to right: Alan Kelly, Eoin Fitzgibbon, David Hackett, Kevin Flynn, Billy Heffernan, Richie Flannery, Noel Moloney, Barry Heffernan, Paddy Murphy, Hugh Maloney, Dáire Quinn, Johnny Slattery, Pearse Morris, Killian Gleeson, Gary Howard, Brian Quinn, Conor Ryan, James Mackey, Adam Gratton, Bob O' Brien. Front row: Seáníe Geaney, Darragh Walsh, Dáire Gleeson, Donnacha Quinn, John Brennan, Mark Flannery, Michael McNamara, Michael Heffernan, Tommy Heffernan, Kevin Tucker, Andrew Coffey, Philip Hickey, Michael Collins, Niall Cahill, Paul Ryan, Donnacha Heffernan

NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG – TIPPERARY MINOR 'A' CHAMPIONS OCTOBER 20TH 2013



Panel: Brian Gubbins, Conor Ryan, Michael Collins, Ger O'Gorman, Aodhán Geaney, Barry Heffernan, Jack Molamphy, Andrew James Mackey, John Cahalan, Donnacha Quinn, Killian Gleeson (captain), Philip Hickey, Gary Howard, Anthony Walsh, Aaron Hogan, Brian Flynn, Christopher Ryan, Aidan Healy, Gavin O'Connor, Oisín Ryan, Paul O'Leary, Jack Sheedy, Niall O'Gorman, Michael Hallinan, Luke Kennedy, Shane Hennessy, Brian Tuite, Peter O'Reilly, Adam Carey, Gerard Mitchell. Management team: Greg Browne, Michael McNamara and Con Morris. Also in photo, Brian McDonnell, Eddie Hynes, Derek Lillis, Mark Long



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Clean Ireland Recycling County Senior Hurling Championship Final

Nenagh Éire Óg 1-16 Loughmore-Castleiney 1-17

On Sunday, October 13th 2013 the Blues lost their 13th championship game of the year by a single point to a superb Loughmore-Castleiney team at Semple Stadium, Thurles.

Following a disappointing defeat suffered at the hands of Toomevara in a north Tipperary senior hurling championship quarter-final Nenagh Éire Óg found their form to beat Thurles Sarsfields (defending Munster champions and 2009, 2010 & 2012 county champions), Drom & Inch (2011 county champions), Silvermines (2012 county & Munster intermediate club champions) and Kildangan (2013 north Tipperary champions) before losing out to a Loughmore-Castleiney side who were inspired by inter-county star Noel McGrath.

Nenagh Éire Óg fought like men right to the very last, but Loughmore-Castleiney edged out the Blues in a dramatic final quarter.

Éire Óg started well and led 0-3 to no-score thanks to early points from Pearse Morris, Michael Heffernan (free) and Richie Flannery. Loughmore-Castleiney hit back with a brace of points to trail 0-2 to 0-3 before Richie Flannery broke the ball to Paddy Murphy in the 12th minute and Paddy fired Éire Óg into a



four-point lead. Andrew Coffey and Tommy Heffernan then added to the Blues' tally and Éire Óg led 1-5 to 0-2 by the 14th minute.

Noel McGrath responded for Loughmore-Castleiney, but Nenagh Éire Óg hit back almost immediately when Michael Heffernan swung over a magnificent right-handed effort in the 17th minute – 1-6 to 0-3.

Loughmore-Castleiney closed out the half impressively with three points dragging the favourites back

into contention – half-time: Nenagh Éire Óg 1-7 Loughmore-Castleiney 0-6.

Second Half

A Cian Hennessy point closed the gap to three points immediately after the break, but this final reached a significant juncture in the 34th minute when Richie Flannery was pulled down for a penalty. Michael Heffernan made a telling connection on the placed ball, but his effort flew narrowly over the crossbar – 1-8 to 0-7.

Two Noel McGrath points (one '65) left two in it before Paddy Murphy helped Éire Óg into a 1-9 to 0-9 lead by the 38th minute.

Points from Tommy and Michael Heffernan then forced Éire Óg four clear (1-11 to 0-10) with twenty minutes to play.

Two Noel McGrath points reduced Éire Óg's advantage to two points, but the Blues responded to the challenge once more when Pearse Morris grabbed a puck-out and drove over a superb point (1-12 to 0-12) in the 43rd minute.



With quarter of an hour to play a Cian Hennessy point roused Loughmore-Castleiney before Liam McGrath gathered a John Meagher delivery in the 46th minute and buried a goal which presented Loughmore-Castleiney with the lead for the first time. Four minutes later John McGrath landed a point and now Éire Óg



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1), John McGrath, David Kennedy (0-1), Cian Hennessy (0-2), Noel McGrath (0-7, 0-1 frees, 0-1 '65), Evan Sweeney (0-1), Liam McGrath (1-2). Subs: (56th) Micheál Webster for David Kennedy.

Nenagh Éire Óg:

Michael McNamara, Mark Flannery, Noel Maloney, John Brennan, Daire Quinn, Hugh Maloney, Billy Heffernan, Barry Heffernan, Kevin Tucker, Pearse Morris (0-3), Michael Heffernan

(0-7, 0-3 frees, 0-1 penalty), Tommy Heffernan (0-2), Andrew Coffey (0-1), Paddy Murphy (1-2), Richie Flannery (0-1). Subs: (46th) Paul Ryan for Andrew Coffey, (52nd) Donnacha Quinn for Billy Heffernan, (60th) Johnny Slattery for Paul Ryan.

Remaining Panel Members:

Brian Quinn, James Mackey, Killian Gleeson, Alan Kelly, Kevin Flynn, Seáníe Geaney, Adam Grattan, Conor Ryan, Donnacha Heffernan, David Hackett, Niall Cahill, Eoin Fitzgibbon, Gary Howard, Michael Collins, Bob O'Brien, Philip Hickey, Darragh Walsh & Daire Gleeson.

Management Team: Liam Heffernan (manager), John Fitzgerald (coach), Noel Coffey (selector) & Enda Costello (selector). Physio: Paul Dillon & Eddie Hynes. First Aid: Liam Quinn. Doctor: Paul O'Farrell. Logistics: Matt Lillis.

Referee: John McCormack (Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams).

trailed by two (1-12 to 1-14). A Michael Heffernan free reduced the deficit, but Noel McGrath hit back almost immediately for Loughmore-Castleiney in the 52nd minute.

Éire Óg, however, charged forward in search of scores with efforts from Paddy Murphy and Michael Heffernan levelling matters at 1-15 apiece by the 56th minute.

Ciarán McGrath helped Loughmore-Castleiney back into the lead before an Evan Sweeney point in the 59th minute left two between

them (1-15 to 1-17). A Michael Heffernan free right on the hour mark dragged Éire Óg to within touching distance once more, but the Blues failed to create one final opportunity which could have rescued the situation. Sadly in the final twenty minutes Éire Óg fired five wides while Loughmore-Castleiney hit just one.

