Hurling Giants



by
Brendan Fullam

Digital Hurling Giants is an innovative and exciting collaboration in the field of Cultural Heritage between Waterford Institute of Technology Library and the family of the late author Brendan Fullam. This project combines interactive technology with the art form of handwritten text resulting in a perfect synthesis of olden techniques enhanced with modern technology.

Hurling Giants is the second of two unique ledgers by Brendan and encapsulates a handwritten history of the heroes of the Gaelic Athletic Association of Ireland. In their own words and by their own pen these legends of the GAA describe their passion and birth into a sport that remains in the blood forever.

The digitisation of Hurling Giants has enabled the history, context and sporting value of this incredible and unique piece of Irish Cultural Heritage to be shared directly on a global scale.

For further information on any aspect of this project contact:

Kevin O' Hanlon / kohanlon@wit.ie Digital Heritage Curator, WIT.



Brendan Fullam

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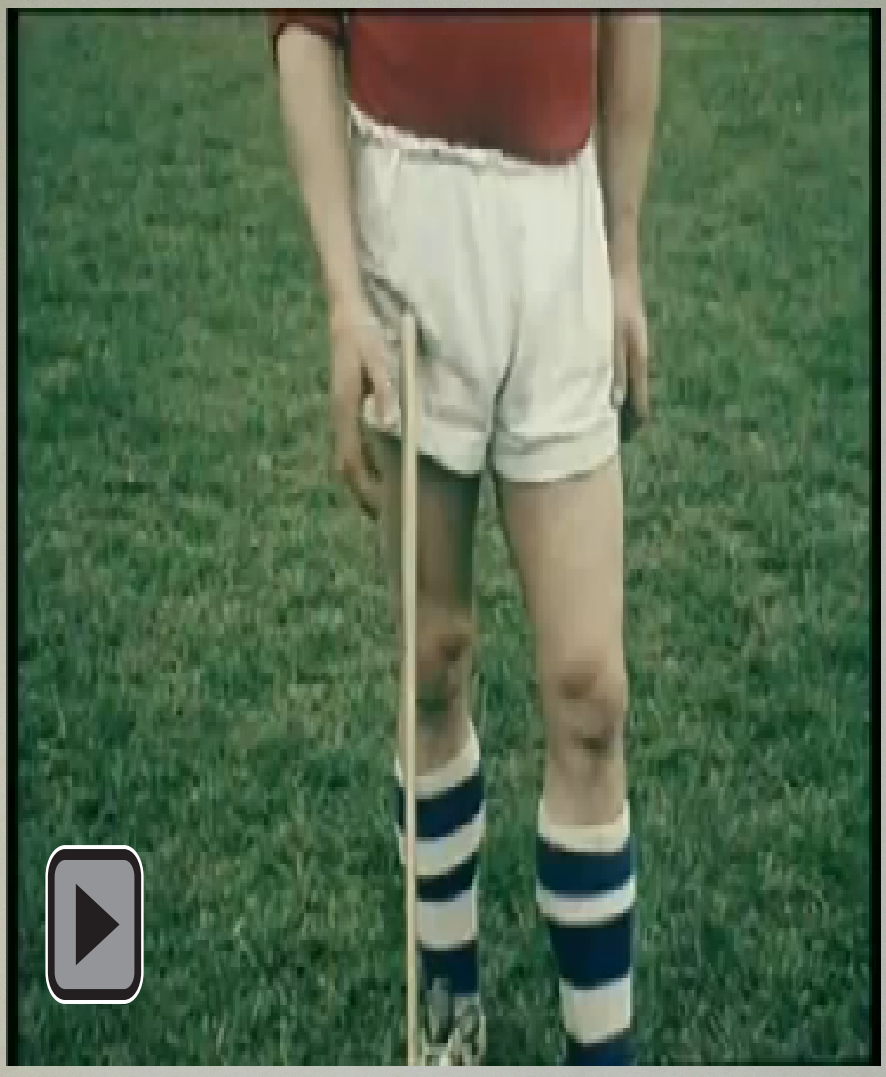

The art of Hurling by Christy Ring

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Launch at Croke Park 17 Nov. 1994
by Liam Mulvihill Ard Stiúrthóir GAA

Hurling Giants

Speech of Author Brendan Fullam.

A Ard Stiúrthóir agus a uasfai uile, failte anseo anocht chuig seoladh Hurling Giants.

Hurling Giants is a successor to its sister book Giants of the Ash.

It contains 75 articles and over 150 photographs, many of them unique. It pays tribute to the great game of hurling and to some of the many hurlers who made it great.

Those featured span all the decades of the GAA.

The articles travel the corridors of a century and in so doing touch on our social history.

Fifty of the articles deal with players that I interviewed going back as far as Martin White of Kilkenny who is now the only surviving member of the Kilkenny team of 1931 that had three epic contests with Cork before Cork eventually emerged victorious and down through the decades from then up to the present time to hurlers who have recently retired.

I have also profiled 21 great names from the earlier days of the Association — great

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names that are no longer with us. To them and to the 30 odd players from Giants of the Ash who have died since I wrote that book I now say from all of us gathered here - Ar seilbh gramhar Dé go raibh siad anois agus ar gcónaí.

I felt it was important that honour should be given to the role played by women in the GAA. This I have done through articles on five great camogie players - Kathleen Mills, Una O'Connor of Dublin, Marian McCarthy of Cork and from Kilkenny the Downey twins Angela and Ann, daughters of Shem.

Each of their careers exceeded twenty years and between them they amassed the remarkable total of 62 All Ireland Senior medals.

I heard Pat Henderson asking Kathleen Mills if she won more medals than Christy Ring - the answer is she did.

No book on hurling would be complete without reference to the great triumvirate - Lory Meagher, Mick Mackey and Christy Ring - legendary immortals. They feature again

I couldn't let this occasion pass without mentioning two great names from my first book. I refer of course to Jim Power the Galway fullback on the 1923 winning team. Jim was 100 years of age this month. He is closely followed by Limerick's Garret Howard at 95.

I hope that Hurling Giants will give hurling lovers the same level of wonderful entertainment that Giants of the Ash did. It found its way to the five continents. It evoked nostalgia. It recalled memories. It brought to life again the deeds of hurling men who thrilled countless thousands with spellbinding performances.

Sometimes it seems to me that players don't always fully realise or appreciate the contribution they make towards brightening the lives of people - uplifting their spirits - and giving them the joy of reflected glory.

After my first book a man wrote to me from County Antrim and told me that he and five colleagues had cycled from Belfast to Thurles for the 1947 Munster final between Limerick and Cork - and it wasn't the only time they did this. Think of the bicycles of those days. Think of the roads of those days.

When I reflect on those trips from Belfast to Thurles by bicycle and back again I am reminded of what "Carbery" once said about hurling -:
"Hurling survives and is indestructible because of its sheen, naked grandeur."

Now some words of thanks and appreciation -:

Thanks to Liam Mulvihill Árd Stiúrthóir for honouring us with his presence and for launching this book.

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Thanks to the GAA for very kindly sponsoring this launch.

Thanks to my Publishers Wolfhound Press in the person of Seamus Cashman and his team.

Thanks to all who assisted in any way with the book. In particular I must mention two - my brother Aodán who when the necessity arose travelled the highways and byways of Kilkenny in search of photographs and information. My wife Mary who fed every word of this book into a word processor. She began to dream of hurling and managing teams. She even said she was dreaming of hurlers - I began to get worried.

Thanks to all the players who contributed. Mary and myself enjoyed immensely meeting them and talking with them - the hurling artists.

Go mba fada buan an iománaíocht.

Míle buíochas.

Brendan Fullam.

Among those present at the Launch were :-

Jimmy Smyth Clare, Pat Stakelum Tipperary
Paddy Buggy Kilkenny - former President -
all who featured in Giants of the Ash.

The following who feature in Hurling Giants :-

Gerry O'Malley, Roscommon.
Paddy Lalor, Laois.
Pat Delaney and Padraig Horan Offaly.
Fr Iggy Clarke and Lena Walsh who represented
her late father Mick King - Galway.
Tony Doran, Pat Nolan Wexford and P J Mackey
decd was represented by his daughter
John Callinan Clare.
Mick Roche Tipperary.
Austin Flynn Waterford.
Maelin Coogan, Joe Hennessy, Pat Henderson
and Maelin White Kilkenny. The late Paddy
Phelan was represented by his daughter Maeie
and Joey Meagher decd was represented by
his nephew Dan Hogan. The late Jack Rochford
was represented by his daughter Maeie Butler.

Kathleen Mills and Una O'Connor both from
Dublin - two of the five camogie players
who feature in the book.

Paddy Mc Flynn - former President.
Sean O'Siochain - former General Secretary.
Danny Lynch - PRO Croke Park.
Jimmy Barrett - Chairman Tipp. Co. Board.
Fr. Seamus Gardiner.
Seamus Cashman - Wolfhound Press - The Publishers
Jimmy Magee
Sean Og O'Ceallachain.

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FOREWORD by JIMMY MAGEE to HURLING GIANTS

Hurling giants do not have to be gargantuan in physique. They come in all shapes and sizes — tall, thin, short, stout. All of them are fleet of foot, quick of hand, eagle of eye and all have the magical mixture that concocts to supreme artistry.

Brendan Fullam's new book pays homage to these remarkable people, amateur sports players who have entertained in a style of which professionals would be proud.

Brendan's first work 'GIANTS OF THE ASH' was the quality and style of book I'd love to have written and I haven't changed my opinion with the arrival of Book No. 2.

Are hurlers born not made? Yes. How can anybody be made to look and perform like Jimmy Doyle, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Mick Rocke, Eamon Cregan, and the wonder men Ring, Mackey, Meagher, by any standards a great Triumvirate.

I am writing this in the week of the 1994 All-Ireland final — the unique pairing of Limerick and Offaly. The tempo of expectation is increasing — the previews in words and pictures excite just as they've done every year since I attained the age of Reason — that's if I ever reached it.

Microphones, cameras, lights, pens, tape machines and notebooks will be familiar to every man engaged in next Sundays battle. Every question asked, every answer given will be recorded forever, for another Brendan Fullam to cast in prose into the next century.?

How many of '94's stars will have the gifts to live in the mind as long as the heroes enshrined in 'HURLING GIANTS'.

Brendan Fullam for his work in on these books is himself a Hurling Giant

JIMMY MAGEE
29th August 1994

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My Grandfather was a football man. Long before too many Sweet Afton had yellowed his fingers and thickened his cough, he wore the green and white of the O Tooles club in Dublin. His success may have been modest but he rubbed shoulders with giants and the memory of them was burned into him.

His time was the period from 1919 onwards when Dublin and Kildare won sixteen out of seventeen All Ireland's. A residual fondness for the lilywhites and the deeds of Larry Stanley stayed with him all his life but his favourite topic of conversation was Dublin football and the three great teams the Seville Place parish produced St Mary's, St Joseph's and O Tooles. Decades on he could describe the cut and style of any player; Johnny McDonnell and Paddy McDonnell, the impossibly glamourous Synott clan of whom Josie was his favourite.

He was a football man but he genuflected like all football lovers to the beauty of hurling. Lory Meagher was a firm favourite although the longetivity of Tull Considine of Clare was often mulled over. Dublin's occassional dabblings in the late stages of hurling championships left him apparently unmoved.

He bought me my furst hurley (or hurl as we say in Dublin) and hoped that I might put it to better use than I did. Still between the football and the hurling and his memories of both games and my bungling progress at them, we had enough conversation to pass the longest evenings.

His memories went with him. The great names with which he embroidered his conversations finally had their death when nobody was left to talk about them. Talk is the lifeblood that courses through great games like football and hurling, talk is what transforms dusty statistics into social history and warm memory.

For a race which is supposedly pinioned down by it's own history we are careless about it's artefacts. Sport in particular has suffered from our neglect. The video archive of our great games is a hit and miss affair and the literary canon attached to football and hurling wouldn't fill a modest shelf.

The Americans for all their hunger for the thrill of the new have long since realised the value of sporting memories. Each of their major sports has instituted a Hall of Fame, massive museums where the jerseys and bats and balls of the great names are preserved that following

generations might look and wonder.

Gaelic Games has no true Hall of Fame, no physical shrine to the sporting history but at least hurling now has Brendan Fullam and his wonderful books. Brendan has taken the care to capture the words and memories of the legends. He has captured whole headfuls of talk and memories and given them to us between two covers.

Reading through the testimonies of these names already mossed over with magic and myths it is impossible not to let the wonder grow. Through the tales runs a love of hurling, a devotion to the art which transcends and outlives the rivalries of the game. Brendan Fullam has stitched together all these memories and in doing so has done hurling a wonderful service. We all have the chance now to share in the past, to drift along the sidelines and haunt long vanished dressingrooms. The start of any true hurling hall fame will be Brendan's book of manuscripts.

Words are the sustenance of hurling historyand Brendan has given another book's worth to treasure.

Go raibh maith agat.

ends

Tom Humphries



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Foreword by Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh to Hurling Giants



□ **Micheál** Ó Muircheartaigh

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Is ceart agus is cóir go dtiocfadh
scéal maith i gcomhorbacht ar
scéal a thug taitneamh thar
na bearta do's na mitte ar fud
na tire — an sorscéal a
chraobhscaoil Breandán in
Giants of the Ash i Samhain na
bliana 1991.
I know of no book which fostered
so much joyful reminiscing as
the 'Giants' did and the 'Leabhar'
itself has now become a giant.
Number Two is eagerly looked
forward to and those chronicled
in it are worthy of inclusion
in any list of greats
Comhghaindeachas, a Bhreandáin
agus gura mear chugaim
Uimhir a 3.
Beir Bua Agus Beannacht
Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh 5/8/94

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SAMUEL THORPE 1945 - 1952

OIREACHTAS

1951

BORN: 1919 CLUB: ST. AIDAN'S



COUNTY TITLES

1946	1952	1954
1947	1953	1956

LEINSTER TITLE

1951

Home

WEXFORD

VISITED: APRIL 1992



SAM THORPE
(Wexford)

Samuel Thorpe

If I could live my life all over again I would still want to play Soccer & Football but most of all that great game of Hurling and relive those great Days

I saw the great Limrick Team off the Late 30th and Early 40th. Mick Mackey was the greatest Hurler I ever saw and also that great Team Cats 'L' in a rank men on that Team that I admire where Willie Cambell a Beautiful Hurler also Allen Lottery Jack Lynch Sim Young and also Christy Ring

I regret that I missed the glory Days off Wexford Hurling it would be a special Honour to be have part of The Team that brought home the McCarthy Cup to the Slaney Side my advise to the Youth would be to play the game for the Love off the game and to play a Supporting game ass the years go by the Memories Linger on and are more Important than the Meadles if I had a special wish it would be to see my Native Wexford with Either a Senior Hurling or Senior Football Title — Long Overdue

21 April 1992

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PADDY GANTLY 1945 - 1949

BORN:

1919

DIED:-

6 JAN 2002

CLUBS:

ARDRAHAN (GALWAY)

ST. FINBAR'S (CORK)

COUNTY TITLES:

1946 (CORK)
1947 (CORK)

RAILWAY CUP:

1947 (CONNACHT).



Paddy Gantley.

Home

GALWAY.

VISITED: JUNE '92

Paddy Gantty

I was fortunate to have grown up where there was a long tradition for hurling of a good standard. Among my near neighbours were men who had played for club and county when the G.A.A. was in its infancy. They told tales of "battles" long ago, of games won and lost in far-off fields, and took a personal interest in those to whom they were handing on the torch. How difficult it must be to plant hurling in soil not nourished by tradition! But good coaches can do and are doing a lot.

Where the hurling tradition is strong, what is needed is the G.A.A. structures to channel it; to provide well-organised competition; to lead the youngsters along from one level to the next, from juvenile to minor, to senior club grade. Again I was lucky, and I remember with gratitude those who shepherded the youth of my time, taking us here and there for matches. One of the most remarkable features of the G.A.A. is its ability to attract dedicated, voluntary workers—thousands of them, all over the country, making the G.A.A. the nation's largest youth movement. It is not always given the credit that is due to it. But so strong an organisation can expect to be attacked. It is sufficiently mature and healthy to shrug off unjustified criticism and not to be too defensive or apologetic about the faults and mistakes of its officials or players.

I was fortunate once more in coming on one of Galway's greatest ever hurling teams: the 1944-1954 team with which I played for a few years before going on the missions in 1949. If there were an award for the greatest team never to win an All-Ireland, that team would be well in the running for it. The Cork/Kilkenny final of 1947 is the answer to the question about the rise in the standard of hurling in recent years. That final was regarded as the greatest up to that time and those who saw it have lived to see few that were its equal. One point separated the teams at the end of play, as one point had separated Galway and Kilkenny in the semi final: three truly great teams that year. That same Galway team had already defeated, first the "pick" of Leinster.

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PADDY GANTLY.

and then the number selection in the Railways cup, when this competition ranked second in importance to the All-Ireland championship.
To have taken part in games of that calibre, as ~~two~~ in two well-remembered county championships with the Barrs in Cork and a fitzgibbon with U.C.C, leaves one with some cherished memories. And there, like good wine, improve with age. The sediment sinks!

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SEAN CLOHOSEY 1953 – 1963



BORN:

1931

CLUB:

TULLAROAN

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1957
1963

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1962

CO TITLE

1958

RAILWAY CUP

1956

LEINSTER TITLES

1953
1957
1958
1959
1963

OIREACHTAS TITLES

1957
1959

Home

KILKENNY.

VISITED: JULY '92

Sean Clohessy



(12) S. Ó Cloċasaiġ
(S. Clohessy) (Capt.)

I was born into the cauldron of hurling between the 1st + 2nd replays both v Kilkenny in 1931 I was reared on tales of great players and their deeds. viz Tom Walton, Dick Grace. Jack Meagher I often wondered about the style of play which prevailed during the period 1900 - 1925. My father was a strong, robust player in his own right and was often selected to counteract Limerick's Tyler Mackey, who apparently was not known to take prisoners

I practised the skills constantly and tried to copy the craft of idols such as Tory Meagher. Paddy Phelan + Tim Langton Any spare moment would find hurleys in our hands and I frequently brought in the cows for milking by skelping a sponge ball at their rear-ends. My father was a hard task master and the only relief from farming duties would be to play hurling. many balls were lost in the course of learning the arts of the game. My older brother, Jimmy (R.I.P.) was the ball provider and I think he sometimes pretended to the umpire about ball losses when he really was in truth

I played minor for Kilkenny in 1948 + 1949 (1st round) I was posted to Killorglin by my Bank in May 1949. The Kilkenny co Board decided that I was either extravagant or too expensive to bring back for matches

I played my first senior County Championship with Tullaroan in 1951 and made adequate impression to merit a position on the Kilkenny team in 1953. We lost to Galway in the semi-final

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SEAN CLOHOSEY.



Home

Sean Clohosey

The Kilkenny car neglected to collect me for this match and I had to press gang a friend to drive me to Croke Park from Newbridge. I left an electric ring on in my 'digs' in the tension of the occasion and when I got home from the semi final, I had to face the wrath of the landlord. Having been substituted during the game, it was not an auspicious first championship. However, I was lucky not be have missed any further championship game with Kilkenny afterwards

I was privileged to have played in the 50s + early 60s in the great Wexford-Waterford era. I met many worthy opponents in that time and Billy Rackard, Jimmy Finn and Seamus Power spring to mind instantly. It was a very exciting time in hurling; Wexford swashbuckling and fair. Waterford fast + fluid. I won 2 All Irelands in 1957 and 1963 and Retired left on a high note after the 1963 All Ireland. I was pleased to have been selected at mid-field, my favourite position. The ultimate ~~to~~ laxative was to pass the Cathedral in Thurles to play Tipperary in Thurles Sportsfield (now Semple Stadium). One learned to adapt ones game to the Tipperary manner or you may as well stay at home. One of the great pleasures in the modern era is to see the emphasis on skill portrayed by the current Tipperary team. though this should hardly be surprising given the coaching input by Bads Keating and Donie Nealon

I captained a Rest of Ireland team in 1960 of which Christy Ring was a member. However, Christy took over the job from me but was gracious enough to pay tribute post-match saying. "Young fellow, you might

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make a hurlek yet.

General Remarks

Hurling must be strictly controlled. Any habitual purveyor of physical ~~play~~ injury should be banned from playing. The game is much faster now though not as skilful. There was tremendous pride in the craft of the game in my time and hand-passing the ball would have been considered a blasphemy. We all wanted to ape King and Langton and in Kilkenny at least, an artful player was more admired than a 'hard man'.

The advantage rule in a good idea in theory but in my view is often applied incorrectly. A scoring forward is frequently fouled and granted 'advantage'. He has however lost his scoring position in the meantime and the gain goes to the defending team.

I worry a little about the future of the game, our great national treasure. Injuries must be kept to an absolute minimum as jobs are often endangered by absence from work in the current economic climate. There is a danger that parents may not encourage their children to play even though they may be strong devotees of ~~the~~ hurling. Helmets with facial guard should be obligatory from an early age.

Regrets

1. Having to retire before availing of more years to exploit Eddie Keher's extraordinary store-taking ability. We seldom discussed strategy but seemed to know ~~instinctively~~ each others intentions instinctively.

2. Failure to captain a winning Kilkenny All-Ireland team.

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MARTIN WHITE 1931 - 1938

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1932
1933
1935

CLUB:

TULLAROAN

BORN:
31st July
1909

LEINSTER TITLES

1931
1932
1933
1935
1936
1937

COUNTY TITLES

1930
1933
1934

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1933

ALL STAR SPECIAL

1994


MARTIN WHITE

DIED:
12th Oct
2011

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KILKENNY

SITED: Aug. 92

During my Hurling career I made many great friends and comrades I suppose my comrades on the field should get first place and I think the team spirit developed with them was a great influence during my life-time - it taught me what co-operation meant in after life -. I made many great friends especially team-mates but I think those from other counties made a very lasting impression so much so that it was the beginning of life long friendships. Most of those have gone to their great reward but the memory still lasts and we still speak of them as if they are still with us. I think my time in games was worth while if only to know and remember such very good friends. I was lucky to come on the Hurling scene in Kilkenny in 1931 when such experienced players as Lory Meagher, Ed. Doyle, Mattie Power, Paddy Larkin, Pete O'Reilly, Martin Power and Tommy Carroll were still playing and young players such as Paddy Phelan, Jimmy Walsh, Jacob Duggan, Dan Dunne & Jacob Fitzpatrick were coming to begin a fruitful era in the Hurling life of the county. All their skills and experience was wanted to cope with the great teams of other counties

Mattie Power

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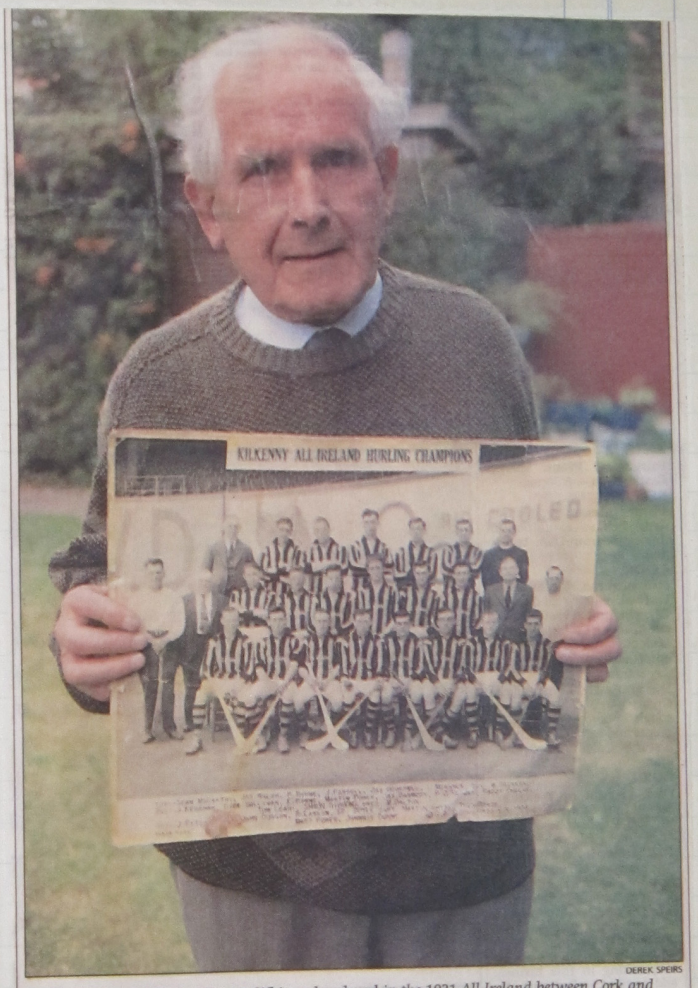
MARTIN WHITE



DEREK SPEIRS

Hurler on the pitch : *Martin White, who played in the 1931 All-Ireland between Cork and Kilkenny, holds a picture of his team-mates. He'll be in the Cusack Stand for today's action. See A4*

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Home

JAMES "BUTLER" COFFEY 1932 - 1940

BORN:-
26 Oct 1909

DIED:-
29 Dec 2010

CLUBS:-

NEWPORT (TIPP)

AHANE (LIMERICK)

ALL IRELAND	RAILWAY CUP	MUNSTER TITLE
1937	1938	1937

COUNTY TITLES

1947 AHANE 1948



JIMMY "BUTLER" COFFEY (left) & Johnny Ryan

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VISITED:- SEPT 1992

TIPPERARY

Jemmie Butler Coffey

I was one of a family of 8, 4 Boys 4 girls I was the second yoists of the family my Brother Paddy was sacristan in the R.C for 70 years my father used to ~~see the~~ ~~take~~ Carry me to see the Hurles training on Sunday afternoon my greatest wish to wear the Newport Jersey one day We had a Cuardeacht House my mother to sit under the Kitchen Lamp and read the paper as all the men Sat around the Kitchen fire. The game of hurling was the main topic as the family sat around the Kitchen fire Jack and myself won the minor Championship 1926 Mike was won the junior Championship 1924 the 3 of us won the north Tipp Senior in 1932 and 1935 Jack and my self won a minor all Ireland 1930 Mickey won a junior all Ireland 1926 Newport played a famous game with a Ahane in 1931 ~~Newport~~ won By 2 goals The memories of the games and the friends we made are the things we Cherish most Sad to say the numbers a getting thin on the ground I'd like to thank Thurles Moycarkey and Teomevara for Selecting for the County teams

Home

Home

GERRY O'MALLEY 1946 - 1965

BORN:

1928

CLUB:

FOUR ROADS

COUNTY TITLES

1946	1950	1958
1948	1954	1962



CONNAGHT TITLES (FOOTBALL)

1952
1953
1961
1962

RAILWAY CUPS (FOOTBALL)

1951
1957
1958

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VISITED: Sept. 1992.

ROSCOMMON.

Gerry O'Malley



G. O'MALLEY
(Roscommon)

To me hurling is the best and finest field game I have ever seen or watched on T.V.

Very few sports are as skilful or as graceful as hurling played at the highest level. It surely is poetry in motion. Every thing about it I am particularly fond of. — the clash of the ash, the ball flying at — high speed through the air, the wrist-work, the speed of thought and action, the bodily contact and the abundance of scores from all angles and directions.

In my youth I loved playing and practising it. Nowadays I love watching it.

To nearly all followers of the G.A.A. I am known Basically as a footballer — having played at senior level with my county over a long number of years.

Being born and reared in a county which is regarded as a football stronghold down through the years, I have often been asked whose did my love and fondness for the game of hurling come from.

To answer this question I must go back to my school days, and recap on a sequence of events which more or less explain the position.

Hurling in Roscommon has been confined to

Home

GERRY O MALLEY.

a few parishes bordering the Galway Boundry — Having Athleague and Four Road. Hurling was introduced to the Athleague area in or around 1905-06 by a Patrick O'Sullivan — a national school teacher from Co Cork.

In 1913 the county team defeated Galway to win the Connacht Senior Hurling title. This team was mainly powered by Athleague players who had been nurtured, coached and trained by the same "Master O'Sullivan."

Some years later, the Master was transferred to my local school in Brideswell to where he introduced hurling to the area. By the time I came along as a school goer, hurling was in full swing in our end of the parish and nobody kicked a football at all. The other end of the parish, football was and, still is the predominant game.

I vividly remember in my days in the national school, bringing my hurley to school every Monday morning, and back again on Friday evening. Each pupil interested in the game did likewise. During the week the "Master" would have us out all ~~day~~ out hurling on the little playground at lunch break. And often he would "demonstrate" to the class — out on the floor — the skills of "Hooking", "Blocking" "Trapping" "Doubling" with the hurley stick.

It could be regarded as part of the school curriculum. He was the man that gave me my first love for hurling and to this day I am grateful to him for that. May I add, he was an outstanding educationalist as well.

