

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

CUMANN EIRE OG, AONACH



Official Opening

OF

Sports & Leisure

Complex

By Uachtáraín C.L.G., John Dowling

ON

Monday, October 30th, 1989

2.15 p.m.

FOLLOWED BY

Senior Hurling Tournament — 3.00 p.m.

Tipperary

v

Offaly

(All Ireland Champions)

(Leinster Champions)

Referee: Terence Murray (Limerick)

Luach — £1.00

CLAR ON LAE

Official Opening by John Dowling, President of the GAA — 2.15

Senior Hurling Tournament — Tipperary v Offaly — 3.00 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM TIPPERARY CHAIRMAN

Taim broduil go bhuil an seans agam mar Chathairleach Coisde Thiobrad Arann, Cumann Luthchleas Gael, mo comhghairdeas a thabhairt chuig Eire Og, Aonach agus cumann Phairc Mhic Donnacha, mar ghaell as an ochaoid speisiul ata aca inniu.

The extension of our activities in order that the Gaelic Athletic Association can reach its full potential in catering for the many needs of its members and their families, is something that has been aspired to for a long time. MacDonagh Park, Nenagh, for over forty years the hub of our hurling activity in North Tipperary has now reached a milestone in its development. The magnificent complex which has now been completed and the official opening of which we celebrate today, is a monument, not alone to the dedication of the Eire Og Club whose hard work has made it possible, but also to the memory of people like Frank McGrath, Mick Moylan, Tomas Cleary and others, who purchased and developed the park back in the early '40s.

Those great gael's could hardly have foreseen what we now witness. Their dream was to provide a playing pitch of exceptional quality. They achieved it and now today's generation has gone a step further in providing what can



only be described as a very special and much needed addition to the stadium.

I extend, on behalf of the County Board, my sincerest congratulations to the club and to the MacDonagh Park committee for their initiative and determination to bring what they set about, to fruition. To describe it as a job well done, perhaps, does not do justice to the extent of this complex. I am particularly pleased with the inclusion of a handball court and it is my earnest wish that this will revive interest in this great game, amid a people that in the past gave so many great handballers to the sport.

Nollaig O Muiris,
Cathairleach Coisde Cumann Thiobrad Arann.
C.L.G.

Comhghairdeacas O Comhairle na Mumhan

A decade ago a half dozen or so Nenagh men went to Clonmel to examine the new G.A.A. Centre. It impressed them but they felt much thinking and planning needed to be done before they embarked on their own G.A.A. venture for the town of Nenagh.

The Committee responsible for the building of this spacious complex has given leadership to the town. They have worked hard in planning, co-ordinating and in fund raising. They have been hungry for achievement and have now provided a very fine amenity for their town, neighbourhood and locality.

On behalf of Munster Council I hope the venture will be a huge success and will be conducted in a model way where parents will be glad to see their children involved and where adults will develop friendships and make acquaintances in pleasant surroundings enjoying healthy pastimes and recreation.



Rath De ar an obair agus mo comhghairdeacas do gach aoinne a glac páirt sa deagh obair seo.

Miceál O'Meachair
Cathaoirleac,
Comhairle na Mumhan

**Best Wishes to Eire Og On The Opening
Of Their Sports Complex**

From

**Eamonn
& Teresa
Ryan**

**MacDonagh Street,
Nenagh**

*After the match call for
a drink and chat in
comfortable
surroundings*

MacDonagh Park 1942 — A Dream Comes True

Sunday September 27th, 1942 saw the fulfilment of the hopes and dreams of a number of staunch GAA people in Nenagh and throughout North Tipperary. It was the occasion of the blessing and official opening of MacDonagh Park, the honours being carried out by Fr. John Hannon, C.C. in the unavoidable absence of Archdeacon Slattery, and Park Committee chairman, Frank McGrath, respectively.

The Park was purchased for £1,050. Extra sites at the road were purchased for £160 and a paling, erected at a cost of £220, along with some additions and painting (£80) were added to with an outlay of over £700 for the front wall, side-lines and toilets. Casual labour, haulage and preparations of the grounds cost £200 with legal expenses, bank charges, rent and rates, income tax and other necessary expenses reaching £100.

Total outlay, including the original cost came to approximately £2,150.

Official opening day began with a parade from the town to the Park, headed by a Flag party of the L.D.F. and followed by the Portroe Fife and Drum Band.

In his address, Frank McGrath, a former Munster Council Chairman, Honorary President of the North Tipperary GAA Board said:

It is my privilege and my pleasure as Chairman of the Gaelic Field Committee to extend to everyone present here to-day a hearty *Cead Mile failte*. This is an auspicious occasion, an occasion which comes but once to a town like ours. We have had in the past many events of great importance to the town, but never have we had one of greater import to the youth of the district, or I may add, to the people of Nenagh, then the event we celebrate to-day - the blessing and official opening of Gaelic Park, dedicated to the memory of one of Ireland's heroic dead, that peerless patriot, poet and scholar, Tom MacDonagh.

Brave and light-hearted he was even as he went forth to make the supreme sacrifice for Ireland, winning from an enemy officer a tribute which shall be remembered for ever by future generations — "The men who faced our firing squads after Easter Week, all without exception, died bravely, but MacDonagh died like a prince".