Loughmore-Castleiney:

Shane Nolan, Tommy Long, Derek Bourke, Joseph Hennessy, Aidan McGrath (0-2, 0-2 frees), John Meagher, Tom King, Ciarán McGrath (0-1), Tomás McGrath (0-





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2013 Championship Campaign Clean Ireland Recycling County Senior Hurling Championship

Final Nenagh Éire Óg
1-16 Loughmore-
Castleiney 1-17
Semi-Final Replay
Nenagh Éire Óg 1-17
Kildangan 0-12
Semi-Final Nenagh
Éire Óg 4-13
Kildangan 2-19
Quarter-Final Nenagh
Éire Óg 1-15 Drom & Inch 2-11
Round Four Nenagh Éire Óg 1-21
Silvermines 0-8
Round Three Nenagh Éire Óg 2-18
Upperchurch-Drombane 1-17
Round Two Nenagh Éire Óg 1-18
Mullinahone 0-9
Round One Nenagh Éire Óg 0-15
Thurles Sarsfields 0-12

Hibernian Inn North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship

Quarter-Final: Nenagh Éire Óg 1-
13 Toomevara 2-18
Round Four: Nenagh Éire Óg 1-10



Portroe 0-13
Round Three: Nenagh Éire Óg 0-21
Kilruane MacDonagh's 0-15
Round Two: Nenagh Éire Óg 5-12
Moneygall 0-9
Round One: Nenagh Éire Óg 0-17
Kildangan 1-14

Players Used (number of appearances & total scores in brackets):

Michael McNamara (13), Mark
Flannery (13), Noel Maloney (13),
John Brennan (13), Daire Quinn
(13, 0-1), Barry Heffernan (13, 0-
4), Kevin Tucker (13,
1-53), Michael

Heffernan (13, 3-52),
Billy Heffernan (12,
0-2), Paddy Murphy
(12, 4-15), Donnacha
Quinn (12, 0-16),
Pearse Morris (11, 0-
4), Hugh Maloney
(11, 0-2), Tommy
Heffernan (11, 3-28),
Seáníe Geaney (10,
0-5), James Mackey
(10, 1-4), Killian
Gleeson (9, 3-5),
Alan Kelly (7, 0-1),
Brian Quinn (7, 0-3),
Andrew Coffey (6, 0-
1), Richie Flannery
(6, 3-7), Johnny
Slattery (5, 0-1),

Adam Grattan (5),
Paul Ryan (2,0-1).

**Seven players – namely Michael
McNamara, Noel Maloney, Michael
Heffernan, Daire Quinn, John
Brennan, Barry Heffernan & Kevin
Tucker – played a part in every
game while Michael McNamara,
Noel Maloney, Michael Heffernan
and Daire Quinn played every
minute of every championship game.*

*Our under-10 hurlers had the privilege of
playing in mini-games at half-time in the
semi-final and county final in Semple
Stadium this month. [Click on any image
below to see the boys in action on the
field of dreams.](#)*





NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

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NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG – TIPPERARY MINOR 'A' CHAMPIONS 2013



Nenagh Éire Óg claimed their eighth Tipperary county minor 'A' title at Semple Stadium, Thurles on Sunday afternoon thanks to a dramatic one-point win over an excellent Holycross-Ballycahill team.

**Clean Ireland Recycling County Minor A Hurling Championship Final
Nenagh Éire Óg 3-10
Holycross-Ballycahill 1-15**

Nenagh Éire Óg claimed their eighth Tipperary county minor 'A' title at Semple Stadium, Thurles on Sunday afternoon thanks to a dramatic one-point win over an excellent Holycross-Ballycahill team. Sunday's victory capped a campaign which featured the club's 21st divisional title and seventh North title in-a-row (2007-13).

Éire Óg led by a single point in the first minute of injury time when Ciarán Maher won a penalty for

Holycross-Ballycahill. However before Jamie Woods could address the placed opportunity the Holycross-Ballycahill management team attempted to change the ball – referee Paddy Ivors spotted the infraction and elected to throw the ball in as a result. After a fierce battle Éire Óg cleared their lines.

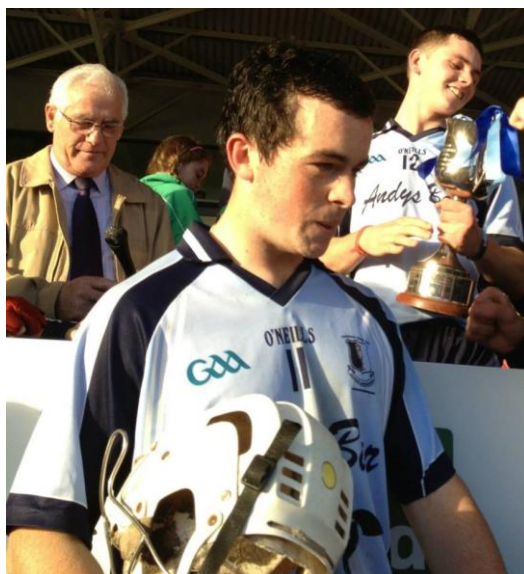
Holycross-Ballycahill started brilliantly and led 0-4 to no-score before Gary Howard got Éire Óg off the mark in the tenth minute. Two Donnacha Quinn frees kept the scoreboard ticking over from an Éire Óg point of view, but the Blues

trailed 0-3 to 0-6 by the 22nd minute.

A fine Donnacha Quinn point from play cut the deficit to two points, but Holycross-Ballycahill responded with a Shane Ryan free to leave three between them.

Another Donnacha Quinn (pictured left) point in the 27th minute left two in it once more before Éire Óg struck for their first goal in the

28th minute – Ger O'Gorman cleared his lines in inspirational style before Killian Gleeson raced through and buried a super goal – 1-5 to 0-7.





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Killian Gleeson (captain) and Gary Howard (vice-captain) with County Chairman Seán Nugent and Bill Ryan (Clean Ireland Recycling).

Peter Gavin and Donnacha Quinn (free) traded points thereafter before Holycross-Ballycahill 'keeper Shane Skelly made a fine save to deny James Mackey.

Éire Óg struck for their second goal against the wind in the 34th minute of the opening half – this time Philip Hickey won possession before floating in a superb ball toward Andrew Coffey. Coffey buried a left-handed shot and Éire Óg now led 2-6 to 0-9.

Donnacha Quinn converted a sideline ball in the opening minutes of the second half, but a very determined Holycross-Ballycahill team attacked relentlessly and reduced the Éire Óg lead to a single point (2-7 to 0-12) by the 39th minute.

Éire Óg responded with points from Donnacha Quinn and Anthony Walsh, but Liam Moloney hit a

brace for Holycross-Ballycahill before 'keeper Brian Gubbins made a fine save to deny Peter Gavin a goal in the 44th minute. Three minutes later, however, Gavin guided home a three-pointer when his clever flick found the Éire Óg net. Holycross-Ballycahill now led 1-14 to 2-9. Brian Gubbins saved once more from Peter Gavin with ten minutes to play while seconds later Shane Skelly saved from James Mackey in a frantic spell of hurling. Holycross-Ballycahill cleared their lines at the expense of a sideline ball which Donnacha Quinn floated in with nine minutes to play – Gary Howard turned the incoming ball past a helpless Shane Skelly and, suddenly, Éire Óg held the advantage once more – 3-9 to 1-14.

