



NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

Easter 2016 NEWSLETTER



RESILIENT NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG PULL OFF THRILLING VICTORY IN UNDER-21 NORTH FINAL

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH 2016
WALSH'S OF NENAGH NORTH TIPPERARY
UNDER-21A HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL 2015
NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG 1-18
KILDANGAN 3-11



SPRING 2016 IS HERE!

IN THIS SPECIAL EASTER EDITION WE BRING YOU UP TO DATE WITH SOME OF OUR SPRING EVENTS AND SEND YOU BACK IN TIME TO REMEMBER OUR LOCAL HERO OF THE 1916 RISING THOMAS MACDONAGH, THE TEACHER, POET AND PATRIOT FOR WHOM OUR GROUNDS ARE NAMED.



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On Sunday Jan 10th Nenagh Éire Óg ended a long wait at this age for a divisional final when the team staged an amazing comeback to seal a memorable victory over a gallant and superb Kildangan side who had deservedly went in at the break seven points to the good having led by nine at one stage.

John Cahalan opened the scoring with a fine long range effort prior to the excellent Jack Loughnane levelling the sides and before Dan O Meara sent a blistering shot into the corner of Daire Gleeson's goal. A pointed Shane Hennessy free and a fine Andrew Coffey effort reduced the margin to one but it was to be the closest Nenagh came to their opponents during the opening half hour.

Tadhg Gallagher and Loughnane both pointed to open the margin to a goal before James Mackey hit back with one of his own. Kildangan then benefitted from the blinding winters sun shining into the old scoreboard end when Jack Loughnane's long range effort deceived the unfortunate Daire Gleeson for the champions second

goal. The goal lifted Kildangan's spirits and Gallagher and Johnny Horan both pointed to extend their lead.

Andrew Coffey, who was Nenagh's best player throughout, pointed to briefly stem the Kildangan tide but full forward Paul Flynn found the unmarked Ciaran Kelly and blasted home their third goal and extend the lead to nine points. Few, if any in the large crowd could see any way back for the Blues' at this stage.

Points from Coffey, Mackey and Hennessy did offer the town side



hope at the interval and with Kildangan getting one of their own, left seven between the sides at the break.

THAT WINNING FEELING! CONOR RYAN AFTER THE HARD-FOUGHT AND HARD-WON UNDER-21 NORTH FINAL





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If Nenagh were to have any hope of a come-back it was vital that they get the first score of the second half but it was their opponents who struck first through Andrew Loughnane. Hennessy pointed well from a placed ball before scoring another in-between two fine efforts from Andrew Loughnane and Paul Flynn to leave eight between them in the 36th minute.

This Nenagh team have won a lot of championship honours through the age groups and have a resilience that was to stand to them for the remainder of the game. At no stage did they panic or start going for goals, instead they maturely kept picking off their points to get themselves back into contention. Shane Hennessy, Andrew Coffey, Gary Howard and super substitute Bob O'Brien all pointed to reduce the margin to five, 0-14 to 3-10.

Kildangan were dealt a massive blow at this point when Tadhg Gallagher, arguable their best player up to this stage, left the field with an injury and three minutes later they received another sucker punch with a brilliant Gary Howard goal following great work from captain Barry Heffernan.

Two more points from Hennessy and Coffey levelled the sides and it appeared as if Nenagh were about to, remarkably, pull this game out of the fire.

Six minutes from the end Andrew Coffey, from a tight angle, gave the Blues' the lead and with two



minutes of normal time remaining Philip Hickey doubled the margin much to the delight of their large and vocal supporters. Kildangan did not go down easy and fought to the bitter end. Flynn reduced the margin to one and the

Nenagh backs were under severe pressure but their discipline and determination held firm and time and again they cleared.

There was more drama in the 65th minute when referee Kieran Delaney awarded Kildangan a free 30 meters from goal. With their main free taker side-lined Barry Hogan was summoned from the goal but his effort went agonizingly wide.

Shortly after Delaney signalled full time much to the delight of players and fans of the Blues.