Times may change, but principles once properly and firmly instilled, remain unaltered, and our main purpose in naming this Park after

Tom MacDonagh is, not only to keep his memory fresh and green in our own time, but to ensure that those who follow us shall remember him as one of Tipperary's bravest and noblest sons. Mindful of his name and martyrdom, they may cherish the ideals for which he and his comrades fought and died, and, cherishing them, they may in their day hasten the advance of Ireland to complete and absolute nationhood.

I would like at this stage to place on record our deep appreciation of, and our gratitude to the people of Nenagh and those outside it, whose generosity made it possible to acquire this splendid park for our national pastimes. Here the youth of the town can betake themselves and become proficient in our Gaelic games, getting from every practice unlimited enjoyment, and, at the same time, be far removed from the dangers which beset them in this modern world.

To us of the older generation of Gaels, the provision of this Park goes a long way to the fulfilment of our hopes, and our future aim will be the improvement and proper equipment of the grounds making them worthy of the Capital Town of North Tipperary and the equal of any in the Provinces.

The Park has now been solemnly blessed, and let the people who congregate at our matches, and the youth who play our games, remember this fact, and let their conduct and bearing be at all times in keeping with the true Gaelic and Christian principles, endeavouring, even in a lesser degree, to emulate the shining example of men like Tom MacDonagh.

I now declare the park formally opened. It shall be known in future as MacDonagh Gaelic Park.

URBAN COUNCIL ADDRESS

Members of the Munster council, GAA; North Tipperary Board, GAA; and the Nenagh Club, having spoken, Mr Sean T. O'Neill, Town Clerk, read the following Address on behalf of Nenagh Urban Council:—

"Is athas le Comhairle Bhaile Cheanntair Aonaigh Urmhumhan teacht anseo ar son muinntear an Bhaile agus comhgairdeachas a dheanamh le Coiste na Pairce.

The Urban District Council thank the Park Committee for their invitation to be here today

MacDonagh Park 1942 — A Dream Comes True

and acknowledge the indebtedness and express the gratitude of the people of Nenagh for this truly fine Gaelic Sports Field.

For their vision, courage and enterprise the Committee deserve well of the town and of the Gaelic Athletic Association. "Men are valued most", "not as imitators, but for original qualities or distinctive gifts or powers; those who do not neglect details on the one hand or get lost in them on the other, but who act, rather than keep too long considering".

The benefit materially of the Park to Nenagh will undeniably be considerable; its benefit otherwise invaluable. We hope it will help in that beneficial reaction on the general life of the countryside of which Most Rev. Dr. Fogarty,

our Bishop, speaks when he counsels desirable improvements in our homes, lives and personalities by taking advantage of the cultural means available to brighten our surroundings, our dress, and to teach our young people to carry themselves properly and possess the right address. Not least of the benefits to accrue will be the bringing amongst us from time to time, of revered and distinguished figures.

In naming the Park MacDonagh Park, and in having it blessed and opened, the promoters are mindful of the fact that a mere sports organisation does not endure, and they affirm that the place of the GAA in Irish life is due to the national tradition behind it, and to the faith of its founder, Archbishop Croke, and the Prelates and Clergy, who have been, and are, its patrons and supporters.

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From The Sixties To The Eighties

by SEAN MINOGUE

The sixties began in great style for Eire Og with the winning of the junior North Tipperary hurling and football championships. The Junior hurling team of 1962 provided players for the 1964 side which won the McGrath Cup North Senior Championship. In the North final in 1964 Eire Og defeated Roscrea by 5-12 to 2-8. They went on to play some magnificent matches against John Doyle's Holycross in Thurles before eventually falling in the semi darkness of extra time. The 1964 team were the last side to bring the McGrath Cup to Nenagh. Eire Og's trophy winning in the sixties hit a barren run until 1969 when the County Minor Hurling Championship was won for the first time ever. The winning of the County Minor Hurling Championship set the way for a period of juvenile dominance in the early seventies when many titles were won. The period 1972 - 1974 were particularly good for under 12 to under 16. These teams laid the groundwork for the later seventies when Eire Og became the team to beat in Minor and Under 21. 1977 saw the second county minor hurling title to come to the club with North Football honours coming our way also. The County Minor Hurling title was retained in 1978 featuring a youthful John Heffernan making his first appearance in Semple Stadium as a corner forward. In 1979 the North Minor three in a row hurling crown was achieved but Loughmore featuring Pat McGrath and Peter Brennan proved too good in the county championship. Eire Og had their revenge over Loughmore though in the 1979 County Under 21 semi-final. A marvellous match left Eire Og victorious 5-5 to 0-18.

Eire Og went on to win the county championship the club's first county under 21 title by defeating a Killenaule team including Donie O'Connell and Joe O'Dwyer. A feature of Eire Og's win was that only Con Morris of the sixteen that took part in the county final was over-age for 1980. Before we leave the seventies one has to mention the 1974 Junior Football Cham-

pionship which was the only non under age championship won by the club in the seventies.

The eighties opened on a bright note for Eire Og with the under 21 championship being retained through to 1982 completing the under 21 4 in a row North and County titles. 1982 saw an upsurge in senior fortunes with the North Senior Final ending in a draw and County Champions Moycarkey edging out Eire Og in a replayed Co. quarter final. 1983 saw further honours come Eire Og's way with victory in the North and County junior hurling championships. Present inter county star Michael Cleary had a super sub role making telling appearances in both North and County finals when his freetaking ability was a major asset. Michael was also a member of the minor football squad which won North Tipp honours. 1984 Centenary Cup had the North Board running a special knockout competition for the Hogan Cup and Eire Og defeated Borrisokane in the final. The late eighties saw Eire Og win the Senior League in 1988 in hurling while football has been the source of most victories with County Junior and Intermediate Championships coming our way as well as a semi-final appearance in the county senior semi-final. Other victories in football in the late eighties include minor and under 21 North Football titles.