A few years after leaving the national school and my training ground, I became involved in my first game of hurling. It was the year after the war had ended. Yes there was a sigh of relief throughout the country but still many of the hardships lingered on.

Rationing of fuel and food was still with us. Transport was difficult. Ponies and traps, Bicycles and the odd "crock" of a car were still the most common ways of getting from one place to another.

Yes it was the year of my first county final. It was a Roscommon County Final. The game was hurling and the club Four Roads.

EARLIER in the season that great hurling enthusiast - Johnie Mee - had BROUGHT me to play minor football for his club. At half time in the minor game, would you believe it, I joined in a hurling puck about. Johnie quickly spotted I could handle a hurley and that is how I came to play hurling for Four Roads.

The eg 45 Final was played in Knockcroghery. I travelled by Bicycle from my home to Four Roads and from there to the County Final. Many went by pony and trap - others cycled. I doubt if many went by car - if they did someone must have posted them. Petrol was impossible to get.

Of the match itself I don't remember very much. What I know is we won by a point. I can recall the joy, the thrills and the excitement of winning my first county final. It was one of my great moments on a hurling field. To this day I believe the club is the foundation stone on which the association is built and it is the closest unit of individuals that can be got in any community. It has always been a pleasure and priveldge to play for my native parish. I only hope and pray we do not loose sight of the IMPORTANCE of the Role of the club in the ASSOCIATION at large. Nowadays there is a lot of hype and publicity about the ALL IRELANDS, TICKETS, ALL STARS.

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GERRY O'MALLEY.

Growing up as an early teenager in the mid forties was entirely different than it is today. WORLD WAR TWO was Raging across Europe and even though we maintained our NEUTRALITY, its effect could be seen and felt throughout RURAL Ireland.

At that time social, cultural, and sporting facilities were at a MINIMUM. COMMUNICATION was mainly BY word of mouth. The Battery wireless — never called a Radio — with the golden voice of MICHAEL O'HEHIR, was the BIG attraction to look forward to every Sunday. He was one of my CHILDHOOD heroes — BRINGING the game to every Remote part of Rural Ireland. Other heroes of my youth were the great footballers of Galway and Mayo of the time — BOBBY Beggs, HENRY KENNY DINNY SULLIVAN and PATSY FLANNERY and many others. Not every family was lucky enough to own such a "HIGH TECH" piece of equipment. We would gather at the home of the owner, knowing that a step OR word out of place and we'd be shown the door. There was always the air of uncertainty that the Battery would "RUN OUT" before the match. It was the age of NO PHONES, no electricity and NO RUNNING water. There were few cars ~~cars~~ available and those that owned them had precious little petrol to run them. NORMAL transport was the pony and trap OR the BIKE. We weren't picked up BY cars at the house to take us to play the football or hurling match. In fact we often had to cycle to the game, play the match and cycle Back home again. But we had our own fun and above all we had a most enjoyable and happy youth. As a postime we played hurling and football in the "local" field at ~~my~~ own house. WE played from morning to dusk. The evenings after a ~~hard~~ long day at the hay OR in the BOG, we would spend again in the playing fa

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GERRY O'MALLEY

We played for the love of the game. We packed about the heavy ball from one end of the field to the other. We didn't wait for the TRAINER to come before we started. More often than not, there was no trainer. I often wonder do present day players get the same enjoyment out of training as we did out of practice. Is it too geared up for Winning ALL IRELANDS?!



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Home

TONY DORAN 1967 - 1984

ALL IRELAND

1968

ALL IRELAND MASTERS (OVER 40'S)

1991

ALL IRELAND CLUB

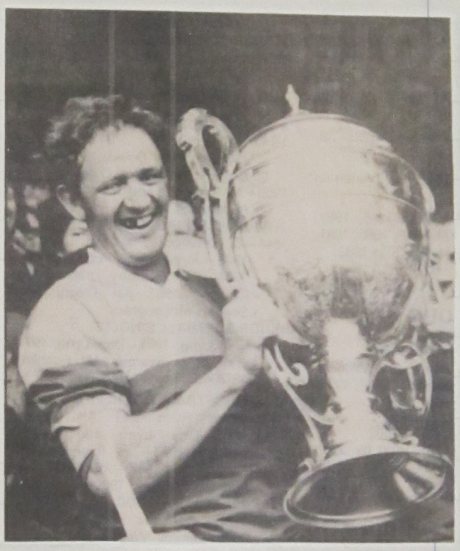
1989

ALL STAR

1976

TEXACO HURLER OF YEAR

1976



OIREACHTAS

1978
1979
1980

NAT. LEAGUES

1967
1973

BORN: 1946

CLUB: BUFFER'S ALLEY

RAILWAY CUPS

1971 (EAST) 1973 1977 (EAST)
1974
1972 1975 1979

LEINSTER TITLES:

1968 1976
1970 1977

COUNTY TITLES:

1968 1982 1985
1970 1983 1988
1975 1984 1989
1976 1991

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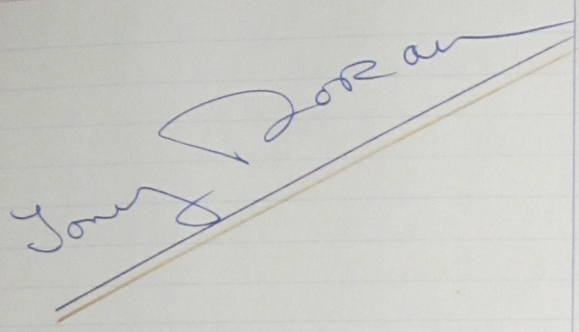
WEXFORD

VISITED: Sept '92



I first started to play competitive hurling in the newly inaugurated Nicky Rackard Rural Schools league in 1956

Attending national school in Boolavogue I played with Monageer-Boolavogue where my first coaches were Boolavogue curate Fr Noel Hartley and Monageer teacher Mr Jim Doran. The highlight of that first years competition in which we eventually lost at the semi-final stage to Rathnure was when we played Ballyoughter in the quarter-final and Nicky Rackard himself refereed.

In the years since then I have been lucky to have a number of high spots in my career with both club and county since I started with Buffers Alley in Juvenile (Under 16) in 1959 and Wexford Minors in 1963.

Winning the all Ireland Senior with Wexford in 1968 was a great honour and one of the highlights while beating the all conquering Kilkenny of the first half of the seventies by 17 points in the Leinster final was another great moment. Losing 2 all Irelands to Cork in 1976 and 1977 was very disappointing. In '76 we played well but were still beaten by 4 points in a great game and in '77

TONY DORAN

although I think we did not do ourselves justice on the day we were only denied a draw by a great Martin Coleman save from Christy Keogh in the dying moments. I think my greatest disappointment was losing to Offaly in the 1981 Leinster final. I was carried off in the early stages with a severe head injury and only heard the last few minutes on radio from a hospital bed.

Winning the 1989 All Ireland Club Championship with Buffers Alley when we beat O'Donovan Rossa from Belfast in the final was the real highlight of my career. Winning with a team from a small rural community and seeing the joy it brought to everyone players, officials, supporters was something words could not really describe. Coming as it did 21 years after winning the All Ireland with Wexford made me appreciate it even more.

I think the rules if they are properly interpreted by officials are fairly O.K. I would never believe in changing rules for the sake of change only if there is something positive to be gained. I did not agree with doing away with the palmed score as I think the alternative of kicking scores is much more dangerous and untidy. Also I think it has reduced the number of goals scored which means less excitment from a spectators point of view.



TONY DORAN

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MARTIN COOGAN 1961 - 1973

BORN:- 1940

CLUB:- CASTLECOMER

ALL STAR
1971

RAILWAY CUP.
1967
1972
1964

NATIONAL LEAGUE.
1962
1966

ALL IRELANDS
1963
1967
1969
1972

LEINSTER TITLES:
1963
1964
1966
1967
1969
1971
1972

O'REACHTAS
1966
1967
1969



Home

VISITED:- Oct 1992

KILKENNY.

Martin Coogan

I am proud to be a Comer Man. I was born here, in a place called The Spike in 1940. From the time I was old enough to hold a hurl my brother Seamus and myself spent every evening until darkness fell, hurling in the school yard. It was there I learned most of the skills of hurling that came easy to me as I grew up. As I grew older and the school yard seemed to get smaller we changed our venue to the Spike Road. The hurling there was hard, fast, and furious and I cherish memories of Martin Brennan (Coggie) and the late Dinglie Cullen and Paddy (Smack) Brennan. Whenever Kilkenny won, we replayed the match that evening on the road, pretending we were the Kilkenny heroes of that day. Another reason why ~~who~~ I am proud of our road is for the honour and fame brought to it by my great friend and neighbour Mick Dowling, the boxer. Mick was a good hurler too.

I hurled for my school in the under 14 championship and reached the under 16 final two years later but we lost. A word of thanks here to Father Liam Carrigan and

Tom (Bishop) Owens for their great work with the under age players.

Like every chap in Cobh at that time I, too went down the pit and spent two years mining anthracite. It was a tough life.

I played with the local minor team and were it not for the efforts of the late Billy Treacy and Paddy Dunphy of greyhound fame, and John (Barker) Walsh, I would neither have got on the trial panel or the county minor team. Thanx Paddy for driving me to the trial. I played county minor at centre forward but Galway beat us in the All-Ireland semi-final by a goal.

1958 was a thrilling year for Cobh Ramblers when we won the County Junior Final against Knocktopher. I played senior for Cobh Ramblers for 26 twenty six years, 1959-'85 and although we went near on a few occasions, we never won the Senior Championship. Even one victory would have gladdened my heart, been great for the club and would have thrilled the late Father John Kearns, who was Mr. Hurling himself in Castlecomer.

Again, like every chap born in Kilkenny I had a longing in my heart to wear the Black and Amber and play for Kilkenny. I always felt I would fulfil that ambition. I was overjoyed when I got my first call up. I was on a Kilkenny fifteen

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to play against a Kilkenny All-Star selection. I played at Centre-field. How did I play. The following story tells the tale. Next morning I was at my work in the Local Hospital when Father Kearns appeared. "Coogan" he said "I/you were useless yesterday" "I don't need you to tell me that Father I know it myself" I answered. We discussed the game. As a result I became a better player. That one game taught me what was necessary to reach County standard. From there on I trained like never before.

In the years that followed I trained with the County team in Nowlan Park, came home, togged out again and went to the Price Grounds in Castlecomer and continued training until I was satisfied that I was fit. I would not play if I felt I wasn't fully fit. The skills I had learned long ago in the school yard and on our road until I perfected the line ball and my own favourite the left and strike without Landling the ball I spent hours every evening at this.

The Kilkenny selectors saw something in me and I played with Kilkenny from 1960 until 1972, two years at centre field and the rest at left half back. I am a natural left Landed Hurler & played right hand below

Home

MARTIN COOGAN.

This made it difficult for opponents to look me or block down the ball.

In my 14 years with Kilkenny I played against almost every hurling county in Ireland and I felt honoured to have played with some of the greatest hurlers and teams that Kilkenny ever produced. I would like to name all the Kilkenny players I played with but a few outstanding ones come to my mind like Ollie Walsh, Eddie Keher, Seamus Cleere, Jim Treacy, Pat Henderson, and Ted Carroll.

I remember great players from the other counties too like Jimmy Doyle (Tipp) who was very difficult to put down as he played all over the field. Jimmy O'Brien and Phil Wilson of Wexford, Liam Devaney of (Tipp) and Mick Flannelly of Waterford.

I had the honour of playing against but not on Christy Ring. I had heard all the stories about Christy, some on hurling artistry. On the day of the League Final 1962 I saw the King of hurlers as he displayed the great skill of flicking the ball or doubling on it as it came flying in about two feet off the ground and rattled it bullet like towards the goal. He never missed. I had played on the same field as my hero, and I'll never

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forget it. We won that League.

My advice to youngsters today is to practice the skills first, get fit and above all to play the game.

I like the new rules but I feel that the umpires and linesmen should take more action and help the referee with his difficult task. I also think that no player should be penalised as a result of what is seen later on video. There are enough officials watching ~~watching~~ to take action during the game.

No player at county level should get himself sent off. He should be able to discipline himself at that level and always put his team first.

In my day the pressure was a bit less. We all loaded off with the boots studded with stockings and togs and tried to the limit. I liked that.

The C.A.A. my local club and the Black and Amber meant something to me and were good to me. I still train teams and at present am training Clara Seniors.

Playing the game is important. Winning is not always important but it is necessary to win now and again. I would have to start all over again.

When asked to pick

Home

MARTIN COOGAN.

a team ~~a team~~ I would have been happy to captain any Kilkenny fifteen of my time 60 to 72 to play against the following opposition from the other Counties, of the same time.

Martin Coogan

Damian Martin
Offaly

Tony Maher
Cork

Pat Kartigan
Link

~~Mick~~ Jom Neville
Wexford

Mick Jacob
Wexford

Tony Wall
Tipp

Paddy Molloy
Offaly

Phil Wilson
Wexford

Mick Roche
Tipp

Jimmy Doyle
Tipp

John Connolly
Galway

Liam Devaney
Tipp

Jimmy Cullinane
Clare

Tony Doran
Wexford

Mick Bermingham
Dublin

I could easily have picked many more opposition teams that would also have been a pleasure to play against.

M. C.

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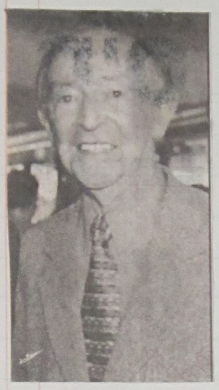
JIMMY KENNEDY. 1946 - 1951



ALL IRELAND TITLES

1949
1950

OIREACHTAS TITLES

1948 (DUBLIN)

1949 (TIPPERARY)

MUNSTER TITLES

1949 1950 1951

LEINSTER TITLE

1948 (DUBLIN)

RAILWAY CUP.

1950

NATIONAL LEAGU

1950

COUNTY TITLES

1947 (U.C.D. DUBLIN)

1948

CLUBS:-

U.C.D. (DUBLIN)

KILADANGAN. (TIPP)



Jimmy Kennedy . . . his sharp-shooting played more than one man's part in bringing hurling honours to Tipperary.

BORN:-

1926

DIED:-

19 Sept 200

Home

TIPPERARY

D: Nov. '92

Jimmy Kennedy.

You have asked me, Brendan, what differences, if any, I see between the game as it is played to-day and as it was played in my time. Well, two differences immediately come to mind. The first is the rule change that eliminated the "third man" tackle and the charge on the Goalkeeper. I am in complete agreement with that rule change. The "third-man" tackle was the bane of my life. It was one thing to be floored by a fair man to man shoulder charge, when you saw it coming, were prepared for it and the effects were minimal. But it was another thing to be floored by a lefty charge from some one you were not aware of and at a time when your attention was focused on the Ball and on your immediate opponent. To me, it was equivalent to running into a wall in the dark.

The second difference I see is the almost complete absence of first time striking. Players are obsessed with getting the Ball into the hand - trying to lift it in the most unlikely situations, when a quick pull would send it forty or fifty yards. Similarly, with the dropping Ball - no attempt made to pull above head height but instead hand reaching for the Ball and fielding it in football fashion. As a result of these tactics the two greatest skills in the game have vanished. If players were to revert to first time pulling there would be a lot less lunching & scrummaging around the Ball and the game would be more flowing and a lot less energy sapping.

Another difference I see is the excessive use of the hand pass to-day, and if I had any say in

JIMMY Kennedy

the matter I would ban it altogether. Of course Exception would have to be made for the player whose hurley was broken or knocked from his grasp. The game of hurling is the most skilful game in the world and is all about propelling the ball with the hurley.

The above remarks are in no way meant to be critical of present day players — they continue to serve up thrilling encounters and continue to draw huge crowds. They are ten times fitter than ever we were and I would love to see them combine that duplicate fitness with the first time striking I have referred to above.



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BRIAN MURPHY 1972 - 1983



Brian Ó Murchú
Brian Murphy
Corcaigh Right Full Back

BORN:- 1952

CLUB:- NEMO RANGERS

ALL IRELANDS
1976
1977 1978

RAILWAY CUP
1981

ALL IRELAND SNR. FOOTBALL
1973

MUNSTER TITLES
1972
1975 1977
1976 1978
1979
1982
1983

NATIONAL LEAGUES
1972 1980
1974 1981

ALL STARS
1979
1981

OIREACHTAS
1973

Home

CORK

ITED:- Feb 1993

Brian Murphy

To be asked to write in this Book is a special honour and I would like to thank Brendan a Mary for giving me this opportunity to write in it. G.A. has been very special and very good for me, ever since I started to play with my club. Nemo Rangers in Cork. I first played with them when I was 14 yrs. of age and I have been lucky to have had the success I had with them on the playing field. Apart from this success there is and always has been something special about Nemo Rangers and their members. There is a special friendship between them which is always as important as success of the playing field. Growing up in Cork and playing underage with Nemo was something I will always cherish. In my early days playing with Nemo, they had Frank Logan Billy Morgan playing with Cork Senior Foot Ballers. (This was) One of my main ambitions was to play with Cork and little did I think that I would later play with Frank Logan and Billy Morgan on the Cork Team that won the All / Ireland in 1973. A lot of the friends I had in Cork played with Nemo Rangers and we played on the different teams from Under 15 to Senior. This was also the case with the school we went to which was Colaiste Chrisol Ri. which was the Nursery for Nemo Rangers. Colaiste Chrisol Ri is where I would have learned

Home

BRIAN MURPHY.

the skills of the game of Hurling and Football. This was of course because you had very dedicated teachers in School prepared to devote their spare time and ~~[illegible]~~ knowledge to the teams in the school. You had the likes of Brother Pius and a Brother Bede and the main person that had so much to do with the success of the school was one Dick Tobin. One of the special wins that we had was the Harty Cup Final in 1968. This was a game that was played in Buttevant and one which we were at given a chance of winning. Another special day for me was when we won the All Ireland Football in 1970 when I was Captain. There was something special about Colleges matches, you had a great build up to them with Songs being learned flags being made training a number of days a week and great crowds at the matches themselves. I would have to say that the games played during my time in Colaiste Christ Ri would go down as the special and most memorable time during my playing career. I first played with Cork Senior Hurlers in 1971/72 league and that match was in the old Athletic Grounds that day. I played on Bobs Keating who was one of my heroes (~~of~~ ~~the~~) when I was growing up. I always remember getting a lift from Ossie Bennett to Ballingford after that match. I was at now stationed in Kilkenny as a member of the Garda Seachina and had yet to make the money to purchase a car. The first played Sen. All/Ireland I played in was 1972 against Kilkenny. This was a game that we appeared to have one with [illegible] to go and 8 pts up but unfortunately Kilkenny had other ideas. Between 1972 and 1983

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played many games with Cork in Hurling and
Football I was lucky enough to win 4 Sen All Irelands
I also played in three that we lost and
Fortunately that was against Kilkenny where I work
was very lucky and I have often said it when
think of one of the greats of the game Tony
who gave so much to his club and
and has just one Senior All Ireland
1973 when Cork won the Football Final for
time in 27 yrs, I was 21 yrs of
and I didn't appreciate it as much
then as I do now. This was not the case
Cork won the three in a row in 1978
Kilkenny in the Final: That win is
significant now when you think of the
that Cork have been beaten in three
Irelands since then by Kilkenny.
my time playing with Cork Footballers the
by Kerry in the Munster Final. In 1976
the most significant defeats. Kerry
on to greater things and Cork Football
back a lot. In the following year
Cork were well beaten by Kerry and
the "Addidas Affair" started ~~[illegible]~~ and
with the Cork team being suspended.
Barry Murphy and I were under a lot of
sure at the time because we were playing
the Hurlers. This was a sad time for
GAA in Cork and one of the reasons
it was ~~[illegible]~~ lack of communication between
and players. Nowadays you have
sponsorship of our games with a lot of
money involved and names on Jerseys and
you think of what happened over Jerseys
1976 ~~[illegible]~~ with the Addidas Crest
it ~~[illegible]~~ time certainly have changed.
GAA have a Great organisation in Cork
but they didn't do themselves any good

BRIAN MURPHY

al that time and last year again with the Billy Morgan affair. A man whom I would regard as one of the most dedicated people ever to play our games and train our teams.

I certainly have enjoyed playing with both I mainly played in the the Full Back line a position where a player cannot afford to make a mistake and where a player certainly much must concentrate on marking his man. The good thing now is that you don't have to keep the ball out from the keeper, that is something which was no harm to getting rid of.

I would like to see the kicking of the sliotar ball to score also being done away with. Scores should be got with the Hurley

I am not involved in underage with O'Loughlin G.A.A. club. There can be great enjoyment got from training young lads. I would like to see more parents getting involved in this side of the G.A.A. Some are slow to do so because they may have not played the game or played very little of it. They should not be afraid to get involved because of this.

The standard of underage Hurling in Kilkenny is very strong. The reason for this is because of the dedication of the teachers and the clubs also put a lot of work into the underage The structure of the game here is good but we can't afford to relax and take it easy because nowadays the other sports are getting stronger and stronger.

I would like to see more of them employing full time coaches, this can only help our game.

I can see difficulties for small clubs because

Home

...ness integration. and costs of running clubs.
...problem is there now and I would hope
...those in Clube Park. would be taking
...ce of it and doing something about it.
...would be afraid that the G.A.A
...ld forget the importance of the grass roots of the organisation
...ich are the clubs.
...would also like to see the cost of
...tending matches kept as low as possible
...ortunately it has become very expensive of
...t and now the day of bringing a
...ly to an All./Tre is gone, this is a
...y. I would like our game which I have
...so much from going from strength to
...ength this can be done with the dedication
...people within the organisation and I hope
...will always be the case.

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JIMMY DOYLE 1957-1973

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1958	1962 (C)	1965 (C)
1961	1964	1971

OIREACHTAS

1960	1963	1965
1961	1964	1968



JIMMY DOYLE
(Tipperary)

BORN:

1940

CLUB:

THURLES SARSFIE

TEXACO HURLER OF THE YEAR: 1965

RAILWAY CUP

1958	1960	1963 (CAPT)	1969
1959	1961	1966 (CAPT)	1970

MUNSTER TITLES

1958	1962	1967
1960	1964	1968
1961	1965	1971

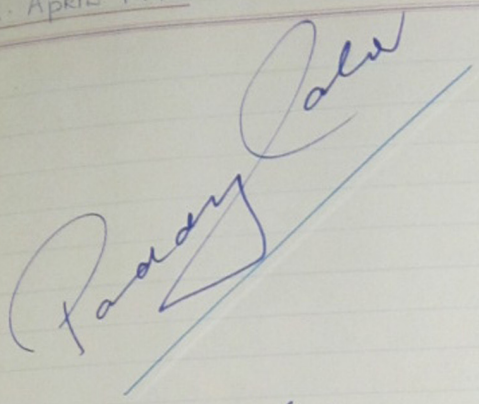
NATIONAL LEAGUES

1957	1960	1965 (CAPT)
1959	1961	1968
	1964	

COUNTY TITLES

1955	1957	1959	1963	1965
1956	1958	1961	1964	197
		1962		

TED:. APRIL 1993.



While 1949 was for Laois our all-Ireland year, I must go back to the first round of the 1948 Leinster Championship for my happiest playing day & my most pleasant recollection as a Laois player. In September '47 I had sat enthralled on the Cusack Stand witnessing the greatest all Ireland I had seen up to then (or since) between the two greatest teams ever to come out of Cork and Kilkenny. Kilkenny won this battle of Gaelic gladiators with a last second point from a Terry Leahy free. While I have a Laoisman who was extremely proud to have worn the blue & white jersey, I cannot have smiled quite carefully on that all Ireland Sunday evening if anyone had suggested that Laois might beat that Kilkenny team in their next Championship match.

However, that is exactly what we did. Laois convincingly beat that same Kilkenny (Terry Leahy only was missing) in O'Moore Park, Portlaoise in the first round of the 1948 Leinster Championship & I had the wonderful satisfaction of contributing two goals to that historic Laois victory — our first over Kilkenny in Donkey's years. The ecstasy of the Laois supporters in O'Moore Park on that glorious day is a wonderful memory which I have cherished all my life.

Home

Paddy Lalor

It was great to have been part of those golden days for Laois hurling in 1948/49. The recurring question to which no Laois man has yet come up with a satisfactory answer is — where did we come from in 1948 & where did we disappear to after our all Ireland trouncing by Tipperary in 1949. There is no satisfactory answer. Our 1948/49 squad was a great one, but we clashed with greater. I can safely say that we in Laois annually look forward hopefully to being drawn against Kilkenny in the Leinster Championship, but it seldom occurs. Playing Kilkenny invariably brings out the very best in Laois players, but fate doesn't provide us with that draw. Wexford on the other hand has a hoodoo over us. It started away back in 1950 & has remained since.

Meanwhile, our neighbours Offaly have emerged & stolen the show & shown us how to win all Irelands — both in hurling & football. We still can boast of having great exponents of hurling in Laois. We thought now have transferred to us from the O'Connor to the O'Moore County, the mantle of the faithful county. It remains for some 20 of our Laois hurlers to get things all together at the same time. We are hungry for a Return of the 1948/49 era, but more hungry for a Repeal of the Great 1914/15 era. Maybe Slane hurlers were emulate their footballers before the end of the century & so encourage Laois to join them in Croke Park as the did in 1914 — for a replay of that game, & maybe then Laois would reproduce their 1915 form.

Home

JIMMY DOYLE 1957 - 1973

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1958	1962 (C)	1965 (C)
1961	1964	1971

OIREACHTAS

1960	1963	1965
1961	1964	1968



JIMMY DOYLE
(Tipperary)

BORN:

1940

CLUB:

THURLES SARSFIEL

TEXACO HURLER OF THE YEAR: 1965

RAILWAY CUP

1958	1960	1963 (CAPT)	1969
1959	1961	1966 (CAPT)	1970

MUNSTER TITLES

1958	1962	1967
1960	1964	1968
1961	1965	1971

NATIONAL LEAGUES

1957	1960	1965 (CAPT)
1959	1961	1968
	1964	

COUNTY TITLES

1955	1957	1959	1963	1965
1956	1958	1961	1964	197
		1962		

Home

TIPPERARY.

ED: MAY '93

Jimmy Doyle.

Well Brendan it is an honour to write in this book - all about the game of Hurling - Because I think that Hurling is the greatest game in the world. It started out for me at an early age when I won my School Awards for Hurles CBS in the early 50th up to winning & loosing games in the 70Ts & 80th. I will start with my Senior games I was lucky to be with a great team of Players in the 1960s When we won 4 all Irelands out of 5 and that tells a lot They were a great army of players And yet when we were beten you would have to say that those players that were on those loosing team -, they were great players all also. As for as the game is concerned I would love to see the goal mouth spills come back to the game and also the Third man tackle come back. Hurling = you meet lovely people ~~followers~~ following the game, and that's what it's all about. I have played on alot of good players from every county - have great friends

Home

Home

PADDY BARRY 1948 - 1964

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1952 (Capt)
1953
1954

MUNSTER TITLES

1952
1953
1954
1956

RAILWAY CUPS

1953
1957
1958
1960



BORN:-
1928

DIED:-
2000

CLUB:
SARSFIELDS

COUNTY TITLES

1951
1957

NATIONAL LEAGUES

1948
1953

Home

CORK

: July '93

Paddy Barry.

...ing back from a distance at my career
... hurling. Let me put on record the
... enjoyment that I got of playing the
... at inter-county level. It was my
...at privilege to have been on the same team
... the greatest hurler of all time Christy
... (May he rest in peace). I played my
...st inter-county game in the National
...ling league against Wexford in 1947.
...did not gain a regular place in the
... championship team until 1952. From then
...l I retired in 1960 I was ~~[illegible]~~ on ever
...nt. ~~That~~ game me fifteen years playing with
...risty.
Until I ~~got~~ ~~my~~ place in the Cork team
... known to family and friends and parishioners
... Glennie parish as Pat. Michael O'Heled
...tered me Paddy and it stuck to me since
... my club Sarsfields won the Cork Senior
...rling championship in 1951 I had the
...nour of captaining Cork in 1952 to all
...lind success. I was one of the lucky ones
... have won every honour in the game.
...ll Inclined medals Runner up in '56
...ational Hurling leagues — 4 Railway cup
...dals 4 Munster championships 2 Cork County
...on hurling championships 1 St Brendan's cup
...dal 1 Fitzgibbon cup medal (as a sub)
...rk County junior football championship
... was nice to have won all these various championships
...dals but for this I must thank God that ~~the~~
... fit to give me whatever skill I had. I
... also lucky to be born a Corkman.
...kmen, Tipperary men & Kilkenny men have a
...ater chance of gaining honours on the hurling
...ere. I ~~[illegible]~~ realise how lucky I am when

Home

Paddy BARRY

I recall all the great hurlers that have ~~made~~ played with other counties. Wexford, Limerick, Offaly, Galway, Waterford, Dublin have been known to win All Ireland and God knows should have won more between them.