Nenagh Éire Óg: Darragh Gleeson, Gavin O'Connor, Michael Collins, Ger O'Gorman, Conor Ryan, Adam Gratton, Barry Heffernan (captain), Killian Gleeson, James Mackey (0-

2), Andrew Coffey (0-6), Philip Hickey (0-1), John Cahalan (0-1), Gary Howard (1-1), Shane Hennessy (0-6, 0-4 frees), Aidan Healy. Subs: (38th) Bob O'Brien (0-1) for John Cahalan, (39th) Adam Carey for Aidan Healy, (56th) Christopher Ryan for Killian Gleeson, (62nd) Killian Gleeson for Christopher Ryan.

Kildangan: Barry Hogan, Darragh Molloy, Alan Flynn, Jim Minehan, James Quigley, Johnny Horan (0-1), Declan McGrath, Jack Loughnane (1-3), Tadhg Gallagher (captain, 0-2, 0-1 frees), Darren Moran, Dan O'Meara (1-0), Andrew Loughnane (0-2), Ciarán Kelly (1-0), Paul Flynn (0-2), Tom McLoughlin. Subs: (43rd) Darren Ryan for Tadhg Gallagher, (52nd) Cathal Hayes for Ciarán Kelly.

Referee: Kieran Delaney (Toomevara).



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GAA HEALTHY CLUB PROJECT TALK ON SUBSTANCE AWARENESS WITH TIPP LEGEND JOHN LEAHY



TIPP STARS JOHN LEAHY WITH OUR OWN CONOR O'DONOVAN

ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, THE CLUB, AS PART OF THE HEALTHY CLUB INITIATIVE, WE WERE HONOURED TO HOST TIPPERARY HURLING LEGEND JOHN LEAHY

who treated the attendees to an informative, eye opening account on substance abuse and the effect his relationship with alcohol had on his career.

John, a three times All-Ireland winner, spoke openly about how he first started drinking at 13 years of age and continued drinking

intermittently until 1996 when it began to take over his life.

It was in January of that year that he had his road to Damascus moment while sitting in a cell in Manchester following a well-documented incident. It was then that "the penny dropped" that every time John got into trouble, drink was involved.

With great support from friends, colleagues and others who had found themselves in similar situations, John successfully quit

drinking and has been sober ever since. While John had a stellar career, he regretfully told us that due to alcohol he felt never reached his full potential and had he never drank, his glittering career could have been so more.

John also gave very practical and frightening information to all about the dangers and prevalence of drugs and alcohol in our society. Heroin was once considered to be solely an inner city problem in Dublin and sadly today it is available in every parish in the country. He focused a



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Nenagh Eire Og
Healthy Club Project



SUBSTANCE AWARENESS TALK
with **John Leahy**

Nenagh Eire Og GAA Club,
MacDonagh Park,
7:30pm, Saturday February
20th

A qualified addiction counsellor, John works with the HSE & voluntary bodies as a drug education officer in the area of helping people overcome problems with substance abuse



lot on the problem of cannabis. There are many misconceptions surrounding the drug and a perception that it is a safe drug which does not cause any problems. John blew this myth out of the water pointing out how it "plays with peoples' mental health" and leads to conditions such as schizophrenia and psychosis.

Scarily in the last 15 years the strength of the drug has increased fourfold and today makes users four times more "aggressive". Former users of the drug are still in danger of suffering from a cannabis seizure fifteen years after they last took it. The many teenagers in attendance and their parents heard about the dangers of substance abuse at a

young age pointing out how their brains are still developing and drugs can stilt this development. Drugs affect the decision making part of the brain leading young people to make unwise choices when under the influence and even in the days after.

Towards the end of the night he answered many interesting and varied questions and revealed that he believes Kilkenny's TJ Reid is the best hurler in the country at the moment and growing up, Nicky English was his idol. He once went to Waterford to watch Nicky hurl, as he was playing wing forward, the same position that John became synonymous with, so he could study his movements and learn from him.

