



NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 3 Issue 9
October 2015

NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG SENIOR COUNTY FINALISTS 2015



NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG JUNIOR A COUNTY CHAMPIONS 2015





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Éire Óg suffer one-point defeat in dramatic decider

October 25, 2015

Despite falling nine points behind in the opening half Éire Óg fought back manfully and pushed Thurles Sarsfields to the very limit – unfortunately the defending champions edged this dramatic contest with a late, late surge of scores.

Clean Ireland Recycling County Senior Hurling Championship Final

**Nenagh Éire Óg 3-11 Thurles
Sarsfields 1-18**

A Pearse Morris point presented Éire Óg with an initial lead before Aidan McCormack tied the game. Michael Heffernan forced Éire Óg back into a narrow lead, but Thurles Sarsfields surged clear when firing 1-2 without reply – Denis Maher, Pa Bourke (free) and Conor Lanigan (goal) were responsible for these efforts; the goal materialised in the seventh minute and helped Thurles into a 1-3 to 0-2 lead.



A Michael Heffernan free got Éire Óg moving in the right direction in the eighth minute, but further points from Lar Corbett and Conor Lanigan opened a five-point gap by the 11th. Another Michael Heffernan free cut the deficit to four, but Sarsfields were moving well and added points from Billy McCarthy, Aidan McCormack (two), Pa Bourke



Joint-captain Paddy Murphy pictured leading the Éire Óg senior hurling team during the pre-match parade at Semple Stadium, Thurles on Sunday afternoon. For a whole series of photographs from Sunday's county final please click [here](#).

(free) and Denis Maher to lead 1-10 to 0-4 as early as the 20th minute.

Éire Óg needed a little encouragement and almost found a real tonic in the 14th minute when Pearse Morris created a goal-scoring opportunity for Shane Hennessy – unfortunately Hennessy's effort flew wide of Paddy McCormack's goal.

We have come to associate a huge spirit with this group of Éire Óg hurlers and the lads responded terrifically to the challenge posed by Thurles Sarsfields.

A Tommy Heffernan point set the Blues on their way before Pearse Morris was fouled for a penalty which Barry Heffernan fired home in the 23rd minute. Seconds later Michael Heffernan rifled home a left-hand shot following good work from

Andrew Coffey and Éire Óg now trailed by two (2-5 to 1-10).



A point from Michael Heffernan in the 25th minute cut the deficit to one and although a Pa Bourke free helped Thurles into a 1-11 to 2-6 interval lead Éire Óg had now established themselves as a real force in this contest.

Second Half

The sides traded wides during the frantic opening minutes of the second half before Conor Lanigan forced Sarsfields into a 1-12 to 2-6 lead in the 38th minute. Éire Óg responded once more and out-scored Thurles by four points to one



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between the 42nd and 47th minutes – Pearse Morris, James Mackey (two) and Andrew Coffey were responsible for these efforts.

With thirteen minutes to play the sides were level (2-10 to 1-13).

To their credit Thurles Sarsfields hit back with points from Pa Bourke ('65) and Denis Maher (two) to take a three-point lead (2-10 to 1-16). Indeed, the Sarsfields lead could have been significantly greater, but Michael McNamara saved well from



the raiding Billy McCarthy in the 49th minute.

Éire Óg needed to respond and did so in terrific style in the 53rd minute when James Mackey conjured a

terrific reverse pass to send Andrew Coffey racing through on goal – Coffey made no mistake when rifling home past a helpless Paddy McCormack (3-10 to 1-16).

Between the 20th and 53rd minutes Éire Óg had out-scored Thurles 3-6 to 0-6 and must have been fancied to carry that momentum into the closing minutes. Sarsfields, however, showed real pedigree and seized the initiative. Aidan McCormack demanded an excellent save from Michael McNamara in the 53rd minute before points from Stephen Cahill and Lar Corbett helped their side into a 1-18 to 3-10 advantage.