A Liam Moloney point in the 54th minute tied the game, but Donnacha Quinn (free) fired Éire Óg back into a precious one-point lead in the 56th minute following a foul on the Blues' John Cahalan (the first free won by the Blues in the second half). Holycross-Ballycahill enjoyed late opportunities to equalise, but it was not to be for the Mid champions.

The club would like to thank the management team – comprising Greg Browne, Michael McNamara and Con Morris – for their efforts in preparing the minor 'A' team this year.

Nenagh Éire Óg: Brian Gubbins, Conor Ryan, Michael Collins, Ger O'Gorman, Aodhán Geaney, Barry Heffernan, Jack Molamphy, Andrew Coffey (1-0), James Mackey, John Cahalan, Donnacha Quinn (0-8, 0-4 frees, 0-1 sideline), Killian Gleeson (captain, 1-0), Philip Hickey, Gary Howard (1-1), Anthony Walsh (0-1).



Jack Molamphy, Philip Hickey and Anthony Walsh



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CLICK ON
THE IMAGE
(LEFT) TO
VIEW
COUNTY
FINAL VS
HOLYCROSS



CLICK ON
THE IMAGE
(LEFT) TO
VIEW
HIGHLIGHTS
TRIBUTE



CLICK ON THE
IMAGE (LEFT)
TO VIEW
PRESENTATION
AND
CELEBRATIONS

Panel members:

Aaron Hogan, Brian Flynn, Christopher Ryan, Aidan Healy, Gavin O'Connor, Oisín Ryan, Paul O'Leary, Jack Sheedy, Niall O'Gorman, Michael Hallinan, Luke Kennedy, Shane Hennessy, Brian Tuite, Peter O'Reilly, Adam Carey, Gerard Mitchell.

Holycross-Ballycahill:

Shane Skelly, David Carroll, Conor Ryan, Ray Nally, Jack Skehan, Shane Ryan (0-2, 0-2 frees), Kieran O'Dwyer, Páraic Russell (0-1), Matty Stakelum (0-1), Luke O'Meara (0-1), Ciarán Maher, Peter Gavin (1-1), Jamie Woods (0-3, 0-2 frees), Liam Moloney (0-4), Brian Hanrahan (0-2). Subs: (57th) Cian Hehir for Kieran O'Dwyer.

Referee: Paddy Ivors (Ballingarry).



Aodhán Geaney and Andrew Coffey



Killian Gleeson making his speech

Nenagh Éire Óg's County

Minor 'A' Hurling Titles (8):

1969, 1977, 1978, 1991, 1992, 2008, 2012 & 2013.

Previous Winning Captains:

Matt Sheary (1969), Michael Kennedy (1977), Brian Heffernan (1978), Fergal Hynes (1991), Shane Connolly (1992), Paddy Murphy (2008), Bob O'Brien (2012) & Killian Gleeson (2013).

This is the third time that Nenagh Éire Óg have managed to put county minor 'A' hurling titles back-to-back (1991-92, 1977-78 & 2012-13). Five other clubs have managed a similar feat: Thurles Sarsfields (2006-07, 2000-01 & 1954-57), Roscrea (1966-67 & 1958-1963), and Toomevara (1986-87) & Cashel King Cormac's (1974-75).

Results

Clean Ireland Recycling County Minor A Hurling Championship

Final: Nenagh Éire Óg 3-10
Holycross-Ballycahill 1-15
Semi-Final: Nenagh Éire Óg 5-19
Carrick Swans 0-14

Ger Gavin North Tipperary Minor 'A' Hurling Championship

Final: Nenagh Éire Óg 4-22 Toomevara 3-20
AET
Semi-Final: Nenagh Éire Óg 1-20
Borris-Ileigh 0-9
Nenagh Éire Óg 2-23 Kildangan 5-7
Nenagh Éire Óg w/o Kilruane MacDonaghs
Nenagh Éire Óg 3-13 Toomevara 2-12
Nenagh Éire Óg 1-17 Roscrea 2-17
Nenagh Éire Óg 2-19 Borris-Ileigh 1-11

Nenagh Éire Óg 1-18 Newport
Gael's 0-17



Anthony Walsh with his proud family



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NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG JUNIOR 'B' CAMÓGIE CHAMPIONS OCTOBER 27TH 2013



Panel: Back l-r: Kieran O'Brien, Paul Henry, Danielle Harrington, Kara Ryan Mulqueen, Sarah O'Connor, Elaine Slattery, Amy Heffernan, Mary Dillon, Ali Darcy, Rachel Maher, Julie Moylan, Cliona Curren, Claire Collins, Alice Darcy, Shane Connolly, Denise Morris. Front l-r. Ciara McGrath, Paula Ryan, Zoey Gratton, Aileen Duggan, Alanna Morris, Holly O'Brien, Saoirse Gleeson, Aislinn O'Brien, Judy Ryan Mulqueen, Michelle Collins, Gemma Morris

Nenagh Éire Óg make history as Alanna Morris captains the Blues to a first-ever adult county Camogie title at the Ragg on Sunday October 27th – Éire Óg 4-6 Knockavilla 3-5.

Nenagh Éire Óg made history on Sunday afternoon at the Ragg when Alanna Morris (pictured right) captained the Blues to a first-ever adult county camogie title – the Éire Óg Junior B team

saw off a determined Knockavilla Kickhams outfit with four points to spare. The club was established in 2001 and it's hard to believe that just twelve years later we have won our very first adult championship. In fact the meteoric rise of camogie in the town is astonishing and much credit must go to all our hard working coaches and committee members over the years.

Having suffered a heart-breaking defeat in the 2012 county final Éire Óg attacked from the very start of this encounter and led 0-3 to no-score by the 17th minute – despite playing into the wind



Ciara McGrath drove over two frees before Aislinn O'Brien notched the Blues' first score from play.

Goalkeeper Ali Darcy (pictured left) made a telling save in the tenth minute – the first in a whole series of significant interventions. Éire Óg





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conjured their first goal in the 19th minute when Danielle Harrington hand-passed to the net. Two minutes later Harrington helped herself to another three-pointer and Éire Óg now led 2-3 to no-score. Two Knockavilla frees in the 23rd and 27th minutes cut the Éire Óg lead to seven points; that is until Danielle Harrington set up Holly O'Brien for a terrific goal in the 30th minute. Seconds later Danielle Harrington completed her hat-trick and although Knockavilla closed out the half with two converted frees the Blues led 4-3 to 0-4 at the break.

In the first minute of the second half a Knockavilla free found the

before a Holly O'Brien free in the 58th left seven in it (4-6 to 2-5).

Two minutes into injury time Knockavilla managed a third goal, but Éire Óg held on for a famous win. This victory was particularly sweet for Mary Dillon who has soldiered with the club since she first past through the gates of MacDonagh

The Collins and Ryan Mulqueen families particularly enjoyed the occasion as sisters Claire and Michelle Collins and Judy and Kara Ryan Mulqueen played a massive role in winning this championship. One girl in everyone's thoughts throughout the game was Alice Darcy who for years manned the full back position with the



Zoey Gratton

determination and vigour of Scathach, the Celtic Queen who taught Cúchulainn how to fight and play hurling. Unfortunately Alice missed out on the final through injury and it was sad to see one of the clubs stalwarts on the sideline on what should have been her biggest day on the playing field. Alice's injury inspired the girls to win it for her and when the pressure came on in the second half they responded magnificently. We wish to thank the management team of Paul Henry, Denise Morris and Shane Connolly, who left no stone unturned this year in their quest for glory. Winning both the Junior



Alannah Morris accepting the cup from County Camogie Chairman, Joe Cahill

net, but a Ciara McGrath '50 steadied the Blues and left nine in it (4-4 to 1-4) by the 36th minute. A second Knockavilla goal five minutes later allied to a Kickhams point in the 46th minute reduced the Éire Óg advantage to five points (4-4 to 2-5).