Again there are many great hurlers in the three more successful counties who have not been lucky enough to get an All Ireland medal, due to coming on the teams during the lean years.

I would like to express my thanks to all those who helped me in my career, my family, my clubmates in Glanmire and Sarsfields, my inter county colleagues down through the years that I played with Cork. My thanks and my appreciation to all my opponents on the field of play. ~~I feel that I never had argue~~ I hope I never made enemies from their ranks

Finally I must not forget to pay tribute to the greatest supporters in the game. I hope I have given pleasure to followers of the game in all counties

My one great regret was that my father Jim never lived to share my successes. Daddy was a founder member of the Corrigtwohill hurling club, a great G.A.A. man. The hurling pitch in Corrigtwohill Parc Seamus De Barra is dedicated to his memory and on behalf of my family and myself I would like to forever thank the Corrigtwohill club for bestowing this honour on him for them Dr Go raibh a anam

Home

EAMONN CREGAN 1964 - 1983

VISITED: Aug '9

BORN:- 1945



Eamon Cregan

CLUB: CLAUGHAU

ALL IRELAND TITLE

1973

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1971

OIREACHTAS

1971

RAILWAY CUP

1968
1969
1981

ALL STAR

1971
1972
1980

COUNTY TITLES

1968
1971
1986

MUNSTER TITLES

1973
1974
1980
1981

Home

Eamonn Cregan

LIMERICK.

The highlight of my career is without doubt the All-Ireland win of 1973.
I always believed that this would happen and that I would be part of it. It was an unforgettable year. Limerick had been threatening for a number of years. It all started to happen when Jim Hogan, Tony O'Brien (R.I.P) and others went to the County Board and asked that we do Winter training. The Co. Board to their credit agreed to do this. But '73 happened many years before and it all goes back to Primary School hurling which was very strong at the time, teams like St. Johns, St. Munchins, St. Patricks, Leamys, Model School, all participated, famous names like Eamonn, Joe, Mikey Grimes, Water Shanahan, Leonard Enright, Colm Tucker, Christy Campbell, Fr. Pat O'Brien, Sean Foley, Bernie Harligan, to michael Cregan, to name but a few.
Add to those Doon C.B.S. Adare C.B.S. Charleville CBS which had Willie Moore, Jim Hogan, Jim O'Brien, Frankie Nolan and many more who formed the nucleus for the future. Without the schools we would have got nowhere and this is a lesson which must be kept in mind always.
The progression was then to Secondary School, Sextons St. St. Munchins, Doon, Charleville again schools are the common factor, Munchins has Redbee, Fr. Pa O'Brien but because of strict rules in the Church Pa never realised his potential.
Sextons St had a glorious five years in Hanty Cup from 64 – 68, beaten the last year.
These wins gave Limerick confidence to go out and do battle against very good opposition and this was mainly due to two people. Bro Burke (R.I.P) a Tipperaryman and Jim Hennessy, a Waterford man. They made us believe in ourselves.
In '63 we had beaten Tipp in the Munster Minor Final and this gave us confidence for future years that we had the beating of Tipp

Home

EAMON CREGAN.

After our win in '73 Limerick Co. Board made a bad mistake. We never capitalised on our win to promote hurling every where in Limerick. We had not the vision to see beyond '73. A golden opportunity was lost.

Pride was back with Limerick again. Our great rivals at the time were Tipp, Cork, Clare and Kilkenny.
Clare because of their closeness were always capable of beating us which they did to our dismay in 1972.
The Kilkenny team of the early 70s was a fabulous team with Keher, Purcell, Delany, Cummins, Shehan (a great keeper) ~~etc~~ Pat Henderson, Larkin. They played a tremendous game, skillful effective. I also thought that the Tipp team of the 60s was a great team, their strength was in the quality of their players.
Waterford were also a fine side.

My hope for Limerick is that we can consistantly compete against every other county at the highest level and win. In order to do this we must change our style back to a more basic style of game and in order to do this we must change the structure and coaching.
Mick Tynan has the right idea but where is that now?
2 All-Irelands in 53 years! Are we happy with that, if not, let us do something about it.

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FR. IGGY CLARKE 1972 - 1984

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1975



BORN: 1952

CLUB: MULLAGH

ALL STAR

1975
1978
1979
1980

RAILWAY CUPS

1980
1982
1983

OIREACHTAS

1976
1981

GALWAY.

D: Aug '93.

Fr Iggy Clarke.

I am a native of Mullagh Loughrea and it was there that I gained my love for games and in particular Hurling.

My brothers were all keen on hurling and my brother Joe also lined out for Galway. My other brother Tony who died at an early age showed great potential. My older brother Tom was a handy corner forward. After a day working on the farm all of us with our neighbours the Cahalans, Coens, Morgans gathered in our front lawn to play hurling. It was there we grew to love the game and learned all the skills between ourselves.

Looking back on those days now I think it was a great way to learn because the skills come naturally to us we become so used to it. I often say to young lads learning the skills that they should try and do the same apart from formal training sessions It will enhance their game and their enjoyment of it.

As young players we had a fair bit of success with Mullagh winning a County U 21 title with two Intermediate titles. One of my great memories as a young player is being carried off the field shoulder high by a neighbour Pat Joe Garvey. It was on an extremely wet evening and I was

Home

Iggy Clarke.

wearing a short pants. Playing hurling for the parish gave us a great sense of pride and it become for the parish a uniting force. It was and is a strong force behind any country parish. It was and is a medium that makes conversation easy and the whole social fabric of the parish is enhanced. It gives the parish a focal point of which they can be proud and all young and old usually give their full support.

I went to College in Garbally Ballinasloe, better known for Rugby than hurling perhaps. I played Rugby as a school boy and represented Connaught school boys. There I also played football and soccer and took part in athletic competitions. There I come in contact with other players like Andy Fenton Seon Silke Ciaron Fitzgerald. Garbally has many happy memories for me and as well as broadening my education it introduced me to a wide variety of other sports.

During this time I was called for my first minor trial. I was sawing potat with my father Joe when Padraic Donohue called and invited me to go. I said "why me" the others lads are better than me - a they going" Eventually I went and things took off from there. It was a "Good Frid but I did not know then that Religion o hurling would be so big in my life.

After Garbally I went to Maynooth study for the priesthood and looking at it now I consider myself very lucky. I was able to continue to play for Galway at u 21 and senior level and

Home

that was something that many great players before me were not able to do. I am thinking of players like Fr Paddy Gantley Fr Jack Solon, Fr Tom Hogan and many others who had to sacrifice their best years on account of their studies. Thank God the Rules were relaxed so that because I could continue what I enjoyed and loved.

1980 was a historical year in Galway and I was thrilled to be part of it. I do not think I fully realised what hurling meant to the people of Galway until that. After winning the league in '75 we got a taste for it and vowed to ourselves we would break the alledged curse and carry the McCarthy Cup across the Shannon. To have achieved that is a very cherished memory. Eventhough I was injured for the final it was an unbelievable thrill to be able to raise the McCarthy Cup aloft on that historic day when the west was truly awake.

I will always be grateful to the Maynooth authorities for their flexibility, after ordination I was appointed to Loughrea in 1978 and I later transferred to play with Loughrea which was a very painful decision. Playing on the field as a priest made no difference, it was open competition and profession was irrelevant. It was a great joy and a constant challenge.

Hurling is one of the greatest field games that I know and thank God it has not changed much over the years. In our day Tony Doran could palm the ball into the net and Jimmy Barry Murphy

Iggy Clarke

could kick it to the net and its good the latter is still permissable.

Looking at the G.AA. authorities I would like if they were more open to other games, there is nothing to fear, if anything both hurling and football will thrive with open competition.

To any young person starting off I would say practice every day, I do not mean physical training, enjoy it for time passes quickly. I hope they will have as many happy memories as I had over the years.



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JOE Hennessy 1976 - 1988



BORN:

1956

CLUB:

JAMES STEPHENS

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1979
1982
1983

LEINSTER TITLES

1978
1979
1982
1983
1986
1987

OIREACHTAS

1984

NATIONAL LEAGUES

1976
1982
1983
1986

CO TITLES

1975
1976
1981

ALL STAR

1978
1979
1983
1984
1987

RAILWAY CUP

1979

Home

KILKENNY

ED: Aug '93

Joe Hennessy

I was born in the old Dean Street in 1956. There is none of the old street, ~~left~~ houses or children left. It has all been replaced by modern buildings. I spent my early life there and for as far back as I can remember I had a hurl in my hand just like most of the other children. We hurled and played in the Waterbarrack's. It passed many hours of fun for us.

Why did I hurl? I owe it all to my Dad, the late Paddy Hennessy. He had a love for the game that I never saw in anyone else. He organised street leagues that took in parishes adjoining the City and that included all grades from juvenile to senior. He refereed many of the matches and he brought truck loads of children to the matches on Sundays. I often went to two matches with him on Sunday afternoon and to another one in the evening. To him hurling was the ~~best~~ greatest game in the world and his enthusiasm and spirit rubbed off on me. My Dad was my greatest hero.

We moved house to William St and from then on I hurled in the Fairgreen. When I was growing up children had nothing and many grown ups had'nt much more. There was no television so young and old headed for the fairgreen every evening to pass away the time. Men up to 50 and children down to 6 hurled there. I often counted 100 hurling. Two teams were picked. My father often refereed. The hurling was savage — no quarter given or none asked for. It was thrilling stuff. We hurled back the balls from behind the goals.

Home

Joe Hennessy.

On Fridays evenings the men took out the girlfriends or went to the pictures in the Regent or the Savoy or else they headed for the pub. That was the only evening they had money and we had the Fairgreen to ourselves. We hurled for hours. As time went by I went to the handball alley called The Clash on all the evenings except Fridays by myself or with my brother Thor. It was there that I practised doubling on the ball, taking a ball off the back wall, cutting a ball off the floor and all kinds of overhead tricks using the hurl of course but never catching the ball. In time I became an expert at all the skills of ball playing. I had a deadly striking accuracy and a marvellous eye and years afterwards what I did on the great greens around the Country was the result of the hours of practice in the ball alley with the sponge ball.

In the C.B.S I continued to hurl and won under 12 and 14 county medals. I joined my club James Stephens and we won the County Minor Championship. James Stephens meant the world to me. I now hurled with the chaps I grew up with and I did that up to 1992. Here I love to thank especially, George Leahy who was over the club. He was a great motivator and drove us to heights beyond our wildest dreams.

I was picked at right half back on the County Minor Team of 1973 and we won the All-Ireland against Galway. That match holds the happiest and dearest memories for me. My father and mother were there. They were overjoyed and I felt I had retained a little of what my father had given to me. It was his last All-Ireland. I played again in the Minor All-Ireland of 1974 but we lost to Cork.

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My Mother was there but she passed away in October to follow my Father who had died earlier that year. He was 55 and she was 49. I am forever grateful that we won in 1973 and I'm glad you were there, Dad.

In 1976 our club, James Stephens won the County Senior Hurling Championship and from there we reached the All-Ireland Club Final. This one will always be special to me. Blackrock, Cork were our opponents, their record was great, 3 in a row and they were loaded with County players. I remember Dermot McCurtain, Tom Coolman, Pat Moylan, Ray Cummins, Eamonn O Donoghue, John Horgan, all of Cork and the great Frank Cummins of Kilkenny. They were 5 points up at the break but in a subdued second half we won by 2-10 to 2-4. We were the first club outside of Munster to win the All-Ireland Club Championship and we had beaten The Kings - Blackrock. We couldn't reach higher. It was like a dream to me but it all happened in Thurles. There was a surprise follow-up. We had a great meal in Hayes's Hotel and later Paddy Grace, County Board Sec for years stopped me going up the street "Hey Boy", he said, "there'll a car collect you next Sunday".

He said no more. I was walking on air. I was a sub on a great Kilkenny team. It meant the world to me. I was among the greats of that time - Pat Henderson, Fan Larkin and Mick Crotty to name but a few. I came on as a sub at corner back against Wexford in 1976. We were stunned by 17 points. Midfield in 1977 but it was Wexford again. Wexford lost both All-Irelands to Cork but I think most people would agree that Wexford were unfortunate not to win one of them. In 1979 I played at midfield against Wexford and after that we went on to

Joe Hennessy

win the All – Ireland against Galway. 1982 and 1983 meant an awful lot to me as we defeated Cork in both all – Irelands and what more could you ask for. The answer was simple for me. My wish was for 1984 All – Ireland but it wasn't to be. Wexford put us out in the Leinster Semi – Final. For the record Cork beat Offaly in the all – Ireland. The greatest regret of my career was not winning the 1984 All – Ireland. Why? It was Centenary year. We would have beaten Cork 3 times in a row and we would have had 3 All – Irelands in a row. All never know why we failed but I have no excuses. I hurled on to 1989. I felt I had a great long run. I played with great players like Noel Skehan, Joe Henderson, Frank Cummins, Billy Fitzpatrick and many others who were dedicated to the game and the spirit of the game.

I must mention Pat Henderson here. He was one of the greats in charge of Kilkenny from 1982 to 1987. Looking back over the years I recall certain players who were so great that they were impossible to run down. Pat Carroll (R.I.P) Offaly played all over the field and was a magnificent hurler. Johnny Murphy (Wexford) midfield was very fast and great in the air. Martin Quigley (Wexford) was a rare corner forward. Johnny Callanan (Clare) and Joe Cooney of (Galway) were beautiful ball players. John Fenton and Jim Coalman were the greatest of hurlers and outstanding sportsmen.

Talking about great players reminds me of great pitches. I loved Thurles as a pitch and for reasons already given. Croke Park is every players dream for the first Sunday in Sept. My own Nowlan Park is as good as any and I have a special liking for the Tulla pitch in Co Clare. It is very compact and you feel that the crowd

Home

as hurt at the Ground. We played Clare in a league game there. Having a huge Clare crowd made some difference to the home team and we felt a draw was a great result there. After the match the crowd was most friendly.

I also preferred the 70 min game as I think it suits amateures better. The game and the G.A.A meant everything to me. It was as important as going to Mass on a Sunday. The game and the weather were the main talking points. If it wasn't last Sundays game then it was the next game we talked about. That kept me going. The game also provided me with lifelong friends all over Ireland.

Having played for so many years I could write a whole book of incidents but here are two. It was a Railway Cup match, Leinster V Connaught. Sylvie Linane and myself had one hell of a tussle for possession. Both of us eyed one another. We threw down the gauntlet and boxed. The referee sent both of us to the line. We walked off together, sat down on the sideline together talked during the rest of the match. We are still the best of friends.

The second incident happened in 1983. We were down 8 Points to Wexford at half time. We were in the dumps and were sure we were finished. The late Paddy Grace came in and sized up the situation immediately "Wexford have given their best. We have them now" said Paddy.

We believed him and his words gave us a great lift. We beat them by 5 Points and went on to win the 1983 All-Ireland Final. Thanks Paddy. It was yours All-Ireland. You said the right words at the right time.

As a long playing back my advice to backs would be: "Train hard, get fit.

Home

Joe Hennessy.

be first to the ball and get rid of it fast.

In my day hurling was the fastest and best game in the world. It is still the same I miss ball forwards like Ray Cummins, Tony Doran, Joe M. Kenna, Padraig Horan and Christy Heffernan who fielded the hurley ball out of the skies and were then almost impossible for any ball back to stop them lifting the net. For example everytime Tony Doran of Wexford fielded the ball, and he was a master at it, you could see the stands rising in anticipation of a goal. The Crowds loved those fellows and so did the other players.

Referees are only amateurs like the players and they can make mistakes due to the split second decisions they have to make. A team should accept that decision as final I think the media put referees under unnecessary pressure. I would have one referee for hurling because hurling is a very skilful and fast game and that gives very little time to corner forwards and backs to mess about. A ball can be pucked about 90 yards and due to the speed of the game I believe umpires and linesmen should make full use of their powers to aid the referee. At present they prefer to avoid the issues.

As I also played football I am convinced the game needs 2 referees. Football is slower, more physical and has more body contact. There are too many off-the-ball incidents at present. The second ref. with the aid of umpires and linesmen could stamp out these incidents and so improve the game.

I Conclude my story by dedicating it and all the enjoyment it brought me: all the friends I made and the honour of wearing the Black and Amber for so many years to my father who made it all happen for me. 10-8-93

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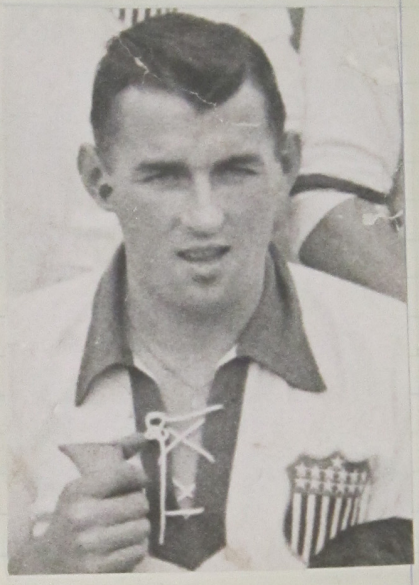
BRENDAN Hennessy 1955 - 1976

BORN:-
1938

CLUB:
BALLYDUFF
AND
NEW YORK



COUNTY TITLES
1955
1957

HURLER of the YEAR
1969 (NEW YORK)

FOOTBALLER of the YEAR
1964 (NEW YORK)

HARTY CUP
1957 (St. Flannans)

COLLEGES INTER-PROVINCIAL
1955 (MUNSTER)
1956 "

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
1964 (NY)

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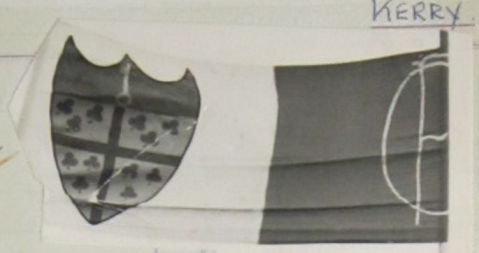
KERRY.

SITED: Aug 93

Brendan Hennessy





HARTY CUP GLORY
BRENDAN (LEFT)

ur letter of 23rd July caused me to have some
ne fond memories. I began the sport even before I
member with a stick in my hands at about 3 years
ld. The stick stayed in my hands for some 35 years.
ost of Kerry was an unlikely place for a hurler
grow up, but North Kerry and parts of South
erry Kilgarvan Kenmare & Killarney were all strongholds
the great game. My Father and my brothers, the whole
mily except my Mother were part of the great game and
t of my growing up in it. Even my Mother began to
get her worries about the bumps and bruises as we got
re involved and more successful. My favourite Kerry
rlers when I was growing up, were Tomaisin Nolan, Frank
sane Nicholas Scollard Ritchie Purcell, John Joe O'Connell
n Joe Galvin. Moreover the hurling gave me the chance
play against the best in the game, taught me that if
play at the top level you have to be in top shape
ntally and physically, taught me to fear nobody but respect
ryone's ability. The bigger the names the better I
ayed. As far back as I remember the hurley and the
ll were always with me. I spent countless hours hitting
ponge ball against the Gable of the house. That developed
skills at a young age for the team play that came later
lder brothers Thomas Teddy Michael and Patrick were all
standing hurlers and I wanted to be that good or better. The
ncipal of Ballyduff School was Master Lawlor who was a
t hurling enthusiast. At lunch we played a match
yday and if the game was good he always gave us an extra half hour

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Brendan Hennessy

As Juveniles in Ballyduff we won four North Kerry Leagues in a row. Playing with me on those teams were J. O'Connor R. McCarthy M. J. Quinlan, E. O. Sullivan P. Ross P. O'Brien M. Dunne, M. M. O'Connor St Rotchford T. Sheehan T. Kirby D. Wynne J. Wynne and most of those players went on to win Senior Championships later on. I will never forget the men who gave their time training us, carried us to the games and gave us moral support, Master Lawlor John Gorman, Mossie ~~Higgins~~ Higgins Mike Dowling, Gabe McKenna who is still involved with the Ballyduff Club. In those days there were few cars around so most travel was done on bicycles, walking, or sometimes in Peter Carbery's Ford Prefect. I remember one time when eleven of us piled into Mr Carbery's little car. I remember the day of confirmation in Ballyduff after we were confirmed Ritchie McCarthy and myself went to Ignatius O'Briens field in Rattoo practising thats all we thought about was hurling. As juveniles we had a brown sliothar and when in ripped, up to Stephen Sullivan the harness maker to have it stitched that sliothar must have had a hundred stitches. When I was growing up in the forty's and early fifties Ballyduff had very good Senior teams but they always seemed to get beaten in finals or Semi-Finals it was so dissappointing. Crotta and Ardfert were the strong teams in those days. In the spring of 1955 at the age of 16 I came on to the Ballyduff Senior hurling team and played at Midfield. We Won the Kerry County Championship for the first time since 1891 when Ballyduff won the All-Ireland hurling title. It was the first breakthrough for the Parish in 64 years and I was proud to be a part of that historic ~~occasion~~ Team. I was so happy for some of my teamates who tasted success for the first time and who had given great service to the Club. T. O'Carroll Harry J. O'Connor Sonny Fitzgerald Gerry Fitzgerald Stephen Sullivan Martin Ross, John Joe O'Connell F. Cantillon, D. Hanrahan T. Galvin R. McCarthy. My brothers Teddy Michael and Patrick were the Stars of that team. We were beaten in the 1956 Championship but we came back stronger than ever in 1957 and I captained the ~~to~~ team to victory. We had a couple of New faces in 1957 two of whom became household names in Kerry hurling for years Mike J. Quinlan

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Eamon O'Sullivan. I played with the Kerry hurling team
1955-57. In 1957 we beat Meath in the final of Division II
onal league. That was one of the best hurling teams that
represented the County. Won a Munster Junior Championship
Kerry hurlers in 1956 Beaten by Kilkenny in the All Ireland
al. Played against Galway in the National league 1957, My
ther Michael and myself played Mid-field Teddy played
tre-forward. I was on Joe Salmon R.I.P. thats when I came of age
was full of complements to be after the match. In 1953 I went
chool in St Flannan's Ennis As a Kerryman I was expected
e a ~~hurler~~ Footballer which I also played but hurling
my first love. My friends that I had made were very
h surprised when I went to the hurling field on the first
of games. It was the 1st & 2nd year field There were two teams
ed and I think I was the last one chosen. Fr Madden
was the trainer of the Senior hurling team happened to
passing by the field and he watched the match. When
was all over he tapped me on the shoulder and told me
to the Senior field the following evening. I am happy
proud to say that I played on three Harty Cup teams. We
t North Mon in the 1957 Final. Kierans beat
in the All Ireland Colleges Final. Eddie Keher and
Carroll starred on that Kierans Team. On the run
lay we were the better team but you know what
dition means and they beat us. I won two all-Ireland
eges Medals 1955-1956 beat Leinster on both occasions. On those
ster Colleges teams I played Centre field some of my
mates were Ray Reidy Jackie Rohan (Clare) Jimmy Doyle
McGarry Ray Prendegast Liam Moloney Mick Lynan. I really
ed my years in St Flannans not alone was it a great hurling
ary but it also got us ready for the real world when we
uated. Fr Madden from Clonakenny Co Tipperary was our
ner in St Flannans. I would say without a doubt he was
of the best I ever played for. He knew everything there was
now about the game and he was also a Marvellous tactician
as under his tuteledge that I really perfected the art of
ling and honed my natural skills to a fine point
career in Ireland came to an end in 1957 when I decided

Home

Brendan Hennessy.

to emigrate to America. I was just a little over 19 when I left for America on Feb 2nd 1958. Five of the Ballyduff team which won the '57 Championship emigrated with me My brothers Michael Thomas T. O'Carroll J. Broona M. Ros. It was very cold in New York when we landed of course there were no games that time of the year, but I couldn't wait to see Gaelic Park so after a couple of days my brother took me up there and it was then that I met the ledgendary John Kerry O'Donnell. In the New York Championships Michael and myself played for Kilkenny. The first game we played was agaist Tipperary I was playing on Sean O'meara who had played with Tipp before he emigrated. After that match Michael and Myself were selected for the New York All-Stars to play against All Ireland champions Kilkenny. There were some great Hurlers in New York at the time and we hammered Kilkenny in both game. I was playing on Mick Brophy by the was a great Hurler and Sportsman. These games were played in the Month of May the first game was played in the Polo Grounds, the second one in Gaelic Park. We were scheduled to play in Ireland in Sept against the National League Champions. We trained from July to Sept and we were in great shape when we met Wexford for the St. Brenda Cup Fenal. In the pre game write up some writers wrote that the Hennessy Brothers wouldn't have the experience to play on men like Wheeler and Jim Morrissey but I guess we proved them wrong the record speakes for itself. Sports Stars of the week for that game. It was the best birthday present I ever got I was twenty years old the following day. I was on Real Hurler that day, a great hurler true sportsman but on the day he got a surprise Kerrymen were not supposed to hurl like we did. Michael and myself were perfect partners we knew each others moves both good workead on the ground I more or less travelled the field Mickael stayed around the Middle. He was a gifted hurler. I played with New York All-Stars from 1958-74. I played on some of the best players who ever played the game Tom Cheasley M Roche, T. English, N. Wheeler J. Salmon

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Devaney P. Moran, M Brophy, J. Condon, M. Flannelly, P. Dillon
Considine J. Power. P. McDonald. I swopped Jerseys with all
e Great ones. Hurling in New York in that period was very
d and the standard was very high. Some of the top players
e J. Carney P. Dowling S. Custy H. McCabe B. Kelleher J. Murphy
tuth P. Kirby. I had some great duels with Jimmy Carney
was a marvellous hurler very clean. Paddy Dowling was
other marvellous hurler who gave great service to New-York. The
ree of us played together on New York teams for years.
elic Park was the number one meeting place for the Irish
New York thats where the contacts were made for work,
d most of us met our wifes there.

layed for Kerry Miors in football played Midfield. Played football
Kerry in New York 1958-71 Won six New York Senior
hampionships Played Center half Back. Won National Football
ague Medal in 1964 Beat a great Dublin team powered
Lar Foley Des Foley M Whelan J. Timmons.

11th Aug 1993.



Brendan with youngest son David in Florida

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Denis Murphy 1959 - 1969



BORN: 1939

CLUB: St. Finbarr's

All Ireland Title

1966

Railway Cups

1966
1969

Munster Titles

1966
1969

County Titles

1965
1968

National League

1969

Home

CORK.

TED: Aug '93

Denis Murphy Date of Birth 3rd January 1939

I am very honoured to be asked to write this article on my playing days. I came from a farming family in Donoughmore where no hurling tradition.

Went to St. Colmans College Fermoy where I learned the skills. I was lucky to make corner forward my leaving cert year 1956 on their Harty Cup Team.

I won a Fitzgibbon Cup Medal with U.C.C. in 1958 and a Mid Cork Junior Hurling Medal with Ilenagh that year also. I was now working and living in the city and joined St. Finbarrs, won 2 county medals 1965 and 1968. Won 1 all Ireland 1966, 1 National League (Captain) 1969, 2 Munster Championships 1966 and 1969. 2 Railway Cups Medals 1966 & 1969. All Ireland Long puck 1965 (approx)

Met some great players like Mick Ryan (Tipperary) was finishing up with St. Finbarrs when I started, Mick Roche, Jimmy Doyle and Babs of Tipperary. Seamus Cleere Martin Coogan and Ian Larkin Kilkenny, Tony Doran Hopper McGrath Bobby Rackard Wexford, Philly Grimes, Frankie Walsh, Johnny O Connor and Larry Guinan Waterford and Eamonn Cregan Joe McKenna Limerick, Jimmy Smith and Pat Cronin Clare.

Christy Ring was the best player I ever played with or against. So many times the corner forward would turn around to me after a score at the other end and say only Ring would have scored it. His dedication and love of the game which was so evident in the training field was tremendous. I used to travel with him in his car to the matches for about 5 years up to his retirement.

We ran up against some great Tipperary teams in Munster finals in the 60's and were often humiliated. 1966 was our year we got the breaks in Killarney against Limerick

Home

DENIS MURPHY

in the Munster Final. They scored a goal in the last few minutes when we had been two points ahead, none of our back line had heard the whistle so we were glad when the referee pointed for a free out, this game was notable for the display of Eddy Fitzgerald at left half back.

We were very much underdogs in the All Ireland Final against Kilkenny but from the moment Colm Sheehan drove home the first goal from a pass from 21 yard free from Fr Seamie Barry there was no stopping us, the hunger and will to win was so evident in that display.