Dáire Quinn hit back with a superb point for Éire Óg in the 57th minute, but despite a ferocious effort from Liam Heffernan's men Thurles Sarsfields clung on to win the club's 34th county title (the club's sixth since 2005).

Best of luck to Thurles

The Nenagh Éire Óg club would like to wish Thurles Sarsfields all the very best in their up-coming Munster club championship campaign. Thurles are scheduled to face Limerick champions Na Piarsaigh in the provincial semi-finals.

Thanks

The Nenagh Éire Óg club would like to thank the senior panel of players for the magnificent manner in which

they have represented the town, the club, their families and, especially, themselves this year. A special mention must go to the management team led by manager Liam Heffernan; Nenagh Éire Óg were coached by John Fitzgerald (Na Piarsaigh, Limerick) while Eddie Tucker, Donie O'Brien and Brian McDonnell acted as selectors.

Manager Liam Heffernan surrounded his players with a terrific support team and our sincere thanks goes to them – Matt Lillis (logistics), Liam Quinn (first aid), Noreen Ryan (first aid), Paul Ryan (physiotherapist), Paul O'Farrell (doctor), Eugene McGovern (strength & conditioning coach), Natal O'Grady (goalkeeping coach) and Enda O'Sullivan (video analysis). Thanks too to Enda Costello, John Tooher, Noel Coffey, Éanna Costello, Derek Lillis, Mark Long, Cian Tucker, Paul Lillis and Eddie Sheary for their invaluable support and tireless work.

Of course none of this would be possible without the support of the club officers and the club committee. Club chairman Jim Nagle, treasurer Séamus Cleary and secretary Anne Kennedy have worked tirelessly this year to help the team succeed.

Everyone associated with the senior team are also eager to highlight the support they received from the juvenile and Camogie sections of the club. Indeed, the senior group were also delighted by the support received from the people of Nenagh during the campaign.

Match Details

Nenagh Éire Óg: Michael McNamara, Mark Flannery, Noel Maloney, John Brennan, Conor Ryan, Hugh Maloney, Barry



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Heffernan (1-0, 1-0 penalty), Dáire Quinn (0-1), Michael Heffernan (1-4, 0-2 frees), Pearse Morris (0-2), Paddy Murphy, Andrew Coffey (1-1), Killian Gleeson, Tommy Heffernan (0-1), Shane Hennessy. Subs: (29th) James Mackey (0-2) for Shane Hennessy, (37th) Billy Heffernan for Killian Gleeson, (57th) Philip Hickey for Pearse Morris.

Remaining Panel Members: John Cahalan, Michael Collins, Brian Darcy, Kevin Flynn, Adam Gratton, Michael Hallinan, Gary Howard, Alan Kelly, Niall Madden, Shane Maher, Donnacha Quinn, Paul Ryan & Kevin Tucker.

Referee: Fergal Horgan
(Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams).

2015 Championship Campaign

County Senior Hurling
Championship Semi-Final
Nenagh Éire Óg 3-11 Thurles
Sarsfields 1-18
County Senior Hurling
Championship Semi-Final
Nenagh Éire Óg 1-20 Drom & Inch
2-16 aet
County Senior Hurling
Championship Quarter-Final
Nenagh Éire Óg 0-27 Portroe 1-12
County Senior Hurling
Championship Last Sixteen
Nenagh Éire Óg 1-21 Roscrea 0-10
County Senior Hurling
Championship Group Phase
Nenagh Éire Óg 1-18
Clonoulty-Rossmore 2-14
Nenagh Éire Óg 1-30 Ballina 0-7
Nenagh Éire Óg 0-20
Templederry Kenyons 1-19

County Final History

2015 Nenagh Éire Óg 3-11
Thurles Sarsfields 1-18



2013 Nenagh Éire Óg 1-16
Loughmore-Castleiney 1-17
2006 Nenagh Éire Óg 2-14
Toomevara 1-21
1999 Nenagh Éire Óg 0-13
Toomevara 1-17
1995 Nenagh Éire Óg 2-25
Boherlahan-Dualla 2-8
1993 Nenagh Éire Óg 1-13
Toomevara 1-14

The Nenagh Éire Óg Club Lotto represents the club's key fundraising initiative.

