



# NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3 Issue 2  
March 2015

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2015



# PATRICK'S DAY



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**ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2015:** Many thanks to our super young hurlers, their parents and mentors who marched behind the Éire Óg banner on St. Patrick's Day. For many it was their first time walking in the parade and they had a great time. Congratulations to Hughie McGrath and the organising committee on another wonderful parade.





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### FROM HEARTBREAK TO HOPE – AN EVENING WITH CHRISTY KENNEALLY



## Nenagh Éire Óg HEALTHY CLUB PROJECT

A night of hope and caring for our community



Born in Cork in 1948, **CHRISTY KENNEALLY** is a veteran broadcaster and author of numerous publications, including the bestselling book, *Living with Loss*.

He is well known for his work in communicating with the terminally ill and the bereaved.

The former presenter of RTÉ's *No Frontiers* says we can become paralysed by the sudden losses that change brings to our lives.

*"TOO OFTEN, WE CAN SINK INTO DESPONDENCY AND DESPAIR. IT IS POSSIBLE TO MOVE FROM HEARTBREAK TO HOPE. ALL OF US CAN DEVELOP THE MUSCLE OF RESILIENCE TO COPE WITH AND TRANSFORM CHANGE. INDIVIDUALLY OR AS A COMMUNITY, WE CAN MAKE A VITAL DIFFERENCE TO SOMEONE SHATTERED BY SUDDEN CHANGE AND THE SENSE OF LOSS IT BRINGS."*

## Christy Kenneally

### "From heartbreak to hope"

"Too often, we can sink into despondency and despair. It is possible to move from heartbreak to hope. All of us can develop the muscle of resilience to cope with and transform change. Individually or as a community, we can make a vital difference to someone shattered by sudden change and the sense of loss it brings."

Christy Kenneally is a veteran broadcaster and author of numerous publications, including the bestselling book, *Living with Loss*.

He is well known for his work in communicating with the terminally ill and the bereaved.

The former presenter of RTÉ's *No Frontiers* says we can become paralysed by the sudden losses that change brings to our lives.

The Healthy Club Project Team invites you to an evening with Christy Kenneally

Scouts Hall  
Nenagh



Wednesday  
April 15th – 8 pm

Supported by

Admission  
5 Euro  
Under 18s free



Wicklow County  
Multimedia



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### GAA HEALTH AND WELL BEING CONFERENCE

#### THE NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG HEALTHY CLUB PROJECT TEAM,

represented by Michael Geaney and Sister Clare Slattery, were asked to showcase the amazing work done over the last two years at the GAA Health and Well Being Conference in Croke Park on Saturday, March 21st.

Nearly three hundred delegates attended the conference.

During her presentation Stacey Cannon (Community and Health Department in Croke Park) spoke about Nenagh Éire Óg. She referred to the club's annual report where the Healthy Club Project is very much part of it. She said that all clubs should aspire to having health and wellbeing at the centre of its ethos, like Nenagh Éire Óg.

All the presentations from the conference will all be available on the GAA website in the coming weeks.

club's newsletters, annual report and details about the club's website etc.

The team also met with Caroline McGuigan (CEO of Suicide or Survive). Caroline thanked Éire Óg for the club's partnership with SOS in running the Wellness Workshop last January in Nenagh and said that the facilitators who gave the workshop spoke very highly of the way it was organised.

Others who visited the Éire Óg stand were Eamon O'Shea (Tipperary senior hurling manager) and Conor Cusack (Cloyne, Cork). Eamon has a great interest in the elderly and has been responsible for numerous reports commissioned by national and international agencies on Ageing and Older People. Eamon O'Shea has agreed to come to Nenagh to give a talk on the elderly and their importance in a club and community – details of same will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

All the clubs who took part in the Healthy Club Project Phase One were presented with a certificate by Ciarán McLaughlin, Chairperson of the National Health and Wellbeing Committee (right)

**A brilliant day for Nenagh Éire Óg!**



*Marty Morrissey and Tipperary senior hurling manager Eamon O'Shea pictured with Clare Slattery and Michael Geaney at the Nenagh Éire Óg stand in Croke Park.*

All of material which was on display at the conference is available to view on the Healthy Club Project section of [nenagheireog.com](http://nenagheireog.com).



The team met with many delegates from all over the country who were so positive and full of praise for Nenagh Éire Óg Healthy Club Project. They took photos of the club's posters, wanted to know all about the club's initiatives on wellbeing, mental health and anti-bullying. Many took copies of the





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### CLEAN IRELAND RECYCLING COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHALLENGE CUP NENAGH V KILDANGAN

#### KILDANGAN TOO STRONG FOR ÉIRE ÓG ON OPENING DAY

Nenagh Éire Óg suffered a defeat in their opening competitive fixture of the year when losing by five points to an impressive Kildangan at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh on Sunday afternoon March 8<sup>th</sup>.



*John Cahalan, Richie Flannery and Paddy Murphy pictured in action against Kildangan.*

**Clean Ireland Recycling County Senior Hurling Challenge Cup  
Nenagh Éire Óg 2-11  
Kildangan 1-19  
at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh**

Éire Óg got off to an enterprising start when John Cahalan set up Philip Hickey for a goal in the second minute. Cahalan then added a point from play before the Blues saw two efforts at goal saved by Kildangan's Barry Hogan. A James Mackey point in the tenth minute added to the Blues' tally, but Kildangan soon settled into the game and led 0-6 to 1-2 by the 17th minute.

A James Mackey free tied the game once more before Michael McNamara made a terrific reaction save to deny Kildangan a certain goal. Undeterred, and despite playing into the breeze, Kildangan tacked on further points to lead 0-8 to 1-2 before two James Mackey frees tied the game (1-5 to 0-8) by the 30th minute. Éire Óg were also left to rue their misfortune in the 26th minute when Killian Gleeson's effort at goal was blocked by an alert Barry Hogan.

A Tadhg Gallagher goal in the first minute of injury time propelled the visitors into a 1-9 to 1-6 interval lead and the defending champions (Johnny Ryan Cup) had it all to do in the second half.