No round up of Eire Og affairs would be complete without mention of the magnificent complex just completed and opened today. In March 1987 a committee under the guidance of three club officers Ger Gavin, Club Chairman; Jimmy Morris, Club Treasurer; Jimmy Minogue, Club Secretary, set out with the aim of building a complex. Today we have a magnificent complex which stands for all club members young and old. Our thanks are extended to all those who contributed in any way to the complex which is sure to provide a great facility for the people of Nenagh and district in the years to come.

PAT LEE won 7 County Hurling Medals in 7 years with Eire Og. They were minor hurling 1977, 1978. U/21 hurling 1979. 1980, 1981, 1982, Junior Hurling 1983.

EIRE OG'S three Co. minor hurling titles have a family connection. Each of the 3 Heffernan brothers played. Liam in 1969, Brian in 1977 and John in 1978.

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Og and wish them continued success in the
future.*

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***Congratulations to Eire Óg
on their new Sports Complex***
From

Mick Burns
Fuel Merchant
NENAGH

Eire Og Juvenile Club Founded 1982

by RORY FLANNERY

The first meeting of Eire Og Juvenile Club was held on the 15th February, 1982, the officers elected were:

Chairman: Br. Pat Madigan; V. Chairman, Jimmy Conroy; Secretary: John Foley; Treasurer: Tom Grace; P.R.O.: John Martin; Liaison Officer: Billy Bailey.

That year the club won the North and County U/16 Hurling titles. This was an unexpected achievement and a number of the present senior team players played that year. The team was captained by present Tipperary team member, Michael Cleary.

In 1983 the same officers were returned and there were no successes that year.

1984 Officers Elected: Chairman: Jimmy Conroy; V-Chairman: Denis McSweeney; Secretary, John Martin; Treasurer: Tom Grace; Liaison Officer: Billy Bailey.

Our U/12 hurling and football team won both North and County titles and the achievements of that team in 1984 has proved a spring-board for further successes by the same group of players during the following four years.

In 1984 our club also represented Tipperary in U/15 Football in Gormanstown.

In 1985 the same officers were returned as 1984 with Eddie Scanlan coming in as P.R.O. Our footballers met with great success winning the North Championship U/12 A, U/14 B and U/16 A.

In 1985 the officers elected were the same as 1985 and we achieved a most notable success by winning the All-Ireland Feile na nOg. Also that year our U/14 footballers won North and County Championships and our U/16 hurlers won section 1B, and we reached the final of Feile na nGael and Community Games.

1987 Officers Elected: Chairman: Pat Hynes; V-Chairman: Denis McSweeney; Treasurer: Chris Middleton; P.R.O.: Eddie Scanlan; Liaison Officer: Billy Bailey.

Our footballers won U/12, U/14 and U/16 titles. We represented Tipperary in Feile na nOg and contested the County U/16 Football Final.

1988 Officers elected: Chairman: Rory Flannery; V-Chairman: Denis McSweeney; Secretary: Eddie Scanlan; Treasurer: Chris Middleton; P.R.O.: Jimmy Conroy; Liaison Officer: Billy Bailey.

This was the most successful year to date for our Juvenile club. In football we won the North U/12, U/14 and U/16 titles and the County U/16

title. In hurling we won the North and County U/14 and U/16 championships, we also won the County Urban U/14 Hurling Final. Our Community games hurling team won the County and Munster Finals and were only just beaten in the All-Ireland Final. Our U/14 hurlers won the County Feile na nGael and they also won Turas na nOg tickets to the All-Ireland hurling final.

The success achieved during 1988 will provide a great nucleus of hurling and football talent for many years to come.

In 1989 the Officers returned were the same as 1988 and our footballers won the North U/12, U/14 and U/16 championships and we reached the County U/16 Football Final. Our hurling teams showed real promise and even though no championship victory was achieved the signs are excellent for the future.

The achievements of our Juvenile club since 1982 were carrying on the great successes of the previous 10 years when the present format of Juvenile competitions commended, a measure of the successes can be gauged by the following statistics.

North Championships: U/12 Hurling 1972. Football: 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976. U/14: Hurling: 1972, 1978, 1974, 1978. Football: 1972, 1973, 1974, 1978, 1979. U/16: Hurling: 1972, 1975, 1979. Football: 1973, 1975, 1979.

County Championships: U/12: Hurling: 1972. Football: 1972. U/14: Hurling: 1972, 1973, 1974. U/16: Hurling: 1975, 1979.

FEILE NA nGAEL

In 1990 Feile na nGael returns to Tipperary for the first time since 1972. Eire Og made their exit in the first round that year, but contested the final in 1972 when the host county was again Tipperary. In the following years 1973 and 1974 Eire Og represented Tipperary with the host County being Limerick and we had to wait until 1988 to represent Tipperary again but as before we were unsuccessful. With this competition back in Tipperary in 1990 we are very optimistic.

BORRISOKANE were Co. U/21 Football champions in 1981 but Eire Og defeated them in the North U/21 Final which was played after the County Final.