1969 was the big disappointment. We beat Wexford in the National League Final where there were tremendous displays by Willie Walsh and Charlie Cullinane We beat Tipperary in the Munster Final the first time in the 60's this had happened. In the final against Kilkenny we were very hot favourites, about 10 days beforehand Justin McCarthy our centreback was pillion passenger on Joe Murphy's motorcycle - one of our subs - on the way to training, a car reversed out of an avenue on the Rochestown Road and broke Justin's kneecap. Willie Walsh was moved back to centre back in his place and gave an exhibition there on Pat Delaney, but it weakened our forward line and this injury I believe cost us the match

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DIN JOE BUCKLEY 1939 - 1947

BORN:
19th MAR. 1919

CLUB:
GLEN ROVERS

DIED:-
8th Oct. 2009



ALL IRELANDS

1941
1942
1943
1944
1946

MUNSTER TITLES

1942
1943
1944
1946
1947

COUNTY TITLES

1938
1939
1940
1941
1944
1945
1948
1949

NATIONAL LEAGUES

1940
1941

Home

CORK.

ED: Sept '93



Denis J. Buckley

growing up in the '20s in Shandon Street we played every kind of outdoor games including hurling, rounders, handball ball in the can and cat and Dog.

Our Beat was very poor then including bits of timber, ragged ball and half hurleys. We also threw a few bawls up Fair Hill as student of north mon we had to attend hurling and football practise in the Mon field every Tuesday half day and if we failed to attend we get extra homework.



Family Trio—Con, Denis and Jack Buckley who will appear for Glen Rovers

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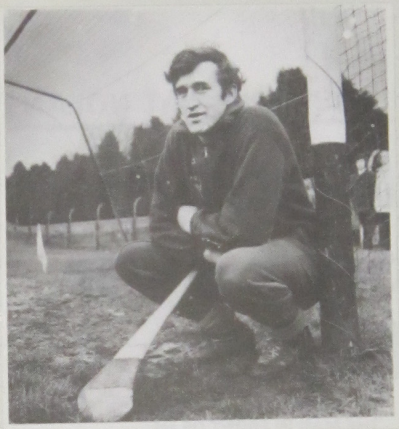
PAT NOLAN 1957 - 1974

ALL IRELAND TITLES

(1956)
1960
1968



BORN

1937

CLUB

OYLEGATE/GLENBRI

COUNTY TITLE

1963 (Capt)

RAILWAY CUP

1971

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1958
1967
1973

LEINSTER TITLES

(1956)
1960

1962
1965

1968
1970

OIREACHTAS

(1956)

WEXFORD.

ED. Oct '93

Pat Nolan

I have many happy Memories of the great game of Hurling the game that I love. I made a lot of good friends throughout the Country from Playing the game.

The greatest game I Played in was the 1982 All-Ireland Final. I think it was one of the greatest Finals Ever, a game we did not deserve to lose.

I suppose I was lucky to be Playing at a time when Wexford were winning Titles, when I think of all the great Wexford Players since 1968 who never won an All-Irelan Medal. We loved to Win, but if we were beaten it wasn't the End of the World.

My Proudest Moments were when we Won the All-Irelands and National leagues and Captaining My Club Coolgate-Glenbrien to Win the Wexford Senior Championship in 1963. I think the game of Hurling is not as Exciting as it Was before the Rule Changes. Most Referees seem to Blow a fair Shoulder nowadays. One of the great thrills of the game Was the Tussle around the goal. That is now gone as you can't tackle the goalkeeper. Goalkeepers to day seem to be a Protected Species.

My Favourite County to Play against Was Tipperary, Great Sportsmen The Same in Victory or Defeat.

My Only Wish now is to see Wexford Win an All-Ireland Soon.

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WILLIE BARRON 1937 - 1946

CLUBS:-

DUNGARVAN

St AIDAN'S ENNISCORTHY

AVOCA - Wicklow DIVISIONAL

LONDON

MUNSTER TITLE	CO TITLES	RAILWAY CUP
1938	1941 (Capt.)	1942
	195? AVOCA	

3 LONDON TITLES



BORN: 1914

Home

WATERFORD.

D: Oct 1993

Willie Barron

Lovely meeting Brendan Fullam
and his wife Mary –
We went through many Happy Memories –
good luck to all the old Hurlers
and long may they live.
Those were marvellous days

Cheers

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JOHN LYONS 1946 - 1960



JOHN LYONS
"The Gentleman" Full Back.

BORN:
1924

CLUB:-
GLEN ROVERS

COUNTY TITLES

1944
1945
1948
1949
1950 (Capt.)
1953
1954
1958 (Capt.)
1959 (Capt.)
1960

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1953

ALL IRELANDS

(1946)
1952
1953
1954

RAILWAY CUPS

1955
1957
1958

MUNSTER TITLES

(1946)
1952
1953
1954
1956

Home

CORK.

TED: Oct '93

John Ryans

Hurling to me is the greatest field game of all. I am a hurling priest and derive my greatest enjoyment from a good hurling game. When I first went to school in North Main 1934 that year the Main were in the Hasty Cup final with Limerick CBS. I can well recall Bro McDonnell coming around to the class rooms selling the said tickets for the final in Mitchelstown. Two Shillings was the fare a lot of money in these days. The trip to Mitchelstown to me was wonderous. Blue & White colours sweets and lemonade. The Main won and I can remember the parade from the station up McCurtain St. through Patricks St. North Main St. Shandon St. St Mary's Rd to the school. Molly Owens bonfire on Shandon St and another at the front entrance to the school. My great hero of course someone whom I had the great honour of playing with later was the Main Captain Jack Lynch. From then on while I played any kind of a game with a ball hurling was my favourite game. I progressed through North Main until I was wearing the famous Blue & White Versus our great rivals Farranferris in the under 14 final by immediate opponent was Joe Kelly who later became Fr Joe and won All Ireland with Cork 1946. In the Main Hasty teams of those years we had Con Murphy the late Jerry Riordan his brother Mossy and Sean O Brien

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JOHN LYONS

From school I went straight into the Glen senior team and won the Co. Championship of 1944. That team contained some of the all time greats in Cork hurling. Jack Lynch DJ. Buckley, Paddy O'Donovan, Jim Young Christy Ring David Creedon My years with Glen Rovers from 1944 - 1961 are studded with great memories of great matches and great friends. Great rivalries with the Barrs Blackrock Sars. Great friends such as Seamus O Brien, Sean O Brien Donie O'Donovan Jimmy Lynam. Great wins, many defeats but above all my memories from 1944 - 61 are of playing and enjoying to the fullest Hurling - The Beautiful Game.

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JOE McDONAGH 1972 - 1983

ALL STAR

1976



BORN: 1953

CLUB: BALLINDERREEN

RAILWAY CUP.

1982
1983

DIREACHTAS

1976
1981

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1975

GALWAY

D: Nov '93

Joe McDonagh

Growing up in the heartland of South Galway, still under the charismatic influence of Michael Cusack since his sojourn there as a teacher, it was obvious I would become engaged in the only past-time of the area — hurling. Once I began to attend the games of my local club, Ballinderreen, it became a ritual for me to spend hours by the gable-end re-enacting the deeds of my local heroes. There I learned the basic skills and once acquired the next step was my visits on summers' evenings to the 'turlough' where all of Lualea practised, young and old. We delighted in the task of picking back the sliotars from behind the goals, or a rare treat was to be asked to play between the stones when all the adults risked to play outfield.

I was very lucky that my involvement in hurling co-incided with the National Coiste Iomana drive of 1965. Here in Galway the administrative challenge was taken up by a pioneering and far-sighted board. Structures, both competitive and organisational were put in place and I began with the first Under-14 bunch to compete for my club in 1965. Regular organised coaching sessions replaced the hap-hazard games in the 'turlough' and eventually we reached our first ever county final against mighty Castlegar in 1965. Though defeated, we learned a lot and the experience garnered assisted us in winning Divisional South Board Under-age titles in following years.

While attending Coláiste Einde in

Home

Joe McDonagh

Galway city, I came under the influence of Fr Enda Muldoon, now deceased, and though the college was not noted for its hurling strength, he encouraged me to practise constantly in the expansive hand-ball alleys in the school.

By 1970 I had made the County Minor team and we appeared in the All-Ireland Semi-final against Wexford in Pairc Chiaráin Athlone. This was Galway's first competitive outing in the Championship outside of Munster since 1959. We created a big surprise in defeating Wexford and it was like a dream come true to be appearing in Croke Park in the Minor final against Cork. Unfortunately a powerful Cork minor side defeated us comprehensively in the final but the experience left a lasting impression and a strong desire to return! I'll never forget the roar of the crowd as we came out from under the Cusack Stand tunnel.

The next major stepping stone was the All-Ireland Under-21 success of 1972. Having embarked on a student working visit to New York earlier that summer, I was enjoying the life in the Big Apple and playing hurling for Galway, when a sudden telegraph came through inviting me home to join the panel for the All-Ireland final against Dublin. Galway had defeated Tipperary in the semi-final and were leaving no stone unturned in order to win the county its first title in this grade. I joined my colleagues in training and an unfortunate injury in a challenge against St. Ryan's left me struggling to regain fitness for the final. Though failing to make the first fifteen as a result, I was delighted to be able to come in as a substitute in the second half at midfield, and win my first

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All-Ireland medal.

Following that victory in 1972, a number of us were invited to join the Senior panel and I remember being selected for my first senior game in the opening round of the National League against Offaly in Birr. I was selected at centre-half forward and was marked by Pádraig Horan. My second game was in the more familiar surrounds of left half back against Tipperary in Nenagh when I marshalled the elusive Francis Loughnane. Obviously the step up to Senior was a big one and it took us some time to adjust. However the long team building programme undertaken by Mr. T. Flaherty our coach paid off some two years later when we coasted through Division 1B of the League and defeated Cork in the National League quarter-final in Limerick. This victory shocked the nation and we progressed to defeat a lethargic Kilkenny in the semi-final before defeating much-haunted Tipperary in an historic final in Limerick. At last the barren had been broken and we looked forward with relish to the championship.

Having qualified for the All-Ireland semi-final against Cork we started the game in whirlwind fashion and created yet another sensation in qualifying for Galway's first Senior final since 1958. It was heady stuff and expectations were high, but in reality we were never a match for one of Kilkenny's greatest ever teams. My opponent that day was Kilkenny's young captain Billy Fitzpatrick. We have remained lifelong friends since.

On the club front, my club's under-age policy of the sixties began to pay

Home

Joe McDonagh.

dividends when we qualified for the knock-out stages of the County Senior Championship in 1977 and 1978. Having been defeated in the County Semi-final of 1977 by Athenry we went one better in 1978. I was honoured to be captain but unfortunately I did not prove to be a lucky captain for either club or county. Our great rivals and near neighbours Redrobhan defeated us in that 78 final after a replay and extra time. Following that club campaign, I was chosen to captain Galway the following season and finished up the losing captain again in the —

Oireachtas final. v. Wexford 1978
Railway Cup final. v. Leinster 1979
National League final. v. Tipperary 1979
All-Ireland final. v. Kilkenny 1979.

Undoubtedly luck was not one of my major traits as captain.

Having suffered a long illness after the 1979 final, I was delighted to be asked to rejoin my colleagues for the 1980 campaign. Though not playing, I felt as much a part of the team as the players since we had struggled and suffered since 1975. The euphoria that attended the 1980 final had to be seen to be believed. The long wait was over, and suddenly Galway's hurling passion exploded. We've been on a roller coaster ever since. All the curses and psychological barriers have been dispelled and due to a careful attention to administrative detail Galway's hurling successes of recent times have been carefully harvested. The future still looks bright as hurling has become the major sporting interest within the county. I'm glad to have lived to participate in and witness such a happening.

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BARNEY Moylan 1965 - 1976

RAILWAY CUPS

1972
1973

BORN:
1943

CLUB:
ST RYNAGH'S



COUNTY TITLES

1965	1970	1974
1966	1972	1975
1969	1973	1976

OFFALY.

ED: Nov 93

Barney Moylan

my Hurling Days were Extra Special - Right from the time my Father got me my first Hurley.
I have alot of lovely memories of Playing with St Rynaghs. I enjoyed every game. Whether with Club County or Province.

When I was in Canada for almost 2 years I played a game every Sunday during the hurling Season and Practised every evening. Hurling in America was very hard on Physical

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PAT HARTIGAN 1968-1979

ALL IRELAND

1973

ALL STARS

1971
1972
1973
1974
1975



BORN: 1950

CLUB: South Liberties

RAILWAY CUP

1976
1978

MUNSTER TITLES

1973
1974

COUNTY TITLES

1972
1976
1978

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1971

OIREACHTAS

1971

Home

LIMERICK

ED: NOV 1993.

1

Little did I think that growing up in Donoughmore, a hinterland of Limerick City, as a young lad during the '50's that it would provide me in the future with a culture that was to play a significant part in developing me through boy-hood to the present day.

The culture into which I was born, blessed me, by creating a platform for me to grow, appreciate and enjoy the true values of rural Ireland. The culture which I refer to is one where I learned to strive for success both in mind + body where ones own ability to succeed was only surpassed by ones ability to be humble.

This culture was fashioned through school, work + play. All three were consistently tangible to one another, where play followed work, and work followed school. Without school and work there could be no play. With hindsight it was a marvellous way to utilize your play time to the fullest.

Play time was dominated by

Home

PAT HARTIGAN.

2/

the game of hurling. During the 1950's ones aim was to be a John Doyle, a Christy Ring or indeed an Art Foley. These were the men most often spoken by our fore-fathers and to dream of being one of these giants would almost assure you a place in eternal folklore.

The mystique that surrounded such great players was awe-inspiring. Every "three goals in" was adorned by these names or equally famous names of that era and it was always ones intention to carry out the skills of the game in a manner that would justify being called by one of the games great names.

Donoughmore school yard, Butters field and Hickeys cross all carried the honour of being Croke Park from time to time. Often during the summer evenings these games were ended only by the fear of the dark.

Drombanna, along with the town lands of Donoughmore, Ballysheedy Ballyveety & Knockea formed the back-bone of the great South Liberty G.A.A Club. It wasn't until I was 15 years old did I have the

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honour of first wearing the famous "Green + Gold". The privilege and honour to play for South Liberties was never surpassed by any sporting achievement that came my way throughout my playing career. Even to-day every facet of my sporting life is dulled in comparison to the glorious memories I hold within myself from my playing days with South Liberties.

To-day, men like J. P. McManus Joe McKenna + Eamon Grimes are strong personal friends bonded together through their efforts and aspirations in steering South Liberties to greatness.

But the great names of South Liberties did not end there. We had the brave Dooleys', the skillful Shannahans', the speedy Wades', the mighty Ryans, the fearless Crokers' + the classy Butlers just to mention a few. These were men who projected a glowing image throughout their playing days of all that is good in Irish manhood.

To bring the game of hurling back to its forever

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PAT HARTIGAN.

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glory days of which ever decade you so wish, the club structure has to be revitalized and nurtured so that young ambitions can once again be kindled in order that the famous names of to-day can create the mystique for the youth of to-morrow

Would it be great to be little boys again!

Yours in Sport

Pat Hartigan.

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NOEL SKEHAN 1963-1985

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1972 (C) (1963) 1979
1974 (1967) 1982
1975 (1969) 1983

HURLER of the YEAR

1982



BORN:
1944

CLUB:
BENNETTSBRIDGE

ALL STARS

1972 1976
1973 1982
1974 1983
1975

LEINSTER TITLES

1972 1978
1973 1979
1974 1981
1975 1982

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1976
1982
1983

RAILWAY CUP

1973
1974
1975
1979

OIREACHTAS

1966
1967
1969

COUNTY TITLES:

1962 1964 1966 1967 1971 19

KILKENNY

ITED: Nov 93

Mark Skehan

Bennettsbridge when I was growing up was a very small parish with a small population but with one of the best club Hurling teams in Ireland. Hurling was a must for all young lads growing up there.

I remember that great team of the 50's 60. training every night of the week and Sunday mornings. The Hurling field would be black with players and how times have changed now a days you would be lucky if you could get players on club teams to go to the local hurling pitch to train two nights a week.

As a young lad I used to go to the hurling field every evening in the summer and watch the team training and hope to get a few pucks of the ball or maybe if they were playing a game of backs and forwards you might get the job of picking the ball into them, when there would be too many players for backs and forwards they would play full length of the pitch, so if you were picking the ball into the backs and forwards. at the time you would have to go on the other goal. That's really how I started to play our goal.

Noel Skehan.

The main aim for every for every young lad living in Bennettsbridge at that time was to play for the local team and wear the Green and Gold Jersey
Bennettsbridge at that time was a house hold name in hurling circles and used to play in matches all over Ireland.
When you established your self on the Bridge team your next aim was to wear the Black and Amber.

At that time in Bennettsbridge and I suppose it was no different in any other small country Parish, there wasn't a lot for young people to do in the Summer evenings only to play some sort of sport. With hurling so strong in our Parish the thing to do was to play the game of hurling. Parish community spirit and loyalty to the club was of a very high standard. They had a great following at all times and the excitement around important matches and indeed championship matches was very high.
Bennettsbridge at that time were winning so much outside and inside the County every team they played were very anxious to beat them.
I started playing with Bennettsbridge on the U16 team when I was 13 years old and played minor club at 14. I played on all club teams from there on. I played senior at 16 and won my first senior Co. Championship in 1962.
In 1962 I played minor for Kilkenny and won the All-Ireland that same year.

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In 1963 I was a sub on the Kilkenny team that won the senior All-Ireland to goalkeeper Ollie Walsh.

I played and captained the 1972 Kilkenny winning team, it was my first senior All-Ireland to play in and to captain it was a bonus. After that I played with the county till April 1985. when I Retired

In those years I won 9 All-Ireland Snr. 11 Leinster 4 Oireactas. 3. Leagues 1. Minor 6 Co. C.Ships. 7. All-Stars 4. B&I Awards 1 Texaco Awards. 2 Man of match awards 1972, 1982 All-Irelands Several Sport Star of Week awards and many others, during my playing days I made in all the Countys, we played and on trips to U.S.A. and Railway Cup Matches,

To be good at any sport you must train hard and be very dedicated. I have a lot to be grateful for the G.A.A. and I enjoyed every minute of it,



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JIMMY GREY 1957 - 1965

LEINSTER TITLE

1961

BORN

1929

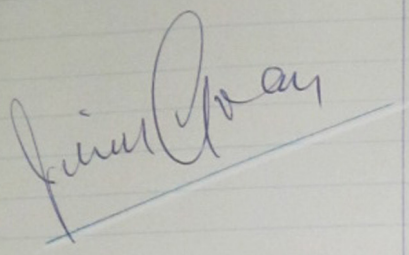
CLUB

NA FIANNA (DUBLIN)



DUBLIN

D. Nov. 93



Having been born bred and reared in Dublin, my father and mother coming from Longford, it may be wondered how I would have had any intent in hurling. However and strangely enough when I was growing up in Drumcondra, the sports I took part in were hurling and soccer and both these games we played on the street. This combination was not at all unusual in Dublin and there was a standard of hurling then in the Primary Schools which was of the highest quality. Indeed an old soccer colleague I mind Sean Whelan who tragically died in the hunniel Air Crash when he was a Manchester United player, was an outstanding hurler and if I remember rightly he played for the Dublin Primary Schools against Belfast.

It was when I went to Belvedere College that my real interest developed and as Mr. O'Callaghan was a marvelous coach and I suppose from that point onwards my only interest was the game of hurling although I did play for Dublin in football for a few years.

There is no more satisfying game than the hurling and probably the greatest thing is the satisfaction of connecting right with a sliotar, is to hit a good drive in golf. That-

Home

JIMMY GREY

Of the tee box.

There is no doubt but that hurlers are a special breed and whenever we meet, unfortunately usually at funerals, there is only the one subject debated, many times over I suppose, but still on the one topic.

I had the great privilege of playing with and against marvelous players and indeed people. Paddy Grace always said that Des Foley was the best centre-field player he had ever seen since Rosy Meagher. Achil Boothman was an artist and regretably Dublin did not sustain prominence long enough to illustrate the skills and courage that he had

In my time Jimmy Flood, Christy Ring, Jimmy Doyle and Nicky Rockard put many a ball past me, and I'll never forgive Sean Clohessy for his last minute goal in the 1959 Hunter Final. As to the best player that I have ever seen it has to be Eddie Keh

I played in the 1961 All-Ireland Final, ~~that~~ in which Tipperary beat us by a point. Apart altogether from the personal disappointment, it was a tragic from the point of view of the further development of the game in Dublin that we lost that game. I feel hurling nationally would have been much more universally played had we won that All Ireland

Finally, I wouldn't trade any of my hurling experiences for all the rewards in the world

2010

HALL OF FAME AWARD

COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN LEINSTER GAELIC GREATS

JIMMY GRAY DUBLIN

HALL of FAME

by paddy flanagan



Incoming Leinster Chairman Jimmy Gray is congratulated by his immediate predecessor Jack Boothman at the Leinster Convention held on 3 March 1990 in The Grand Hotel, Malahide

Home

Home

OLIVER Mc GRATH 1956 - 1965

BORN: 1938



ALL IRELAND

1960

LEINSTER TITLES

1960
1962
1965

RAILWAY CUP

1962

COUNTY TITLES

1960
1962
1965

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1958

CLUB: FAYTHE HARRIERS

Home

WEXFORD

ED: Dec '93

Oliver McGrath Wexford.

My early introduction to the G.A.A. was as I remember My late father visiting his relations + parents in Hill Street Wexford. I was usually brought with him on Sunday Mornings I shall always remember the thrill of seeing the array of Medals at my great uncles. He was of course the great Tom McGrath of the Wexford 1914 to 1918 Football team. My background was well and truly laid in Football and I was brought up on the Great Volunteer football teams of that period. The talk of these unbeatable combinations was the non stop subject of my early sporting life.
There was of course at that time no hurling to speak of in Wexford town. I can remember going to the Co Football of 1945 on the bar of My Fathers bicycle. I remember this because of the pain of my leg each time I got off the bike when my Father needed a rest or when a hill proved to steep. I can never recall the reason I took such an intrest in hurling. I seemed always to have my precious hurl with me. This doubled as a gun when playing Cowboys + Indians as it was the case with all my pals.
The Sunday broadcast by Michael O Hehir was the highlight of our week Names like "Lowry Maher", "Seanie Duggan" "Paddy Kenny" "Inky Flaherty Peter McDermott, Paddy O Brien, Christy Ring Jimmy Langton. Corless, Doyle, Kennedy all great players. We imitated all these players through the descriptions given by Michael O Hehir. The Sundays spent at the local Championships in Wexford Park, racing for the broken hurls. Our All Irelands were held on the Green at John Street on the Volunteers training "Grounds"
Enter the Christian Brothers and their love for the Gaelic heritage. While I was in the "Boker" we were all shown the skills of our National Game of Hurling. Teachers like Brothers Perkins, Kennedy Bro Cullen and others spent hours teaching us the art of Hurling.
I have always thought that not enough credit is given to the Christian Brothers. They taught a love of all things Irish. Class leagues, Street leagues, Inter School leagues were all promoted by these dedicated

Home

Oliver McGrath.

people. The diciplin which they demanded is sadly lacking today in the youth to a degree.
When I was seventeen I found myself on the Co Minor team. We were beaten by Kilkenny in the Leinster Final after a draw. The following year we played ~~a draw with~~ Kilkenny in the L. Final and won by a goal. Late in 1956 I played my first Senior inter Co game with Wexford V Cork, I was overwhelmed to ~~[illegible]~~ be a member of this great All Ireland Winning team.
It was in the following National league at Nowlan Park that I really established myself on the team. We went on to win that league 57-58. Every thing seemed to develop from there. We were All Ireland champions in 1960. Beaten in the final of '62. This was what I thought to be the greatest game I played in.
It has been a source of comfort for the older players to see some progress in recent years on the hurling field by Wexford. Hopefully it will not be too long before great victories will be achieved again.
Some regrets I have are in the failure of the Nat Television station to give much more coverage to the nat games. I consider it to be their duty to promote the Irish heretage.
I also regret the direction Croke Parke is heading in. That mass of All Irish G.A.A. people is being turned into a Rich Man Club. Corporate Boxes, Hospitality areas etc are a long way from the ordinary Club man trying to raise funds to keep the Club going looking after U12 U14 etc. I hope I am wrong but it looks like going to Croke Park in the future will be out of the reach of the ordinary grass root G.A.A. ~~Man~~ Person.
When ever I am asked about the best game you remember I always turn to the All Ireland Final of 1962. We were six points down after 5 level with 5 minutes to go, narrowly behind + pressing at full time. For sheer excitement this had everything. I have never seen supporters who were so happy in defeat. I think they were happy because they really Wexford could compete with the best in Ireland were as good as any and did not have to win to prove that.
The 1960 Final was a special day of that there is no doubt. Arriving back in Town the First Native to achieve the distinction of having won an All Ireland Senior Hurling Medal was great.
Asked about people who you admire most always poses a [illegible] I find dificult to answer. When I was young and all this excitement

Home

of Club victories, and County games was happening, a lot of things went over my head. The Constant practice, pressure, injuries travelling etc did not allow much pondering. When now I think of such things I have to commend my Parents for the great understanding shown. To take my efforts seriously and to think that I might have the ability to graduate to Senior Inter County Class. I do think that young people need adults to take them seriously for them to achieve their potential. This probably led to true success in weaker counties. My Wife of course who is ever understanding and always has been where G.A.A. is concerned. I think people like these Parents + Wives are invaluable to and organization. I do not think this has always been recognized. They should be regarded as important cogs in a team effort. After all it is an amateur sport and the time required for participation is family time. The great Nick Rackard and Paddy Cullen were two people admired to a great degree. Paddy Cullen the great rec + father of the "Fayth Harriers" Club had the drive and was the inspiration to take a street league winning team to Senior Hurling + Senior Football Co Championships in a space of 8 or 9 years. Also Leinster Senior Hurling Club championships as well. This will always stand out as a great achievement. Of Nick Rackard no more can be said. The inspiration + main figure in the Wexford Hurling Revival. Everything about him in those lean years was marvellous. His spirit never sagged his fierce determination mainly at Co Board where he had to convince the sceptics of the value of his suggestion. How to lead the great Hurling teams of the 50's. To position them as hurlers at the head of the list great. Long may his achievements be a source of hope for all the weaker counties in general and to Young Wexford men in Particular.

Some Rule Changes I would like to see, I think the square needs to be made smaller. Since the rule change regarding the tackling of the goalman in the square the scoring of goals has suffered. Too many frees for square infringements.

I think that Linesmen + Umpires should have more input into the game.

The Sin Bin should be brought into play. Referees are reluctant to send off players. If they could send them off for 10 minutes I think

Home

Oliver McGeath

It would be of greater benefits. If the penalty was defined it would eliminate lobbying for leniency and canvassing the disciplinary officers to intercede on certain players behalf.

Players who are regularly sent off and known as hard men have no place in the games. I would like to see a record of the sending off offences referred to and more stringent action taken against them and their clubs.

I would like to see the time keeping in our games looked after some other way. I think the referee should not have the extra responsibility. Perhaps a bogus clock could be used

Home

Home

Home

Home

PAT HENDERSON 1964 - 1978

LEINSTER TITLES

1964
1966
1967
1969
1971 (C)
1972
1973
1974
1975
1978



BORN:
1943

CLUB:
FENIANS JOHNS

RAILWAY CUPS

1967
1973
1974 (CAPT)
1975
1977

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1967
1969
1972
1974
1975

CO. TITLES

1970
1972
1973
1974
1977

ALL STAR

1973
1974

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1966
1976

OIREACHTAS

1966
1967
1969

Home

KILKENNY

Feb '94

Pat Henderson

I developed a love of hurling at a very early age when my father, who never played the game, used bring me as a small boy to games in Thurles, Kilkenny, Portlaoise. In those early days late forties and early fifties I remember seeing players like King, Langton and indeed Harry Gray of Lavis in action. In those days I tried in the local National school to emulate the feats of those heros of the time. In the early fifties I also watched the famous Rackard Brothers of Wexford in action and when we played our own little games around the farmyard at home or in the school yard we would assume the role of Rackard or Langton or King.

When I left National school and went to secondary school in Thurles C.B.S in the mid fifties I arrived in a real hot bed of hurling. This was where in years past several famous Tipp stars like the Doyles, Stakelum, Fenn, Wall and many others had been to school. It was here the Brothers began to develop my skills and in my second year at college I won my first medal. In 1958 Tipp won the senior titles and Tony Wall brought the McCarthy cup to the school, John O'Grady one ~~or~~ my teachers was in fact the goal keeper on that occasion. This occasion installed a great desire in me to play in an All-Ireland and represent my country.

In 1961 I first wore the Black + Amber at minor level and it was with this team I first ~~came~~ under the influence of Rev Fr Sonny Maher. He was to play a major part in the development of my career particularly a few years later when I began to play on the senior team. The lessons learned from him on the training ground have been put to good use not just in my playing days but also in latter years when as a trainer or

Home

Pat Henderson

Cork I have tried to pass on this wealth of knowledge.