Knockavilla were awarded a penalty in the 49th minute, but the Kickhams spurned the opportunity before Zoe Gratton won a crucial free. A Danielle Harrington point in the 52nd minute soothing the nerves of the Éire Óg players

Park as an eight year old, as she savoured county championship success for the very first time in her life. Her delight and relief was clear for all to see as she celebrated the final whistle. It was also Danielle Harrington's first county title while Ali Darcy has collected her very first medal in her first year playing camogie.



Rachel Spillane, Aislinn O'Brien, Rachel Maher, Ciara McGrath, Danielle Harrington



NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG JUNIOR 'B' CAMÓGIE CHAMPIONS OCTOBER 27TH 2013



CLICK ON THE ABOVE IMAGE
TO VIEW THE PRESENTATION

being promoted to Junior 'A' which is crucial for the development of our players as not only will we be playing at a higher standard but it also means a return to fifteen a side camogie and the possible use of five subs which gives more girls the opportunity to hurl at adult level in our club.

Nenagh Éire Óg:

Ali Darcy, Mary Dillon, Rachel Maher, Alanna Morris (captain), Amy Heffernan, Ciara McGrath (0-3, 0-2 frees. 0-1 '50), Zoe Gratton, Michelle Collins, Aileen Duggan, Aislinn O'Brien (0-1), Holly O'Brien (1-1, 0-1 frees), Danielle Harrington (3-1). Subs: Julie Moylan for Michelle Collins, Saoirse Gleeson for Amy Heffernan.

Remaining panel members: Claire Collins, Paula Ryan, Cliona Curran, Brenda O'Sullivan, Judy Ryan-Mulqueen, Alice Darcy, Sarah O'Connor, Elaine Slattery, Kara Ryan-Mulqueen.



Alannah Morris, Ciara McGrath,
Claire Collins

Rachel Maher

'B' league and championship this year is a fantastic achievement and one the whole club is very proud of. Following this win we have now

FOR ALL CAMÓGIE MATTERS CONTACT ENDA
O'SULLIVAN AT ENDAOS@HOTMAIL.COM

LIAM SHEEDY MOTIVATES THE JUNIOR CAMOGIE TEAM PRIOR TO COUNTY FINAL

On the Friday night before our Junior B camogie team won the county final they were treated to a motivational talk from former Tipperary bainisteoir Liam Sheedy. The girls listened attentively as Liam spoke and no doubt his words had the desired effect as we managed to overturn a twenty one point defeat to Knockavilla three weeks previously in the round robin stage of the championship into a four point winning margin on county final day. We wish to thank Liam for his time and words of encouragement.





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Nenagh Éire Óg HEALTHY CLUB PROJECT



152 COMPLETED THE QUESTIONNAIRE
MALE - 61%
FEMALE - 39%



COMPLETED THE QUESTIONNAIRE

11% HAD NO CONNECTION TO THE CLUB

25% WERE PARENTS OF CLUB MEMBERS

34% PLAYERS OR MENTORS

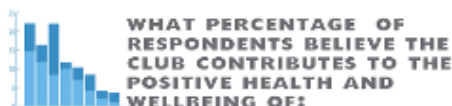
AGE GROUPS



■ UNDER 25 - 24%
■ 26-35YRS - 17%
■ 36-45YRS - 28%
■ 46-55YRS - 21%
■ 56 AND OLDER - 10%

OUT OF THE 152 RESPONSES... 47% ARE ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS IN THE CLUB

90%
PERCEIVED
THE CLUB AS A
WELCOMING PLACE



MEMBERS - 96%
NON MEMBERS - 46%



THE TARGET GROUPS
YOUTH
25-35 YRS
COMMUNITY AT LARGE

PRIORITY AREAS THE HEALTHY CLUB PROJECT TEAM WILL BE FOCUSING ON:

- ✓ RESILIENCE AND WELL-BEING (MENTAL)
- ✓ COMMUNITY INTERACTION AND INCLUSION
- ✓ PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND FITNESS
- ✓ DIET AND NUTRITION
- ✓ ANTI BULLYING

Many thanks to everybody who contributed to the recent questionnaire on club actions and plans for the future. The results of the questionnaire have highlighted certain priority areas for us which we feel are typical of the needs of the modern club and community facing the results of unemployment and emigration which not only impact on those directly affected but on extended families and friends. We plan to focus on physical and mental wellbeing, community interaction and inclusion in our bid to improve the quality of life for all.

As the GAA sporting year draws to a close, the Healthy Club Project finds itself still in its first year of positive action. One we very much look forward to. [Click here](#) for Healthy Club Project page.

Healthy Club Project Team

Team Leader – Michael Geaney:
michaelgeaney1@yahoo.ie
Team Administrator: Nuala Connolly
nualamcg68@gmail.com
Children's Officer: Thomas Moylan
tommymoylan@eircom.net
Community Representative: Clare Slattery
clare.s.slattery@gmail.com
Greg Browne:
gregbrowne@topmail.com
Club Chairperson: Jim Nagle
Jimnagle1@gmail.com
Club Secretary: Declan Bailey
debailer@hotmail.com

White rooms
Multimedia



Friends in high places! Clare Slattery, Nuala Connolly and Michael Geaney attended a workshop on the Healthy Club Project in Croke Park during the month. They are photographed here with Liam O'Neill, President of the GAA.

Conor Cusack of Cork recently published online a powerfully honest account of his relationship with depression. His intelligent honesty has hit home with many. Click below to read his story.

<http://ccusack111.blogspot.ie/2013/10/depression-is-friend-not-my-enemy-28.html>



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U21 'A' NORTH HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

Nenagh Éire Óg enjoyed a three-point win over Kildangan in a north Tipperary under-21A hurling championship clash played in horrible conditions at MacDonagh Park, Clough Jordan on Monday afternoon.

**North Tipperary Under-21A Hurling Championship
Nenagh Éire Óg 1-14
Kildangan 0-14**

Nenagh Éire Óg enjoyed a three-point win over Kildangan in a north Tipperary under-21A hurling championship clash played in horrible conditions at MacDonagh Park, Clough Jordan on Monday afternoon.

Three Donnacha Quinn frees helped Éire Óg into a 0-3 to 0-1 lead after ten minutes with Tadhg Gallagher (free) responding for Kildangan.

Points from Jack Loughnane and Tom McLoughlin levelled mattered by the 14th, but Éire Óg hit back through James Mackey and Donnacha Quinn (free) to lead 0-5 to 0-3 by the 16th.