Please consider supporting the Blues by playing our club lotto online: [click here!](#)

Just watch how far we can stretch your €2!



Alternatively you can also support Nenagh Éire Óg by paying your club [membership](#). Membership for 2016 will soon be due and can be paid to any club officer or online. The cost of membership is priced at €25.

Help us to make the dreams of our players come through!

If you need to contact Éire Óg please do so via our [Contact](#) page. You can also keep in touch by accessing our [Facebook](#) page or by following [@nenagheireog](#) on Twitter.

Below: The Maloney brothers, Hugh and Noel in action. Many thanks to John Daly, Enda O'Sullivan and Martin McLoughlin for the photos.





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BLUES CROWNED COUNTY JUNIOR A CAMÓGIE CHAMPIONS!

October 24, 2015

Nenagh Éire Óg capped off a wonderful season for the Blues when the junior A Camogie team beat Toomevara by a single point after a titanic struggle in a county final played at The Ragg on Saturday afternoon.

County Tipperary Junior A Camogie Final Nenagh Éire Óg 0-9 Toomevara 1-5

In 2001 the Nenagh Éire Óg Camogie club was first established and later that year we fielded an under-12 side which shipped many trimmings along the way from the more established clubs. It was a steep learning curve and the players would have been forgiven for throwing in the towel early on.

Conor O'Donovan recalled one particular game against Holycross when we were getting destroyed at half-time. He gave the girls one job for the second half, they were to get a score. The players tried and tried and even managed to hit the crossbar before they eventually managed to scramble a goal in the dying minutes and while it barely made a dent on Holycross' lead it was celebrated like a match-winning score. Those who were present that day would have sent for the men in



Nenagh Éire Óg – County Junior A Camogie champions.

white coats if you were to tell them that just fourteen years later we would have captured league and championship titles at both junior B (2013) and junior A.

On Saturday afternoon our junior A side reached that milestone when we defeated neighbours Toomevara in the county final 0-9 to 1-5. These two clubs have provided many memorable matches in hurling over the decades and today it was the ladies turn to add to that great tradition.

The first half was a tough affair dominated by both sets of backs which was reflected in the half-time score of Toomevara 0-3 Nenagh Éire Óg 0-2.

Nenagh opened brightly and Maeve Coffey settled any nerves we might have had with an early point from an acute angle on the right hand side in the 2nd minute. It took Toomevara ten minutes to level proceedings following a fine pointed free.

Nenagh's best goal chance arrived in the 14th minute when Grace O'Brien found herself one-on-one with the goalkeeper however she was without her hurley and her kicked effort was brilliantly saved before the rebound broke to her sister Holly whose shot from a tight angle blasted against the side netting. It was the closest Nenagh were to get to a goal which was a testament to the quality of back play from Toomevara.

The Greyhounds took a slender one-point advantage four minutes later which was cancelled out by Ciara McGrath after a superb run up the wing from Ruth Hassett. With just five minutes remaining Toomevara scored the final point of the half from a free.

Wing-forward Grace O'Brien landed three monster frees within ten minutes of the resumption to lift the Éire Óg spirits and put the Blues two points ahead and from here it looked as if Nenagh might pull away, but Toomevara are an experienced outfit having fielded in the senior grade up to recently and



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have won the league or championship double without her commanding performances on the edge of the square and everyone was delighted for her at the full-time whistle.

There's an old saying that an ounce of breeding is worth a tonne of feeding and that is certainly the case for the player of the match Ruth Hassett. Ruth is a granddaughter of All-Ireland-winning captain Matt Hassett – he would have been bursting with pride watching her time and again thwart the Toomevara attack and emerge with the ball to

relieve the pressure. She has had a fine year hurling wing-back and brought that level of performance to the field today.



Player of the match Ruth Hassett pictured with her father Mark.

were not about to lie down. They pointed in the 42nd minute and piled on huge pressure on our backs, but the Éire Óg defence held out admirably and cleared ball after ball.