He spoke about the current team and feels that we will be "there or thereabouts" when the destination of the Liam McCarthy cup is decided in September, citing the current half back line as the bedrock on which Michael Ryan's charges can launch their attack in 2016. All in all it was a tremendous night, informative, eye opening and inspiring for those who attended.

The club wish to thank that other Tipp hurling legend, our own Conor O' Donovan and the Healthy Club Project for organising the talk and John Leahy himself for giving of his time and knowledge to an appreciative audience.



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THE ÓGRES ARE BACK!



Ógres everywhere! Thank you to the wonderful young stars of our month long 'Nenagh Éire Ógres GAA For Beginners Camp' which finished on the last Saturday in February. The kids were presented with camp training tops to help them start their hurling careers in the coming weeks. This programme couldn't have worked without the super trainers who seemed to be born to the job! You made a lot of children very happy. Thank you also to the family members and especially the little brothers and sisters who turned the committee room into the best Coffee Shop in town. We are already looking forward to next year!

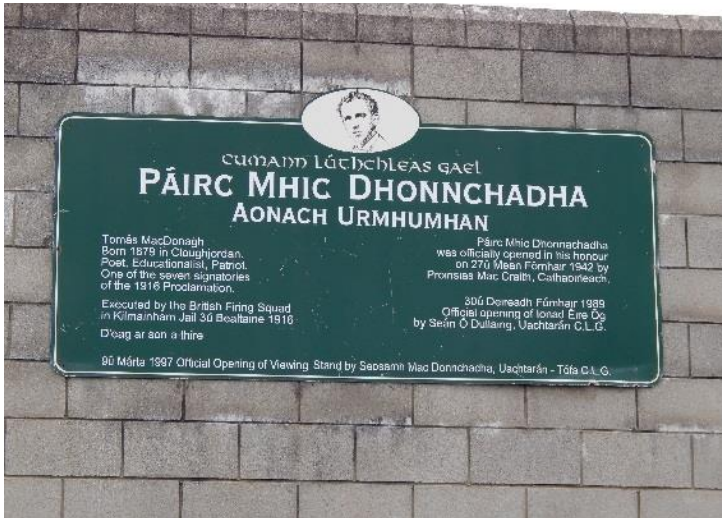


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THOMAS MACDONAGH SIGNATORY OF THE 1916 PROCLAMATION



championship medal won in the north division should contain a bust of him, a wonderful tradition that continues to this very day. His home GAA club, Kilruane MacDonaghs, not only named their club and grounds after him, but his image adorns their club crest along with the years of his birth and execution.

In September 1942 MacDonagh Park was opened on St Conlon's Road and the choice of name was a foregone conclusion. The 25th anniversary of the Rising had been celebrated a year previously and as a result, MacDonagh was to the fore in the consciousness of the people of Tipperary.

His brother in law, John Brennan in an Irish Times article published in May 1959, described him as having "curling brown hair, handsome features, and the most humorous and friendly expression in his grey eyes". He became, not only a "delightful and witty brother in law" but also "a discreet and valuable ally" with "charm and kindness". Educated in Rockwell College, he initially appeared destined for a life in the priesthood believing that he had "a vocation for this congregation and a decided taste for the missionary" however he later changed direction and moved to the famed St Kieran's College in Kilkenny where he taught English and French.

While in St Kieran's, MacDonagh and a priest working in the college called a meeting without the knowledge or permission of the school's president to establish a hurling club in the school. This did not go down well and the priest was soon after moved to another area while MacDonagh also parted ways and headed to Dublin. It is very hard to imagine this reaction considering the role St Kieran's has played in the promotion and development of hurling in Kilkenny in the decades after.

It was during his time in Kilkenny that the flame of nationalism was truly lit when he attended a meeting

THIS EASTER, AS WE COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF THE 1916 RISING, WE DECIDED TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE LIFE OF THOMAS MACDONAGH, THE MAN WHO GAVE HIS NAME TO OUR GROUNDS ON ST CONLON'S ROAD.