Two Kildangan points during the opening ten minutes of the second half extended the Kildangan lead to five (1-11 to 1-6) before James Mackey managed a response from a placed ball in the 42nd minute. Three more Kildangan points added to their tally and although Paul Ryan hit back for Éire Óg another Kildangan brace saw the Blues trail 1-8 to 1-16 by the 51st minute.

During the ensuing five minutes Éire Óg out-scored Kildangan 0-3 to 0-1 to cut the deficit before Barry Hogan saved once more, this time from the raiding Pearse Morris. A goal at that juncture (1-11 to 1-17) might have transformed the remaining minutes of this encounter, but it was not to be. Two late Kildangan points helped the visitors toward a deserved win while Philip Hickey set up Pearse Morris for a rasping late goal to reduce the final margin to five points.

Kildangan will now progress to face the Templederry Kenyons in the next round while Nenagh Éire Óg will take on Boherlahan-Dualla who lost to Ballygarra (1-8 to 1-17) in the opening round of this year's competition.

**Nenagh Éire Óg:** Michael McNamara, Mark Flannery, Alan Kelly, Conor Ryan, Adam Gratton, Barry Heffernan (0-1, 0-1 '65), Andrew Coffey, Billy Heffernan, Killian Gleeson, John Cahalan (0-1), Richie Flannery, Pearse Morris (1-1), Philip Hickey (1-0), Paddy Murphy, James Mackey (0-7, 0-5 frees). Subs: (37th) Kevin Tucker for Adam Gratton, (41st) Paul Ryan (0-1) for Richie Flannery.

**Referee:** Johnny McDonnell (Boherlahan-Dualla).



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### CLEAN IRELAND RECYCLING COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHALLENGE CUP NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG V BOHERLAHAN-DUALLA

#### Clean Ireland Recycling County Senior Hurling Challenge Cup Nenagh Éire Óg 4-24 Boherlahan-Dualla 0-11

The Blues got off to an encouraging start when Andrew Coffey set up Philip Hickey for a goal in the second minute. Boherlahan-Dualla, who were playing with the wind in the opening half, hit back with a point, but efforts from Philip Hickey, Andrew Coffey, James Mackey and Tommy Heffernan helped the home side into a 1-4 to 0-3 lead by the seventh minute.

Boherlahan-Dualla responded with two points to cut the gap to two before Pearse Morris was denied a goal when the Boherlahan-Dualla 'keeper made a great save in the 11th minute. A point from Tommy Heffernan preceded a good goal-scoring opportunity for Boherlahan-Dualla, but Michael McNamara saved smartly.

Points from Andrew Coffey, Tommy Heffernan (two) and James Mackey (free) helped the Blues into a 1-9 to 0-5 lead by the 17th minute. Boherlahan-Dualla responded with a point, but Éire Óg closed out the half in positive fashion with points from John Cahalan, Andrew Coffey, Pearse Morris, Tommy Heffernan and James Mackey helping the home side into a 1-14 to 0-6 interval lead.

The Blues' lead could have been more significant, but Philip Hickey was denied a goal in the 29th minute when the Boherlahan-Dualla 'keeper made another stunning reaction save.

Éire Óg hit 2-2 without reply during the opening six minutes of the second half. Killian Gleeson and Philip Hickey helped themselves to

the points while Pearse Morris and Tommy Heffernan were responsible for the goals. Boherlahan-Dualla then hit three consecutive points to leave sixteen points between the sides (3-16 to 0-9) in the 44th minute.

Points from Pearse Morris and Killian Gleeson extended Éire Óg's advantage to eighteen before Boherlahan-Dualla managed a response.

A Killian Gleeson point preceded another fine save from the Boherlahan-Dualla 'keeper (this time from Pearse Morris) in the 51st minute. A free with nine minutes of normal time remaining concluded the scoring from a Boherlahan-Dualla point of view (3-19 to 0-11).

A Paul Ryan point extended the Éire Óg lead to eighteen before Pearse Morris and Philip Hickey were denied goals by the Boherlahan-Dualla 'keeper. At the opposite end of the field second half substitute Kevin Flynn made a fine save of his own in the 53rd minute before a James Mackey free helped the Blues into a 3-21 to 0-11 lead.

Pearse Morris' second goal materialised in the 58th minute following fine work from Philip Hickey before late points from Paul Ryan, Andrew Coffey and Killian Gleeson concluded proceedings.



The Blues last participated in the Dr Fogarty Cup in 2013 when losing the final after a replay to Burgess.

**Nenagh Éire Óg:** Michael McNamara (captain), Mark Flannery, Hugh Maloney, Conor Ryan, Dáire Quinn, Barry Heffernan, Adam Gratton, Kevin Tucker, Andrew Coffey (0-4), John Cahalan (0-1), Pearse Morris (2-2), Killian Gleeson (0-4), Philip Hickey (1-2), Tommy Heffernan (1-5), James Mackey (0-4, 0-3 frees). Subs: (38th) Paul Ryan (0-2) for Tommy Heffernan, (39th) Michael Collins for Mark Flannery, (40th) Niall Madden for Kevin Tucker, (40th) Kevin Flynn for Michael McNamara, (42nd) Brian Flynn for Dáire Quinn.

**Referee:** Tommy Ryan (Kildangan).



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### CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER-FINAL NENAGH V MOYCARKEY-BORRIS

#### ÉIRE ÓG EDGE MOYCARKEY-BORRIS IN HARD-FOUGHT CHALLENGE CUP QUARTER-FINAL

The Blues survived a battle with Moycarkey-Borris in Littleton on Saturday evening to book their place in the semi-finals of the Dr Fogarty Cup.

#### Clean Ireland Recycling County Senior Hurling Challenge Cup Dr Fogarty Cup Quarter-Finals Nenagh Éire Óg 2-14 Moycarkey-Borris 0-18

Moycarkey-Borris started well and led 0-5 to 0-2 after sixteen minutes. Éire Óg initially struggled against an enthusiastic home side with a James Mackey free and an effort from John Cahalan getting the Blues off the mark.