1988 Co. U/16 Hurling Champions



1986 All Ireland Feile Na nÓg Champions

Tipperary and Offaly — Neighbours Children

by GERRY SLEVIN

It is most appropriate that the two teams participating in today's celebration hurling game should be Tipperary and Offaly. They are the champions of their respective provinces; their under 21 teams recently fought out an absorbing All-Ireland final; but above all they are neighbours, and over the years a strong healthy rivalry has existed between the counties.

When one considers the achievements of Offaly in the past decade, it is difficult to believe that Tipperary had won twenty two All-Ireland senior titles before even a provincial title came Offaly's way. And yet, club hurling in Offaly invariably served up some sparkling fare with those mighty clashes of Coolderry and Drumcullen, a major attraction not alone for the Offaly fans but indeed for many from North Tipperary who helped swell the attendances at St. Brendan's Park, Birr.

Maybe it was the fierceness of these clashes that held the interest, but whatever the reason, the could be relied upon to bring the crowds in. In inter-county clashes, Tipp always managed to have the Indian sign on their neighbours. Their first major championship meeting was in the All-Ireland junior final of '53 in Birr, a game that saw the Offaly parish of Shinrone divided because of the presence on both sides of players of Shinrone and Knockshegowna, the Tipperary side of the same parish. Tipp won well in the end.

Offaly's star was very low in the early '60s. A National League clash in Roscrea in February '62 saw Tipp come through by 11-11 to 1-2.

And yet, only four short years later the scene was to change dramatically when in another league outing in Birr, Offaly came out on top - a game many would probably say was the first turning point in the emergence of Offaly as a

hurling force.

1966 LINE OUTS

It is interesting to look back on the line-outs for that November day in 1966.

OFFALY — Andy Gallagher, Peter O'Meara, Mick Kirwan, Jackie Dooley, Gerry Kirwan, Joe Murphy, Joe Dooley, John Joe Healion, Basil Johnson, Barney Moylan, Willie O'Gorman, Johnnie Flaherty, Brendan Barry, Larry Carroll, Paddy Molloy.

Subs — Paudge Mulhare and B. Flanagan.

TIPPERARY — John O'Donoghue, Noel O'Gorman, Kieran Carey, John Gleeson, Liam Devaney, Tony Wall, Len Gaynor, Joe Fogarty, Theo English, P. J. Ryan, Jimmy Ryan, Donie Nealon, Michael 'Babs' Keating, John 'Mackey' McKenna, Sean McLoughlin.

Sub — Paddy Arrigan.

Offaly had nine points to spare, 3-13 to 2-7 and quite a number of both sides went on to play important roles in the management and selection of various championship winning teams. Johnnie Flaherty who scored three points that day, was the self same Johnnie who in one magic moment was to raise Offaly hurling to the top of the ladder, fifteen years later, in the '81 All-Ireland final. Andy Gallagher, of course, has been an Offaly manager and selector for many years and Willie O'Gorman was one of the mentors for the '89 minor 21 team. Paudge Mulhare has since held the office of County Board chairman and is the new manager of the senior side.

Ten of that Tipp team would see All-Ireland final action the following September, going down to Kilkenny, while eleven of them would face a similar fate in '68 against Wexford. For four of them, however, John Gleeson, Len

JOHN HOGAN who was a selector in 1964 of the North Tipp S.H. team is a brother of Dick Hogan who was a selector of the 1957 Senior hurling North Tipperary winning team. Dick captained Eire Og to junior honours in 1953 while John scored 3 goals in the North Senior Hurling Final of 1957.

The first titles Eire Og won under the name Eire Og were 1953 minor hurling titles and the 1953 Junior Hurling Championship.

CLUB PRESIDENT Tommy 'Digger' Stanley was a selector in both 1957 and 1964 Senior Hurling winning teams.

Tipperary and Offaly — Neighbour's Children

Gaynor, P. J. Ryan and Babs, all would come right in the '71 final.

SHOCKED CHAMPIONS

Offaly didn't reach their first provincial final until '69. Having shocked All-Ireland champions, Wexford in the semi-final they took on Kilkenny only to lose by 3-9 to 0-16, a scoreline that showed how insistent they were on taking points with Ollie Walsh between the Kilkenny posts. Eleven more years were to elapse before that provincial title would be theirs. It came in 1980 against Kilkenny and the rest is history. Their first All-Ireland in '81, there again in Centenary year in Thurles only to flounder be-

fore the might of Cork, but bouncing back the next year to regain it.

Then in '87 came the All-Ireland minor final clash with Tipp — and victory. There was the league final of '88 which Tipp won and this year, of course, that memorable under-21 All-Ireland final which gave Tipp its triple crown.

Tipp and Offaly could well be sharpening the knives today for their assault on the '90s, because if one is to judge the under age wealth of talent existing in the two countries, it is very likely that these neighbouring counties will dominate hurling in the '90s to a large extent.

Who knows, what we witness today could well be a preview to next September's All-Ireland senior final!

BILLY O'BRIEN captained Eire og to victory in 1957 and was a selector in 1964. His son Donie captained Eire Og to a North Junior Football title in 1985.

ONLY 4 players Tony Tierney, Mick Burns, Phil Hennessey and Johnny McGrath were on the starting fifteen in both 1957 and 1964 North Senior Hurling winning teams.