MacDonagh was born in Cloughjordan in 1878 and holds a very special place in the history of Ireland as he was one of the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation and shortly after The Rising, was executed by the British authorities, acting under the command of General Sir John Maxwell. MacDonagh and the other leaders were influenced by Padraig Pearse's theory of "blood sacrifice", believing their deaths would inspire the next generation of Irish people to fight for their freedom; how prophetic they were.

MacDonagh has left a lasting impression on the psyche of Tipperary, so much so that in 1934, fifty years after the foundation of the GAA, Borrisokane's Seamus Gardiner proposed that every

MacDonagh Park, Cloughjordan was officially opened on Easter Sunday, 1966. There was no more a fitting way for the locals to honour the area's most famous son on the 50th anniversary of his passing. Hurling was not played much in Cloughjordan during MacDonagh's youth and so he never got the opportunity to play the game but he remained immensely proud of his home town and would have been thrilled at these honours bestowed upon him by the GAA

In 1918, Glenahilty, a small area located between Ballymackey and Cloughjordan, named their GAA team "Glenahilty MacDonaghs", the very first time his name was used by a GAA club. They played a Toomevara selection that year in the North final and were defeated. In 1937 successful efforts were made to unite all the junior clubs in the Cloughjordan, Ardcroney and Kilruane areas and it was Thomas MacDonagh's name which acted as the unifying force, creating the club Kilruane MacDonaghs which we have had many memorable matches with over the years.



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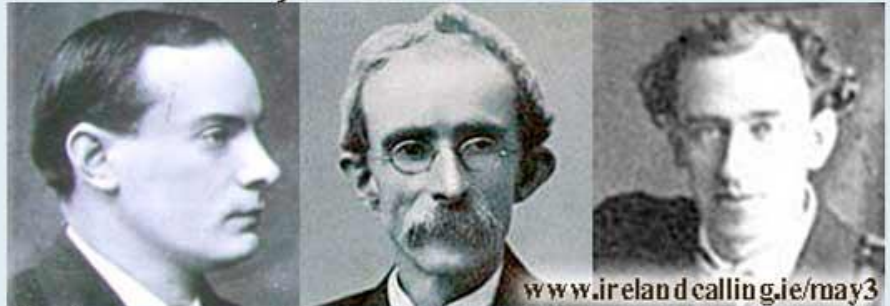


of the Gaelic League. Douglas Hyde was the guest of honour on the night and his words along with the devotion to the Irish language of the members had a dramatic impact on Thomas and it dawned upon him that he was "the greatest West Britisher in Ireland and suppressed the Irish language". The suppression of traditional culture and replacing it with British forms of cultivation was a tactic used by the Empire to colonise the native populations and help conquer their territory. Padraig Pearse recognised this and established his own schools in Dublin, St Enda's and St Ita's, to try and counteract this movement in Ireland and reawaken a sense of Irishness within the Gael.

Following a meeting between the two, Thomas moved to Dublin where he became deputy headmaster in St Enda's. Pearse had previously wrote *The Murder Machine* in 1912, a book in which he outlined his vision for education. He despised the traditional examination based system which focused on the "three R's" of reading, writing and arithmetic preferring a broader system of education which would create free thinkers. Their students were taught Irish folklore, history, culture and sports. MacDonagh and Pearse held many classes outdoors to give the pupils a love of nature, were encouraged to wear traditional Irish dress and were trained in army manoeuvres in preparation for the upcoming rebellion.

Not only was MacDonagh a teacher but he enjoyed writing poetry and plays. His first play, *When Dawn is Come*, was first performed in 1908 but received a negative reception among critics. It eerily echoes the events of 1916 as it deals with an Irish insurrection led by a military council of seven. Its main protagonist was a rebel poet. MacDonagh restaged the play in the

The Easter Rising leaders Padraic Pearse, Thomas Clarke, Thomas MacDonagh executed on 3 May 1916 at Kilmainham Gaol Ireland Calling



Padraic Pearse Thomas Clarke Thomas MacDonagh

months leading up to the actual rebellion.