A John Cahalan point in the 17th minute reduced the margin to two before Philip Hickey set up team captain Paddy Murphy for a goal which presented Nenagh with the lead (1-3 to 0-5) for the first time in the 19th minute. Four minutes later a clever James Mackey pass sent Tommy Heffernan through on goal, Heffernan finished well and Éire Óg led by four.

To be fair to the opposition Moycarkey-Borris responded to the challenge in admirable fashion and struck four consecutive points (two frees) to tie the game (2-3 to 0-9) by the 29th minute.

Éire Óg closed out the half positively with points from Paddy Murphy and Barry Heffernan helping the visitors into a 2-5 to 0-9 interval lead.

Efforts from Andrew Coffey and James Mackey (free) helped Éire Óg into a four-point lead immediately after the break. Moycarkey-Borris responded once more, however, and out-scored the Blues by three points to one to close the gap to two (2-8 to 0-12) by the 39th minute. Moycarkey-Borris were unfortunate to miss out on a three-pointer in the 37th minute when Michael McNamara made a telling save at his near post.

Philip Hickey found the side netting in the 42nd minute before points from Paul Ryan and Tommy Heffernan helped the Blues into a 2-10 to 0-12 advantage entering the final quarter.

Moycarkey-Borris responded with a point, but further efforts from Andrew Coffey and James Mackey (free) left five in it before a converted free from the home side reduced the margin to four with ten minutes to play (2-12 to 0-14).

Thanks to points from Dáire Quinn and Andrew Coffey Éire Óg led 2-14 to 0-15 with five minutes to play,

but full credit to Moycarkey-Borris, the home side converted three late placed balls to reduce the deficit to two. However, Moycarkey-Borris struggled to conjure the goal-scoring opportunity which was required to rescue the situation.

The three remaining quarter-finals in the Dr Fogarty Cup take place on Sunday, March 22nd – Mullinahone v Moneygall, Lorrha-Dorrha v Cappawhite & Éire Óg Annacarty v Burgess.

**Nenagh Éire Óg:** Michael McNamara, Mark Flannery, Hugh Maloney, John Brennan, Adam Gratton, Dáire Quinn (0-1), Barry Heffernan (0-1), Andrew Coffey (0-3), Billy Heffernan, John Cahalan (0-2), Killian Gleeson, Tommy Heffernan (1-1), Philip Hickey, Paddy Murphy (captain, 1-1), James Mackey (0-4, 0-3 frees). Subs: (HT) Conor Ryan for Adam Gratton, (HT) Kevin Tucker for Billy Heffernan, (HT) Paul Ryan (0-1) for Killian Gleeson.

**Referee:** Seán Bradshaw.

### PLAY THE CLUB LOTTO. IT COULD BE YOU!





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### JUNIOR B HURLING - NENAGH V PORTROE

#### ÉIRE ÓG JUNIOR BS LOSE BY FOUR POINTS TO PORTROE

March 28, 2015

The Nenagh Éire Óg junior Bs suffered a defeat in their opening game of the league at MacDonagh Park on Saturday evening March 28th. However, despite losing by four points this was a spirited display which the lads can build on.

#### Watch Centre North Tipperary Junior B Hurling League Nenagh Éire Óg 0-9 Portroe 0-13

Portroe, whilst playing with the aid of a very strong wind, raced into a 0-5 to no-score lead inside the opening eight minutes.

The Blues were fighting hard for every break of the ball and got off the mark in the eighth minute when Gavin O'Connor landed a point following great work from Christopher Ryan and Jack Sheedy.

Portroe led 0-6 to 0-1 in the 17th minute when Niall Madden's smartly-taken free found Paul Lillis and the centre-forward fired over Éire Óg's second point.

Four more first half points from Portroe helped the visitors into a 0-10 to 0-2 interval lead. Considering the strength of the wind, however, the Éire Óg lads were still in with a shout of turning this one around.

The Blues started the second half in very positive fashion. In the 32nd minute Brian Tuite was fouled for a free which Paul Lillis converted before Kieran Duffy landed a free from deep inside his own half following a foul on wing-back Lenny Ryan.

A Portroe point in the 38th minute helped the visitors into a 0-11 to 0-4 lead, but further Éire Óg points, which arrived courtesy of Gavin O'Connor and Lenny Ryan, cut the deficit to five with twenty-one minutes to play (0-6 to 0-11).

In the 45th minute Gavin O'Connor set up Christopher Ryan for a goal chance. Before Ryan could strike he was fouled for a penalty. The unceremonious nature of that challenge was deemed a sending off offence by referee Martin Griffin. Niall Madden took responsibility for the penalty, but saw his effort saved by the Portroe 'keeper.

To be fair to Portroe, and despite now playing with fourteen men, they battled well and won two frees which were converted to hand the visitors a 0-13 to 0-6 lead with ten minutes to play.

Éire Óg poured forward in search of scores and although the Blues landed late points thanks to the efforts of Brian Tuite (two) and Paul Lillis (free) Nenagh failed to create a goal-scoring opportunity which may have rescued the situation.

The Watch Centre North Tipperary Junior B Hurling League will be played on a two-group system this year with the top two teams in each

progressing to the semi-finals.

Nenagh Éire Óg have been drawn in group one alongside Toomevara, Newport, Shannon Rovers, Moneygall & Portroe. Meanwhile group two features Borrisokane, Ballina, Borris-Ileigh, Lorrha-Dorrha & Kildangan.

The Nenagh Éire Óg team are managed this year by Cian Tucker, Mark Long, Paddy Flynn and John Paul King.

**Nenagh Éire Óg:** Brian Darcy, John Kelly, Ger O'Gorman, Brian Duffy, Aodhán Geaney, Kieran Duffy (0-1, 0-1 frees), Lenny Ryan (0-1), Niall Madden, Alex Jones, Gavin O'Connor (0-2), Paul Lillis (captain, 0-3, 0-2 frees), TJ O'Brien, Christopher Ryan, Jack Sheedy, Brian Tuite (0-2). Subs: (49th) Michael Hallinan for Jack Sheedy.