Alanna Morris, playing wing-back, collected a Toomevara puck-out and drove forward in her usual determined fashion and pointed an inspirational score midway through the half to open the lead back out to two points.

Toomevara pointed with eight minutes remaining, but rather than seize the initiative it was the Blues who surged forward and pointed three on the trot to open a four-point lead.

A Grace O'Brien free was quickly followed up with a fine point after a great pass from Alicia Hallinan. Louise Hickey was fouled and O'Brien was on hand again to split the posts from the free.

The Victorious O'Brien family: Kieran (joint-manager), Holly, Grace & Marie.

Toomevara piled forward and were rewarded with a goal, but with resolute determination Nenagh held out for a famous victory.

While the win meant a great deal to all involved it must have been extra special for both Aileen Duggan and Ciara McGrath. Both girls were there from the start when we first fielded an adult team in 2010 and were, on one occasion, on the receiving end of a 48-point defeat. They refused to give in and kept playing with a determination throughout the years and were rewarded for their dedication.

Another lady who deserves a special mention is full-back Rachel Maher. Suspended today following an incident in the semi-final the entire panel were determined to win as a thank you for all the great games she played throughout the year. There is no doubt that we would not



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For a video of the celebrations and the presentation ceremony please click [here](#).

Match Details

Nenagh Éire Óg: Sarah Quigley, Kara Ryan-Mulqueen, Aileen Duggan, Emer Ryan, Alanna Morris (0-1), Hazel McAuliffe, Ruth Hassett, Michelle Collins, Ciara McGrath (captain, 0-1), Alicia Hallinan, Aislinn O'Brien, Grace O'Brien (0-6), Holly O'Brien, Louise Hickey, Maeve Coffey (0-1). Subs: Zoey Gratton for Holly O'Brien.

Referee: John Lillis (Drom & Inch).



A huge thank you goes to Donna Cummins and Kasia Tomaszewska of The Zip Yard in Nenagh who were kind enough to sponsor a set of flags prior to the final. Junior A Camogie players Sarah Quigley, Aislinn O'Brien & Grace O'Brien are pictured above accepting the flags on behalf of the panel.



Top left: The Ryan Family. Top right Capt. Ciara McGrath with Seán Geaney. Bottom left: the Grattan family. Bottom right: The victorious management and back-room teams with their star captain, Ciara McGrath





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DERMOT EARLY LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Charismatic leader & legend Dermot Earley set to inspire new generation

The family of the late great Dermot Earley Snr. believe a new initiative in his honour can help the next generation of young Irish leaders make their mark in the world.

The Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative, brought together by the GAA, Foróige and National University of Ireland Galway, commenced in MacDonagh Park, Nenagh on Tuesday 27th October and ran throughout that week.

Nine young GAA and Foróige club members from Nenagh Eire Og, Moyne Templetuohy, Arravale Rovers and Clonoulty Rossmore were given the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through this exciting programme that evokes and honours the values Dermot epitomised and held so dear.

Helping to facilitate their journey were a troupe of facilitators who volunteered from within the GAA and Foróige and have received four days training in NUIG, achieving a Foundation Diploma in Training and Education for their time and efforts.

The participants were treated to lovely food everyday prepared by Joe Mulqueen and staff in Andy's Bar as well as an inspirational talk about leadership from club chairman Jim Nagle. Jim spoke about his professional role with Analog in Limerick as well as within the club.

The participants will be awarded their level 1 certificates in Croke in November and will attend the Ireland V Scotland international shinty game as well as the Ireland V Australia international compromise rules fixture.



Tipperary senior hurling captain Brendan Maher pictured with a group at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh last week during the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative.

Speaking on behalf of the Earley family at the initial launch, Dermot Jr, former Kildare GAA star, said:

"Enabling young people to achieve their full potential was something my father was passionate about. We are delighted to give our support to this initiative and look forward to the positive influence these young leaders will have on their GAA clubs, their communities and beyond."