I have been fortunate to have lived and played and coached in a great era in Kilkenny Hurling to have won every honour in the game with my county. I have met and made lifelong friends with great men both from my own county and also the counties we played against, Cork Tipp, Wexford Galway Dublin Offaly Waterford Clare. I also have fond memories of playing Inter Provincial with some great men for Kildare, Westmeath Laois & Cadan.

I would rate as a par with any of the great inter county players and members of my own club "Fenians Johnstown" who came together to form that club in the late sixties and in 1970 win the first senior title for the parish. I was honoured to have captained that Team which went on to win four more Senior titles between 1970 - 1977. In 1977 both Pat Joe also played on the winning Team and the both then went on to play Inter county with distinction.

I have been directly involved in the game over the past 25 years and this has been possible because of the great interest and love of the game by all my family, in particular Mary my wife and I am delighted to see my three sons so active involved now as players and driving much enjoyment for it.



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Jimmy Barry-Murphy 1974 - 1986

BORN: 1954

All Irelands

1976
1977
1978
1984
1986



Jimmy Barry Murphy (Cork)

All Stars

1976
1977
1978
1983
1986

CLUB: ST FINBARR'S

Munster Titles

1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1982 (Capt)
1983 (Capt)
1984
1985
1986

Oireachtas

1985

County Titles

1974
1977
1980
1981
1982
1984

National League

1980
1981

Football

All Irelands

1973

National League: 1980

All Stars

1973
1974

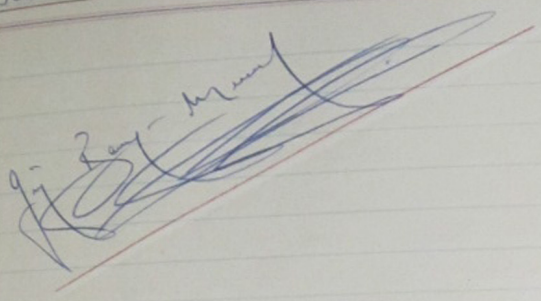
Railway Cups

1975
1976
1977
1978

Home

CORK.

Feb. '94.



I SUPPOSE IT IS INEVITABLE THAT MOST BOYS BORN IN CORK FROM THE AGE OF 4 OR 5 YEARS OF AGE ARE GOING TO HAVE A HURLEY PUN IN THEIR HAND'S AT SOME STAGE. OBVIOUSLY A GREAT NUMBER OF THEMS DO NOT PARTAKE MUCH MORE, SOME GO ON TO PLAY AT VARIOUS LEVEL'S FOR EITHER CLUB OR COUNTY. THE LUCKY FEW LIKE MYSELF CAN GO ON TO REALIZE WHAT WAS FOR ME FROM AS FAR BACK AS I CAN REMEMBER THE ONLY AMBITION I CAN RECALL AND THAT IS TO PLAY IN AN IRELAND FINAL WEARING THE RED AND WHITE OF CORK. THE FAMILY'S LONG INVOLVEMENT IN GAELIC GAMES ALSO ENSURED THAT ONE WOULD AT LEAST PLAY HURLING & FOOTBALL AND ABILITY AFTER THAT WOULD DICTATE AT WHAT LEVEL. MY GRANDFATHER AND GRAND UNCLE BOTH WON ALL IRELAND MEDAL'S IN 1919 AGAINST ~~LAOIS~~ DUBLIN AND MY GRAND UNCLE DINNY OF COURSE CATAINED CORK TO WIN ALL IRELAND HONOURS IN 1929. HE ALSO PLAYED IN THE FAMOUS FINAL OF 1931 AGTS THE "OLD ENEMY" KILKENNY AND OFTEN TOLD ME ABOUT THE GREAT PLAYERS LIKE SEAN OG MURPHY, EUDIE COUGHLAN, LORY MEAGHER AND MANY MORE. MY LATE FATHER JOHN WON 2 COUNTY MEDALS WITH ST. FINBARR'S AND ALSO WON A JUNIOR ALL IRELAND MEDAL IN 1942. WITH A FAMILY HISTORY LIKE THAT THERE WAS NEVER MUCH CHANCE OF GETTING BIG HEADED OR CARRIED AWAY WITH ANY SUCCESS.

P.T.O.

Home

Jimmy Barry-Murphy

My best memory of my own playing days is to have been part of the 3 in a row team of '76 '77 and '78. Since the forties it has always been a task to put 2 or 3 all Irelands together and this also proves the real worth of a team.

What means most to me now about the GAA is the friendships I made throughout the country and wherever I go I find somebody always wants to talk hurling and discuss prospects for future years. I am now involved in coaching, both in my own club and some minor matters; and I hope in some small way to repay the game of hurling for all that I got from the game both on and off the field.



Séamus Barra Ó Murchú
Jimmy Barry-Murphy
Corcaigh Full Forward

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Home

JOHN FENTON 1975-1987


Seán Ó Fiannachta
John Fenton
Corcaigh Midfield

BORN:

1955

CLUB:

MIDLETON

HURLER of the YEAR: 1984

GOAL of the YEAR: 1987 (v LIMERICK).

ALL IRELAND TITLES

(1978)
1984 Capt.
1986

ALL STARS

1983
1984
1985
1986
1987

RAILWAY CUPS

1981
1984 Capt.
1985

OIREACHTAS

1975
1977
1985

MUNSTER TITLES

1983
1984
1985
1986

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1980
1981

CO. TITLES

1983
1986
1987
1991

Home

CORK.

d: Feb '94

John Fenton

From My Earliest Days I always had an interest in sport particularly hurling and football but especially hurling. My father, Dan played with Carrigtwohill and the Cork Junior team and he encouraged and helped me in every way. One of my great friends and mentors in later years, Willie John Daly played with my father on those teams and this was an inspiration to me to follow in their footsteps. Midleton C.B.S. with Brother Moran was my first real introduction to the game. He spent many hours teaching us and were it not for his dedication and the dedication of other teachers, the Midleton Club would not have attained the heights it has over the last fifteen years.

At club level it took us a number of years to make the big breakthrough in Cork Senior hurling after we winning the Intermediate Championship in 1978 when we finally succeeded on the 9th Oct. 1983 in beating St. Finbarrs in the final it was the culmination of all my hurling dreams. It was a fairytale ending to a story ~~that~~ nobody thought would ever be written. It was without doubt my greatest moment in sport and one which will always give me my fondest memory. The following twelve months were all go, with Midleton Cork and Munster all doing successful in what was a great year for the G.A.A. it being the Centenary year.

Looking back on my career I find that

JOHN FENTON.

it helped me in a great way in developing my personality and character. The greatest memory I have is the friendship and comradeship I met with the players I played with and the players I played against. Today we can look back and enjoy our moments of glory and talk about the "one the got away" and smile. We in Middleton and Cork gave it every thing we had and win or lose enjoyed every moment of it.

To young players of today I would say to practice the skills of the game as often as possible. I used to hit a tennis ball off the gable end wall of our house in Middleton and the countless hours spent in this way helped me in no small way in later years. Later on when playing with Middleton I often went to our local field to practice on my own, often to find one of my team mates there before me, or arrive shortly after me, and this work was well rewarded in later years.

There will always be disappointments in playing games, but if you approach the game in a proper manner, and play the game fairly it will bring great enjoyment, and great memories to look back on when that final puck of the shotar is struck.



Home

Home

AUSTIN FLYNN 1955 - 1967

ALL IRELAND

1959

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1963

OIREACHTAS

1962



BORN:

1933

CLUB:

ABBEYS

MUNSTER TITLES

1957
1959
1963

RAILWAY CUPS

1960
1966

WATERFORD.

Feb. 94.

Austin Flynn



(3) A. Ó Floinn
(A. Flynn)

I think that anybody who got as much out of hurling in Waterford as I did would be a fool not to acknowledge the good luck to be playing at a time when a magnificent breed of hurlers was emerging in Waterford. Coupled with this was the fact that a small band of extraordinary people had the vision the dream and the courage to suggest that maybe these hurlers could win an All Ireland Title for Waterford.

But my good luck had started years earlier when I was born in Abbeyside, 50 yards from the Village School where I came under the influence of a brilliant and dedicated Teacher named Michael Foley who had in fact helped to train the 1948 Successful All Ireland Team. He it was who encouraged us to play hurling in front of the school and after school brought us to a small field near the church where we got special tuition playing 'Backs & Forwards'.

At the age of ten the boys of the Village became involved in the local Sunt Team and came under the influence of another extraordinary man named Liam Lanigan who inspired the Team from the small Village to win the All Ireland Trophy for Seniors on a number of occasions. So growing up in Abbeyside one got a great sense of identity and a deep pride in the 'Village'.

When I moved to Secondary School at Dungarvan CBS (Thanks to extra tuition after School from the aforementioned Mr Foley) I was immediately involved in School Hurling under the guidance of Br Mawson who did great work for College Hurling. Shortly after starting at the CBS I remember playing in a School Final in Waterford where I learned a lot from an Umpire at the Match. The Match was in progress for about 10 minutes and I hadn't struck a ball. We were under great pressure and every time the ball came my way the

Home

Austin Flynn.

full forward who was much bigger and stronger that I was pushing and shoving and and getting himself tought up in me — I was really frustrated and did not know what to do. At this point the goalkeeper asked me to puck out the ball. I went back to pick it up and as I did so the Umpire whispered "Keep away from your man until the ball arrives - he can't hurl. Well I was open to suggestions. The next ball that came I pretended to go for it but left the full forward off. He was now dealing with a dropping ball but with nobody to tangle with he did not know what to do. I just arrived at the right time (by accident) to gather the ball and clear. It was the first decent puck of the ball I got in the match and I remember thinking that this was a great idea. Afterwards whenever I had to mark anybody who was bigger or stronger than me I knew I had no business standing with him and I tried to implement this idea, not always with the same success however. The Umpire was unknown to me then and little did I know of the influence he would have on my hurling career and that of Waterford Hurling during the most glorious years (So far) from about 1956 - 1963. I later got to know him as Pat Fanning of Mount Sion.

In 1949 Abbeyside entered Minor Hurling & Football teams and I played in both for three years. I remember meeting Jim Kiersty for the first time when I played on him in a County Final — I played at full forward and Jim was Full Back — No it wasn't hurling — It was a Minor Football Final. Abbeyside won a number of Minor Football titles in a row but we lost Minor Hurling titles to Mount Sion. I was still in School in 1950 when I won a county Gunnion Hurling title playing at corner back with Abbeyside. The following year I was selected to play on the Waterford Gunnion Hurling team against Clare in Waterford but the School Principal advised against it as he felt I was not ready yet - so I withdrew. That year also I was captain of School team which won the Dean Ryan Cup for the first time by our School. We beat Thurles CBS in Clonmel in the final. Captain of Thurles CBS that day was Tony Wall.

Ten days previously I had played full back on the Munster Colleges team which beat Connaught in the final in Galway.

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Playing at centre back that day was Tony Wall and I remember at left half forward Dermot Kelly of Limerick played a great game. The day before this match I had heard of Tony Wall for the first time when it was suggested to me and if an opportunity arose near the end of the match and assuming we were in front then a tap on the ankle might'nt do Tony Wall any harm (He partially meant it should do him some Harm)

I was amused by this suggestion and explained that I knew I would have more than enough to do coping with the full forward besides watching for Tony Walls ankles.

The following year 1955 I came on as a sub in the first Round of the Senior Hurling Championship against Blaze in Waterford, The Match was a draw and we won the replay in Thurles (I was marking the famous Matt Wright that day). We were well beaten by Tipperary in Limerick in the next round. For the next few years I played in the League but had not the same interest at that time at Inter county level as I had at Club level. Things started to change around 1956 when we had a great game against Cork in the Championship in Fermoy and another turning point came in a famous match in the league against the mighty Wexford Team ~~when we~~ at Waterford. Things were now definately changing and for the 1957 championships the panel was brought together in Dungarvan for collective Training under John Keane as Trainer and Selector. Also present that evening were the other Selectors Jackie Grubb Mickey Feeney Seamus O'Brien (present Central Council delegate) and the Chairman Pat Fanning who made a famous address to the players which for me was the actual night it all started.

I Remember the way he spelt out his firm belief in the capacity of the group to win an All Ireland for Waterford the efforts the County Board would make towards this goal and the total commitment dedication and Pride in the County that would be expected from the Players. I did'nt know most of the other players at that time and I Remember thinking "This is serious Stuff" and I remember looking across at Seamus Power a Philly Grimes and thinking "My God am I out of my depth here - could I be in the same League

Home

Austin Flynn

as these fellows. Well in the years that followed life long friendships were forged between all present that night as well as all the replacement over the next 7 or so glorious years.

Waterford played in 1957 1959 and 1963 all Irelands. We won in 1959 in the replay and may think we should have won more but we also won Oireachtas and National League Titles. Many of us were in the Munster and Rest of Ireland teams. We travelled to New York as a team in 1960 and it was amazing how the visit brought so many Waterford people together in New York. In 1966 I was picked with Christy Ring Bernie Hartigan John Doyle and Pat Dunny to travel to New York for the Cardinal Cushing games. We played in New York and Chicago and had a visit to Robert Kennedy in his office in Washington. I became friendly with Christy during this visit and he often called to my house afterwards. Years earlier I remember walking down to the Creamery to pass by his lorry to see the hurley in the ~~cy~~ cab while he off loaded Heavy oil and I was ashamed to go over to talk to him.

Looking back now the team I admired most was the Mighty Wexford Team.

The best hurler was Christy Ring.

The club I admired most was Mount Sion with whom Abbeyside did battle on four occasions for the Senior Hurling Final of Waterford but we never won. We were always up against it as as well as the 6 or seven County Players they also had 6/7 more who were on the fringe of the County team so it would have been a great achievement for the Village team to beat them. We went very close on a few occasions. So I never got a county medal but I got just as much satisfaction in trying for the one from Abbeyside ~~and~~ as my friends on the Mount Sion got in adding to their collection — So no Regrets here.

The nicest hurler to watch I thought was Philly Grimes — To see him in full flight — he was so

Home

balanced and the picture of poetry in Motion.
For determination true grit and never say die attitude (Pat Fanning would demand to give until it hurts and until you have nothing more left and you would dig a little deeper to find that little bit extra) For the man who personified all this for me it has to be Seamus Power.
For the Intercounty Player who was the least likely to be put off in a match I have no doubt that all the players of my time would name John Barron so it has always been a great Regret of mine that John was put off in the All Ireland Final — John was everybody. No 1 Gentleman.
Looking back now I got a great deal out of hurling but more important than any medals or trophies are the treasured memories and lifelong friends with extraordinary people that could never have happened without the game of hurling.

The Hurlers I admired
Cork Christy Ring Ruddy Barry Jimmy Brohan
Denis O'Riordan
Tipperary Dony Neale. Jimmy Doyle Lan Devaney.
Limerick Dermot Kelly Mick Lynan.
Kilkenny Denis Heslip Eddie Keo Seamus Cleeve.
Wexford Tom Flood The Rackard. Jim English.
The team I would pick

Ollie Walsh.
Jim Brohan. Nick O'Donnell Bobbie Rackard
Seamus Cleeve Tony Wall Jimmy Finn
Jimmy Doyle Joe Salmon ~~Mark~~ Jim Morrissey
~~Phil Grimes~~ Donie Neelan ~~Ed~~ Tom Flood
Christy Ring Nicky Rackard Jimmy Smith.

Home

Home

Jim English 1952 - 1964

All Ireland Titles

1955
1956 (Capt)
1960



CLUB: Rathnure

BORN: 1932

DIED: 23 Feb 200

National Leagues

1956 (Capt)
1958

Railway Cups

1956
1962

Leinster Titles

1954
1955
1956 (Capt)
1960
1962

Oireachtas Titles

1953
1955
1956

County Titles

1950
1955 (Capt)
1961
1967

Home

WEXFORD

d: Feb 94

Jim English

I was born into a house of hurling & sport in Ballindoney where hurleys & ball were kept just outside the kitchen door. My father was a keen man on the game having played for the Templeudigan team with many of the neighbours. Games were often replayed around the fire or on the crossroads on a Summers evening. As I had older brothers playing the game with Rathmure. The yard was always the starting point with the door of stable & cow house as goals. Then the crossroads as a meeting in the evening, when numbers arrived you ended up in the field with a combination of hurling & camogie. My first memory of a real match was when Rathmure minors played Geraldine Ottans in Palace East in the championship in 1942. As a young lad I had the opportunity of playing with with Crossroads brigade in Donard Rathgarogue Drummond - Johny Kehoes & Joyces field. After listening to a match a Sunday on the Radio a Sunday it was followed by a session in the field with some trying to follow the deeds of Christy Ring Jim Langton Lowry Meagher Mick Rackard & others. My first championship was a minor chainpship against the Starlights at the Leap Davidstown in 1949.

Home

Jim English

My first county jersey was in Kilkenny in the 1950 Leinster Minor Championship
My first medal was won with New Ross C.B.S. under the guidance of Bro Egan Mr Butler & Mr O'Brien.
At Rathmore I had about 15 wonderful years & enjoyed every minute of it
To represent your County has to be the ambition of every player & I consider myself very lucky to have been able to play in putting Wexford to the forefront in the fifties & sixties. I enjoyed ten years in the one position at No 5
Having finished my hurling with Rathmore I transferred to Erins Own in Muinebheag. I became involved at Juvenile level in Muinebheag & was chairman of that club for 12 years and Chairman of Erins Own & St Andrews for seven yrs.
In 1972 I was elected Leinster Council Delegate for Carlow & served in that position for twenty years, until I was elected Chairman of the Board.
Hurling in considered a dangerous game by some by I never had a broken bone & was stitched in only one occasion
The Gaelic Athletic Assn. has been a great part of my life & gave me wonderful enjoyment & helped me make some great friends
My greatest was to see the smile on the faces of the old folk after victory
I have to thank many people for my wonderful years especially my father mother brother sisters for their help & encouragement
The officers & mentors of Rathmore Club for their guidance in the early years
The County Board officials & Selectors who made my time with them a pleasure

Home

My hope for the future is that weak counties like Carlow may find a level of playing field in the future. That Kathwire may once again become a hurling force in Wexford & produce players who will help their county to bring the McCarthy Cup back to the Model County.
May the G.A.A. Continue to give enjoyment to many people in the future.

Home

Home

JOE Mc KENNA 1971-1985

ALL IRELAND

1973

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1984

ALL STARS

1974
1975
1978
1979
1980
1981

RAILWAY CUP

1976
1978
1981 (Capt)
1984

MUNSTER TITLES

(1973)
1974
1980
1981

COUNTY TITLES

1972
1976
1978
1981



BORN:
1951

CLUB:
SOUTH LIBERT

Home

LIMERICK

...ITED: MAR '94

Joe McKenna



I was educated at St. Flannan's College, and played Dean Ryan & Harty Cup, winning a Dean Ryan medal.
I played Minor & M21 with Offaly for four years & played Senior for two years, before transferring to Limerick.

Home

Home

LEONARD ENRIGHT 1971 - 1988

OIREACHTAS

1971

COUNTY TITLES

1979
1982
1983
1984
1987
1988
1990

NATIONAL LEAGUES

(1971)
1984 (CAPT)
1985 (CAPT)

ALL STARS

1980
1981
1983

MUNSTER TITLES

1980
1981

RAILWAY CUP

1984
1985



BORN:

1952

CLUB:

PATRICKSWELL

Home

LIMERICK.

d: MAR '94



Conrad Enright

I first hurled for P. Well
un sixteen. Managed by
Richard Bennis. Richard Bennis
would be my favourand club
man. Bouth four under
age and senior. Richard is
prepared to do any kind of
work for the club.
Sean foley in my mind would
be the greatest half back
I ever see playing the game
The greatest example of his play was
lift and strick in the same
movement and send a fast
ball to his fordwards —
the Ideal ball for forwards.
Create full forwards I played
against. Ray Cunnins Tony Doran
P J Cuddy Noel Casey Clare
My hurling days with P Well
and Limerick were grate days. I wish
I could live them all over
again. If I got my chance
again I would try to Improve
my game. The friendships I made
will last for ever.
If hurling was for making
enemies I would never have played the game.

Home

Home

CIARAN BARR 1984 - 1994

ALL STAR

1988

COUNTY TITLE

1987

ULSTER TITLES

1987
1988
1989
1990
1991



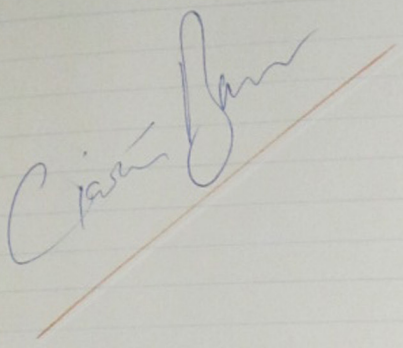
BORN:-
1964

CLUB:-
O'DONOVAN RO

Home

ANTRIM.

ed: MAR '91



My introduction to Gaelic games came from a couple of De La Salle Brothers in St Finians P.S. on the Lower Falls Road. They were both Kerry men and the school colours were the Kerry colours. They were great football men and taught us the Kerry style of the day, and we all idolised the Kerry Team of the '70's.

When I then moved up to Grammar School the Christian Brothers introduced me to Hurling. But, with two older brothers who were great players I was the water bottle carrier for quite some time.

Eventually I followed my brother onto the O'Donovan Rossa Teams and enjoyed the Team spirit and friendships of my colleagues there.

I suppose with my move to Dublin I cannot leave out St Vincents, who

Home

CIARAN BARR

have shown me great warmth and I hope to end my playing days there.

I have always enjoyed playing gaelic games, but my great passion is for Hurling. There is no game like it and it has been a privilidge to play the game and to meet the great players and mentors.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents for all their love and support, without them I would not be the man I am.

Home

Home

Home

Home

Angela Downey 1972 - 199



ALL IRELAND TITLES

1974
1976
1977 (Capt)
1981
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991 (Capt)

BORN:
1957

CLUB:
St Pa

GAEL LINN INTER-PROV.

1978
1979
1981
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1991

COUNTY TITLES

1973 - 1990 (18. St. Pauls)
1992 - 1993 (2. Lisdowney)

LEINSTER TITLE

1975 - 1977
1984 - 1991

ALL IRELAND (CLUB)

1974 1976 1987
1988 1989

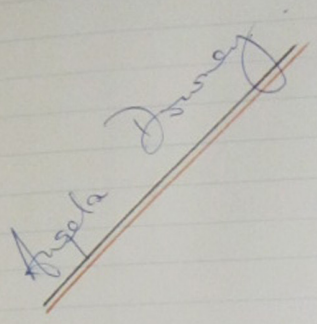
NATIONAL LE

1978 1980
1985 1987
1989 1990

Home

KILKENNY.

SITED: MAR '94



I played in my first senior All Ireland final with Kilkenny in 1972 against Cork when I was 15. I can't remember the score, but we were beaten. However it was the only defeat Kilkenny suffered in an All Ireland final. My sister Ann has been a team mate on every occasion since and is also the holder of 11 All Irelands. Throughout those twenty odd years it's impossible to describe the enjoyment and pin point memorable occasions but I would have to say that my most memorable recollection is winning my 11th All Ireland with Kilkenny in 1991 against Cork. I had the additional enjoyment of captaining a winning All Ireland team for the third occasion as President Mary Robinson's first official visit to a camogie All Ireland final. Having said that some of my greatest memories are from club championship games played with the legendary St. Paul's and later with

Home

Angela Downey

Lisdowney

Throughout all those years we played against some great players such as Margaret Lacey, Elsie Cody, Catherine Murphy, Orla Ni Siochain, Marion Sweeney, Mary O' Leary, Pat Molony, Hannah Dineen, Sheila Murray.

Some of the greatest Kilkenny players I admired and played with (not as many titles didn't they Kilkenny's say include Mary Conway, Phil + Carmel O' Shea, Helena + Teresa O' Neill, Nuala Duncan and the greatest of all camogie players Liz Neary - who has a record number of Colleges', Club and Inter County All-Irelands which, in my opinion, will never be equalled.

It was fantastic being part of the great seven in a row team of the eighties under the guidance of Tom Ryan. He instilled that great determination and will to win in each and every played which is so vital if one is to be successful.

Home

Home

KATHLEEN MILLS 1941 - 1961



BORN: 1923

CLUB: G.S.R.

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1942	1951	1957
1943	1952	1958 Capt
1944	1953	1959
1948	1954	1960
1950	1955	1961

LEINSTER TITLES

1941	1946	1952	1957
1942	1947	1953	1958
1943	1948	1954	1959
1944	1950	1955	1960
1945	1951	1956	1961

GAEL-LINN INTER-PROV.

1956 1958

JUBILEE INTER-PROV.

1954

Home

DUBLIN.

d MAR. 94

Mary Hill

When is was Five years old I first held a hurley and from that day to 1961 I never left it out of my hand. I also took part in Rowing Table Tennis, Gymnastics Comagil was my whole life.



DIED: Aug '96.

Home

Home

FRANK CUMMINS 1966-1984



HURLER of the YEAR:- 1983

ALL IRELANDS

(1967)
1969
1972
1974
1975
1979
1982
1983

CLUB: BLACKROCK

BORN:- 1947

OIREACHTAS

1966
1967
1969
1984

ALL STARS

1971
1972
1982
1983

COUNTY TITLES

1971
1973
1975
1978
1979
1985

NATIONAL LEAGUES

1976
1982
1983

RAILWAY CUPS

1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1977

LEINSTER TITLES

(1969)
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1978
1979
1982
1983

Home

KILKENNY

D: Apr 94

Frank Cummins

On Sunday April 10th at 3pm I was delighted to meet Brendan & Mary Fullam at my home. It was a great evening of chat about hurling present & past. Brendan asked me to write a few words about my career. Where will I begin?

I began to play at the age of 5 in the Stoneyford National School with my brothers and school pals, I then went to Belcamp College in Dublin, and while a student there I was very lucky to have Fr. Connellan & Fr Scully as coaches, both priests had a big influence on my career. While attending Belcamp College I probably played more football than hurling and the teams reached the College's Final in 1965.

My first outing with Kilkenny was in the Oireachtas Final in Nov '66 and from then on I was more or less a regular with the team. I have played with and against many players during my playing days and to me the most important thing above all else is the friendship, playing the game meant more to me than victory or defeat. Hurling and the G.A.A. played a large part in my family life, my wife Madeleine was a great enthusiast and enjoyed all the games and afterwards celebrations, my family were also fortunate to see me play with Blackrock and Kilkenny and share the successes with me.

I can still remember the Monday night after the 82 All-Ireland travelling back to Kilkenny with my wife, son Alan and daughter Deirdre having the Cup. Alan is playing with Blackrock

FRANK CUMMINS

and maybe some day he might wear the white of Cork. Gerard's preference is for Rugby. He is 5yrs might play Carnegie. I got a lot out of the game d my career and some time I would like t put something back into it, maybe coaching training the youngsters.

Hurling in my opinion is the great field sport of all and I would advise all young people to play the game for the gam and to play it sportingly.



Home

Home

MARIAN McCARTHY 1970-1991

ALL IRELAND TITLES

(1970)
1971
1972
1973
1978
1980
1982
1983

MUNSTER TITLES

1970
1971
1972
1974
1975
1976
1978 to 1991 - (14)

COUNTY TITLES: 3 (SPPP) - 2 (Eire Óg)

BORN:
1954



CLUBS
S.P.P.P
and
Eire Óg

GAEL LINN INTER-PROV

1980
1982
1990

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1984
1986 (Capt)
1991

B & I AWARD: 1980
CORK ALL STARS: 1980
JURY'S AWARD: 1986
WEST CORK CAMOGIE AWARD: 1982, 1983
O'NEILL'S GAELIC STAR AWARD: 1983

Home

CORK

d. Apr. '94

Marian McCarthy


CAMOGIE STAR

I won my first senior All-Ireland as a sub for Cork in 1970. After playing for the Junior team the same day. I cant remember playing with anything else when I was young only a hurley and ball, never a doll. I have made many a good friend through Camogie which I will always be thankful for. My one wish is to see Cork Camogie have there one headquarters where all senior championship matches could be played. I still do a lot of training with my club Erin-go and I have to say I still enjoy it as much as ever. Maybe the legs are not as fast as they used to be but who knows Cork might need a goalie again and I'll be ready

Home

Home

Home

Mick Roche 1963 - 1974

ALL IRELANDS

1964
1965
1971

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1964
1965
1968

RAILWAY CUP

1966
1968 (Capt)
1970

COUNTY TITLES

1966
1967

OIREACHTAS

1963
1964

1965
1968

1970
1972

ALL STAR

1971



BORN:
1943

CLUB:
CARRICK DAVIN

MUNSTER TITLES

1964
1965

1967 (Capt)

1968 (Capt)
1971

Home

Tipperary.

ved: Apr. '94



Mick Roche

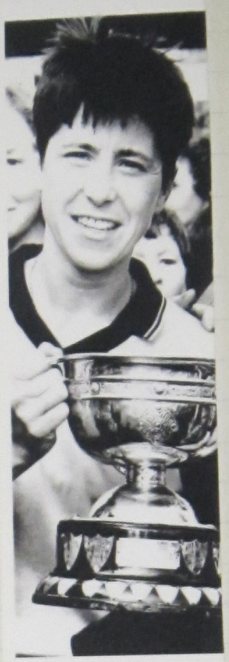
Where I come from to play hurling was the most natural thing. It was the topic at school, work, the creamery and above all after last mass on Sunday when many a heated argument was common place. My father was a big influence and gave ongoing encouragement — so also was school teacher Brakeman Tom Nealon. However for me it was local neighbour Jimmy Hinzey who did most and played a big part in any success the game gave to me. Having said that I'll always believe the single biggest influence on the youth of this country was one Micéal O'Hehir. It was he that turned on the 'Croke Park' light in all our little hearts and filled us with an ambition that would sustain and remain. We all owe him a huge debt of gratitude. Rong may it be the great game it is for I my view our nation would be the poorer without it.