**Referee:** Martin Griffin (Silvermines).

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE RUNNING OF YOUR CLUB AND BECOME A MEMBER. CLICK BELOW TO JOIN ONLINE OR SEE ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER**





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### NENAGH PLAYERS IN ACTION OUTSIDE OF THE CLUB



Congratulations to **DONNACHA QUINN** and **BARRY HEFFERNAN** who were members of the UL team which won the fresher's All-Ireland title. The University of Limerick beat UCC 1-24 to 1-18 (aet)



#### CLICK ON LINK REPORT AND VIDEO

<http://www.gaa.ie/gaa-news-and-videos/daily-news/3/1103152052-fitzgibbon-cup-final-ul-triumphant-in-replay/>

Congratulations to **TOMMY HEFFERNAN** and **DÁIRE QUINN** who featured on the University of Limerick team which beat the Waterford Institute of Technology in the replayed Fitzgibbon Cup final on Wednesday, March 11th in Páirc Uí Rinn, Cork. Tommy and Dáire scored the vital goals for UL in a 2-18 to 1-14 win.

*Senior hurler Dáire Quinn pictured with his uncle Denis (left) and father Liam (right) following the Fitzgibbon Cup final.*

*Dáire and Tommy Heffernan pictured with Tommy's father Liam after the match.*



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### NENAGH PLAYERS IN ACTION OUTSIDE OF THE CLUB



**Nenagh CBS:** Well done to the Nenagh CBS team who were crowned Munster Post Primary Schools under-15A hurling champions (Hugh O'Dowd Cup) recently. Nenagh CBS beat Árdcoil Rís (Limerick) 1-13 to 0-5 in a final played at Newport. Nenagh Éire Óg's Evan Murphy captained the team while he was also joined on the panel by the Blues' Fiachra Starr, Barry Coffey, Seán Shanahan, Paul Slattery and Daniel Molamphy. Click below for Shane Brophy's the Irish Examiner report. <http://www.irishexaminer.com/sport/gaa/top-class-nenagh-hold-all-the-aces-in-harty-cup-320491.htm>



Congratulations to **GRACE O'BRIEN, HAZEL MCAULIFFE, CAROLINE BROWNE, NIAMH SHERIDAN, MAEVE COFFEY** and the Tipperary under-16 team (above) who defeated Cork. Also the Tipperary minors recorded a 3-8 to 1-13 win over Cork in the All-Ireland championship. **GRACE O'BRIEN, MAEVE COFFEY, SARAH QUIGLEY AND RACHEL MAHER** were the Éire Óg representatives on this panel.

Well done to Evan Murphy who was a member of the victorious North Tipperary under-15 squad (right) which won the Roger Ryan Tournament in Toomevara. Well done also to Mark O'Farrell, Jake Morris, Conor Bonar, Connor McCarthy and selector David Minogue on reaching the final of the under-16 Garda Cup.



**GRACE O' BRIEN** in action for the Tipp Minors



Well done to Cian O'Farrell, Seán Phelan, Conor Hennessy, Liam Heffernan and Gavin Dooley who were members of the North Tipperary under-14 hurling squad who performed very well at the Peadar Cummins tournament in Borrisoleigh on Saturday. Well done to Shane Connolly and Michael McNamara who were members of the management team.





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### OUT AND ABOUT WITH ÉIRE ÓG



Congratulations to Junior B hurling superstar **PAUL LILLIS**, who recently celebrated his 40th birthday party in Buddy's in his native Silvermines. Paul's party was attended by his family, friends, numerous Éire Óg hurlers and the Junior B manager Cian Tucker, selector John Paul King and assistant to the manager Mark Long.



We wish to congratulate Junior hurler Jamie Gallagher and Nicole Tiernan on the christening of their beautiful baby girl!



**#TRENDING** at the moment is the hurling selfie and always on trend is Junior-B sub-goalie **ENDA O'SULLIVAN**. Now who would like to say for sure but where we think he got it *slightly* wrong was in taking photos *during* the match as play goes on around him!! **#NEVERCATCHON**



**CLOTHES COLLECTION:** We are holding a clothes recycling drive in order to raise much needed funds for the camogie section. Please donate all your clean unwanted clothes, bed linen, towels, curtains, shoes, bags, belts and soft toys. The collection will take place in the club house on Saturday, April 18th, between 10am and 12 noon. If you cannot make it on the date and have bags to donate please contact Marie [0872768444](tel:0872768444), Denise [0876742591](tel:0876742591) or Catherine [0861996643](tel:0861996643) to make arrangements for the collection of your items.



Congratulations to our former PRO **MARK LANGTON** who was the Deputy Marshall for the Bay Ridge parade in New York on Saint Patrick's Day.

Martin was joined there by his wife Teresa Morgan-Langton and his parents Theresa and Hugh.



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### OUT AND ABOUT WITH ÉIRE ÓG



Nenagh Handball Club hosted two All-Ireland finals recently and it fell to handball legend **MICHAEL 'BOYSIE' HOGAN** to present the medals to the victorious Galway Intermediate team.

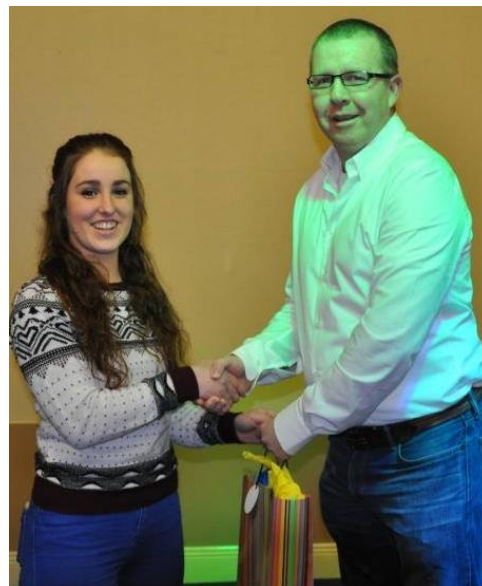
#### GIVE RESPECT – GET RESPECT

Nenagh and Ballina under-12 players shake hands with each other and ref **PETER CARROLL** before their football match.