Éire Óg 'keeper Kevin Flynn made a fine save when deflecting a Tom McLoughlin effort over the bar a minute later while Andrew Coffey and Gary Howard helped the Blues into a 0-7 to 0-4 advantage with twenty minutes played. A Tadhg

Gallagher point reduced the Éire Óg lead to two points, but two Donnacha Quinn frees forced Nenagh into a four-point lead before Paul Flynn left three in it at the break – half-time: Nenagh Éire Óg 0-9 Kildangan 0-6.

Tommy Heffernan got off the mark for Éire Óg in the opening minute of the second half, but Kildangan responded with efforts from Tom McLoughlin and Paul Flynn leaving two in it (0-10 to 0-8) with twenty-three minutes to play. Éire Óg, however, responded in kind with points from Donnacha Quinn (free) and David Hickey. Two Tadhg Gallagher efforts book-ended a Donnacha Quinn free to leave three between them (0-13 to 0-10) entering the final quarter. Éire Óg struck for a critical three-pointer in the 46th minute when Gary Howard flicked Killian Gleeson's delivery past Eoin Maher in the Kildangan goal.

Kildangan responded well to the challenge with two Tadhg Gallagher points and an effort from Willie Connors reducing the margin to just three points (1-13 to 0-13) by the 58th minute.

Tadhg Gallagher enjoyed a reasonable goal chance on the hour mark, but fired wide while Éire Óg 'keeper Kevin Flynn saved

a Willie Connors effort neatly at his near post in the third minute of injury time.

A Stephen James Gleeson '65 cut the Éire Óg lead to two in the 64th minute, but a Donnacha Quinn point in the sixth minute of injury time sealed the win for Nenagh. They now face Roscrea in the quarter-final.

Nenagh Éire Óg: Kevin Flynn, Donnacha Heffernan, Kevin Gubbins, Conor Ryan, Adam Gratton, Daire Quinn, Barry Heffernan, Seáníe Geaney (captain), Andrew Coffey (0-1), Darragh Walsh, Tommy Heffernan (0-1), Killian Gleeson, Donnacha Quinn (0-9, 0-8 frees), Gary Howard (1-1), James Mackey (0-1). Subs: (39th) David Hickey (0-1) for Darragh Walsh, (62nd) John Cahalan for James Mackey.

Kildangan: Eoin Maher, Jim Minehan, Shane Seymour, Darren Moran, David Sweeney, Stephen James Gleeson (0-1, 0-1 '65), Willie Connors (0-1), Paddy Gallagher, Jack Loughnane (0-1), Johnny Horan, David Fitzpatrick, Alan Flynn, Paul Flynn (0-2), Tadhg Gallagher (0-6, 0-3 frees), Tom McLoughlin (0-3). Subs: (HT) Seán Webb for David Fitzpatrick.

Referee: Dan Darcy (Kilruane MacDonagh's).



Left, Boysie Hogan with Mary Spillane enjoying the handball in Ballina Centre, Nuala Connolly and Catherine Kennedy at the camógie county final. Above, Michael McNamara with his fans after the Drom match.



NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

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BLAST FROM THE PAST: 1977 MINOR COUNTY FINAL WINNERS



*Back Row (left to right): Michael McGrath, Chris O'Halloran, Pat Lee, Gerry O'Brien, Roger Coffey, Brian Heffernan, Conor Ryan, Joe Ryan, Philip Kennedy, Eugene Hackett, Michael Kennedy, Michael Griffin.
Front Row: Jim O'Sullivan, Denis Finnerty, Sean Minogue, Ger Grace, Johnny O'Gorman, Jim Ryan, Denis Griffin, John Griffin, Charlie Cavanagh, Seamus Kennedy.*

**Denis Finnerty is the only player to start each County final, winning 6 in a row from 1977-1982.*

In this month's edition of our newsletter we have decided to travel back thirty six years to 1977 when our minor hurlers captured both divisional and county honours. This was our ninth north title but only the second time in our history that we managed to win the county.

The North final was played on home turf in MacDonagh Park and we defeated Silvermines on a score line of 4-09 to 2-05. "Parading their skills with purpose and brilliance in a nine minute spell in the second half" Nenagh scored three second half goals that killed off the challenge from their rivals. "Éire Óg achieved their success on merit, with greater fitness, superb determination and some really significant individual contribution", "cloaking themselves in a mantle of glory they inflicted nine minutes of torment on the 'Mines, hunting relentlessly to preserve their unbeaten record, they dictated every facet of play and clinched their first title in eight years". The atmosphere on the night was exception with "rival young

supporters roaring themselves hoarse" "and there was scenes of great excitement and back-slapping as Michael Kennedy went forward to receive the Dean Hamilton Cup. There was a touch of originality about the setting as enthusiastic supporters borrowed that part of the scoreboard reading Éire Óg to form the background for the presentation".

Éire Óg opened the scoring when Sean Minogue "found the gap and clipped the ball to the 'Mines net". Both sides exchanged scores and at half time only the minimum separated them as Nenagh led 1-03 to 1-02.

In a nine minute spell in the second half "the Éire Óg scoring machine erupted. Denis Griffin grabbed the first of three goals, Seán Minogue took the second after a fine combined movement and Michael Griffin was on hand to bang home the third after Gerry Barrett had saved well in the 'Mines goal". "Brian Heffernan was the outstanding performer on the Éire Óg team with a display of power hurling for the full sixty

minutes. Seán Minogue was another to leave his mark on the game, while Roger Coffey and Eugene Hackett stormed into action in the second half. These got most assistance from Denis Finnerty, Conor Ryan, Philip Kennedy, Michael Griffin and Michael Kennedy".

Éire Óg: Michael McGrath, Denis Finnerty, Conor Ryan, Ger Grace, Ger O'Brien, Eugene Hackett, Johnny O'Gorman, Michael Kennedy (0-02), Brian Heffernan, Philip Kennedy (0-02), Roger Coffey (0-02), Jim O'Sullivan, Seán Minogue (2-03), Michael Griffin (1-00), Denis Griffin (1-00).

Silvermines: Gerry Barrett, John Egan, Donal Forde, Willie Ryan, Kieran Dooley, John Quinlan (0-02), Michael Keane, Anthony Timmons, Maurice Leamy (1-00), Alan Kinsella, Pat Maher, Brendan Timmons (0-01), Michael O'Brien (1-01), Martin Maher, Noel O'Brien (0-01).

Referee: Seán O Meara Lorrha



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**Na Sairsealaigh,
Durlas**

Clar Oifigiul

**County S.H.
& M.H. Finals
1977**

at
**SEMPLE STADIUM,
THURLES**

NA MIONUIR
LUACHMAGH-CAISEAL AOIBHNE
(Loughmore-Castleiney)

v

EIRE OG, AONACH (Nenagh)
Moltoir—J. Collins, Clonmel.

NA SINSIR
CILL RUAIN
(Kilruane McDonagh)

v

BUIRGHEAS UI LUIOCH
(Borrisoleigh)

Moltoir—J. Moloney, Bansha.

LUACH 10p.

The "Tipperary Star," Thurles.

EIRE OG, NENAGH

(1) Ml. McGrath		
(2) Denis Finnerty	(3) Conor Ryan	(4) Chris Halloran
(5) Gerard O'Brien	(6) Eugene Hackett	(7) John O'Gorman
(8) Brian Heffernan (9) Ml. Kennedy		
(10) Jim Sullivan	(11) Roger Coffey	(12) Philip Kennedy
(13) Gerard Grace	(14) Ml. Griffin	(15) Sean Minogue
Subs: (16) D. Griffin; (17) Jim Ryan; (18) Joe Ryan; (19) C. Kavanagh; (20) P. Lee; (21) S. Kennedy; (22) J. Griffin.		