Home

Home

Home

ANN DOWNEY 1973 - 199



ALL IRELAND TITLES

1974
1976
1977
1981
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990 (Capt)
1991

BORN:
1957

CLUB:
St Pauls

GAEL LINN INTER-PROV

1978
1979
1981
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1991

COUNTY TITLES

1973 - 1990 (18 St Pauls)
1992 - 1993 (2 Lisdonney)

LEINSTER TITLES

1975 - 1977 (4) 198
1984 - 1991 (9) 199

ALL IRELAND (CLUB)

1974 1976 1987
1988 1989

NATIONAL LEAGUES

1978 1980 1982
1985 1987 1988
1989 1990 199

Home

Kilkenny.

ed. Apr '94

Ann Downey

Won my first Senior All Ireland as a sub in 1974.

Played in 13 finals (2 Replays) and won 11. Started my Carnegie mile primary school Ballyragget. Joined St Paul's when a very good friend of the family Paddy Conway persuaded his daughter Mary to take us on board. Won every County final from our first year 1973 to the time St Paul's disbanded in 1990.

Biggest thrill was to be the winning Captain in 1990 with a great win over Cork.

Most memorable game was the success of St. Paul's against Glenamaddy in the Club All-Ireland in 1988. My memories are not because the game was a classic, but because it was one game that just had to be won against all the odds. 20 stones before the final was due to be played the game was called off. The following Saturday Central Council held a meeting and put Angela out of the game for six months. Never was a club so united in that great win in Glenamaddy on the 4th of December 1988. To make the victory even sweeter we won by just one point with the last puck of the ball.

Biggest disappointment was the treatment of Angela by Central Council and some of her self professed friends who suspended her in 1988 for loss of any game could ever come

Home

ANN DOWNEY

near the profound disappointment and sorrow I felt for one of the greatest players I'll ever have the privilege to play along side.

Players I admired. Pat Maloney, Mahon Sweeney (Cork) Catherine Murphy, Elsie Coady, Mgt. O'Leary Ann Reddy (Wexford) Liz Neary. Helena O'Neill. Carmel O'Shea and Mattie Fitzpatrick (Kilkenny)

Biggest influence my father Shem, sister Angela and Tom Ryan (Teacher).

Home

Home

Home

Home

LINA O'CONNOR 1953-1970

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1953	1958	1963 (Capt)
1954	1959	1964 (Capt)
1955	1960	1965
1957	1961	1966
	1962	

BORN:
1936



CLUB:
CELTIC

CAMOGIE PLAYER of the Year - CALTEX AWARD

1967

LEINSTER TITLES

1953	1956	1959	1962	1965
1954	1957	1960	1963	1966
1955	1958	1961	1964	1967

GAEL LINN - INTER PROV

1956	1959	1965
1957	1960	1968
1958	1962	1969

JUBILEE INTER PROV	ALL CLUB	COUNTY TITLES
1954	1964	FOUR

Home

DUBLIN.

...ived: Apr. 94.

Una O Connor.

I started playing Camogie when I was ... years old, I played on the street with boys. ...d girls it was pretty tough by times, ...e day this girl called me and asked if I ...ould like to play for her club Celtic, I said ...would 3 years later I played my first ...ame for Dublin I was 15 years old. ...nd winning my first all Ireland, I ...ent on to win 15 all Ireland 15 Leinster ... Inter Pro. My greatest thrill was winning ...he Celtex award for best best Player ...y the year in 1967 I was the first ...amogie player to win the award my only ...egret was that my father died the year ...efore, he would have got such a thrill ...out of this, I lived in the same ...arish, Mr Kevin Heffernan his sisters all played for Celtic ...e would give us advice before the game ...e would say to me you should score ... goals to-day I got to the stage that ... would be afraid to approach him if ... didnt. I think the game has got too ...enious, we all like to win but young ...layers, should try to enjoy there game ...more and not take it so hard when ...they lose a game. The game hasnt ...changed much, I think it has got a bit ...more toughey I would like to see more ...ground play, it really looks good when ...the ball is pulled on first time, now adways ...in hiling everybody lifts the ball Some ...of the men cant hit the ball on the ground. ...I think this is a pity I was sorry when ...they took away the ~~t~~ top BAR in Camogie ...there was more skill in the game, when you ...had to put the ball under the ball ...the skys the limit now.

Home

UNA O'CONNOR

Some people want to have to have 15 a side I would be against this, because I dont think it suits girls, the game is getting to much like hurling and I cant see why we should change, it would not make for a better game I had some wonderful years in Burgogie I would like to see all young girls joining some club, you dont have to be a great Player to enjoy the game, Its a great way to meet friends I have met great friends over the years and they have made such a great difference to my life. I am still involved with my Club Celtic and hope to be for a long time yet.



Home

Home

Home

Home

Liam Fennelly 1981 - 1992

All Stars

1983
1985
1987
1992

National Leagues

1982
1983 (Capt)
1986
1990



BORN:
1958

CLUB:
Ballyhale Sha

All Ireland Titles

1982
1983 (Capt)
1992 (Capt)

Leinster Titles

1982
1983
1986
1987
1991
1992

County Titles (9)

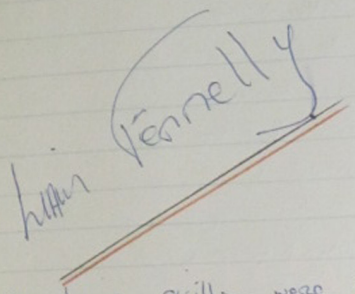
1978
1979
1980

Home

KILKENNY

SITED: April '94

Liam Fennelly



My basic skills were built into my game at a very early age at home in Castlebanny playing hurling up against the wall, in the passock and hunting cattle around the family farm. I suppose the greatest influence on my carreer was my father and older brother Michael who insisted on teaching us all the skills. Hurling was part of growing up and probably was the most important part of our school days. It was in school that we started getting used to playing fifteen aside under the close eyes of Peasar o Neill & Joe Dunphy.

I suppose ~~it~~ every childs dream in Kilkenny is to wear the Black & Amber. and I was delighted to get that chance and it was a bonus to play along side great names such as Frank Cummins and the rest of the 1982-1983 team.

Really the game of hurling was born for small parish teams and I had that great luck to win championships with the shamrocks and knock a great 15 years of unbelievable satisfaction for our local area

If I had to condence my life in hurling into one sentence and to say what I most achieved from the game I would have to say

Home

LIAM Fennelly.

the friends I made and also the fact that it is the greatest way of all to start a conversation.

To conclude I suppose I will never forget the 1992 final, the sense of satisfaction and achievement I felt when the final whistle sounded and knowing that this was to be my first day to wear the BLACK & AMBER Jersey.

I hope for the future that the G.A.A will remain close to the grass ~~Roo~~ Roots of rural IRELAND and long may it continue to create engagement and surprises too all.

Home

Home

Home

RICHIE BENNIS 1965 - 1975

ALL IRELAND TITLE

1973

ALL STAR

1973



BORN: - 1945

CLUB: PATRICKSWE

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1971

OIREACHTAS

1971

MUNSTER TITLES

1973
1974

COUNTY TITLES

1965
1966
1969
1970
1977
1979
1982
1983
1984
1987

Home

LIMERICK

TED: MAY 94

Richie Bennis



I started hurling at a very young age, with seven Brothers in the family it was the thing to do. I lived in a lodge at the entrance to a big Mansion We spent a lot of time hurling a ball against the wall. Before we left for school in the mornings, lads passing would call in for a puck around. To me Tony O Brien was a great hurler, I had great time for Vivian Cobbe, Limerick dropped years too soon, I admired Liam Devaney, Jimmy Doyle Tipp; Eddie Keher & Pat Delaney Kilkenny Jimmy Cullinan, Pat Cronin Clare Tony Doran Mike Jacob Wexford Gerald Mc Carthy, J. B. Murphy Cork

Playing for Patrickswell was always tops for me. Wearing the Limerick jersey was a great Honour, Winning my first Championship with my club in 1965 as a full Back was mighty Winning the all Ireland in 1973

Home

Richie Bennis.

was something special. The Atmosphere in Croke Park as we Ran onto the field will live with me for ever. It is the best ~~the~~ game in the world. You make great friends. It is great meeting lunkers you played against. Now I get great pleasure looking after the B/well U.15, U.16.

Home

Home

PADRAIG HORAN 1970-1986



BORN:-
1950

CLUB:-
St Rynagh

ALL IRELANDS

1981 (Capt)
1985

COUNTY TITLES (10)

1968
1969
1970
1972
1973
1974 (C)
1975
1976
19
1981 (C)

ALL STAR

1985

LEINSTER TITLES

1980
1981
1984
1985

RAILWAY CUPS

1973 1974 19

Home

OFFALY

ved: May 94

Padraig Horan

The first thing I can remember of hurling was my father buying me a new hurley for my birthday. The following sunday My brothers and some friends were playing hurling out in the field at the front of our house I was mad to show off my new stick but nobody could find it, The following morning my mother when making up my bed got the hurley under my pillow and from that day on I prob never left a hurley out of my hand whether going for the cows or getting a bucket of water from the well

Hurling was always my first love in sports and born into a hurling family always made things that bit special Ballivor was the local junior club at the time and as a kid I always had the job of pucking the ball back the older players Hurling would start every sunday at about 1pm We brake for to listen to M O Hare at 3 or 3.30 after which we would become Tony Wells Link Walsh or some other great player of that time

In about 1962 St Rynagts

was formed and from then things started to move 1965 & 66 BROUGHT the club their first Offaly Senior success and the rest has now been written in History For me the turning point came in 71 when I decided to opt out of Football and stick with hurling I believed that it would be in hurling that success would come and not as it turned out that year. Did it was still great to be on the hill in 71 getting wet to skin when Offaly won their first All Ireland even if it was football and I prob could have been out there playing I always loved Offaly and Offaly hurling and knew that some day Offaly would win an All Ireland So while it was a long time coming ~~but was worth the~~ to me it was always on the way Looking back I would say that winning was something ~~that~~ ~~that~~ I never got carried away with. But loosing was something I hated. Hurling prob puts fourth into my life after God. my Family and work When think of all the friends I have made through the game I am glad and always grateful that my father gave me that hurley for my 6th Birthday.

Home

Home

Home

Home

PAT DELANEY 1974 - 1989

ALL STAR

1985

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1981
1985

LEINSTER TITLES

1980	1984	1988
1981	1985	1989

COUNTY TITLES

1978	1983	1984
1979		1985



BORN: 1955

CLUB: KINNITY

Hurler of the Year 1981

OFFALY

MAY '94

Pat Delaney

Where I lived in the Slieve Bloom mountains the only pastime we had when we were young was the game of hurling. We listened to the broadcasts of Michael O Hehir and played shinnies after it. We became the John Doyle's Timmy Doyle, Mackey McKenna, Liam Devaney's until dark. Tipp were the hurling power of that era 1960/65.

Then at about the age of 12 my job on Kennilly hurling field was to pick the ball back from behind the goal to the senior players who won a championship in 1967 against Coolderry after 37 years — Ironically it was Coolderry they beat in 1930. It was the late Tom Mitchel from that team who brought me to my first All Ireland in 1969.

Offalys Paddy Molloy a hurling genius was my idol at that time.

Little did I think myself that I would be playing in Croke Park in a Leinster minor championship Semi-final in 1973 at Centenary. We lost by 2 pts to a very good Wexford team, who subsequently lost to Kilkenny and who won the All Ireland easily.

There was a lot of disappointments between my first day hurling in Croke Park and 1980.

Home

Home

JOHN CALLINAN 1972 - 1987

ALL STAR

1979
1981

RAILWAY CUPS

1976
1978
1981
1985



BORN: 1955

CLUB: CLARECASTLE

COUNTY TITLES

1986
1987

NATIONAL LEAGUES

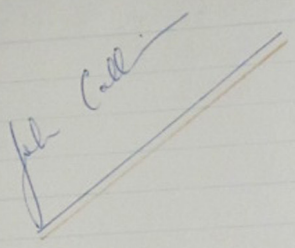
1977
1978

OIREACHTAS

1982
1983

CLARE.

ed: June '94.



Hurling has been the most dominant factor in my life since I was able to play for the Bucy Kid (legally?) in the local street leagues. It would have been difficult to avoid hurling in Clarecastle. The whole sporting ethos was hurling nurtured and maintained by the local 'alastar John Hanley, a man I now know to be ahead of his times. As one got older it became even more difficult to avoid given that St. Flannans was only up the road. As a 7 year old I thought in my innocence in 1962 that the Hanley Cup was a competion exclusive to the two Secondary Schools in Ennis.

Other pursuits such as school, exams, girls, work all had to be accomodated & hurling — yes even marriage dates. This madness contrasts somewhat with the demand for foreign holidays etc or winning an All Ireland I hope we're not losing our way.

If sport reflects life as it is supposed to humbly also of course gave its full quota of disappointments but we don't dwell on those. The great days training in Newman House & Belfield with U.C.D, in Tullow with Clare, in hurleys on Dennis fields

with Clarecastle, the Comradeship, the wins and even some of the defeats are, together with the friendships forged are the real memories. To have been priveleged to play with and against the greatest hurlers will always be appreciated. This is what hurling has given me and I hope will give countless thousands into the future. Hurling must endure. It is, however, a delicate flower which needs a favourable environment and careful husbandry. Is it being given those things. We must not be sentimental about the game - but active, radical and thoughtful.

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MICHAEL KEATING 1964-1974

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1964
(1965)
1971


Mick Keating (Tipperary)

BORN:
1944

CLUB:
BALLYBACON GRANGE

HURLER of the YEAR: 1971

RAILWAY CUPS

1968
1970

NATIONAL LEAGUES

1965
1968

ALL STAR: 1971

OIREACHTAS TITLES

1964 1968 1970
1965 1972

MUNSTER TITLES

1964 1967 1968
1965 1971

RAILWAY CUP FOOTBALL: 1972

Home

Tipperary

ed: July 94

Michael Keating. 6/7/94.

These few words are written 2 days after Irelands defeat against Holland in the world cup. and as we out and out hurling men I feel very sorry for all those great fans who supported Ireland so well that they never got the opportunity to enjoy a real hurling game. ie. Kilkenny 87 Cork and Thurles 91. and to go back much further the great Wexford team of 55, 56. Kilkenny of 72/73 and I still think that I was privilized to have played in one of the great winning all Ireland teams. Tipperary 64/65

My wish is that primiles Schools and eventually Counties produce great hurlers that our new Croke Park can be proud of the players that play on it

Best Wishes.

Bob Keating

Home

Home

Conor Hayes 1979 - 1990

National League

1987 (Capt)


(3) Conor Hayes

BORN:- 1958

CLUB:- Kiltormer

Oireachtas

1981
1988

Railway Cups

1980 1986
1983 1987 (Capt)

County Titles

(1976) 1990
1977 1991

All Stars

1986 1987 1988

All Ireland Titles

1980 1987 (Capt) 1988 (Capt)

Home

GALWAY.

TED: July 94

Conor Hayes 21/7/94

Hurling has always been in my life. Fr. Jack Solan R.I.P. claimed that I was so young and small that he had to get a special short hurley made for me for the schools team.
That would have been in the late 60's when Galway hurling at juvenile level was going through a revival that would have a major knock on effect in later years.
Club hurling was played with Kiltormer who along with Lawrencetown and Clarinbridge won several minor and Under 21 titles in the 70's along with making the breakthrough to senior level in 1976 and winning the senior championship in 1976 and 1977.
Galway minor hurlers were well beaten in 1975 and 76 but more was to follow at the U-21 final of 1978 when we beat Tipperary in a replay at Limerick.
All Ireland senior success was more difficult to achieve but finally came in 1980 after 57 years waiting, and having been beaten by Kilkenny the previous year. Offaly were to make the big breakthrough the following year at Galway's expense - a final for which I was injured. A few barren years followed up to the Connell era of 85 - 90 when Galway contested a total of 5 All Ireland finals winning 2 87 and 88 which I was fortunate enough to be Captain of. Should have won more but that's the way it goes. The team of 87 and 88 was by far the best that I have ever been involved with

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CONOR HAYES.

and win all that there was to win in hurling producing some of the most dedicated and skilful hurlers that I have ever played with. It also signified a major breakthrough for being defeating Kilkenny and Tipperary in All Ireland finals which would have been unheard of 20 years before that.

A hurling career always seems short because the enjoyment one gets from it and so 1990 saw me finished with the County scene to revert back to the Club and finish on an absolutely unbelievable note of 2 County Championships and an All Ireland Club Championship after which I called it a day.

There is no other game in the world that I enjoy playing or watching than hurling and played at its best is unequalled for both player and spectator.

To all those people who coached trained and with whom I was associated as a player throughout the years at Club, College School and County level I can only say Thanks and the memories will always be cherished and never forgotten.

Conor Hayes.



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Speech delivered at ARAS An Uachtaráin on the occasion of a Photocall with President Mary Robinson on 15th December 1994.

A Uachtaráin agus a uiscí uile, ba mhaith liom ar dtús buíochas a ghabháil do Uachtaran na hÉireann as uct an cuireadh a thug sí dúinn agus an fáilte a cuir sí romhainn anseo inniu. Cúis mór onóir dúinn é agus tá an-athas orainn go léir bheith anseo.

Táimid, a Uachtaráin an-bródúil asat toisc an suim atá agat san peil, san iomáinuocht agus an camógaiocht.

This gathering represents an unbroken line of over sixty years of hurling and camogie. When I think of hurling - when I reflect on hurling - I think of a national treasure - a national asset - a national heritage. It is a heritage that needs to be nurtured, preserved and protected. We as a generation have an obligation and a duty to preserve it and pass it on to the next generation in the same state of health as we received it from an earlier generation.

I now come to the presentation to our President.

I was present in Tullaroan when our President officially opened the Lory Meagher Heritage Centre. On that occasion our President told us that in her schooldays she did swing the camán and that she was familiar with the expression "Over the bar said Lory Meagher". The President joined with me in saying

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the expression)
The hurley was specially made for this occasion by that great Kilkenny goalkeeper Ollie Walsh. The shotar was presented by Connolly Bros of Galway - and Galway hurling fame.
I am also presenting you with an autographed copy of each of my books - Giants of the Ash and Hurling Giants, compliments of my publishers Wolfhound Press

Brendan Fullam

The President then requested that her copy of Hurling Giants be autographed by all of the Giants present.

Those present at the photocall were -
Kathleen Mills and Una O'Connor of Dublin
The Downey twins Angela and Ann from Kilkenny - also Angela's daughter Katie and their father Shem
Fr Iggy Clarke of Galway.
Pat Henderson and Martin White of Kilkenny
Lawson Cregan of Limerick
Austin Flynn and his wife Sybil from Wakefield
Brian Murphy of Cork
Jimmy Coffey from Tipperary and his wife together with their son Pat and grandson
Micheál O'Hehir and his daughter Mary.
My daughter Máire and her husband Emmet
Ciara Considine and Seamus Cashman from Wolfhound Press
Brendan Fullam and Mary Fullam his wife

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Cárta - Go raibh maith agat

A Uachtaráin
Ba mhaith liom míle buíochas
a ghabháil leat ar mo shon
féin agus ar son na "Giants"
go léir a thug cuairt ar an
Áras ar an 15.12.94.
Beidh cuimhne go h-éag againn
ar an gcuairt agus ar an
bhfíor-chaoin fáilte a fuaireamar.
Bhí lá na gcéadta bliain againn.
Guím rath Dé ort féin agus ar
do shaothar go léir.
Le gach dea-ghuí

Breandán Fullam.

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Profiles

The following deceased hurlers were profiled in Hurling Giants

Vin Baston. Waterford.	1	1
Par Carroll. Offaly.	2	1
Tull Considine. Clare.	3	1
John (Ballyhea) Coughlan. Cork.	4	1
Tommy Daly. Clare.	5	2
Mick Gill. Galway.	6	1
Harry Gray. Laois.	7	1
Sean Og Hanley. Limerick.	8	1
Willie Hough. Limerick.	9	2
Jim Kelliher. Cork.	10	2
Mick King. Galway.	11	2
Johnny Leahy. Tipperary.	12	1
John 'Tyler' Mackey. Limerick.	13	3
P. J. Mackey. Wexford.	14	1
John "Jobber" Mc Geath. Westmeath.	15	1
Mick Mackey. Limerick.	16	4
Lory Meagher. Kilkenny.	17	1

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Profiles - cont'd.

Sean O'Kennedy. Wexford.	18	2
Paddy Phelan. Kilkenny.	19	2
Nicky Rackard. Wexford.	20	3
Christy Ring. Cork.	21	3
Jack Rochford Kilkenny.	22	3
Tom Semple. Tipperary.	23	2
Jim Stapleton. Tipperary.	24	3

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Michael Murphy 1960 - 1964

COUNTY TITLES

1957
1958
1959
1961
1962
1963
1964
1965

MUNSTER TITLES

(1962)
1964 (Capt.)

NATIONAL LEAGUES

1963/64
(1964/65)

OIREACHTAS TITLES

1961
1963
1964

ALL IRELAND TITLES

(1962)
1964 (Capt)

BORN:-
8.4.1940



CLUB:-
THURLES SARSFIE

Michael leads Tipp v. Clare
Munster Championship 1964

Home

Tipperary.

sited : August 2000



Mick Murphy

As a boy my ambition was to play for Tipperary. It was in my blood that this should be, as my two Uncles had played for Tipperary. John Coffey & Flor Coffey. With my brother Noel, a Sub on the 1958 Panel I had the honour of playing for three years Minor, one year Co Junior, and four years Senior, my hurling days were cut short after a knee injury, which at the time Doctors, or Surgeons knew nothing about this knee problem that I had. I enjoyed my few years playing and met some great friends at the time, Frankie Walsh Mick Hennessy John Kiely Tom Cheasty Pat Henchy of Clare Sd Keher Patsy Harte, Hopper McGrath, all great players in their day. But my big honour was to Captain Tipperary to all Ireland Victory. 1964

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Home

Andy Comerford 1997-

Leinster Titles

1998 2000 2001
1999 2002



Irish Times photographers at Croke Park: **Eric Luke**, **Alan Betson** and **Dara Mac Dónaill**

Born

1972

Club

O'Loughlin-Gaels

All Ireland Titles

2000 2002

County Title

2001

National League

2002

All Stars

1999
2000

KILKENNY

ISITED 30TH AUGUST 2002



Derry Crawford

My father manufacturing a hurl for me from a flooring board was my intro to hurling but after all these years I'm delighted he did. From Nein to the school in St Johns I served my hurling apprenticeship under Dan Kennedy, Padraig O'Neill, Felix Nolan and John Cooney. although unsuccessful it was a good education "(hurling education) that is.

From Nein to St Kieran's college where success was bred into players. Father Fergus Farrell (Johnstown) Tom Lanigan, Seamus Knox and Nicholas Cushin and Denis Philpott. A great period but the education suffered - unfortunately rather. I met players there whom I would have the honour of wining all Irelands with in later years. Graduation to Kilkenny seniors was easy after a hurling up bringing like that.

My biggest thrill in hurling has to have been wining the senior county final with my brothers Martin at Semple and my friends who hurled with me throughout the years periods with O'Loughlins and St Johns.

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Brendan Cummins 1993 -

Born:- 11 May 1975 **Club:-** Ballybacon Grange

All Ireland Title

2001

Munster Titles

2001
2008

National League

2008
1999 2001

All Stars

2000
2001
2003

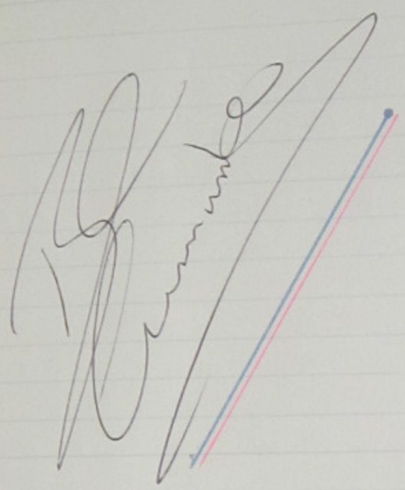


Tipperary GAA star, Brendan Cummins

Home

Tipperary

sited: 18 Feb 2008



I would like to reflect on 2001 as it was the year for my biggest achievements, to win league, All Ireland, All Star and be part of a squad that were undefeated in every game played that year.

The journey to this started in 1999 when Nicky English took over as manager. He had Ken Hogan & Jack Bergin as selectors with him. The training started in Nov that year and was totally physical, all running. Getting up at 6 am and heading to the Devils Bit outside Templemore more times than I care to remember. We won the league that year but Clare beat us in the 1st Round of the championship so that was the end of our year.

We met again in Nov 2000 to start the process again. The training changed slightly as it was decided that there was no game played on the side of a mountain, we would have to change our style to win. The training changed to more speedwork with shorter runs and the intensity had increased. The game was changing so we had to adapt. We were beaten in the Munster Final 2000 by Cork and Galway 3 weeks later beat us in the ½ final in Croke by 3 pts. This was one of the lowest points in my career. So much effort for no reward. We formed a circle in the dressing

room after the game and made the promise to each other that the following year Liam would be in the middle. A meeting was held in Thurles Dec. that year to plan for 2001. We all had gained enough experience over the previous years it was now time to win something. The training was a mix of the previous 2 years. I can remember thinking that I had never trained as hard and made as many sacrifices, the team all felt the same.

We played the usual challenges prior to the league winning all the initial ones easily against college teams the real day we knew something was going to happen was against Limerick in Nenagh. We came from behind to draw. This signalled a maturity and a determination not to be beaten which stayed with us all year. The league went well again winning all the close games. We beat Clare in the final in Limerick. Things went well for me on the day, always great to contribute to a win, especially a final. The cup was put to one side, there was a bigger prize.

We went back down to Cork to play Clare, this time we won, 1 pt. players collapsed after the game the heat and the relief that we had gotten over the hump. Clare were going well, we had beaten them in the Munster final we beat Limerick. Hottest day of the Summer. 4 pt win this time. When the whistle blew the sense of achievement was great but we all knew this was still only a stepping stone to the bigger prize.

We had 6 weeks off before Wexford and this was nearly an undoing. When we arrived in Croke for the semi we were nearly caught. This was the worst I have ever felt in the goals. I was very nervous on the day. Wexford got 3 goals and we escaped a draw.

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The replay the following Sat, we won easily in the end. we had gotten our match up call. I felt like myself again in goal.

The final was a huge occasion. We headed to Dublin the day before with a band at the train station. I had played in 1993 final but was too young to appreciate the importance of it all. This could be the last final I would ever play in, it was to be enjoyed but had to be won. The feeling leaving the dressing room heading for the tunnel and the wall of noise hitting the field was like nothing I had ever experienced. All work had been done since 1999 we were ready. The parade & meeting president was to be enjoyed but was looking forward to getting the game going.

Jack Bergin used to tell us the national Anthem was like the minutes before you turn over an exam paper. If you haven't the work done it seems to go on forever but if you are ready it flies. We got off to a good start which helped and even now when I close my eyes I can feel the heave of the crowd during the game. The end came when we were 4 pts up and Pat O Connor signalled to me I had the last puc out. I can remember delaying it, I wanted that moment to last forever. I more hit and the job was done.

In the dressing room after the game we formed the circle and Liam was in the middle.

I want to recognise the contribution my family has made to that day and my hurling career: My wife Pamela who has always been very understanding and new beginnings with the arrival of my son Paul on the 8th and this year. I have few years left in the game, hopefully more highs to come.

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Denis Coughlan 1964-1981

ALL IRELAND TITLES

HURLING.
(1970)
1976
1977
1978

FOOTBALL.
1973

ALL STARS

1972
1976
1977
1978

TEXACO HURLER of the Year 1977

RAILWAY CUP FOOTBALL 1972

MUNSTER TITLES

HURLING.
1969
1970
1972
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979

FOOTBALL
1967
1971
1973
1974

NATIONAL LEAGUES

(1970)
1972
1974
1980

ALL IRELAND CLUB HU

1973
1977

COUNTY TITLES

HURLING (5)
1967
1969
1972

FOOTBALL (2)

OIREACHTAS

1973
1975
1977

BORN:- 7 JUNE 1945

CLUB HURLING:- GLEN ROVERS

CLUB FOOTBALL:- St. Nicholas.