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Michael Cleary

All Ireland Senior: 1989.
 Munster Senior: 1988, 1989.
 National Hurling League: 1987/88.
 Munster Minor Hurling: 1983.
 North and Co. Junior Hurling: 1983.
 Munster and All Ireland B Colleges: 1983.
 North and County U/21 Hurling: 1982.
 North and Co. Intermediate Football: 1988.
 North Tipp. Centenary Cup: 1984.
 North Tipp Senior League: 1988.
 North Tipp Minor Football: 1983, Under 21 Football: 1987.
 Garda Cup (Divisional) U/16: 1982.
 Inter Provincial U/18 Colleges: 1984.

Other juvenile medals won by Michael outside Hurling: U/16 North and County, Under 11 and Under 13 schools, Football: U/12 North, U/14 North.



Conor O'Donovan

All Ireland Senior: 1989.
 Munster Senior: 1987, 1988, 1989.
 National Hurling League: 1987/1988.
 Ford Open Draw: 1985.
 North Tipp Centenary Cup: 1984.
 North Tipp Senior League: 1988.
 Munster U/21 Hurling: 1983.
 North and County U/21 Hurling: 1982, 1982.
 North and Co Intermediate Football: 1988.
 North and County Junior Football: 1986.
 North Junior Football: 1985.
 North U/21 Football: 1981, 1983.
 South Limerick Junior, Minor Hurling: 1987.
 1987 Guardian Player of the Year.
 1987 Tipperary Hurler of the Year.
 All Star nominee 1987, 1988.
 Conor's school achievements include: Limerick Colleges U/16, 2 Limerick Colleges U/19, All Ireland B. Colleges, Corn Phadraig, Kinnane Cup medals.



John Heffernan

All-Ireland Senior (1) 1989.
 Munster Senior (3), 1987, 1988, 1989.
 National Hurling League (1) 1987/1988.
 North, County U/21 Hurling: 1980, 1981, 1982.
 County Minor Hurling: 1978.
 North Minor Hurling: 1978, 1979.
 North Tipp Centenary Cup: 1984.
 North Tipp Senior League: 1988.
 North and Co. Intermediate Football: 1988.
 North and Co. Junior Football: 1986.
 North Junior Football: 1985.
 Under 21 Football: 1981, 1983.
 John's juvenile achievements include under 16 hurling and football North Championships.



Mick Burns

All Ireland Senior Hurling: 1958, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965.
 Munster Senior Medals: 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1968.
 All-Ireland Minor Hurling: 1955.
 Munster Minor Hurling: 1954, 1955.
 National Hurling League: 1958/59, 1959/60, 1960/61, 1963/64, 1964/65, 1967/68.
 Oireachtas Hurling: 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964.
 Railway Cup: 1963.
 Brennan Cup (New York) 1959, 1960.
 North Tipp. Minor: 1951, 1953, 1955.
 North Tipp. Junior: 1953.
 North Tipp. Senior: 1957, 1964.
 Dublin Senior League with Faughs: 1960/61, 1961/62.



Johnny McGrath

All-Ireland Senior Hurling: 1958.
 All-Ireland Minor Hurling: 1949.
 North Tipp. Senior Hurling: 1957, 1964.
 North Tipp. Minor Hurling: 1949.
 American Junior Hurling: 1952.
 American 3rd Brigade: 1952.
 New York S.H.C.: 1952.
 Croke Cup: 1960.
 London Intermediate Hurling: 1961.
 London Senior League: 1962.
 John's other achievements include medals for football.

EIRE OG became the first Tipperary team to reach a Feile final in 1972. Eire Og's captain in 1972 was current Secretary, Jimmy Minogue.

St. Mary's Nenagh G.A.A. Handball Club

Nenagh was renowned for its Handball champions. The game flourished and set a high standard particularly during the years 1930-1960. Handball in the 1920's was played at the Alley in Pidgeons Land, Silver Street. Then the Shamrock Club 3 Ball Alley in Silver Street, to which a back wall was added, was the main source of action. Many of the town's champions sprung from this Court. The C.B.S. Alley in John's Lane was a great Nursery and played a big part in developing many of the champions from the 40's to 60's. Some of the notable champions of Nenagh were: The Has-set Bros., Joe Bergin, Michael O'Gorman, Michael McMahon, the Ayres Bros., Paddy

Kennedy, Jackie Sweeney, the Cleere Bros., Denis Carey, John Rice.

Due to the lack of a Ballcourt in Nenagh for a long number of years, handball has not been developing as we would wish.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Eire Óg Hurling and Football club on their New Complex at MacDonagh Park, Nenagh. The Complex includes a very modern 40 x 20 ballcourt. The promotion of handball and coaching of our youths can now be taken more seriously. T. J. O'Donoghue, treasurer, Michael Hogan, Runai, are available at all times to discuss same.

Martin O'Connor, Chairman.

NENAGH'S LONG AND PROUD HURLING HISTORY

Hurling has a long history in Nenagh, being played there long before the founding of the G.A.A., and it is also on record that the first game played under the new rules after the founding of the GAA in Thurles in 1884 was between a Nenagh team called 'John Mitchels' and a Lorrha selection.

However we have to wait until 1915 for Nenagh to win it's first Senior Title (North Tipp) when they defeated a very fancied Moneygall team in the final. Some of the names from the team were Frank McGrath, Billy Flannery, Bill Coonan, Mick Egan, Martin Ayres.

Before 1915 many Nenagh hurlers played with two very famous local teams viz: Lahorna De Witts and the Toomevara Greyhounds.