EIRE OG, NENAGH

HURLING has been popular in the Nenagh district since before the association was formed, and in the intervening years, there have been a number of clubs in the locality, De Wets, Mitchells, Wolfe Tones, Emmetts, St. Mary's and now Eire Og.

Eire Og won the county minor hurling title in 1969, and almost all of to-day's team have won county medals at under-12, 14 and 16 level. This indicates the care and attention that the club is giving to their under-age teams, a common factor among the finalists to-day.

It is this care and attention that Eire Og followers hope will lead to the club becoming a force in senior ranks once more, and they see to-day's game as the stepping stone to further honours in the higher grade.

its final ten minutes, Éire Óg well realised that they would have to throw everything into it if they were to dethrone the champions". "Roger Coffey coolly sent over a point and Brian Heffernan pointed a 70". Two further points were added by Hackett and Heffernan and Éire Óg led by the minimum when "Jimmy Collins ended a thrilling game and Éire Óg captain Michael Kennedy went to the stand to receive the trophy from County Board Chairman, Mr Hubie Hogan".

It was then onto the county final where they faced the holders Loughmore Castleiney. In 1968 when Nenagh previously won this title they also faced the holders, that time it was Moycarkey Borris. For three quarters of this game Nenagh looked like losing but "it was their refusal to accept defeat" that saw them through "sheer persistence and smartness" loft "over the scores that mattered and edged them home by just a point" on a score line of 2-05 to 0-10.

"What a thrilling climax this was to the minor campaign. Two fine teams, expertly trained and coached, threw everything into it and provided spectators with an ideal pipe opener to the county's big hurling day". It was the half back line that led the team to victory getting on top of their opponents, who were expertly aided by midfielder Pat McGrath.

"It was typical of this sectors performance that centre back

Eugene Hackett should have been the one to send over the equalising point six minutes from the end, a point that was added to three minutes later by Brian Heffernan, from a free, the winning point". Éire Óg started brightly with two goals in the 7th and 10th minutes when Michael Griffin, with "a rather lazy shot" and Gerard Grace with "a fine ground shot" both goaled. Loughmore came storming into the game and led at the interval 2-00 to 0-07. Nenagh started the second half in determined fashion but it appeared not to be our day when Michael Griffin had a goal bound free saved and Sean Minogue's palmed effort rebounded from the crossbar.

"Éire Óg kept up the pressure and Brian Heffernan" pointed a semi penalty. "With the game entering

"Overall balance is the hallmark of this Éire Óg side. They have no one who could be said to be one on whom most depends and it was truly a team effort that brought them their second title".

Nenagh: Michael McGrath, Denis Finnerty, Conor Ryan, Chris O Halloran, Gerard O'Brien, Eugene Hackett (0-01), John O Gorman, Brian Heffernan (0-03), Michael Kennedy, Jim O Sullivan, Roger Coffey (0-01), Philip Kennedy, Gerard Grace (1-00), Michael Griffin (1-00), Sean Minogue

Loughmore Castleiney Francis McGrath, Tom Ryan, Peter Brennan, Pat Cormack, Stephen Maher, Richard Stapleton, James Maher, Pat McGrath (0-07), Eamon Brennan (0-01), Joe Sweeney, Pat Gleeson, Michael Sheehan, Ger Geehan, Pat Lynch (0-01), Mike Walsh (0-01)
Referee Jimmy Collins, St Marys Clonmel



NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

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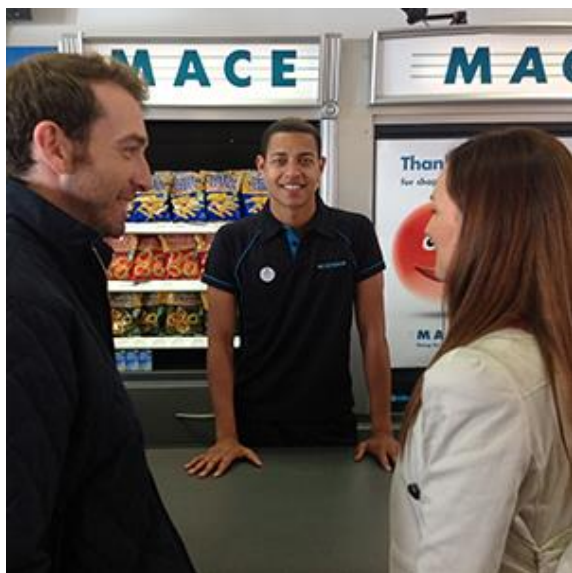
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PLAY THE CLUB LOTTO – WE ALL WIN

The Nenagh Éire Óg Club Lotto has been in operation for many years now and has provided the club with vital funds that help us run our various teams, maintain our grounds, club house and help promote Gaelic Games in our community. Without this stream of income there is no doubt that the club would not be in the healthy

position it currently enjoys. The club have teamed up with www.locallotto.ie to allow you the opportunity to play online and be in a chance of capturing our weekly lotto jackpot. You can subscribe to our lotto on a yearly basis and as well as having the chance of winning you will also receive a weekly email with the results of the draw plus you will also receive our weekly notes keeping you up to date on all activities within the

club. We currently have online players in Ireland, Spain, Switzerland, USA, and Australia. If you would like to join and help support the club please click on this link ([CLUB LOTTO](#)) and sign up today.



The Referendum Commission were busy recently with their information campaign's regarding the recent votes on The Seanad and The Court system. Nenagh Éire Óg supporters have



CLICK ON IMAGES TO SEE DARYL IN ACTION WITHOUT A HURLEY.

taken particular interest in these campaigns and now the new MACE advert as they feature our own Daryl McCormack. Daryl, a very talented hurler, won various north titles with the blues and we are all thrilled to see his career start to take off. Well done Daryl and when you're big in Hollywood don't forget us!!!!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG NEWSLETTER DELIVERED TO YOUR IN-BOX EVERY MONTH PLEASE CLICK ON THE 'SUBSCRIBE' BUTTON OR E-MAIL NENAGHEIREOG@gmail.com WITH YOUR REQUEST

SUBSCRIBE

YOU CAN TAKE THE MAN OUT OF NENAGH.....

Following on from last month's story about the [1947 minors](#), we have one more connection. [Peter Maloney](#) in the front row is a grand uncle to senior hurlers, Noel and Hugh. Living is Australia since the mid 1950's, we hear he still has the Naynagh accent – he never lost it.



Tipp Fm visited the Nenagh Éire Óg complex prior to the county final and talked with club stalwarts Shane Connolly, Anne Kennedy, Jimmy Morris, Ger Gavin, Conor O'Donovan and Jim Nagle



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NENAGH HANDBALL CLUB



Congratulations to Cameron Spillane (2nd boy from left, back row) who brought back the second All-Ireland medal to the club in two weeks during October. Cameron was part of the Tipperary under-12/13 team who won the 60 x 30 All-Ireland final in Roscommon recently.