**MICHAEL GEANEY** setting up the Nenagh Éire Óg Healthy Club Project's stand at the GAA Health and Wellbeing conference. Photo tweeted on the morning by The GAA @officialgaa. Follow to keep up to date with all the latest news.

#### FLYING THE FLAG FOR ÉIRE ÓG ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



**GRACE O'BRIEN** presenting a gift to the Tipperary under-16 Camogie selector Bill Mullalley at a recent presentation night. Grace was awarded 'player of the match' in the All-Ireland Final.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG'S DEAN RAY

who is one of the five new refs in North Tipp. We wish him the best of luck for the year ahead.



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### NENAGH HANDBALL CLUB



We had a number of girls taking part in very important matches in Broadford recently. Sarah Hallinan and Abbie Sheedy were runners up in the under-13 doubles while Hazel Cawley and Kate Kavanagh were runners up after an entertaining game against Limerick in the under-12 doubles. Well done ladies and thanks to their coaches for all their dedicated hard work. Handball is certainly in a very healthy state at the moment in Éire Óg.



### CONGRATULATIONS TO SINÉAD MEAGHER WHO IS THE NEW GIRLS UNDER-16 SINGLES ALL-IRELAND HANDBALL CHAMPION.

Sinéad had a convincing win at the Juvenile Handball Championships in Kingscourt Co. Cavan recently. Well done also to Eimear Meagher and Eleanor Percy (Lahorna) who competed well in the under-15 doubles final but lost out to Armagh opposition. Sinéad is pictured above with her sister Eimear. Well done girls from everyone in the club!



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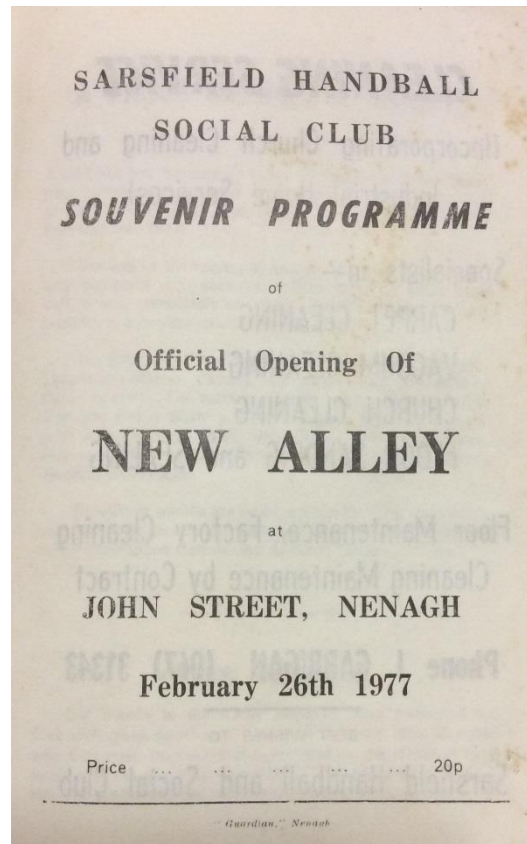
### BLAST FROM THE PAST - HANDBALL SPECIAL

**"A DREAM BECOMES A REALITY"** screamed the opening page of the official souvenir programme as the now defunct Sarsfield Handball Social Club opening their brand new premises on John Street (better known as Johns Lane) on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1977. The handball alley was built on the site of the old CBS school at a cost of £6,000. The alley itself was 40 X 20 and boasted showers, toilets, lighting, a glass back wall and was fully enclosed. While such facilities may seem modest in 2015, they were extremely modern for the era in question and something to be very proud of. The glass back wall was kindly "presented" by Carey Brothers who continue to this very day to be a major employer in our town. Michael Ryan was afforded a special "thank you" in the programme for supplying a pony for a raffle.

The caretaker for this alley was Michael Hassett, a nephew of Joe and Ned Hassett, two of the greatest players ever to grace a handball court. The following is an article printed in the programme on the Hassetts.

THE HASSETT BROTHERS of Nenagh are still our best pair of handballers with the rubber ball. They have been tested on the courts of three provinces and have returned to their old supremacy. Blending well, right and left, the Nenagh pair play with a single mind and they have never played so well as this season". Such lofty praise came from none other than the legendary GAA journalist, Carbery, in the Cork Examiner after they won their fifth consecutive All Ireland softball doubles championship in 1938.

The Hassett brothers arrived on the inter-county senior handball scene in 1933. They went to the semi-finals of the softball doubles championship when they were just



beaten by the master players, Paddy Perry, Roscommon and Mullaney, Roscommon.

In the following year, the Golden Jubilee of the GAA, they had the measure of the Roscommon pair, who they defeated in the final, to take the championship for the first time.

The following year they retained their title and were met by bonfires and the Nenagh Catholic Boy Scouts Band on their return to the town. From a window of the old Shamrock Club, the former North Tipperary TD, Mr Dan Morrissey, told the cheering crowd, "I think we have every reason to be proud of this town, this old street, and this old club, where the Hassetts learned their handball, which enabled them to bring championship honours to Nenagh".

Mr Morrissey said the Hassetts travelled all over Ireland and played a decent, clean, straightforward game. They brought honour on themselves and on this town.

Mr James Sheehan, the Nenagh handball representative on the North Tipperary Board, said he had travelled all over Ireland with the Hassetts and better sportsmen he never knew.

When the Hassetts won their fifth consecutive championship in 1938, The Guardian described their achievements: Since 1933 all challengers to dethrone these masterful 'tossers have been skilfully resisted. In bringing further honours to the county, they deserve the plaudits of the Gaels of the

#### THOSE FIVE TITLES

- 1934 Joe and Ned Hassett (Tipp) bt P. Perry and Mullaney (Roscommon).
- 1935 Joe and Ned Hassett (Tipp) bt P. Perry and T. Gaughan (Roscommon) 21-8, 18-21, 21-7, 21-7.
- 1936 Joe and Ned Hassett (Tipp) bt A. Finn and J. O'Rourke (Dublin) 21-13, 21-16, 13-21, 21-11.
- 1937 Joe and Ned Hassett (Tipperary) bt A. Clarke and J. J. Byrne (Dublin) 21-20, 21-15, 15-21, 21-16.
- 1938 Joe and Ned Hassett (Tipperary) bt Harry Doherty and Joseph Hoare (Roscommon) 21-13, 21-2, 21-11.



# NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

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### BLAST FROM THE PAST - HANDBALL SPECIAL



1942, the Collins brothers once again reached the final which was played in Casey's Court in Boyle Co. Roscommon.

The final was unique for all four contestants were Tipperary men. The Ballina brothers' opponents were Joe and Stephen Bergin, representing Sligo. After a trilling game, Tipperary won by three games to one.

#### NED HASSETT – THE GREATEST (pictured left)

Paddy Perry, holder of a record that is virtually certain never to be equalled, winner of eight successive All Ireland senior titles, recalling some of his experiences for a jubilee magazine on handball said

"There were so many great players I met. I think Ned Hassett of Nenagh was the greatest I ever played against. We started together as we were about equal in age, but he had more experience on that back wall. Three wall was my play in the West, but Ned had the experience of the back wall in Limerick – and I found Ned better than anyone I'd met in the junior, but strange to say he never gave me the same games in senior as in junior. But in doubles I could never beat the Hassetts.

#### CONNIE CLEERE'S TITLES

In more recent years Connie Cleere continued the fine tradition of handball in the town. In 1959 when partnered by John Cleary (Tipperary Town) he won the minor All Ireland handball doubles titles. His brother Tommy helped him to further success a year later when they won the junior All Ireland handball doubles. Connie Cleere dominated the handball scene in

North Tipperary and in a 14 year period he was only beaten twice. In all he has 13 Munster medals in minor, junior and senior grade. Partnered by Paddy Cleary (Clogheen) the Nenagh man won his first senior title in 1968 when the pair captured the All-Ireland senior handball championship. The same partnership were again successful in the senior grade in 1972.

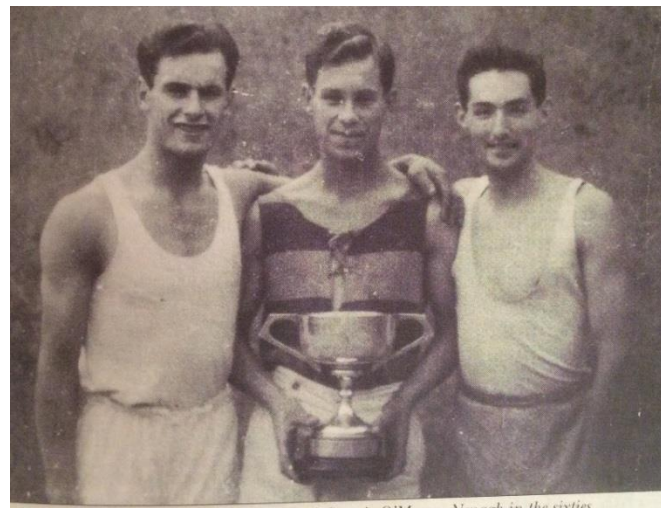


county in establishing such a unique record. Their feat is outstanding and deserves recognition."

In 1939 their reign came to an end, when they were defeated in the county championship by the up and coming Ballina brothers, Anthony and Connie Collins. It was a case of the "master pupils" for the previous year, the Hassetts, had coached the Collins brothers to win the All-Ireland junior softball doubles title.

It was the end of a brilliant career for the Nenagh brothers, but Joe Hassett won many more All Ireland honours with his adopted Kerry. Down through the years Ned remained active in the ball courts of North Tipperary and was associated with Joe Bergin's successes almost a decade later.

The pupils had learned well from their masters and went on to reach the final of the softball doubles championship but failed narrowly in the final against John Joe Gilmartin and Jasper Dunne (Kilkenny). When the championships were resumed in



Tommy Cleere, Connie Cleere and Connie O'Meara, Nenagh in the sixties.



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### BLAST FROM THE PAST - HANDBALL SPECIAL

#### ANOTHER GOLDEN ERA



Another golden era in the handball annals of Nenagh was written in 1949 when three All Ireland championships came to the town. Joe Bergin and Jackie Sweeney won the senior softball doubles, Denis Carey and Paddy Kennedy the junior softball doubles and Paddy Kennedy (pictured above) the junior handball singles.

Writing in the Guardian, Arthur Moore tells the story of those great victories: It was a big day for Tipperary when at the Depot ball court in Dublin, Joe Bergin and Jackie Sweeney, Nenagh, dethroned the reigning holders of the All-Ireland senior softball doubles crown in a three straight games final and when Paddy Kennedy (Nenagh) added his name to the list, as All Ireland junior handball champion with a 3-1 victory in a battle no less worthy of a memorable occasion. In the second game of the senior final the Nenagh pair were playing with confidence and determination that gave no thought to defeat.

Bergin was throwing himself into the game with dynamic abandon; Sweeney was a rock of strength in

the left corner. His tossing seemed to throw the Dubliners completely out of gear and his right hand seemed to have the power of a battering ram behind it.

For the opening minutes of the junior final, it looked as if the Wexford man was heading for a comfortable victory over Paddy Kennedy. He was simply piling up the aces to the tune of 11, and Paddy didn't seem to be able to do a thing about it. Then that wise coach Phil Ayres came on the scene. The moment he saw the ball he knew what was wrong. It was soft and flabby and incapable of bouncing an inch off the floor. Phil gave Paddy the tip to ask for a new ball. That did it. From then on Kennedy was the master of the

game.

The third title came to Nenagh that year when Denis Carey and Paddy Kennedy had to battle every minute of the way in a desperate two hour battle to snatch a slender junior softball doubles titles from the boys of Wexford. After this game, which several past masters of the sport described as the most thrilling for many years, the juniors were mobbed by fans and admirers at a dance in the AOH Hall, Parnell Street, where they were introduced from the stage.

When Joe Bergin regained the All-Ireland senior singles title in 1950, Arthur Moore had this to say: The most crushing answer his critics could possibly get was given by Joe Bergin (Nenagh) when at Fahy's Cross ball court Edenderry, he disposed in three effortless straight games of his opponent John Ryan Wexford.