To inspire the lucky participants Tipperary senior hurling captain Brendan Maher attended the launch and spoke about his role and responsibilities as captain and what it takes to become a leader.

The lucky participants, aged between 15- and 18-years-old, will explore all elements of leadership before being asked to put their skills



to work in their own clubs and communities. Those who complete all three modules between September 2015 and May 2016 will be eligible to graduate from NUIG with a Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action.



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Minor A Camogie team suffer one-point defeat

November 01, 2015

Nenagh Éire Óg and Drom & Inch faced off in the final game of the round robin series and with both sides already through Sunday's fixture was merely to decide the final group placings – in the end Drom & Inch won with a point to spare.

County Tipperary Minor A Camogie Championship Nenagh Éire Óg 3-7 Drom & Inch 2-11

Nenagh started brightly with Maeve Coffey opening the home side's account within three minutes with a fine point following great work from Grace O'Brien. Drom & Inch responded, however, in style rattling off three points on the trot.

Grace O'Brien pointed two efforts in the 12th and 14th minutes, but these were countered with two points from Drom & Inch before the visitors scored the first of their two goals with a fine effort which was quickly followed up with a pointed free.

It looked like it was going to be a long afternoon for Kieran O'Brien and Noel Coffey's charges when Drom & Inch were deservedly awarded a penalty by referee Philip Bergin. Inter-county star Caoimhe Burke was summoned from the goals to make the long trek up the field, but her shot went wide.

Sarah Quigley in the Nenagh goal took a quick puck-out which found Leah Sheedy in space. Her delivery picked out Caroline Browne who was unfortunate to see her blasted effort hit the side netting, but she was not

to be denied a goal moments later when her initial shot was brilliant saved by Bourke, but Browne scrambled home the rebound to leave the scores 1-6 to 1-3.

There was time for one more Drom & Inch attack, but Sarah Quigley showed her class with a top class save from point-blank range.

Nenagh got the dream start to the second half when Maeve Coffey blasted home a great goal. This was quickly followed up with an Aislinn O'Brien point after Drom themselves pointed. Sarah Quigley was again called upon and once more she produced a great save in the 37th minute, but moments later Drom & Inch again beat her for their second goal. Drom scored three more points in between two fine efforts from Grace O'Brien.

Approaching full-time the game sprung to life. Substitute Hazel Coffey gave Nenagh late hope with a goal in the 60th minute after a fine pass from Grace O'Brien.

Drom pointed two of their own, but Aislinn O'Brien scored her second of the game to reduce the gap to two points and it looked as if Nenagh were about to score a dramatic winning goal in the 63rd minute when the ball fell kindly to Grace O'Brien, but her effort fizzed just over the bar to leave the full-time



Nenagh Éire Óg centre-back Hazel McAuliffe pictured in action against Drom & Inch at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh on Sunday afternoon. For a whole host of photographs from this contest please click [here](#).

score reading Nenagh Éire Óg 3-7 Drom & Inch 2-11.

Nenagh now go forward to play Newport in the county semi-final while Drom & Inch must face Cahir. These games are expected to take place next weekend.

Nenagh Éire Óg: Sarah Quigley, Emer Ryan, Rachel Maher, Kara Ryan-Mulqueen, Kristen Howard, Hazel McAuliffe, Ruth Hassett, Michelle Collins, Sarah Kennedy, Alicia Hallinan, Aislinn O'Brien (0-2) Caroline Browne (1-0), Grace O'Brien (0-5, 3 frees, one 45), Maeve Coffey (1-1), Leah Sheedy. Subs: Rita Bourke for Kennedy, Hazel Coffey (1-0) for Howard, Kate O'Connor for Hassett, Niamh Sheridan for Quigley, Fiona Hennessy for Hallinan.

Referee: Philip Bergin (Roscrea).