He married his sweetheart Muriel Gifford, a member of the Church of Ireland from a Unionist background on January 3rd, 1912 in Ranelagh and they had two children, Donagh and Barbara. Upon his initial introduction to the Gifford sisters

the Proclamation, just four hours before his execution by firing squad and their harrowing marriage is immortalised in the unforgettable song *Grace, Just Hold me in Your Arms*

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMf6IyJI0e4>)

MacDonagh was elected to the provisional committee of the Irish Volunteers where his leadership skills were recognised as he was later appointed Commandant of the 2nd Battalion of the Dublin Brigade. In April 1915 he was sworn onto the Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, a secret organisation

who prepared the Rising. He later recruited Eamon de Valera into the IRB pointing out how he "always lands on his feet".

During the Rising MacDonagh was placed in charge of Jacob's Factory where they saw little action apart from engaging with sniper fire with Dublin Castle. During the week



Grace and Muriel, he was told by a Mrs Dryhurst to "fall in love with one of these girls and marry her". MacDonagh was obviously impressed with what he saw and the charmer quickly responded "that would be easy – the only difficulty would be to decide which one". Muriel's sister Grace married Joseph Mary Plunkett, another signatory to



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tensions were understandably high and he organised a miniature *ceili*dh which "was a real welcome break in the serious business we had on hands" according to Volunteer Seosamh de Brún. They also found a gramophone in the factory but much to their dismay they only record they could find was a recording of God Save the King! At one stage during Easter week some Volunteer's played the song "to take a rise" out of MacDonagh. The

Volunteers were well aware that 1916 was the tri-centenary of William Shakespeare and a reading of Julius Caesar was organised when a copy of the play was discovered in the library of Jacob's Biscuit Factory. Among MacDonagh's men was Peadar Kearney who in 1907 wrote *Amhrán na bhFiann*. Kearney was also an uncle of two of Ireland's greatest writers Brendan and Dominic Behan.

MacDonagh was executed in Kilmainham on May 3rd, 1916. Hours prior to his death he wrote to Muriel "I am ready to die, and I thank God that I am to die in so holy a cause. My country will reward my deed richly. I counted the cost of this and I am ready to pay it". He magnanimously addressed his executioners, offered them cigarettes and lamented "I know this is a lousy job, but you're doing your duty.....I do not hold this against you".

Following the deaths of the leaders a British soldier said "they all died well, but MacDonagh, he died like a Prince".

Thomas MacDonagh, Irish patriot, poet, teacher and a leader of Ireland's 1916 insurrection finally has a museum and heritage centre in his home town of Cloughjordan. This centre incorporates the MacDonagh family home and brings to the public the story of this great man and the place in which he grew up. Visit <http://www.macdonaghheritage.ie/> to learn more,

Lament for Thomas MacDonagh By Francis Ledwidge

*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
Thro' slanting snows her
fanfare shrill,
Blowing to flame the
golden cup
Of many an upset
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.*



This piano belonged to Thomas' mother Mary Louise and she instilled in him and his siblings a love of music. It was made with Brazilian Rosewood and covered with ivory and ebony keys and it was played by Thomas numerous times during his childhood. Following Mrs MacDonagh's death in 1908 the piano came into the possession of Mrs Winifred Hynes and it remained in her family for four generations before it was donated to the Thomas MacDonagh Heritage Centre, Cloughjordan. One of Mrs Hynes descendants is Seamus Hennessy, an All-Ireland medal winner with Tipperary in 2010 and a speaker at one of our Healthy Club Project talks in the past. The Hennessy family kindly donated a sizeable sum towards the piano's restoration and it takes pride of place in the Thomas MacDonagh Heritage Centre, Cloughjordan.

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CAMOGIE PRESENTATION NIGHT



In 2015 our camogie section reached another milestone when they captured both the Junior A league and championship double. The great panel of players received their hard earned medals at a function in the Hibernian Inn. Thanks to Martin Morris and his staff for the warm welcome and hospitality, Caitriona Morris and the camogie committee for organising the event and all who showed up on the night to share with the ladies their great success. We also wish to thank Collin's Bakery Nenagh for kindly baking a cake to celebrate our promotion to the intermediate ranks. The players are back training now for 2016 and we look forward to following their exploits again this year! We wish them and their new manager Paul Henry the very best of luck.