Well done also to Sinéad Meagher who won the Junior Singles Munster Colleges final in Limerick recently. Sinéad was representing St. Mary's Secondary School in Nenagh



Senior club PRO Paul Lillis (above left). Also pictured is Cullion manager and former Nenagh Éire Óg player Frank McGrath.

Last winter the club was rocked with the news that Assistant Logistics Manager Paul Lillis had decided to transfer to Cullion Hurling Club in Mullingar. Managed by former Éire Óg hurler Frank McGrath, the Mullingar based outfit reached the final of the Westmeath Junior E hurling championship where they faced Southern Gaels from Athlone this month.

Paul was selected to play at centre forward where he notched up two outstanding points, one from eighty yards. However, having run himself into the ground, the manager

made the decision to substitute Paul on forty minutes. Lillis having given all he had could only watch as Southern Gaels ran out winners on a scoreline of 1-13 to 1-07.

This defeat was particularly hard on Paul as he missed out on the Junior C championship (2010) and Junior B league title (2011) with Nenagh after suffering an ankle injury. Paul vows to be back and hopes to capture that elusive Junior title in 2014. We wish Paul, Frank and Cullion the very best next year.

Please e-mail: endaos@hotmail.com ,
paullillis1@gmail.com, cmctiernan@gmail.com
with anything of interest for the Newsletter



NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

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NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG U-13 COUNTY CAMÓGIE CHAMPIONS



On September 29th last our Under 13 camogie team retained their county title after a hard fought two point win over an outstanding Ballina side in The Ragg. The game went to extra time with Nenagh emerging victorious on a scoreline of 1-06 to 1-04. Captain Katie Mannicle

collected the trophy on behalf of her team mates. Thanks to mentors Caitriona Morris, Greg Browne, Philip Shanahan, Pat Sheridan and Mairéad Long for all their outstanding work and it is bearing fruit with the high calibre of players they are producing.



PROFILE OF CAMÓGIE PLAYER CLAIRE COLLINS

Age: 19

Occupation: Student nurse.

Favourite Position: Corner back.

Earliest memories of the club: Training sessions when we were u10 and we got the choice of training inside when it was raining....the good auld days!

Toughest opponent: Definitely my sister Michelle. She kills me on the field and I'm the older one.

Favourite food: Anything from Collins' bakery....'wink wink'.

Favourite drink: Tea.

Favourite camogie player: Jessica Maher.

Proudest moment: Captain for the u14 league team and winning.

Advice for young players: Put the hard work in because it pays off in the end.



Something you don't know about me:

For someone who has grown up around baking her whole life.... I can't bake a cake to save my life!

What the club means to me: A place where I'll always be welcome (I hope) even if I'm still playing or not and a club I'll always support.....'Hon Éire Óg'.





NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

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WILLIE BOLGER – THE GAEL DOWN UNDER

Emigration it seems is the curse of the Irish nation. Throughout history there are countless examples of the Irish, through poverty, unemployment and many other reasons being forced to pack their belongings and head for foreign shores. Emigration has continued to be a common social theme in Ireland since independence and apart from a brief respite during the Celtic Tiger years it continues to haunt families and communities today.

Nenagh Éire Óg has also suffered as a result of the recession and in recent years we have lost stalwarts such as Mark Langton (New York) and Paul Burke (London), among others. Although the club hasn't been decimated like some other GAA clubs, this year, adult hurlers Pearce O'Brien, Cliff Moloney, Brian Maxwell and Willie Bolger have all decided to seek their fortune in The Land Down Under.

Willie Bolger won the double North Tipperary Junior A hurling league and championship in 2012 and was hoping to force his way into the senior set up this year however the scourge of unemployment forced him into changing direction in his life. "The fact that I was out of work for quite a while was the main reason why I choose to emigrate. I knew there was money to be made in Australia and I had many friends over there also. I was sick of the rain in Ireland as well" he joked. "Two of the hardest things to leave behind were my family and the hurling club. I've hurled with Eire Óg since the age of eight so it was strange that I knew I wouldn't be a Nenagh player for the rest of the year. I still miss the hurling craic

like mad. And slagging Christeoir McLoughlin of course". Being abroad is "different and tough at times. When the lads are playing I just want to be there toggled out for every game but I know I can't. I still text all the lads before each game wishing them the best of luck and I tune into the live feed on Twitter for the scores". Living on the other side of the

him. There are roughly ten of us from home working with the company, Cliff Moloney, Paul O' Gorman, Brian Armitage, Matt Cooney, Davy Ryan, Andy Chadwick, Danny White, Alan Kelly and Pearse O'Brien who works with a different company. Brian Maxwell has recently arrived to Perth as well. It helps a lot being around them".



Willie Bolger in action for Western Australia

planet without the support of your family is very tough but the Nenagh diaspora do act as a wonderful little community abroad supporting and helping each other.

"It's actually like a mini Nenagh out here. My boss of Danmar Homes, Danny White is originally a Nenagh man which is probably partly the reason we got work with

Being a passionate follower of a club is particularly hard for those abroad when they reach a major final. While Willie was thousands of miles away there's no doubt his heart was in Semple Stadium when Noel Maloney led the men on blue onto Tom Semple's field on county final day. "I was absolutely delighted for the lads when they reached the county final. I know the dedication needed and the training the lads do from February and it's not easy so they definitely deserve to be there, not to mention knocking out some of the giants of Tipperary hurling along the way.

From a personal perspective at times I was actually gutted that I wasn't there and thought 'this is typical, the one year I go they get to the final'. But I got on with it and focused on work to take my mind off of it. I'm sure I will have many more big days like it in a Nenagh jersey. The day of the county final here was strange. I knew it was such a huge game and



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Willie Bolger pictured with his Western Australia teammate and goalie, Martin King.

emigrants and has helped the Irish to settle into their new surroundings. "I play with Perth Sarsfields and really enjoy it. There are a good few Tipp lads on the panel that I know also. We got bet this year in the championship semi-final. Hurling here helps in many ways, making friends, getting work and not losing your competitive edge are just three ways. It's grand to be hurling so far away from home. I'd be lost without a few pucks against a wall".

lucky enough to get called as they were stuck for a goalie but I ended up impressing out the field and actually played the tournament as a wing forward. We beat Victoria in the final easy enough and I notched up around 1-4 for the tournament. Not boasting or anything ha".

"The original plan was to do out my one year visa and go home but with a fulltime job, hurling and a good social life I'm struggling to find a reason to go home after one year. We will see what happens and who knows if I save enough money I might go home at Christmas for a holiday for a few weeks".

All of us here in Nenagh Éire Óg wish Willie and all our friends and supporters the very best and we can't wait until you return back to "the auld sod".

there was nothing I could do to be there. I had a barbeque, a few bottles of beer in 26 degrees heat and went to bed around half ten Aussie time. I got Tipp FM streamed on my phone, wore my Nenagh jersey and pretended that I was there ha. While I was devastated about the result, long term it doesn't actually worry me that much because I know the players Nenagh have at their disposal and I have no doubt they will be back and Dan Breen will be resting in Rohan's again before long".