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OUT AND ABOUT WITH ÉIRE ÓG

Nenagh Eire Óg GAA Club



Buster Race



At Thurles Greyhound Stadium
On Saturday 21st November 2015

First race @ 8pm

Prizemoney €500

Ticket €10 (includes admission on the night)

RACE RESULT

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE CRAIC AT THE NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG NIGHT AT THE DOGS AND BUSTER RACE IN THURLES ON NOV 21ST. ALL ARE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT THIS SUPER CLUB NIGHT! TICKETS @ €10 AVAILABLE FROM SENIOR, JUVENILE AND CAMÓGIE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.



Thank you to all for the huge support and the great turnout-out at the Strength and Conditioning nights for all over-10 juvenile hurlers and camogie players. Attendees' names are being recorded. Mentors will be in touch soon. Strength and conditioning classes will continue on Friday night at the following times: 10/12 s girls and boys to be in complex at 6.50pm to start at 7pm, 14/16 boys in complex at 7.50pm to be ready for 8pm. Running Tuesday night at 7.30pm for 10/12 and 8pm for 14/16.



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OUT AND ABOUT WITH ÉIRE ÓG



Fair play to O'Neill's, A Sportsman's Dream, Andy Flynn's and all involved in creating superior sportswear for our players! You can be sure of it, there are no stronger shorts than **ÉIRE ÓG SHORTS!!** Well done to Michael Collins who demonstrates the strength and quality of his shorts during a Junior A championship game over the summer.



Congratulations to Sinéad Meagher who added the Girls U16 Singles All-Ireland title to her recent World Championship. Sinéad beat Mollie Dagg of Kildare at the national juvenile All-Ireland's in Roscommon recently where Tipperary handballers won six of the seven finals competed in on the day. A great achievement for all involved in Tipperary handball. Well done to all.



Our juveniles standing to attention for the Nation Anthem in Semple Stadium before the County Final. There wasn't a juvenile left in Nenagh on the day. Thank you all for your great support.

THE CAMOGIE CLUB AGM is due to take place on Thursday, November 26th in the clubhouse – if you are interested in getting involved in the club in any way or if you have any motions or nominations please contact any committee member or email us at eireognenagh@gmail.com.

THE NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) will be held on Wednesday, December 16th at 8pm in the MacDonagh Park Complex. Nomination forms and forms for notices of motion are available from the club secretary Anne Kennedy – email secretary.nenagheireog.tipperary@gaa.ie. Nomination forms and notices of motion should be returned no later than 9pm on Friday, December 4th



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OUT AND ABOUT WITH ÉIRE ÓG



Some photos just deserve their own page. Simple as that, and if you can get the Tipperary captain to bring in the bins for you, well surely that's enough! Mick Hynes with Brendan Maher at Nenagh Éire Óg complex.



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OUT AND ABOUT WITH ÉIRE ÓG



The curtain has come down on the juvenile season and well done to all on a great year. Our under-10 team (left) travelled to Kilcotton to finish the year with a tournament win!

Many thanks to Kilruane for the invitation to their super under-13 tournament. The boys (Below left) gave their all against Ballina and Newport Gaels.

The under-14 hurlers (below right) reached the final of the Ballina tournament where they beat Kilruane in the semi, then fielded again but lost out to a strong and fresher Borris-Ileagh. Well done to Ballina for running an excellent tournament all month.



NEXT STOP HOLLYWOOD!

<http://www.irishtv.ie/tipperary-matters-67>

Well done to Newsletter contributor **KEVIN WHELAN** on his great turn on Tipperary Matters on Sky Ireland. Click on the link above to view.

"Follow us with Kevin Whelan as we stroll back in time and imagine the unique town of Nenagh in its early days. We take in the castle, gaol, old abbey and get an insight into famous events, buildings and people. Whether you are a local or a tourist, this is a truly worthwhile and unique experience – Nenagh Walking Tour is not to be missed."





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Nenagh Players present
The Hilarious
CASH ON DELIVERY

by Michael Cooney
Directed by Irene O'Meara



Nenagh Arts Centre 8.30 p.m.