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Nenagh Éire Óg Camogie Club Clothes Collection



Nenagh Éire Óg Camogie Club Clothes Collection

Saturday April 9th

MacDonagh Park

Between 10am and 12pm



**Please bring all your clean
unwanted clothes, curtains,
bed sheets, blankets and
shoes to help raise badly
needed funds for our club**



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OUT AND ABOUT WITH ÉIRE ÓG



THE DR. HARTY CUP IN THE SAFE HANDS OF FRANCIS AS ARD SCOIL RÍS AND OUR LADY'S TEMPLEMORE FOUGHT IT OUT ON THE MACDONAGH PARK FIELD. THE SPOILS WENT TO ÁRD SCOIL.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCÓR NA BPÁISTÍ BALLAD GROUP AND FIGURE DANCERS ON THEIR NORTH FINAL WINS. WELL DONE TO ALL INVOLVED. YOU HAVE DONE THE CLUB PROUD!



Nenagh Éire Óg

Play lotto in 4 easy steps below.



Nenagh Éire Óg

MacDonagh Park St. Conans Rd Nenagh,
Tipperary, Ireland

4 simple steps

- 1 New Entry Details
- 2 Your Details
- 3 Payment
- 4 Confirmation

New Entry Details

(0.1) Are you buying for yourself or a friend?