After 1915 however, we had a troubled period in Irish history, and hurling was forced to take a 'Back Seat' and it was not until the emergence of a new team in 1926 called the Red Rovers (they wore Red Jerseys) that hurling again came to the forefront. This Red Rovers team was drawn from a small area of the town around the Birr Road and The Turnpike. The team was drawn from a small number of families, with very many brothers being involved. They subsequently changed their name to Eire Og. Some of the prominent Eire Og players of that period were Bobby and Tucker Morgan, Chris Kennedy, Dick Hogan, Paddy Rohan and of course Johnny 'Hyder' Ryan.

The old Nenagh club was still in existence at this time, drawn mainly from around Pound Street with such names as John and Tom Brophy, Tom and Paddy Bourke, "Digger" Stanley, Toddy Bolger and of course the legendary John 'Pee-Wee' Whelan.

There were many sterling duels between these two teams and it was after witnessing one of these famous encounters that a local Curate, Fr. Joe Hayes decided to try to amalgamate the two teams. He succeeded in his task and both clubs united in 1947 under a new name 'St Mary's' the name coming from the local Catholic Church.

The new club had instant success winning the North Tipperary Intermediate Championship and the County Junior Championship in it's first year. Some of the people involved in this new St. Mary's team were Jack Nolan, Billy

O'Brien, Eddie John McGrath, Tom Brophy, Jimmy Spearman, Toddy Bolger, Chris Kennedy, Bart Coffey etc. They contested a North Tipp. Senior Final in their very early years, but success at senior level eluded St. Mary's. There were however many successes at Minor level with one particularly note worthy occasion when they won a North Tipperary Minor Hurling and Football Championship, on the same day in the 1950's, with eleven of the hurlers going straight back on the field to assist in winning the football.

St. Mary's survived as a club until the mid 1950's, when during a low period for the club it was decided at an A.G.M. to change the name of the club to it's present name Eire Og. The first big success came for this club when it won the North Tipp Senior Championship in 1957 and again in 1964.

CONTRIBUTION TO TIPPERARY

St. Mary's and Eire Og, have supplied very many players to Tipperary, especially at minor level. It was a common occurrence during the 40's and 50's to have two and three players from the club represent Tipperary at Minor level, and as many of these Tipperary teams won All-Ireland's - there are a lot of Minor All-Ireland Hurling medals, held by players from the local club.

At Senior level, the most prominent player from the club would of course be Mick Burns who holds 5 All-Ireland senior medals, and Johnny McGrath a member of the 1958 All-Ireland team. Many other players from the club have played senior with Tipperary down through the years, but this year 1989 is certainly a milestone for the club with 3 players - John Heffernan, Conor O'Donovan and Michael Cleary from Eire Og players on the Tipp team that finally bridged an 18 year gap to capture the elusive All-Ireland.

PHILIP KENNEDY Eire Og became the first player ever to receive the All-Ireland U/21 Hurling trophy on two occasions in 1981. 1980 was his first occasion.

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North Tipperary Championships

Senior Hurling:

1915, Nenagh
1957, Eire Og
1964, Eire Og.

1974, Eire Og.
1985, Eire Og.
1986, Eire Og.

Intermediate Hurling:

1929, De Wet Nenagh
1947, St. Mary's.

1977, Eire Og.
1983, Eire Og.
1986, Eire Og.
1988, Eire Og.
1989, Eire Og.

U/21 Hurling:

1979, Eire Og.
1980, Eire Og.
1981, Eire Og.
1982, Eire Og.

Minor Football:

U/21 Football:

1981, Eire Og.
1983, Eire Og.
1987, Eire Og.
1988, Eire Og.

Junior Hurling:

1953, Eire Og.
1962, Eire Og.
1983, Eire Og.

Club of the Year:

1979, Eire Og.

Minor Hurling:

1938, Eire Og.
1940, Nenagh.
1941, Nenagh.
1942, Nenagh.
1947, St. Mary's.
1948, St. Mary's.
1949, St. Mary's.
1951, St. Mary's.
1953, Eire Og.
1955, Eire Og.
1969, Eire Og.
1977, Eire Og.
1978, Eire Og.
1979, Eire Og.
1989, Eire Og.

Guardian Player of the Year:

Hurling, 1987, Conor O'Donovan.
Football, 1988, Kevin O'Carroll.

County Titles won by Eire Og:

Junior Hurling: 1947, 1983.
Minor Hurling: 1969, 1977, 1978.
U/21 Hurling: 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982.
Junior Football: 1986.
Intermediate Football: 1988.

Centenary Cup:

1984, Eire Og.

North Tipp. Senior Hurling League:

1988, Eire Og.

Junior Football:

1928, Wolfe Tone (Nenagh).
1932, Nenagh.
1935, Nenagh.
1939, Nenagh.
1940, Nenagh.
1941, Nenagh.
1948, St. Mary's.
1962, Eire Og.

The Original Park Committee

The original MacDonagh Park committee comprised:

Chairman - Frank McGrath..
Vice-do - Tomas Cleary.
Secretary - Martin Gleeson.
Treasurer - Patrick McGrath.
Members - Patrick Hackett, John O'Dwyer, Matthew Hogan, Cornelius Cleary, Patrick Crowe, W.J. Chadwick, Garda M. Brennan, James O'Sullivan, James Mackey, Thomas Costelloe, Daniel O'Keeffe, Michael Moylan.