Wed 18th to Sun 22nd November

Gala night on Wed 18th in aid of Nenagh Special Summer Camp
Wine & Cheese reception. Tickets €20

Booking: 089 4994661 or DK Travel. Tickets €13 and €10



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BLAST FROM THE PAST: COUNTY MINOR 'A' HURLING FINAL OF 2008

2008 PROVED TO BE A MEMORABLE YEAR FOR THE CLUB WHEN WE BRIDGED A SIXTEEN YEAR GAP WHEN WE CAPTURED THE COUNTY MINOR TITLE FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1992 AFTER A DAVID CLEARY INSPIRED SIDE OVERCAME THE CHALLENGE OF MID CHAMPIONS UPPERCHURCH DROMBANE. HAVING ACCOUNTED FOR KILDANGAN IN THE NORTH DECIDER WE DEFEATED WEST SIDE CLONOUULTY ROSSMORE BY TWO POINTS IN THE SEMI-FINAL.

**County Minor 'A' Hurling Final
Nenagh Éire Óg 5-10
Upperchurch/Drombane 1-10**

**BY JIM MCGRATH, SEMPLE
STADIUM. PHOTOGRAPHS BY
BRIDGET DELANEY**

A gap of 16 years was bridged when the brave young Nenagh men blasted their way to a four-goal victory in the County Minor 'A' hurling final in Thurles last Sunday.

After enduring a traumatic year, the North Tipperary club can be confident that they have a young generation of promising hurlers because not only was this win emphatic, only four of the starting team are overage next year.

Patrick Flynn, Shane Maher and Mark Flannery all dominated their positions in the back line for Nenagh while Billy Heffernan was first to most balls in the midfield area. However the sweetest aspect of Eire Og's win was the performance of David Cleary. He simply terrorised the Upperchurch defence every time he had the ball in his hand.

He secured possession in dangerous parts of the field and every time the crowd buzzed at the prospect of what he may do next. Cleary amassed a total of 3-2 before his



hour's work was done, but the timing of the scores was equally as impressive as the technique. His first goal after 13 minutes set Eire Óg on their way while his second came 30 seconds into the second half and left morale within the Upperchurch set-up hanging on by threads.

His final goal came in the dying moments as he flicked the ball into space, collected and drove it low into the bottom corner of the net and crowned a memorable day for Nenagh. However despite being outclassed for long spells, Upperchurch managed to make a battle out of the game and may have been closer were it not for a series of were it not for a series of wides.

Mark Flannery and Cliff Moloney exchanged placed balls with Upperchurch's James Barry and Paul Ryan. Upperchurch were beginning to mount an attack when Eire Óg fullback, Shane Maher, stepped into the breach. He intercepted a ball after 13 minutes and proceeded on a storming run out of defence and sent a lengthy clearance up to David



(Above, Paddy Murphy) Cleary. His flick inside gave him the space to storm at the goals and he backed himself to finish the chance off despite loose men around him. His shot flew under the feet of the Upperchurch keeper and Nenagh were on their way.



NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

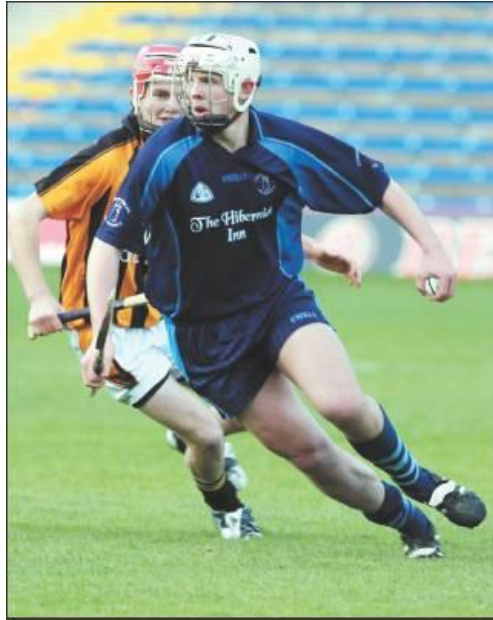
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The game did not spark into life in the first half but Billy Heffernan was dominating his position at midfield and keeping Nenagh going forward with all the primary possession he was winning. Paul Ryan added two points from frees for Upperchurch before Cliff Moloney's missed-shot sailed over the bar approaching the break. Mark Flannery completed the half with a 65 to leave Eire Óg four points ahead at the break but the game not yet taking off.