In the special circumstances that surrounded this final, it was a signal victory for Bergin.

#### THE 1949 FINALS

All-Ireland Senior Softball Doubles: Joe Bergin and Jackie Sweeney (Tipperary) bt Larry and George Roe (Dublin) 21-19, 21-17, 21-7.

All-Ireland Junior Hardball Singles: Paddy Kennedy (Tipperary) bt J. Doyle (Wexford) 21-19, 21-6, 14-21, 21-20.

All-Ireland Junior Softball Doubles: Denis Carey and Paddy Kennedy bt P. Byrne and J. Kinsella (Wexford) 21-12, 9-21, 8-21, 21-20, 21-15.

All-Ireland Senior Singles Final: Larry Roe (Dublin) bt Joe Bergin (Tipperary) 21-16, 6-21, 21-18, 21-8.

When Joe Bergin regained the All-Ireland senior singles title in 1950, Arthur Moore had this to say: The most crushing answer his critics could possibly get was given by Joe Bergin (Nenagh) when, at Fahy's Cross ballcourt, Edenderry, he disposed in three effortless straight games of his opponent John Ryan, Wexford.

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#### BERGIN'S CAREER

Early 1930s, won Schools' Doubles Championship at opening of CBS ballcourt—with Paddy Ryan (Newtown).

1937 Won All-Ireland JSD Championship with Michael O'Gorman (in Nenagh).

1941 Won semi-finals SSS championship against Joe Hassett; lost final to Larry Roe (Dublin).

1942—Won semi-finals SSD Championship with Stephen Bergin—playing for Sligo; lost final to Connie and Anthony Collins (Ballina).

1946 Won semi-finals of National Doubles with Jim O'Rourke; lost final to Larry and George Roe.

1947 Won title for Sligo with Jim O'Rourke.

1948 Won SSS Final by defeating Larry Roe.

1949 Won SSD championship for Tipperary with Jackie Sweeney, defeating the Roe brothers.

1950—Regained title. Won SSS Final, defeating John Ryan Wexford. Won SSD with Jackie Sweeney.

#### A TOWN OF CHAMPIONS

The following Nenagh representatives carved their names on the All-Ireland honours' roll since 1930:

|                   |                                   |            |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Joe Hassett       | Senior Softball Doubles           | 1934-1938  |
|                   | Junior Softball Singles           | 1930       |
|                   | Junior Hardball Doubles           | 1937       |
|                   | Seven titles and four with Kerry. |            |
| Ned Hassett:      | Senior Softball Doubles           | 1934-1938  |
|                   | Five titles.                      |            |
| Joe Bergin:       | Senior Softball Singles           | 1950       |
|                   | Senior Softball Doubles           | 1949-1950  |
|                   | Junior Softball Doubles           | 1937       |
|                   | Four titles and two with Sligo.   |            |
| Paddy Kennedy:    | Minor Softball Doubles            | 1940-1941  |
|                   | Junior Softball Doubles           | 1949       |
|                   | Junior Hardball Doubles           | 1949       |
|                   | Four titles.                      |            |
| Jackie Sweeney:   | Minor Softball Doubles            | 1940-1941  |
|                   | Senior Softball Doubles           | 1949-1950  |
|                   | Four titles.                      |            |
| Connie Cleere:    | Senior Hardball Doubles           | 1968, 1972 |
|                   | Junior Hardball doubles           | 1959-1960  |
|                   | Four titles.                      |            |
| Michael O'Gorman: | Junior Softball Doubles           | 1937       |
|                   | Junior Hardball Doubles           | 1937       |
|                   | Junior Hardball Singles           | 1945       |
|                   | Three titles.                     |            |
| Michael McMahon:  | Junior Softball Singles           | 1935       |
|                   | Junior Softball Doubles           | 1941       |
|                   | Two titles.                       |            |
| Denis Carey:      | Junior Softball Doubles           | 1949       |
|                   | One title.                        |            |
| John Rice:        | Junior Softball Doubles           | 1941       |
|                   | One title.                        |            |
| Tommy Cleere:     | Junior Hardball Doubles           | 1960       |
|                   | One title.                        |            |



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### BLAST FROM THE PAST - HANDBALL SPECIAL

#### NENAGH GUARDIAN REPORT MARCH 5, 1977

##### Opening of new handball alley in Nenagh

A town with a proud tradition lived up to its reputation on Saturday evening when the Sarsfield Handball and Social Club alley on the site of the former CBS alley at John St was packed to capacity, and many more failed to gain admission for the official opening by Mr Michael O'Meara, chairman of Nenagh Urban Council. The building was 'blessed' by Rev. Michael Sheedy, CC, Nenagh. It was a night of memories and slipping through the shadows were the immortal names of Nenagh handball, Ned and Joe Hassett, Joe Bergin, Jackie Sweeney, Dinny Carey, Paddy Kennedy. As Mr O'Meara said "I could keep on narrating famous handball names in the town".

It was a moment of history the men who pioneered the project, when at 7.59 p.m. the first game in a covered alley, got under way in the town. It was played between Pat and Joe Sheeran, Co. Westmeath, and Joe Henchy and Tommy Coughlan 12th Battalion, Limerick. Mr O'Meara, in his address, called on the Government to restore the amenity grants. He said they were an endowment to people to build something like they had here. Presenting a trophy for Br Wall for an under 18 singles competition Mr O'Meara recalled that his son Noel, and Paddy Kearns, won a Munster colleges handball title while at CBS. He presented another trophy from Peter and Annette Tobin to the club for a competition of their choice, while plaques were presented on behalf of the trustees. Arobhgthe attendance were Mr Michael O Kennedy, TD, Mr John Ryan, TD, Mr

Tom Brophy, Co. Manager, Mr Tony McCormack, Town- Clerk, Mr Patrick Crowe, BE, Mrs Una Bergin, Mr Milo McGee, UDC, Mr Ger Ryan, UDC, and Messrs Anthony and Connie Collions, Ballina, and Mr Herbert Cannon, manager, Intercontinental Greetings Ltd, Nenagh.