CORK.

Visited:- 31 July 2008



Jim Coughlan

I was born in Blackpool, (Glen Rovers/St. Nicks) and so grew up listening to the great feats of "Fox" Collins Jack Lynch, Jim Young, Christy Ring + many more.

My father was a great influence on me, being an only son, he took me to all of Glen Rovers games and especially to the great Cork v Tipperary games in Limerick in the 50's. Mind you, I only saw glimpses from his shoulders, from time to time, but I've never forgotten the excitement of it all.

I clearly recall my first senior hurling game for "The Glen" in 1962. I was 17 yrs. old & we played Faughs of Dublin in Banagher, Co. Offaly. Christy Ring was the main attraction and I was marking Billy Dwyer the well known Kilkenny hurler.

I played for the next 20 yrs. for the Glen senior team, whilst also playing football with St. Nicks for most of that time.

My career with Cork Hurlers & Footballers ran concurrently with my club career, needless to say it was a very busy stage in my life.

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DENIS COUGHLAN.

Winning Co. Championships was very important to the club & the two that stand out for me were hurling 1969 & football 1965.

Of course captaining the Glen team to win their 1st. All-Ireland Club Final was very special.

Playing with Cork hurlers & footballers was a great honour and I especially looked forward to Munster Final day.

In football, Killarney against Kerry was always a special day, while strangely enough Limerick was my favourite venue for hurling finals. I suppose it reminded me of the days my father would take me on the train to those games.

I enjoyed every moment of my career, had great help & advice along the way, and met some lovely people.

Some of my opponents made life difficult for me, but it was a pleasure to have been on the same field as football with Mick O'Connell, Jimmy Duggan (Galway) Pat Griffen (Kerry) while Christy Ring, Jimmy Doyle Eddie Keher, Babs Keating & Mick Roche in hurling were wonderful sportsmen.

Winning & losing is all part of sport and I have absolutely no regrets or disappointments.

I would love to be able to do it all again.



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Maeve Quinn 1982 - 2007

BORN:- 17 Feb 1968

CLUB:- Aughawillan

Connaught Jnr Titles

1988 1999 2006

All Ireland Intermediate

2007

All Ireland Junior

1988

Connaught Senior Titles

1982 1984
1983 1985

Leitrim Ladies Player of the Year

1985 1999
1988 2000

Inter Provincial Titles

1997
2000

All Stars

1984
1985
1994

Connaught Club (Intermediate)

2005

Connaught Club (Junior)

1997
1998

County Senior Titles:- 15

County Senior Leagues:- 18

Irish Ladies Soccer "B" Caps:- 2

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LEITRIM.

ived: 20 Aug 2008

Maeve Quinn.

My first memories of football was playing U-12 boys' football with Drumreilly (Aughawillan / Drumreilly amalgamation) and cycling to training beside Garadice Lake, a place called Kelly's Angle, and togging out behind the bushes. What pocket money I got was spent buying plastic footballs to practice hitting that spot on the wall. I played various U-age boys County finals with Drumreilly but the only one we won was an U-16 title – my last year – and one I really cherish.

Football is considered "a religion" in Aughawillan and although some may have survived without it, very few have not had the call!!

I have been lucky to be part of a club and and a community which has great pride in itself and what it can achieve by pulling together and working hard together.

Our Ladies club have seen great days and the work being done at under-age continues to provide stars of the future. In 1997 we were the first winners of the Connacht Junior Club title, and it took a replay in December to decide the All Ireland champions (Oh! The joys of training with frost

on the ground) with the title going to Beaufort of Kerry. We retained our Connacht Junior title the following year and in 2005 won the Connacht Intermediate Club title, but failed to get past Abbeydorney of Kerry in the quarter-final (the eventual winners).

At home in Leitrim down through the years we - Aughawillan Ladies - are a force to be reckoned with, and certainly have reaped the rewards of committment, effort and hard work in good measure contesting either League or Championship finals in nearly every year (in all but 5 years) since start-up in 1979. Sometimes contesting both! And certainly winning our share of titles in the process - In my time of playing 15 senior championship and 18 senior league titles.

In 1981 I played my first All-Ireland in Mosney as captain of the Ballinamore Area Community Games U-14 team, with my mother (Mary Quinn) and Padodig Griffen as our mentors. The highlights were introducing the team (and my mother) to President Hillary, and more especially the great reception for us at home when we returned with Silver Meddls.

I played my first senior game for Leitrim Ladies in the Connacht Invitations League in 1982, at 14, in what was for me a very memorable game - I got player of the match and booked! The ref sympathised

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while my sister berated me for threatening to retaliate. It was 20 years later before I incurred a referee's wrath again!

Being the baby on the county team in the 80's allowed me to just enjoy playing without any of the pressures/responsibilities that other players had – in Leitrim the players were the back bone of the county board. I still smile when I think of the trips to matches in Patsy Wrynne's bus with Marie McGovern blasting out the "The Boxer" and herself and Geraldine Wrynne (Creamer) rocking the Renault with "Come on Eileen" after training in Drumshanbo. We won five senior Connacht titles in a row from 1981-1985. I was fortunate play with comitted footballers who enjoyed their game while actively furthering football in their own clubs and county – not least my sisters Deirdre and Mary, who are still involved at club to National level.

A major disappointment happened in 1983 when we beat Kerry Ladies (reigning All Ireland Champions-their 3 of 9) in the All-Ireland Senior National League. Final – However due to a referee's error in awarding a point scored by us to Kerry he recorded them as winning. While all and sundry acknowledged our win, a replay was set and we lost by 3 points.

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Maeve Quinn.

Although a force to be reckoned with an All-Ireland title remained elusive losing to Kerry in the '84 Senior Championship Final, and the '85 Senior League Final.

After that we lost a number of players to retirement and emigration, and after 2 years we regraded to Junior in 1988 and the regrading began in earnest.

1988 saw us playing in Croke Park - a dream come true to play on the hallowed ground. The young guns were now the likes of Anne Marie Cox and her cousin Nicky.

Anne Marie and I were again living the dream and playing in Croke Park on All-Ireland Day after a gap of 18 years. While Helen McLoughlin was there as a selector instead of her centre half back position.

The memories and emotions were very different each time and I can remember in '88 the scenes of joy; Leitrim people streaming onto the pitch and taking over Croke Park (not allowed today!), and being found by my brother Jerome in the crowd.

In 2006 there was the agony of losing but nobody (even us) begrudged Sligo their title in their 3rd time of asking. Although we were disappointed in the manner of our loss and Sligo certainly made up for losing the Connacht title to us that summer.

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However losing in 2006 set us up for (what was for me personally) a magical opportunity. The chance of winning the "Mary Quinn" cup and bringing it home to Leitrim in its inaugeral year. Had we won in '06, as seniors, we could not have played for it.

Coming home to Leitrim with an All-Ireland Cup is a very special feeling and the welcome and pride shared with you by friends and neighbours, one and all is something you feel inside but find hard to put into words. It's something to enjoy, remember and savour. Its indecribable from bonefires in '88 to Walking accross the County line into Leitrim as a team in 2007, the receptions held on cold rainy evening in town round the county, rapturous depite waiting in the cold, to visiting all the schools in the County, And the many children out to cheer - the future Leitrim players!

I have been lucky to have the support of my husband Gerry Shanley, my children Edel and Eoghan, And to have had parents who never missed a game we played, to all my sisters and brothers. Specially to Deirdre who was instrumental in starting football in Aughawillan and Leitrim and remains an inspiration to me,

MAEVE QUINN.

and Mary – County chairperson in 1988 and Connacht President in 2007 – who is always there for you, ready to help and advise.

My abiding memory is just the sheer enjoment and joy of training, taking part and playing. I look forward to continuing to play club with the Blue and Gold of Aughawillan for many years, while cheering on the new Leitrim ladies on their next trip to Croke Park.!

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Where the Hurling Awards have gone

up to 1993.

	Senior	Junior	Minor	Intermediate	Under 21	Nat League	All S-
Clare	1	2				3	
Cork	27	10	15	1	9	13	15
Kerry	1	2					75
Limerick	7	4	3		1	10	
Tipperary	24	9	15	4	7	15	31
Waterford	2	2	2		1	1	41
							5
Galway	4	1	2		6	5	
Roscommon		1					57
Antrim				1			
Down		1					5
London	1	5		2			
Wor'shire		3					
Carlow				1			
Dublin	6	3	4			2	
Kildare		2		1			
Kilkenny	25	8	16	1	5	8	8
Laois	1						
Meath		3					
Offaly	2	2	3	4		1	2
Westmeath		1					
Wexford	5	2	3	2	1	4	2
Wicklow		2					

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Up To 1993

Senior began in 1887 - no championship in 1888

Junior began in 1912 - suspended 1917-1922
- do 1942-1945
- Discontinued 1974-1982 and incorporated in Div 3 of N. H. L.

Minor began in 1928 - Suspended 1942-1944

Intermediate operated from 1961-1973

Under 21 began in 1964

National Hurling League began 1925/26
- Suspended 1942-1945

All-Stars began 1971

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All Stars

County	Year															
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Clare				1		1	4	3	1		3					
Cork	2	5		2	1	5	8	6	3	2	1	3	3	6	2	7
Limerick	2	2	5	2	3			1	1	3	3		1	2		
Tipperary	3	1	1		1			1	2	1			1	1	1	1
Waterford				1						1		2				
Antrim																
Down																
Galway	1				3	2	1	1	3	6	2		1	1	5	5
Dublin	1															
Kilkenny	5	6	7	7	6	3		3	4			8	9	2	1	1
Laois															1	
Offaly	1									2	5	2		3	5	
Westmeath																1
Wexford		1	2	2	1	4	2		1		1					

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ALL STARS

YEAR

1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
							1	8	1
1	1		6	3	3	2			
				1	2		6	1	5
H	H	6	2	7	1	1	1		1
	1	2		1		1			
					1				
6	7	5	3	1		3		1	1
			1						
3			1	2	7	6	1	1	
	1	1	1		1		6	H	
1	1	1	1			2			7

Home

Home

Home

Joe Hennessy

John Fenton

Mick Roche

Gerry O'Malley

Samuel Thorpe

Paddy Gantly

Sean Glossary

Martin White

Eugene Caughlan

Brendan Hennessy

Paddy Cole

Paddy Barry

Eugene Coogan

Denis Murphy

Hoy Mills

Maurice Qu

Ir Iggy Clarke

Leanor Hayes

Tony Doran

Sean Og

Jim Bay-Murphy

Richie Bennis

Denis J. Buckley

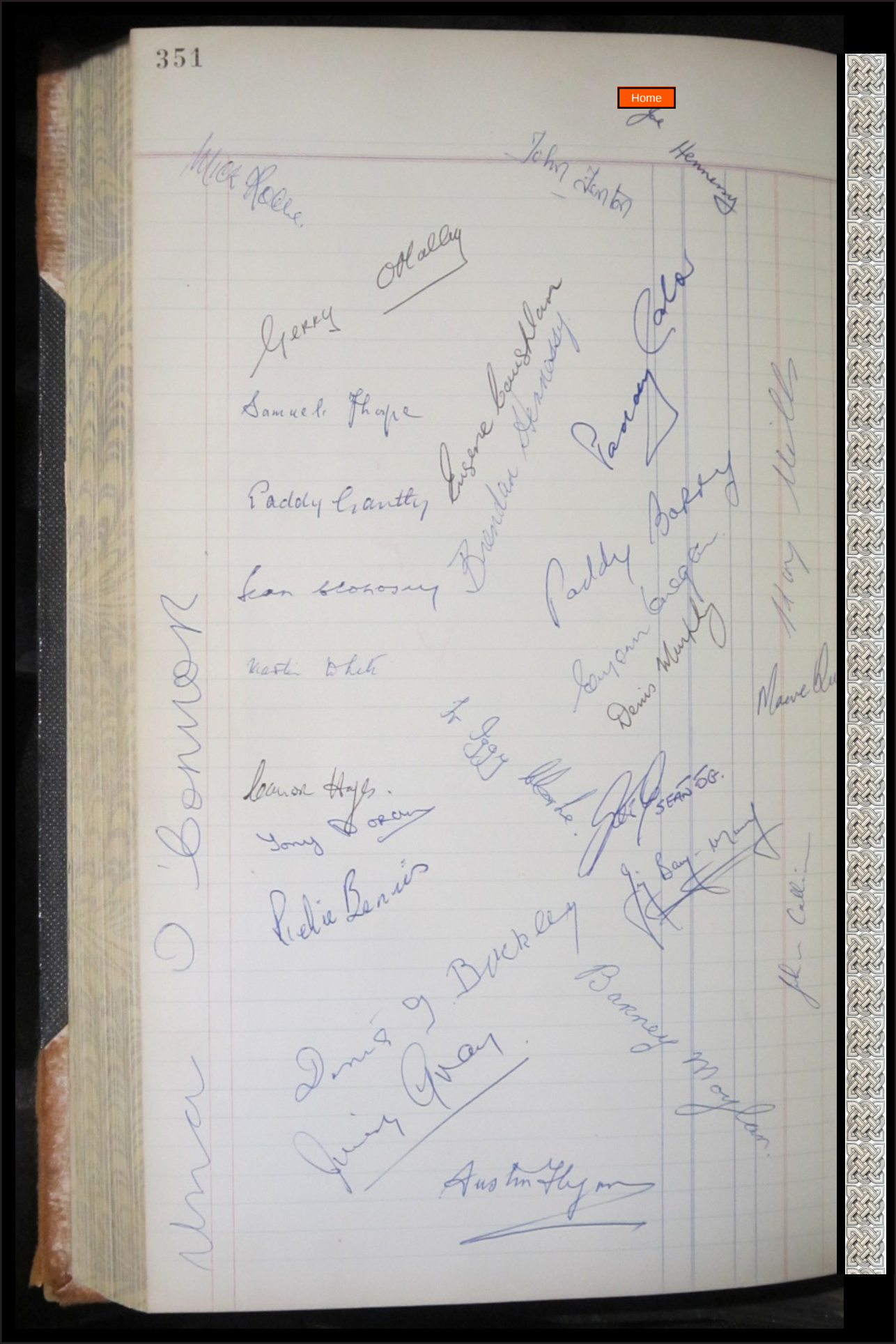
Barney Moylan

Jim Collins

Jimmy Gray

Austin Flynn

Una O'Connor



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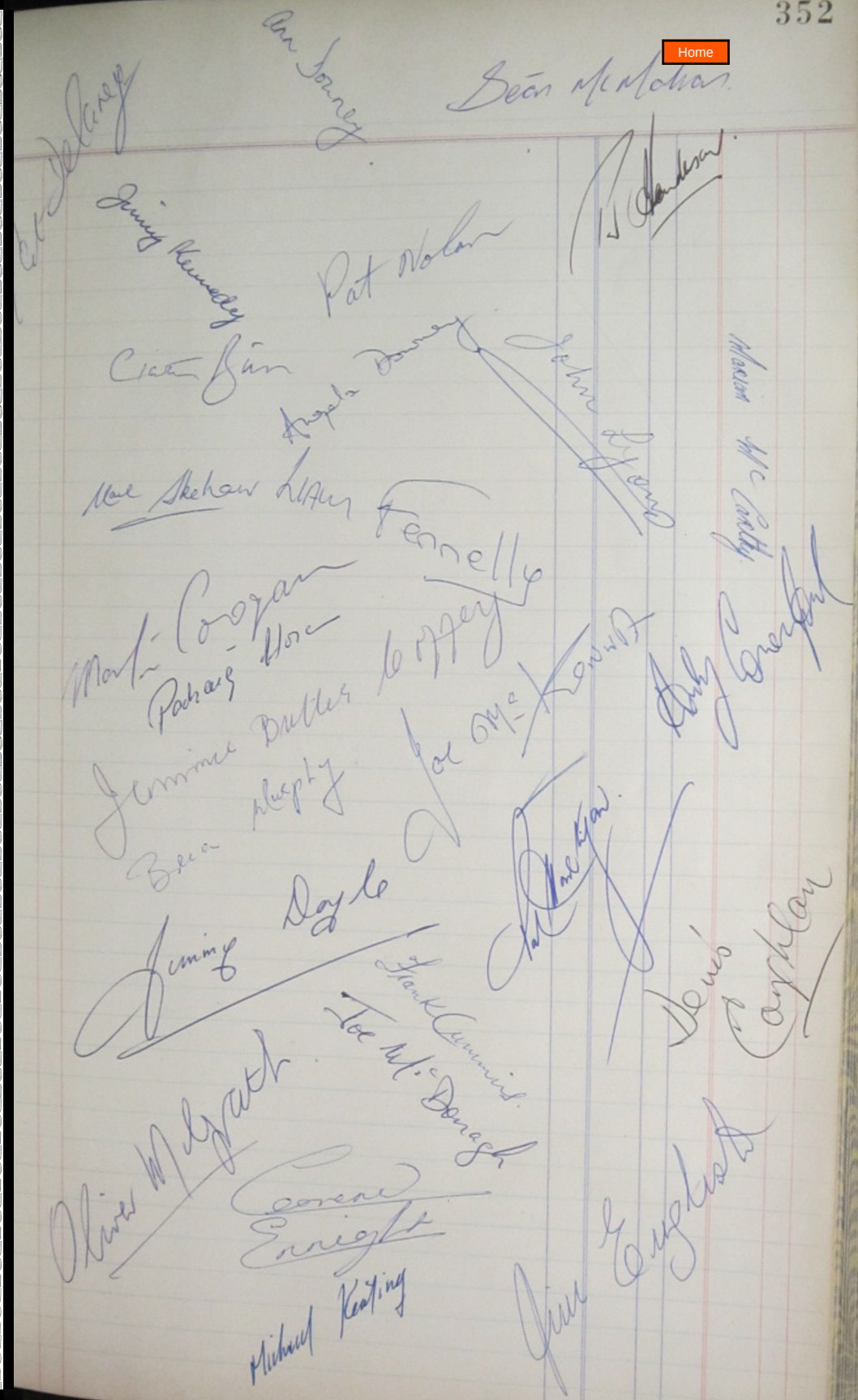

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Justin McCarthy

Pat Fox

Dermot McKelly

Eamon Grimes

Jack Gillam

Donnell O'Hanna

With Best wishes to Brendan

From Mickey Byrne

Jimmy Brohan

Dorie Nealon

Brigid Doyle

Thomas McInerney

Eamonn Rea.

Liz Neary.

Jimmy Finn

Mick Ryan

Michael Jacob

Pat Dunney

Jer Lapham

Peter Finnerty

Ethne Leech.

Christy O Brien

Gary Kirby

Bri Rohr

Gor Cunningham

Mary Leacy

Home

Orla Ni Shiochain

Patrick Quirke

Des Ferguson

Paddy Wallace

John Kelly

Mary Leary

Phil Chanahan

Pat Dillon

Paddy Cutten

Michael Hayes

Martin Stanley

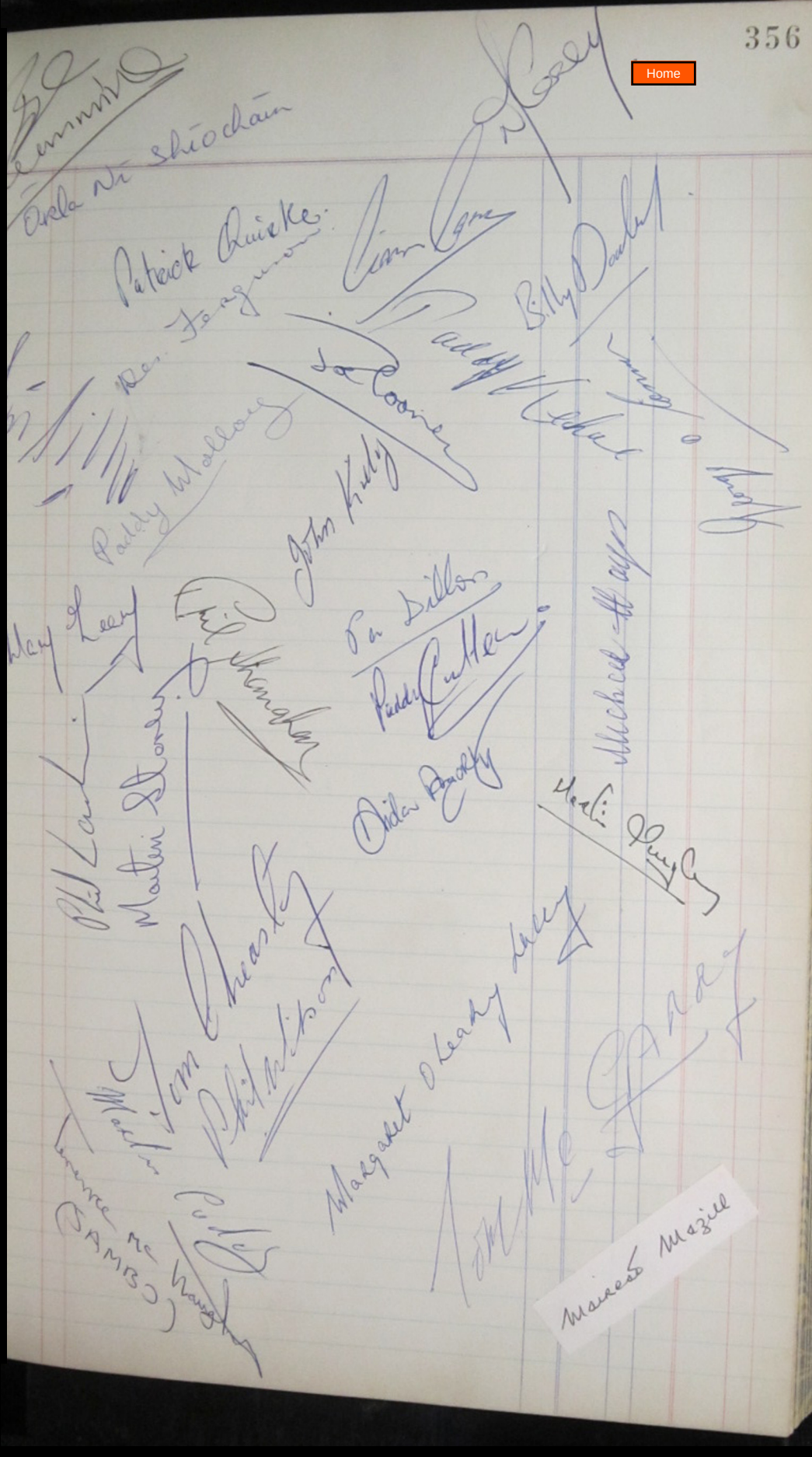
Tom Cheasty

Phil Wilson

Margaret O'Leary Leary

Tom McGarry

Maireas Mazill



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THOMAS Mc INERNEY 1927 - 1936

BORN:- 1906

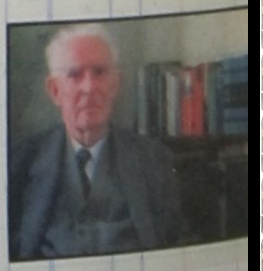
CLUB:-
O'CALLAGHAN'S MILLS



Died:- 23rd may

MUNSTER TITLE

1932



COUNTY TITLES

Home

VISITED: Feb. 1995 CLARE

Thomas McInerney

There were any other games
I liked better than hurling
I lived for it & went to
every game within walking
distance of my native parish
Callaghans Mills
I played for a term
with young Irelands & played
three matches one Sunday
for which I was called to
Dublin Co. Board: but luckily
for me Colon. Tom McGrath
from the Mills was chairman
& let me off with a warning
not to repeat the offence,
My idols were Jim Hurley
Mick Gill, Tom McGrath
The Mackey brothers, Cristy
Ring, Jimmy Smyth
Lowry Meagher, Paddy
Grace, Matty Power The Rickards
brothers Tony Redden
many others too numerous to mention
Bhi me luath, ta me mall
Nil. Phios agam cad e do bhis
sean ~~[illegible]~~ neart an chroi
Is luath nam ball. The good
olde day bring fond memories
back to me in my ageing years

Home

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Mick Ryan 1946-1954

OIREACHTAS

1949


M. Ryan (Tipperary)

BORN:-
1925

CLUBS:-

ROSCREA (TI
DICKSBORO (KIL
ST. FINBAR'S (C

ALL IRELANDS	MUNSTER TITLES	NATIONAL LEAG
1949	1949	1949
1950	1950	1950
1951	1951	1952

COUNTY TITLES

1950 (DICKSBORO) (ST. FINBAR'S) 1955

RAILWAY CUPS

1950	1951	1952

Home

VISITED: MARCH 1995

TIPPERARY

Mick Ryan

Just imagine what would my life have been without Hurling. It would not have been life at all. It brought me so much enjoyment Playing it, it brought me into contact with the very best of friends, it was kind to me in securing employment in the lean days and been most generous in my business

I enjoy the games as much as ever and I look forward to Sipp getting back on the racing track. I would not mention any player in Particular as being the best - I saw so many great Players.

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PHIL SHANAHAN 1948 - 1957

OIREACHTAS
1949


P. SHANAHAN who gave a superb centre-field display for Tipperary against Dublin

BORN:-
1928

DIED:-
Feb 2012

CLUBS:-
TOOMEVARA (TIPP
YOUNG IRELANDS (DU

RAILWAY CUPS	MUNSTER TITLES	NATIONAL LEAGUES
1950	1949	1949
1951	1950	1950
1952	1951	1952
1953		1957

COUNTY TITLE
1960 (TOOMEVARA)

ALL IRELAND TITLES
1949
1950
1951

Home

SITED: APRIL 1995 TIPPERARY.



Phil Shanahan

I was born in the parish of Toomevara on a January day 1928, the son of a small farmer. There wasn't a hurling tradition in my family, but my father was very interested in going to the local matches and would bring us along, my two brothers and myself. It was during the second World War years - so a pony and trap was our main mode of transport. As a result of my fathers interest in the game I too developed a great love and passion for the game of Hurling.

I learned the skills as I grew older and would listen carefully to the older people and try to put into practice any clever idea imparted to me. I played Senior hurling with the Toomevara Greyhounds in 1945 at the age of seventeen and won a North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship the following year 1946. The year 1946 was a good year for me as I got my place at centrefield on a Tipperary Minor Hurling team.

We played Cork in the Munster Minor Hurling Final at Thurles and in the last few minutes of a very exciting game of hurling, I got the break of the ball as a result of a mishit seventy yard free to score a winning goal and win the the match by a single point. Cork were deeply disappointed and our joy seemed everlasting.

Home

Phil Shanahan.

It was now time after those strong encounters in 1946 to develop my hurling skills further and try and reach Senior County Hurling Status. My first entry into Senior Hurling ranks was to be selected on the 1948-49 Tipperary National Hurling league team at Centrefield. We beat Clare at Thurles early November 1948 and qualified to meet Cork in Feb 1949 again at Thurles.

It was half-time at the qualifying game against Clare at Thurles - a big tall man approached me and was interested in my play and gave me the following helpful Tips. He was of course Timmy Ryan of Limerick and Athane one of the greatest. He looked me in the eye and said, I'll give you two useful tips now and see how you will respond in the second half. The first one is don't run up or down the field - Run across and so get the break of the ball. The other, (and most important) just nudge with your shoulder or arm your opponent simultaneously, when striking the hurly ball.

I implemented these two points to the full and played a "Blinder" in the second half.

Home

In trying to win the 1948-49 National Hurling League final at Thurles against Cork, we didn't do any collective training. I remember getting a letter from the Tipperary County Board Secretary stating they were not financially fit to train the Senior Hurling Team. Although he suggested ways to train, we had to train ourselves. I used to get up at seven o'clock in the morning and run and sprint in our own field at the back of the house in order to achieve the required standard of fitness, to beat this great Cork Team.

We won the National League Senior Hurling final at Thurles in Feb 1949, and it was a great victory, particularly as this Cork team was the best ever as they had won four All Irelands in a row: 1941-1942-1943-1944.

Tipperary now had a youthful team made up of a number of ex minors from the 1945-1946-1947 teams. Dublin contested the three Minor Hurling Finals 1945-1946-1947, and won two 1945 and 1946. Tipp were third time lucky and won the 1947 Minor Hurling Final.

Home

Phil Shanahan

It was now time for Tipp to move forward in Search of Provincial and All Ireland honours. We achieved this and won three Munster finals and three All Irelands 1945-1950-1951. It took us two hours and a half to beat Cork at Limerick in the 1945 Senior Hurling Munster Championship. Most Spectators would love to re-live this one, for sheer hurling fever and excitement. We never looked back after that experience and I was privileged to play at centrefield in all these games.