(0.3) Lines to Play - Cost per Line/Draw is €2.00



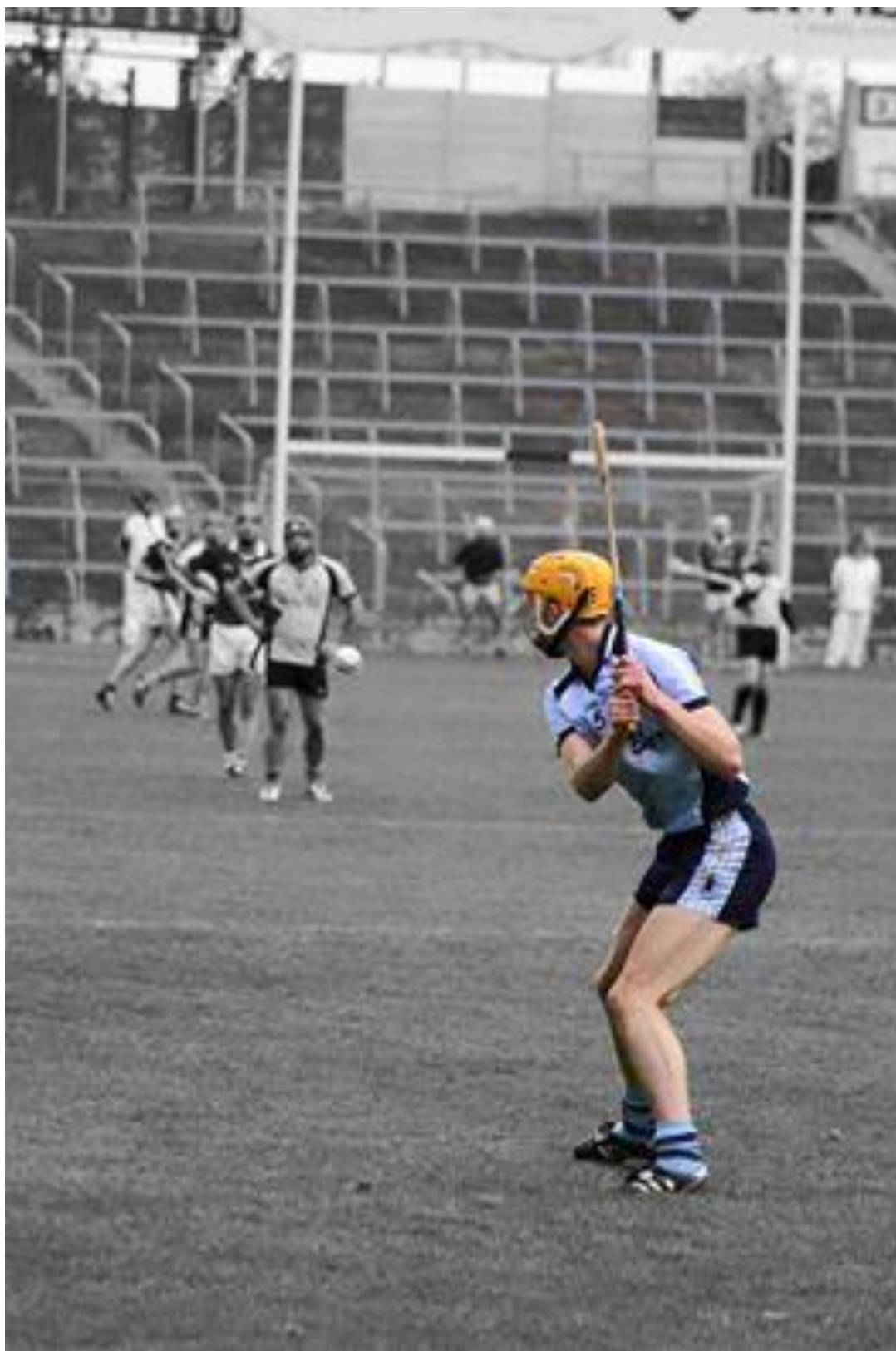


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CONGRATULATIONS TO BARRY HEFFERNAN ON MAKING
THE FITZGIBBON CUP XV OF THE YEAR FOR 2016, ONE OF 5 TIPPERARY PLAYERS.
THE FULL TEAM CAN BE VIEWED BELOW



FITZGIBBON CUP XV

1. Paul Maher, [Moyne Templetuohy Gaa](#), Tipperary [UL GAA](#)
2. Paul Killeen, [Tynagh-Abbey/Duniry Hurling Club](#), Galway, LIT
3. Richie English, [Doon G.A.A.](#), Limerick, [Misú Sport Mary I](#)
4. Jack Browne, [Ballyea GAA](#), Clare UL
5. Ronan Maher, [Thurles Sarsfields Gaa](#), Tipperary Mary I
6. Barry Heffernan, [Nenagh Éire Óg](#), UL
7. John Meagher, Loughmore/Castleiney, Tipperary Mary I
8. Darragh O'Donovan, [Doon GAA](#), Limerick, Mary I
9. Fionn Ó Riain Broin, [CLG Naomh Jude](#), Dublin TCD
10. Padraic Guinan, [Drumcullen Gaa](#), Offaly UCD
11. Cian Lynch, [Patrickswell Gaa Club](#), Limerick, Mary I
12. Sean Linnane, [Turloughmore Hurling](#), Galway, Mary I
13. John McGrath, Loughmore/Castleiney, Tipperary UL
14. Declan Hannon, [Adare Gaa](#), Limerick, Mary I
15. Tom Morrissey, Ahane, Limerick UL



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OUT AND ABOUT WITH ÉIRE ÓG



Well done to the five Éire Óg representatives on the Tipperary minor camogie panel. We would especially like to congratulate Ruth Hassett (top right) who made her inter-county debut recently against Clare in the championship, following in the footsteps of her All Ireland winning grandfather Matt Hassett (pictured right) racing Christy Ring to the ball during the 1960 Oireachtas with Mick Burns in the background. The five girls from our club on the panel are Hazel McAuliffe, Ruth Hassett, Maeve Coffey, Sarah Quigley and Grace O'Brien. Well done ladies from everyone in the club.



Amazing history in this photo on display in Steeples coffee shop. Generations later and the names are still going strong in Éire Óg.



Many thanks to our youngest hurlers and their mentors and committee members for marching with style for us on St. Patrick's Day!