Mr Denis Carey, a trustee of the club, welcomed everybody to the alley which he said was steeped in tradition. It was first built in 1932 by Edward Warren & Sons, Sarsfield St, Nenagh. It was a dream come through for Paddy Bourke and those associated with him. It all started when Dinny Carey was home on a holiday from America after 26 years. Negotiations, he said, were first started with Peter Hogan and Batt O'Keefe and it was finally left on the desk of the Co. Manager. He thanked the members of the local Urban Council, Michael O' Kennedy, John Ryan, Patrick Crowe — who designed the alley, the Mid-Western Health Board, M. Herbert Cannon, Intercontinental Ltd, and everybody who had helped them to achieve their object.

He had a special word of gratitude for Mr Jack Meaney, manager, Bank of Ireland, Mitchel St, who set them on their feet. Speaking in a lighter vein he said "I want to deny a rumour, it is the other one, that the trustees, Michael and Paddy Ryan, are going to play Paddy Bourke and myself. It is not on, we are sorry", he added.

##### NURSERY FOR CHAMPIONS

Mr O'Meara said it gave him great pleasure to be present in the old school where he had served his early years. "I played in the alley many times, it was a nursery for a lot of all-Ireland champions".

Mr Michael O'Kennedy, TD, said you must have respect for the past. In this old town and this old club, there is a great past. They all had great respect for the sporting past of Nenagh. "They are a grand old team to play for", he added. Mr John Ryan, TD, said it gave him great pleasure to be present to night and to see some of the old familiar faces, that he saw in the Shamrock Club when he was a little younger. They had a tremendous tradition and he was certain that would be continued.

Referring to the rivalry that existed between Silver Street and Pound Street he said he was delighted the new alley is on neutral grounds. It was a wonderful amenity for the town with the comforts of a first class indoor building. He hoped there would be all-Ireland champions in Silver Street and Pound Street in the not too distant future.

Mr Connie Collins, Ballina, said he was honoured to be with them tonight. Tills alley held great memories for him and among those who appeared in it were the Hassett brothers, two of the greatest players in the country. "It should be an incentive to the youth of Nenagh to regain the glorious honours of the Nenagh players of long ago", he added. Handballers from the 13th Battalion, Limerick, Ballina and the Sarsfields Club played a number of exhibition games. The local club were represented by Paddy McLoughlin and Michael Stanley, and in one of the most exciting games of the evening lost to an Army pairing by 21-20, 21-20. The Army handballers were accompanied by Billy McGrath, formerly of St Joseph's Park.



# NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

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### CAMÓGIE NEWS

**UNDER-16 CAMÓGIE TEAM** earn  
a 12-point win over Silvermines

**MARCH 30, 2015**

#### **Under-16A County Camogie Championship Nenagh Éire Óg 5-8 Silvermines 2-5**

Nenagh faced into a stiff breeze in the opening half. The Silvermines opened brightly and had three points on the board inside the opening six minutes before Maeve Coffey responded with a pointed free after she was fouled. Despite the wind disadvantage Nenagh found the net through Becky McGrath after great work from Niamh Kennedy and Caroline Browne.

This seemed to lift the 'Mines rather than the home side and they scored 1-1 almost immediately. A Maeve Coffey free rebounded off the upright and Ruth Hassett was first to respond to the breaking ball and scored a great goal.

This goal was in fact Ruth's first-ever championship goal as up to tonight's game she had always played her hurling in the backs.

Nenagh tagged on two more points from Maeve Coffey and Caroline Browne before the 'Mines finished off the scoring for the half with a point of their own to leave the scores Nenagh Éire Óg 2-3 Silvermines 1-4 at the break.

Nenagh started the second half in determined fashion and Maeve Coffey was quick to split the posts with a well-taken goal before Ruth Hassett goaled in the 38th minute following a fine save from the Silvermines netminder. Maeve Coffey, Leah Sheedy and

Becky McGrath all pointed before the visitors staged a comeback with a goal following a superb save from Niamh Sheridan.

Becky McGrath responded in kind with a goal of her own before Vanessa Tynan scored a fine point from a tight angle.

The Silvermines goalkeeper made an astonishing double save, just one example of great goalkeeping from her all night, before Ruth Hassett completed her hat-trick of goals from the rebound.

Silvermines had the final say on the scoreboard with a point before referee Martin O'Shea called full-time.

Both sets of backs can be proud of their evening's work while the goalkeepers gave commanding displays at either end of the pitch. The forwards worked hard in difficult conditions and we wish Maeve Coffey and Kristen Howard speedy recoveries from their injuries.

**Nenagh Éire Óg:** Niamh Sheridan, Rita Bourke, Emer Ryan (captain), Lily Purcell, Rachel O'Connor, Kate O'Connor, Sarah Kennedy, Laura Tierney, Niamh Kennedy, Caroline Browne, Ruth Hassett, Maeve Coffey, Becky McGrath, Vanessa Tynan, Leah Sheedy. Subs: Leah Kelly for Maeve Coffey.

**Referee:** Martin O'Shea (Borrisokane).

*Bottom right: some idea of the 'stiff breeze' blowing.*





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### JUVENILE NEWS



Well done to our **FÉILE** hurling team who beat Kildangan 3-07 to 0-05 in Nenagh in their quarter-final match. Goals by Barry Coffey (2) and Seán Phelan. It was a great team performance and we wish them the best of luck in the semi-final and final which will be held on the same day, Easter Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> in Dolla.



### UNDER-16 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Our under-16 footballers kicked off their football campaign with a win over Inane Rovers in Roscrea. Nenagh led at half time on a scoreline of 1-07 to 1-05. The first half goal coming from Daniel Molamphy following good play between Conor McCarthy and Conor Bonar. Roscrea started the second half brightly scoring an early goal. Their lead was short lived as aided by the breeze Nenagh dominated the rest of the second half and ran out convincing winners on a scoreline of 5-14 to 2-05. The second half goals coming from Daniel O'Donovan and Conor McCarthy (3). Fiachra Starr and Conor McCarthy impressed for Nenagh.





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HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OF YOUNGEST HURLERS!

## EASTER CHICK MAZE