UI FHAILE

Glas, Ban is Or

J. Troy

J. Millar

E. Coughlan

P. McGuinness

J. Kilmartin

B. Kelly

M. Hanamy

T. Dooley

K. Dooley

J. Dooley

J. Kelly

D. Owens

P. O'Connor

J. Rigney

V. Teehan

Substitutes: L. Coughlan, John Troy, G. Coughlan, D. Fogarty, D. Regan, R. Landy, K. Egan, M. Coughlan, J. Dooley.



OFFALY — Leinster Champions

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Gorm is Or

K. Hogan

M. Ryan

C. O'Donovan

R. Dwan

J. Heffernan

M. Doyle

J. Madden

Colm Bonnar

D. Carr

A. Buckley

P. Everard

C. Stakelum

M. Cleary

D. O'Connell

P. McGrath

Substitutes: J. Leamy, B. Ryan, Conal Bonnar, J. Cormac, J. Cleary J. Leahy, R. Stakelum, B. Ryan, L. Sheedy, Cormac Bonnar.



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OIFIGEACH FORBARTHA

Development means evolution growth and improvement. It is not necessarily the introduction of new ways or change. It builds and improves on what is there already. If something desirable is not there, it may be necessary to introduce it.

The New Complex at MacDonagh Park,

Nenagh, is certainly something that was very desirable. The facilities available there are certain to attract the interests of many in Nenagh and outlying districts. Congratulations to Eire Og Nenagh Hurling and Football Club.

Martin O'Connor, County Development Officer.

MacDonagh Park, Nenagh

In November 1941 Mr. O'Gorman the owner of the property now known as MacDonagh Park, Nenagh, first indicated he was willing to sell. The official opening and blessing of MacDonagh Park took place on Sunday, September 27th, 1942. Mr Frank McGrath, Chairman of the Park Committee declared the Park open.

It is history now the great asset the Park has been to clubs, counties and schools in the play-

ing of our games.

The Park committee were only too pleased to give the site for the New Complex to Eire Og and take this opportunity to congratulate and wish the club every success.

The Park Committee have now received final planning permission for erection of a covered stand and facilities and will now be proceeding shortly in an effort to develop same.

Martin O'Connor, Chairman.

Best wishes to Eire Óg with
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A DREAM BECOMES A REALITY

BY JERRY QUINLAN

On September 27, 1942 MacDonagh Park was officially opened. The project cost £2,510 approximately. As all supporters of our national games will testify, it is impossible to quantify the return on this investment in terms of the many hours of pleasure that players, officials and spectators enjoyed over the years.

As the social needs changed, the necessity to update our club facilities was accepted by all for quite a few years. The cost would be intimidating £250,000 (one hundred times the original investment) — a daunting task indeed. From the ranks eventually emerged a man who was prepared to face the challenge — Mr Gerard Gavin. Over a long number of years, Ger has given an incalculable amount of his spare time — and no doubt business time — to many aspects of Eire Og's Gaelic activities. As chairman of the club he has had few equals. When the history of the club is written, he will be remembered as the chairman who had the vision and courage to undertake the raising of £1/4 million to build this fine pavilion.

Ger was fortunate to be able to call into the breach someone who could provide professional construction expertise — Mr Jimmy Morris and Jimmy from 1977 one became totally immersed in ensuring that the end product would be a source of pride to all the many

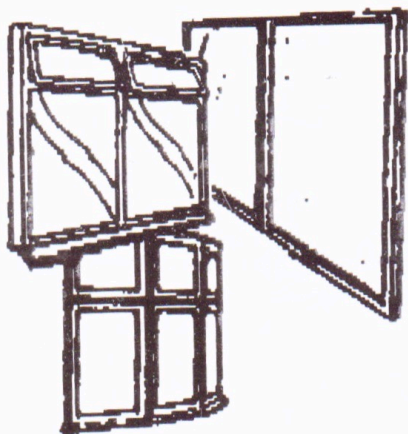
supporters who gave so willingly of their monies.

There are many others worthy of special mention for their trojan efforts. Here one thinks of Mr Jimmy Minogue and Ann Galvin who acted as treasurer for the successful Club Draw. To Ger and his assistants we owe an immense debt of gratitude — Go raibh mile maith agaibh.

The project could not have become a reality without the support of the general public, Munster Council, G.A.A. Headquarters, North Tipperary Board, MacDonagh Park Committee and the National Lottery. A word of thanks is also due to our local Minister. The Club's Juvenile Committee also played a vital role under the tireless effort of its chairman, Rory Flannery. Let us not forget our Mayor, Mick Brien who has walked the roads of North Tipperary in his fund-raising efforts.

The dream has become a reality and we have no doubt that the return of the investment, personal as well as financial, will be as great as that on the original project. For all the Gaels of North Tipperary we say thank you. You have done yourselves, the Club and the Association proud.

Gabhaimid buichas le gach duine a cabhraigh linn. Go raibh rath Dé or an obair.



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Best Of Luck On
The Opening Of Their
New Complex

LAST BUT NOT LEAST IN THE DEVELOPMENT FIELD

By Jimmy Morris, Club Treasurer

If any tinge of regret attaches itself to to-day's celebrations, it must be in the fact that it has taken so long for this development to take place. That Nenagh, the capital of the North Division should be the last club in the Division to embark upon a project of this nature, may well be a cause for wonder, but I can assure you it was there in the forefront of our minds for a long time. Eventually the talking stopped and the work began and the club is now confident that in all the facilities it has to place at the disposal of its members and the community generally, it has all been well worth waiting for.