Upperchurch returned revved up for the second half but David Cleary again planted some doubt in their minds. The ball bobbled around the opposition's fullback line before Cleary eventually gathered it in his paw. It seemed more like Christmas than Halloween as he sauntered casually through the defence and dropped the ball into the far corner of the net and raised the green flag for the team in blue to leave the scores at 2-5 to 0-4.

It was amidst this catastrophe that Upperchurch/Drombane showed their character. Eire Óg were much the classier team on the day, but if the mid-club could muster enough spirit, they might have a chance. When their backs were to the wall, they emerged fighting. Colm Ryan and Pdraig Greene slotted over



points immediately following Nenagh's second-goal and upped the intensity of the game. They suddenly found their hunger and were harassing every Nenagh man who dared to hold onto the ball. The pressure eventually told and six minutes into the second half they were back in the game.

Taking advantage of some loose play Pdraig Greene ran at Nenagh goal. William Bolger brilliantly parried his shot but the rebound fell to Seamus Armstrong who scored the easiest goal he is ever likely to get. Only two points separated the sides as the tension in the game grew. However that was as close as Upperchurch were going to get. David Cleary tapped over from play before he broke down a high clearance from Daragh Quinn. The ball fell to sharp-shooter, Cliff Moloney, who almost put a hole through the Thurles net with a whipping shot that killed the game as a contest after 44 minutes. David Cleary was again involved in Nenagh's fourth goal. After gathering a pass from Cliff Moloney he turned his man and teed an exquisite hand pass in the direction

of the flying Patrick Murphy who was running from deep. His low hopping shot made its way into the corner of the net and sent some of the Upperchurch faithful home with it. With 10 minutes remaining it was 4-8 to 1-7 and Nenagh were simply cruising. Cleary finished the game off with yet another goal before departing from the field in the final moments. Upperchurch's Colm Ryan finished the game off with a brace of points but it was mere consolation as Nenagh took home a fully deserved sixth county minor title.

Man of the Match: David Cleary (Eire Óg Nenagh, above centre). It can be easy in a final to give man of the match to the top scorer. However the Nenagh minor was in superb form while Patrick Flynn, Billy Heffernan and Upperchurch's Matthew Greene, James Barry and Colm Ryan also deserve honourable mentions.

Scorers: Eire Óg: David Cleary 3-2; Cliff Moloney 1-2; Patrick Murphy 1-0; Eoin Slattery 0-3 (0-2 frees); Mark Flannery 0-2 (0-1 65, 0-1 free); Billy Heffernan 0-1 free; Upperchurch-Drombane: Paul Ryan 0-5 (0-4 frees); Seamus Armstrong 1-0; Colm Ryan 0-3; James Barry 0-1 65, P Greene 0-1.

Eire Óg, Nenagh: William Bolger; Patrick Flynn, Shane Maher, Sean Geaney (left); Niall Madden, Mark Flannery, Edward Darcy; Billy Heffernan, Kevin Kennedy; Daragh Quinn, Eoin Slattery, Patrick Murphy; Mark Tuite, David Cleary, Cliff Moloney - Subs- Joseph Geaney for Flynn; Brian Duffy for Madden; Adrian Brennan for Moloney; Kevin O Gorman for Tuite; John Minogue for Cleary;

Referee: John Bob Ryan (Cashel).





NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

NEWSLETTER

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For all of you out of Nenagh at the moment, there has been an addition to the town. Nenagh's first 'Street Art' mural was unveiled on the gable end of what was Sexton's public house recently, itself fondly remembered for trad music.

Titled **'THE FIDDLER'S LIGHT'** by artist Dermot McConaghy, it was funded in partnership with Tipperary County Council. Well done to Drawn Out, Nenagh Municipal District, the Tipperary Arts Office and all from the town who were involved.