Life abroad for the Irish is made easier with the presence of GAA clubs throughout the world. They provide the Irish with an opportunity to mingle with others in the same boat (pardon the pun!!) and to continue to play the games they love. The GAA abroad is a vital lifeline for many

The standard is actually unreal. There are a lot of former inter county hurlers and regular senior club hurlers out here. I couldn't believe how tough it was and how good the hurling was when I first came. I realised fairly quick I wasn't just going to walk into a team". Well Willie worked very hard at his hurling and was fortunate enough to make the Western Australia state team. "Hurling with Western Australia was up there with one of greatest hurling memories I've had. There are five clubs in Western Australia and in October of every year they pick the strongest panel of 25 players to hurl for the state. Being honest I was



Willie in action for Éire Óg



NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

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FOR ALL THE MEN THAT WORE THE BLUE

Brian Hudner

Prior to the County Final, Brian Hudner wrote of his memories of '95 and the pride that 'all the men that wore blue' feel for their club.

I was living 6,000 miles from home when Éire Óg, Nenagh won their solitary senior hurling title a generation ago. It was morning my time when I heard the news of victory down a long-distance phone line. The connection was poor; our voices echoed more than the Ailwee Cave, and we spent most of the time talking across each other like Brolly and Spillane. Nonetheless, I got the jist of it in the end. It had been a "*bóthar fada*" to get over "*Bóthar Leathan*", but in 1995, Conor O' Donovan raised Dan Breen and dedicated it to all those who ever wore the blue. The Mammy sent out *The Guardian* a week later and I inhaled it with the ink-stained fingers of the exile.

What I didn't know then was that it was also Monday morning his time when my father walked home from John Ryan's in Summerhill, a half-gallon of porter his only source of sustenance. To this day, he claims it is the fastest time he has ever taken to cover the couple of miles home. If I'm being honest, I've always been dubious about his time-tracking on that night. After all, he left the pub as full as a Biro - no, as full as Mikey Heffernan's medal drawer - and fairly skated home, songs still ringing in his ears. Whether or which, it was a night of nights in Nenagh town, and I missed it.

I need hardly add that Nenagh have threatened Dan Breen twice since then and run into a certain neighbouring parish on both occasions. This year, happy to report, the townies have no, ahem, Toomstone around their necks to pull them towards perdition. Now,

as in 1995, we are set up for a tilt at a Mid side, though not one of the Mid sides more favoured at the outset of the season. Indeed, the resurgence of the Mid division - and a countervailing fall in the North - has been much heralded in the last few years. We need no reminders that since Éire Óg won, no other North side apart from Toomevara has won the County championship (and their incredible haul of eight over eleven years is a spur to action on Sunday like no other.)

One measure of the gap to the last win lies of course in the fact that the current team features sons of those who played in the last victory or featured in the final earlier in the 90s. Noel Coffey lined out at corner-back in 1995 and his son Andrew wore 13 against Kildangan in the semi-final replay. Billy of the Heffernan clan is a backman like his dad (though John had a sojourn on the edge of the other square in 1995 of course.) No surprise to see Howards, Quinns, and Flannerys following fathers and brothers either. And there are other connections in the latticework: the entire side is spliced with familiar surnames, some in their third generation of service.

One such name of note is that of Kevin Tucker who will man his station in the centre of the Tom Semple's field on Sunday. It is hard to believe it is 20 years since he won the North Tipperary Player of the Year, or that is so long since he gave a certain famous *bainisteoir* the run-around in the Munster Final of 1997. He is, so to speak, the son of his earlier self! He was by common accord one of the best men on the park against Kildangan the last day and will be key to unlocking Loughmore, a club chasing their third county title.

Loughmore-Castleiney have of necessity also made a virtue of family tradition. And while they

might have a smaller pick, what a pick it is! The cousins McGrath match our Heffernans, and will take the same watching. Each of them is a gamechanger in his own way, but the men running the *Naynagh* 'line have given every indication so far that they have a shield for every arrow, and a couple of spares in their own quiver. While this Nenagh team is short of county medals - Kevin Tucker aside - it is dotted with lads who have won All-Ireland titles with Tipperary at senior and underage, and who have county titles all through the juvenile and U-21 grades. Added to a scattering of lads who won a recent All-Ireland colleges title with Nenagh CBS as well, it gives Nenagh a great chance on Sunday.

I predict a tight game with Nenagh prevailing through goals scored. But the margin of victory might be as skinny as one of Paddy Rohan's ties.

As something of a postscript to this piece, there are many of us who "wore the blue" (without any distinction in my case) that will be there on Sunday. It is gratifying to see Nenagh in a final again after a seven year gap. I grew up a Brendan Cummins puckout away from "the hurling field" and made up the numbers as a young fella. Many's the evening that Dinny McSweeney or Seán Foley came to round up a few of us to head off to Dolla or Cloughjordan, though it has to be said that some of us were, as the fella says, no addition. But no matter. We still cast a shadow on a hurling pitch sometime.

Anyhow, if Nenagh win, myself and the oul' fella will doubtless be looking at our watchfaces sometime on Monday morning as we point the shoeleather for home. This time, there will be no long distance.

And no records either...



NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

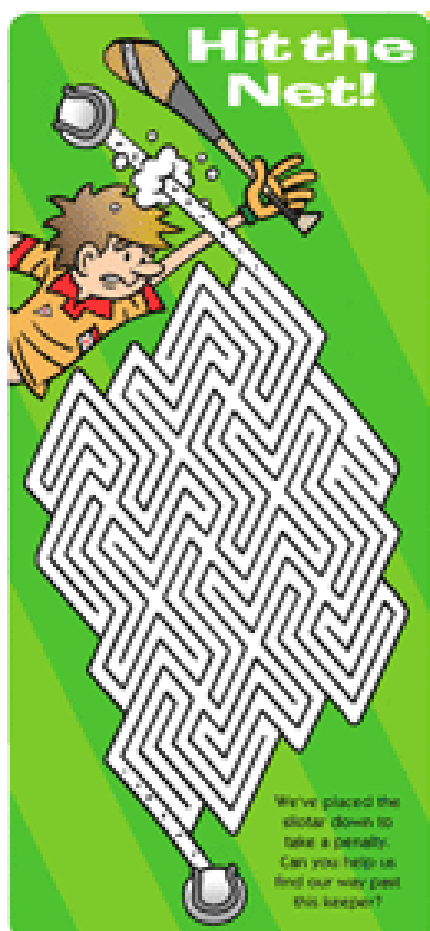
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JUNIOR PRINTABLE PUZZLE PAGE

A R N F N C C S Y C N S C G Y
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S E L I N E V U J S W D P W D
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TEAMMATES
JUVENILES
CAMOGIE
SENIOR
FLAG



We've placed the
slotar down to
take a penalty.
Can you help us
find our way past
this keeper?

WORDSEARCH SOLUTION

FLAG
SENIOR
CAMOGIE
JUVENILES
TEAMMATES
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N E N A G H N P P Y I L A O A
C O M T F K L I T V F I I E B
S L I O T A R E A R M N N R S
E X T G O Y A E I R P E C I S
N Q F G O M E E F N T C R E O
I D J L M A N L Z E B U A M R
O Z V A S D L P R G R T R O C
R C T Z S B C I U U D E B T B
W E I G O M A C E K H F E J C
S L G Z J N S W C L V Y W N S
L E J B U E N H J Z U R V Y F

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