So, what have we?

There is a sports and social amenity hall complete with stage; two spacious changing rooms with shower rooms and toilets, a compact fitted kitchen, a 40' x 20" handball alley with a fully fitted out glass back wall (yet to be completed), raised viewing area, office cum meeting room at the same level, a large conference/meeting room, shop at ground floor level, a health centre fitted with sauna and exercise equipment and shower and toilet.

The main hall will be ideal for basketball, volleyball as well as for concerts etc. and will provide a very suitable venue for Scor and Board Conventions.

The amenities are available, not alone to Eire Og club members, but to the community at large.

The first positive steps towards the realisation of the dream were taken in 1986 under the chairmanship of Ger Gavin. A major draw was launched which yielded a profit of £80,000. The committee that made this possible comprised people from all walks of life within the parish. Their dedication and commitment could not be equalled and they can, without question take their proud place in the club's history.

The complex was designed by Joseph F. Murphy, B.E. Civil Engineering, a senior partner in the firm of Michael Punch and Partners, Limerick. The successful contractors were Margle Developments Ltd. and the work began in Mid-March.

While all the facilities within the complex are a source of great pride to the club, we are especially glad to have such a magnificent handball alley at our disposal. Nenagh's rich tradition in handball needs no elaboration from me and we are confident that this new amenity will help immeasurably in restoring Nenagh's pride and glory in this great and ancient game.

It would be remiss of me not to pay due tribute to a host of bodies and individuals whose generous assistance has helped, no end, in bringing our plans to reality. Advice was sought and was readily forthcoming and the club wishes to thank very sincerely the County and North GAA Boards, the Munster Council, Croke Park, the Handball authorities, National Lottery, Allied Irish Banks, Nenagh, Calor/Kosangas, Nenagh Urban Council, the MacDonagh park committee which made the site available to us for a nominal fee, our advertisers and of course the general public who responded in such generous fashion to our fund raising ventures, including the Calf scheme and the recent Lord Mayor campaign.

At long last Eire Og and Nenagh has a complex of which we can be very proud. It is at the disposal of the general public for their enjoyment and benefit and all we would ask is that it be respected as such.

ONLY 5 players were on the starting fifteen on both Eire Og's County Junior winning teams - Hurling 1983, Football, 1986. They were Robert Ashman, Michael Manning, Sean Minogue and Paul Kennedy. Others involved in both winning panels include Con Morris, Seamus Morris, Ger Morris and Ger O'Brien.

MICK BURNS captained Eire Og to victory over Roscrea in the 1964 North Senior hurling final.

CONOR O'DONOVAN is a nephew of Terry Moloney who was full forward on the Eire Og senior team which won the 1964 Junior Hurling Championship.

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Cumann Luthchleas Gael

An occasion such as that being celebrated in Nenagh today is one that gives cause for rejoicing, not alone in North Tipperary but throughout the Association. The club has always been recognised as the corner stone of Cumann Luthchleas Gael and any development undertaken by a club helps to strengthen the Association.

With the growth of our urban areas and the greater interest in sport, there is an increased demand for more facilities. In Nenagh, the Eire Óg club has clearly responded to this in fitting fashion and it is my privilege to extend to the club and to the MacDonagh Park committee, my heartiest congratulations on the provision of such a magnificent complex, which, I have no doubt will provide many opportunities for members and their friends to meet socially.

It is a monument to the hard work and vision of the club officials. Countless hours of planning have been undertaken. Endeavouring to meet what they feel to be the needs of their members and the general public takes commit-



ment and dedication and Tipperary's proud history in the affairs of the Association is reflected in the amenities provided by the Eire Óg Club. They are what one would expect from a club that is steeped in all the traditions we hold dear.

Deanim comhgairdeacheas arís le Club Eire Óg agus leis na hoifigigh a d'oibrigh dian chun an gno seo a chur i gcrích.

Beannacht De ar bhuir n-iarrachtaí.

Sean O'Dubhlain, Uachtairan CLG.

Deire Fomhair 1989.

Congratulations to Eire Og
on the Opening of their
New Pavilion and wishing
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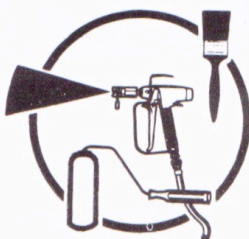
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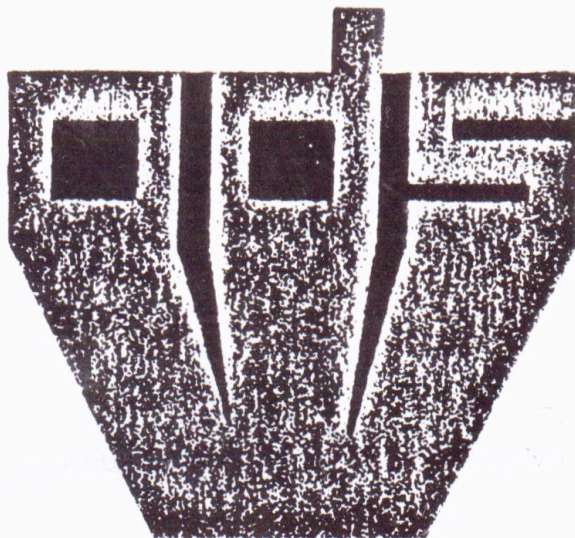
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