We beat Limerick in Cork in 1949 Senior Hurling Munster final and I was lucky to be in the right place at the right time to stop and clear Dick Stokes - 21 yard free. We were a in front at this point and so beat a great Limerick team and the famous Jackie Power had played his last game.

In the fifties I was selected on the Rest of Ireland Teams playing the Combined Universities selection each year and was Sports Star of the Week in 1952 playing on Joe Salmon of Galway. This was possibly the best hurling display of my entire Career.

Home

I decided early in 1950 to leave my father's farm in search of the bright lights and moved to Dublin to work in Johnston Mooney & O'Brien's bakery, and play hurling for "Young Irelands" Hurling Club. I wasn't disappointed and enjoyed the years I spent there. Some great hurlers played for Young Irelands hurling club, but never were we in any time able to blend together with enough enthusiasm to win a Dublin County Senior Hurling Championship.

I was still playing for Tipperary and was fortunate to win four National League Medals, 1948-49 1949-50 1951-52 & 1956-57. I was Long Puck champion of Ireland in 1951. The competition was held at the G.A.A. grounds at Kilmacud, and lifting and striking the ball the maximum distance was the test involved. Included in a large entry were the Rackard brothers and they were surely great exponents of the Hurling game.

Concerning the National Hurling League victories in my time, the great incentive was to travel to America. I travelled with Tipperary to play at the Polo grounds in 1950 and again in 1957.

Home

Phil Shanahan

I suppose next to playing for your county was to earn a place on the Provincial Hurling team. I kept up my interest and training and played with Munster four years in a row to win in 1950 1951 1952 + 1953. The memories of rubbing shoulders with Christy Ring Dick Stokes Jimmy Smith Matt Nugent Andy Fleming Willie John Daly Vin Baston Mattie Fuchy Mick Hayes Sean Herbert Jackie Goode and John Kiely and others, will always live with me and control my thoughts whenever Hurling or great players are discussed.

I played for Dublin in 1954 and 1955 and my partners at Centrefield were Norman Allen in 1954 and Con Murphy in 1955. We reached the Leinster Final (Hurling) in 1954, to be beaten by Wexford and were defeated in the Leinster Hurling Semi Final by Kilkenny in 1955. While we had good Dublin teams in both years, Wexford were stepping up the pressure to win All Ireland and succeeded in 1955 and 1956 after long years of waiting.

In 1956 I changed jobs and joined Esso Ireland Ltd and went to Clonmel to work. I started playing for Tipp and Tramways once again. Tipp won the 1956-57 National Hurling League and we lost in the championship 1957 to Cork.

Home

While I was in Dublin I had a great interest in the Young Irelands hurling club. I turned out for every game in my six years there and so earned a good reputation with the Club officials.

The Club was initiated in 1927 and thousands of players were involved over a long number of years. In 1957 I had the distinction to be selected as player of the Club. This was indeed a great honour for me and one which I will always remember and never forget. We had players of the calibre of Dill Walsh Kilkenny, Paddy Hogan Laois, Willie Langan Laois, Mick Ryan Limerick Frank Burgess Galway, Mick Daniels Dublin, Phelly Ryan Tipp + Dublin and Charley McMahon Clare + Dublin. There was also including myself a large number of Tipp players who wore the Young Irelands Colours, Tommy Treacy, Jim Devitt, Sean Kenny, Paddy Kenny, and Seamus Bannon.

Fenians and St Vincents were the dominant Teams in my time and so we didn't succeed in winning a Dublin County Senior Hurling Championship.

Home

Phil Shanahan.

When the Tipp team came back from America in 1957, I decided to retire from Inter County Hurling. It was my second trip to the States, 1950 being the first, and I enjoyed both immensely. The Irish in New York and Boston really made us feel at home and couldn't do enough to make the trip a memorable one for all of us.

I continued to play for Toome at Club level and captained a winning Senior Hurling team in 1958, to win a North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championship. We won three in a row after that, 1960 - 1961 - 1962, and won a County Final medal in 1960 beating Thurles Blues at Templemore.

I continued to play with Toome until 1966 and towards the end of that year, I made up my mind to retire from Club Hurling after a long and fruitful career, having five North Tipp Senior Hurling Championships, 1946 - 1958 - 1960 - 1961 - 1962 and a County Hurling Final in 1960.

I attained a G.A.A. Coaching Certificate in Hurling in 1973 and trained and coached Laois and Portlaoise for a number of years. I was more successful with Portlaoise winning five Senior County Football titles 1966 - 1971. Since then Portlaoise have become a major force in Laois winning several County Senior Hurling & Football Championships

Home

When I retired from Esso Ireland Ltd in 1987, I trained and coached Killenaule to win three South Tipperary Intermediate Championships in Hurling 1983 - 1985 - 1986. This Club have since won two South Senior Hurling Championships, and have become a force in South Tipperary Hurling.

I played Golf too for few years and won the Esso Cup in 1960. I didnt continue although I showed promise, but took up training and coaching the Pontlaoise Club in 1966.

I suppose as I am now getting older, I tend to dream and in my dreams would like to be back in Thurles or Croke Park driving that ball solentlessly from the centrefield position into the forwards in search of scores. I have had wonderful years of enjoyment, me and my hurling stick and I have met excellent people and players which have helped in no small way to consolidate my view, that here is an association the G.A.A. which is first class, coupled with my favourite game "Hurling", the best field game in the world.

Paul Sheridan

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TOM CHEASTY 1955 - 1967



Tom Cheasty–indestructible veteran.

BORN:-
1934

DIED:-
10 Aug 2007

CLUBS:-
BALLYDUFF/PORTLAW
AND
PORTLAW

ALL IRELAND

1959

MUNSTER TITLES

1957 1959 1963

OIREACHTAS

1962

RAILWAY CUPS

1958 1960 1961 1963

COUNTY TITLES

1970 1971 1973 1974 1975

Home



C. Ó Siosca
(T. Cheasty)

Tom Cheasty

VISITED: Sept '95 WATERFORD.

I was born in Ballyduff Lower Co Waterford in 1934
my father Geoffrey was native of the parish, my mother
Kathleen (Walsh) was from Mooncoin in South Kilkenny
At about the age of four years I went to live with
my mothers Aunt and uncle who were from South Kilkenny
they had bought a farm about mile from my fathers place
as with most Kilkenny people there was always talk about
hurling mostly the old Mooncoin team, the Doyles & Doug Walsh
I probably played my first hurling in a small field near
my Grandmother house in Grange near Mooncoin
There was very little organised hurling at juvenile level
when I was growing up in Ballyduff, I started to play
minor hurling when I fifteen years. I played for the Waterford
minors the year after, at wing half forward, I played full
back for the minor footballers, I dont think I was very
skillfull, but I was fairly strong and fast runner,
I never had mutch success playing minor.
My brother Edmond also played a bit he was on goal when
Ballyduff won the junior championship in 1961, Mick Power.
who was one of our best players, at mid field, worked with us,
so I always had somebody to train with when the evenings
were too short to go down to the field in Kildermody.
The first game I played Senior hurling for Waterford was
bit unusual, I had gone to the Sportsfield to see Waterford
playing Kilkenny in the League, some players did not turn up.
I remember the late Tom Penkert looking around for somebody
to tog out, at that time playing for a junior club I was glad
to be asked, that was October 1954, I was on the panel
for the championship against Limerick in 55 I came on as
sub we were beaten narrowly I came on as a sub.
I was on the team that played against Cork in Termoy in 56
I was a bit of a breakthrough for me as I scored five points
from play, Cork beat us by a few points, I was picked for
the Rest of Ireland team later that year, After that then
we won the Munster final in 57 were beaten a bit unluckily
against Kilkenny, won in Munster in 59, beat Kilkenny
after a replay, won in Munster in 63 won the League
final against Tipp were beaten by Kilkenny in the
All Ireland final.

Home

Tom Cheasky.

As a young fellow working on a fairly big mixed farm in the late forties early fifties there was still a lot of manual work to be done, physical strength was an asset whether you at a thresing, in a hayfield or a cornfield. Strong hardy men were what was wanted, as a man of 5, 8½ and around thirteen stone I was able to hold my own with most of them.

You need to be strong & fit and tough to survive playing with a middling junior club.

Looking back now on all the years of hard training with club and county and many disappointments I often wonder whether it was worth it or not, at then you think maybe it was, you meet people, and make friends, have something to have a bit of a chat about.

I wasnt really that happy with my life on the land so hurling, football and a bit of running ~~those were my~~ this was my life, thats about it.

In the days of my youth the men I looked up to were, John Keane, Mick Hickey Christy Moylan Mick Hayes Andy Fleming and Charlie Ware and Eamonn Moynihan, a close friend & neighbour ~~so~~ a man I looked up to, who won a junior All Ireland with Westmeath, and Fad Browne a notice of Ballyduff & player with Ballyduff in his early days and very prominent with the great Erin's Own team in the twenties and thirties, his grandson Tony is now a very good intercounty hurler, and the Foran family who lived near us in Knockaderry and played with Ballyduff in the forties and early fifties



Home

ORLA Ní Shiochán 1964 - 1982



CLUBS:-
AUSTIN STACKS
CELTIC

BORN:-
1948 - 6th Feb

DIED:-
21st Dec 2003

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1964
1965
1966

LEINSTER TITLES

6 (SIX)

INTERPROVINCIAL TITLES

12 (TWELVE)

COUNTY TITLES

8 (eight)

ALL IRELAND CLUB TITLES

1972 (Austin Stacks)
1973 (Austin Stacks)

Home

TED:- Nov '95 DUBLIN

Órla Ní Shíocháin

I was the only girl allowed play with the boys on the Road when I was very young and that has to be my first memory of playing with a hurley. Camogie and the GAA (through the influence of my father) played a huge part in my life. My memories of going to Croke Park every Sunday with my father and, while waiting for him after the match, hitting a ball up against a wall for a long time are still strong in my mind. It was probably the best training I ever had at the skills - certainly the earliest - and I probably didn't even realise it at the time.

The friends I made - the influence of my family - the influence of Jack's family - have all helped to enrich my life.

I remember wonderful matches I went to - Camogie, Hurling & Football - too many to single out any one in particular - but long may I have the health to continue.

Our children, Naoise, Sháne & Fearghal play camogie, hurling and football, and if they can learn to be humble in victory, overcome the disappointments of defeat and no matter what else they're playing the games and get as much enjoyment as Jack and I get, we will feel we have done something right!!

Thanks Brendan and Mary for a lovely evening.

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JOHN KILLEEN 1945 - 1954



BORN:- 1920

CLUBS:-

TYNAGH (GALWAY)

CLONAD (LAOIS)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1951

COUNTY TITLES

1953 (Clonad)
1954 (Clonad)

OIREACHTAS TITL

1950
1952

RAILWAY CUP

1947

Home

VISITED:- Dec 1995

GALWAY

Jack Killeen

In my young days in Tynagh, the hurling was done on our lawn. The Players left their hurleys in our Hse., names I Remember include Fr Connie Boyle R.I.P. Hubert Gordon Gordon Aible R.I.P Fr Beckler the Keughey Bros. There were four of us. Tames R.I.P. who Played for Galway. Sereble Times including 1947. Semi Final against Kilkenny, Matt Matt, Michael who Played a few times for Galway. and Including myself.

I always Remember when we would be going to Play for the Club. my Mother would be at the door with the holy water, Telling us no Fighting. We did our Best but Sometimes Failed. She always Wanted us to Play the game as it Should be Played.

The only mode of Conveyance in our young days. Was a horse and Drag. it Would bring about Fifteen of us. the Rest of us Would travel on Bikes. after We tagged out by the side of the Fence and in Loughrea We tagged out in Mc Namees Raft. I Remember when we were young we Would go to the Bog to save the Turf together with some neighbours, We Would Bring the hurleys with us in the Pony and Cart. Callaghys Hse Was beside the Bog, Mrs Callaghy Would boil the Kettle at lunch. Hr. after Eating We Would get the Hurleys and spend ½ hr Practising Everything Was grand until my Father heard about it, he Put a stop to hurling on the Bog.



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PADDY QUIRKE 1974 - 1990

RAILWAY CUPS

(1977) 1979



BORN :-
1956

CLUB :-
NAOMH EO
(MYSHALL)

COUNTY TITLES

1974	1982	1991
1975	1985	1992
1976	1986	1993
1978	1987	1994
1981	1990	1995

Home

isived: Feb. 1996 CARLOW.

Patrick Quinlan

In Dunroe the townland where I was born on the outer fringes of Bagenalstown Parish joining Myshall Parish, there was no tradition of hurling. My mother was an only child and my father, a small farmer never played the game, but I had two aunts, Minnie & Lill who were fine Camogie players. Camogie was strong in the area at the time, so I guess hurling must have been in my blood. My uncle Pakie was a fine athelite. There were seven of us in the family five boys and two girls. I have two older brothers Eamonn the eldest, & then Sean, & two younger brothers Seamus & Tom. My two sisters Mary & Ann played Camogie for Myshal. First we attended a one teacher Primary School in Killoughternane, which was closed in 1966. Then we cycled seven miles every day to the De La Salle Boys National School in Bagenalstown. It was Pot Ryan a Limerick man who introduced us to the game. Eamonn was the first to start playing. We started Pucking around at home in the farmyard and against the gable end of the house. Then we got more organised and erected a goalpost in a field at the back of the House. We were playing with Bagenalstown School & club at the time.

At this stage Fr Phil O Shea was organising a juvenile club in Myshall Parish. There was no juvenile club in the area at the time so the standard was very low. Fr O Shea got permission from Board No Nay to play anyone who had attended Killoughternane

PADDY QUIRKE

School. That included us. So we started playing with myshall. I still remember one of the Phils chants "Keep pulling it will have to move". at this stage u16 to be beaten by ten goals was a victory in our eyes. We were learning fast that loosing wasn't always a defeat. Any spare time we had at home we were out hurling. Some of our neighbours joined in and a game would be organised. Those were great days. Eamonn was the best of the bunch. Sea & myself often tried to mark him. As we progressed to u16 we were winning the odd game but have had no real success, but still we always looked forward to the next game. The late Mick Tobin who was Secretary of the Senior club at the time brought us to a lot of Matches. Driving many miles out of his way to collect us. The car would be loaded down with what he called dumsalt beats of chaps.

Andy Jordan the master in Myshall National School at the time was the first Chairman of Naomh Eoin when it was reformed in 1968. (a true goal if there was ever was one) Andy was involved in all G.A.A. activities in the club. We beat Michael Davitts in a minor league final in 1973. I was captain for our first Victory & medal. I was marking my best friend & rival Pat Foley. Many a good duel I had with Pat. Sadly he was killed in a car accident in December '79. I remember the last couple of minutes of that game and were one point down & it looked like another defeat. I won the ball around mid-field & hit a long high ball into the square, red Pat Nolan pulled & stuck the ball in the net. That was Pat's last game but it was the start of something big for me.

Naomh Eoin won four under twenty one championships in a row, from 72 to 75. all the O Shea's & Andy Jordan hard work had paid off.

Naomh Eoin joined the Senior ranks in 1969 after winning the Junior hurling Championship. I remember my first Senior game with Naomh Eoin against Bagenalstown. I was about sixteen and playing in goal. I was [illegible]

Home

of my life, but all was well because I had the three strongest men in Carlow in front of me, Pat Keogh, Brian Fox and Ted Butler. Eamonn was mid field marking the legendary Jim English. Pat Ryan the man that started us off was the Corner forward for Bagenalstown. Our first Senior final 1973 we were beaten by Ballinkillen. We turned the tide in 74 by winning the clubs first Senior hurling title. We went on to make it three in a row. Naomh Eoin was on the map as a hurling force. I didn't realise at the time what those victories meant to the Myshall people. I was selected on the Carlow Senior team in 74 a place I held for the next sixteen years.

I was training Naomh Eoin in 75 & 76. In 75 we were going for the double but Jimmy Rand beat us in the football final. In 76 we beat Carnew Emmets in the first Round of the Leinster club championship. St. Ryans beat us in the Second Round 3-9 to 2-16. This result put Naomh Eoin on the map as a hurling force in Leinster. In 77 I was picked on the Leinster Railway Cup team. I was thrilled. I never expected it. Leinster won the Railway Cup but I did not make the first fifteen.

78 was the best final I was ever involved in against those arch rivals St. Mullins. It was the first time we came head to head in a county final. I was in Dublin at the time on a teacher training course, so I did a lot of my training out in Tavevien Park. It took four and a half hours of action packed hurling before the final whistle blew. Four games & one Period of extra time. Eamonn was centre forward & hard to stop. He scored thirteen points the second day. Sean was a no nonsense full back you would think twice before attempting to pass him. I was mid field along with black Jimmy Doyle, he scored eight points from play the third day. We had a powerfull half back line, Ned Kavanagh Michael Nolan & John O'Hara in the centre. The third

PADDY QUIRKE

day in extra time we were three Points up & only minutes remaining. Peter Nolan a brother of Michael got Cramps in his legs. He was Corner back. St Mullins were on the attack, Peter on the ground. Pat Keogh unmarked got Possession & Rattled the net for the equalising goal. The fourth game was equally exciting my brother Sean was sent off early in the game & things looked bleak, but we all played out of our skins & emerged two Points to the good. Naomh Eoin used twenty eight Players in that final. I was Picked on the Leinster team again.

In 79 we were beaten in the Semi final but I won my only Railway Cup medal on the field of Play. The final was fixed for Thurles and the opposition Connacht. I was playing in my favourite position mid-field along with Frank Cummins. Tom Larkin was the Captain. I was marking Seb Connolly. At this Stage I feared no one & I could mix it with the best. I was playing with the best in Leinster Tony Doran, Liam Henderson, Martin Quigley, Pat Carroll (R.I.P.) Mark Corrigan, Peadar Carton & enjoyed it.

I was selected as a dual replacement All Star in 1980 & travelled to America. Kerry & Galway were all Ireland Champions at the time. The late Mick Morrissey, a St Mullins man who won All Ireland hurling medals with Wexford in the fifties was living in New York at the time. Mick looked after me while I was there. He presented me with a Plaque as a mark of the first Carlow man on an All Star trip. We travelled to Chicago & Los Angles. I remember in Los Angles the night before our final game, I was walking out the front door of the holiday Inn. I could see this man Barry Sondan eldest Son of Andy walking towards me. He was in St. Francisco for a few years. Barry & a couple of his friends flew down to Los Angles to support me. The next day I was playing midfield against Kerry Marking the banban. I was the man of the match and for my efforts. I also played the hurling game again

Home

alway the same day.
Sean Doyle a Carnew man was appointed Trainer of
Naomh Eoin in 1980, a position he held for the next
five years. Sean had Played for Carnew & Wicklow &
was no strainger to most of our lads. Sean was
tough hard hurler & a great G.A.A man.
We won the championship again in 81. My younger
brother Tom was on the team Corner forward
the four of us played with Naomh Eoin for the
next Decade. We beat St Mullins again in 82.
My brother Eamonn was top scorer in the S.H.C
in 73, 74, 76, 78, 79, 81 & 82.
I trained Naomh Eoin from 85 to 89 we won
our second three in a row 85, 86, 87. Winning
our only football title in 86. and achieving a
rare double was a career highlight for me.
Simond Bennett was our masseur. Rathnure provided
the opposition for the second round of the club championship
in 87. We were beaten by one point after being
eleven points up at half time. I will always
remember Eamon's duel with the great Martin Quigley.
From 1990 to 93 I was chairman of the
juvenile club. I had a great secretary in Des
Murphy the driving force behind the juveniles at the
time. I coached the U14 hurling & football teams for
the next five years. We went on four feile trips.
Twice to Tipperary, Portroe & Lorrha, Galway, Kilconeiron
and Limerick to a club called Blackrock.
Seamus Murphy was appointed trainer in '90. A
Rathnure & Wexford hurler. A man who has great
Passion for the game. We enjoyed every minute of
his training. We have won the championship every
year since 1990. Six titles in a row. Seamus has
been appointed Rathnure trainer for the Coming year.
We are now in the Process of appointing a new
trainer & wondering what will 96 hold for Naomh Eoin.
In the early days we trained in a field called
the Ranch, no dressing rooms but that was not a
problem. I remember going to train on a motorbike.

Home

PADDY QUIRKE

after straight from work, and looking up to see how high the sun was in the sky. This would be an indication of how long we had for training. Our Senior team at the time was a very strong physical side, men like Brian & Liam Fox, John & Tom Foley (Dandies trainers), Willie & James Eustace. Sean & Eamonn Teal Butler, and Black Jimmy Doyle just to mention a few. Andy Sorda was there from the start & to this day even though not actively involved never missed a training session. I remember Andy saying to me around 1990 I hope I live to see the day that we will win a Senior football title. Andy was asked after the Sigs in a row, do you think we can make it Seven. Well Andy said "It is the next number after Six." Andy has two sons on the present team Ciaran & Peadar last years Captain.

Tommy Murphy was a dual Player from the Start. He was chairman for a couple of years & Secretary for many years. He is now P.R.O. for the club & County. Willie Eustace a great clubman, was a dual player and is chairman of Naomh Eoin for the last Sixteen years. One of the driving forces behind over

on the County scene in the 74 championship against Meath. We had very little success. We won three National League medals, two Keogh cups. I never enjoyed playing in the winter. We often travelled long journeys Kerry, Derry, Down, Mayo, Armagh in bad conditions, and played tough games on poor pitches. I was very disappointed in 86 we lost to Kerry in Thurles 2-14 to 1-16. This was the all Ireland B home final. In 87 we beat Down in the final in Trim. This was my best performance in the County Jersey. I was centre forward and training the team. There was seven Naomh Eoin men on the team Noel Kavanagh, John O'Hara Michael Nolan, Neil Smithers, Michael Skyes & Tom Burke I was always a Playmaker & I got a lot of ball that day I set up many scores. After the game Crowd came over to the Players exit & clapped us off

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We had some great trainers. Dan Hannedy for example he was a players man, Moling Morrissey brother of Mick a great Carlow hurler himself Moling has been appointed county trainer for the coming Season 1996. Ollie Walsh a man apart. Christy Keogh of Wexford same. Martin Fitzpatrick brother of Billy. He brought the County team their first All Ireland B title. Joh o Hara was a selector along with that great hurling man from Carlow tom Tommy Corcoran.

I would like to thank my family for their support down through the years also the officals & teammates in Naomh Eoin for all the happy memories.



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Mick Jacob 1969 - 1984

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1973



BORN: -
1946

CLUB: -
OULART. The BALLAG

ALL IRELAND

(1968)

LEINSTER TITLES

1970
1976
1977

RAILWAY CUPS

1973
1975
1977

ALL IRELAND MASTERS (OVER 40's)

1991

OIREACHTAS

1978
1979
1980

ALL STARS

1972
1976
1977

Home

sived:- Oct '95

WEXFORD

Michael Jacob

I have always loved hurling and I still get great enjoyment from playing it as well as from coaching youngsters and managing teams. The great Wexford team of the 50s inspired many boys to emulate their deeds and I can recall waving to fans as they drove by our house on the way to the all-Ireland finals of 55 and 56. In primary school in Oulart, Fr. Frank Staples was our coach and mentor who did so much to promote hurling in our parish. I began my adult playing career at 16 years of age as goal-keeper on our Junior team a position I was to occupy for four years on the Co Under 21 team, finishing up with them as a midfielder in 1967. During my Senior inter-County Career I played first as a midfielder and then as a defender while nowadays I usually wear the no. 14

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Mick Jacob.

jersey for Oulart junior team. The highlight of my senior inter-County Career was being picked as center-back on the All-Star teams of 72, 76 and 77 while the (the) biggest disappointment was losing three all-Ireland finals in the 70's. On the Club scene the greatest day for Oulart - Ballagh was the 16th Oct 1994 when we won the Co senior hurling title for the first time having been defeated in five finals in 25 years. I was proud to be a selector with that team which made the breakthrough for our parish. This year (96) will be my first playing hurling as boy and man, and I have to say that I made great friends through the G.A.A. My advice to boys would be to practise the skills and to try and eliminate weaknesses from their game. I spend many hours, every week passing on the skills to boys who I hope will get the same pleasure from playing as I did. I would like to see Clubs and the G.A.A make it Compulsory for players to wear helmets with face guards in order to reduce facial injuries

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and to allay any
fears that parents might
have about their Children
playing the greatest game
in the World.

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Liz Neary 1968 - 1987

All Ireland Titles

1974
1976
1977
1981
1985
1986
1987

National Leagues

1978
1980
1982
1985
1987

All Ireland Club Titles

1968
1969
1970
Austin Stacks 1973
1974
1976
1977

Provincial Titles

1975	1977	1984	1986
1976	1980	1985	1987



BORN:-
1951

CLUBS:-
St Pauls (Kilkenny)
Austin Stacks (Dublin)

Home

Visited: MARCH '96 KILKENNY

Liz Neary.

I started playing Camogie in the Presentation Convent school in Kilkenny '66 (approx), being part of the first winning all Ireland Colledge team in 1968 which even to this day gives me great satisfaction. One person in particular I ~~will~~ have great memories of is Sr Monica R.I.P who was one of our best supporters.

My next great memory is being part of the St. Pauls winning all Ireland team 1968 and going on to win six all Ireland titles with St. Pauls, but I would like to add that even to this day I regret playing with Austin stacks against St Pauls in Linster Club final 1993.

I played with Kilkenny for quiet a number of years but I will always Rember in particular the all Ireland final 1974 (our first win) & 1981 when we drew with Cork having been down by 10 points. During that period we won many great games. One person in

Home

Liz Neary

particular was mainly responsible Tom Ryan. In my opinion he was the best trainer any team could ever have. To even to this day trains harder than most of the team himself.

In conclusion looking back on my carrogie career I have very many great memories & made great friends I had the pleasure of playing with & against great players in particular Mgt O'Leary-Wexford & Helena O'Neill & Angela Downey but if I may give one little bit of advice — winning is not everything & don't smoke

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Paddy Kehoe 1943-1956

Leinster Football Title
1945



Born.- 1922

Clubs:- Glisserane
and
Faughs (Dublin)

All Ireland Titles
1955
(1956)

Oireachtas Titles
1951 1953 1955 1956

National League
1956

Leinster Titles
1951 1956

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ited: MARCH '96 Wexford.

Paddy Kehoe

These memories will always be special to me
The rise of Wexford Hurlers and the good fortune I had at the time to be in the prime of my career and to have been a member of the great Team of the 50th
Great Sportsmen + great hurlers

Football was my first love and we were most unlucky not to have won An All Ireland Title in 1945 Say to say only four of us now survive

Mick Kehoe (Yoal)
Tom Doyle left ful back
Dermot Clancy Midfield
Paddy Kehoe half forward

I Enjoyed the Army days winning two All Army Titles 25 Battalion (football) Also played with the 5th Brigade Great Men I played with + against Jim Keohane
J O'Reilly Mick Mackey.
Brendan Lynch Mick Daniels
Ernon Young

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AIDAN FOGARTY 1976-1991



BORN:- 1958

CLUB:- St Rynagh's

RAILWAY CUP	NATIONAL LEAGUE	LEINSTER CLUB
1988 (CAPT)	1991	1982
		1993

ALL IRELANDS	ALL STARS
1981	1982
1985	1989

COUNTY TITLES

1975	1981	1987	1992
1976	1982	1990	1993

LEINSTER TITLES

1980	1984	1989
1981	1985	1990
	1988	

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sited: Apeil '96. OFFALY.

Ordan Dgarty



In my hurling career a few people stand out for their comments, opinions and influence.
The first person I encountered at an early age was a man known locally as 'Green Flag'. Jimmy Kelly was a man then in his 60's who used to lean against the gate of the sportsfield in Tanaghee watching all the hurlers train. She was there every evening there was hurling practice. She could tell you the strengths and weaknesses of the hurlers and in those days of the great Rynaghs teams that won 10 out of 12 county championships there was always a topic of conversation. His comments / observations on how Carney (Moylan) controlled a ball, how Pat Joe (Whelehan) could bat a ball so far one-handed, how Damien (Martin) could take a ball out of the air with his hurl or hand and how the back knew where that ball would go were all titbits of advice that young willing hurlers could study and put into practice in their own game. Then there was Jimmy's opinion of the younger players - "he'll make it or he won't make it". As a young lad any praise or encouragement from an older person or player was always received with

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AIDAN FOGARTY.

great enthusiasm and encouraged me to practice even more. Eff Jimmy said "you'll make it" hopes of playing on a Lynaghs senior team or maybe an Offaly team or even playing in Croke Park could be achieved in the future. Eff Jimmy continued to reassure you (or you knew (or thought you knew) that you were on the right road.

The most important and significant influence on me was that of my family. All our family were involved in the game with my late father (Tom) the mainstay. The encouragement, advice, travelling to see county matches were all factors in my hurling development. The interest shown by my father who regularly took half-days off work to attend college matches (my mother always travelled to keep his company) the long journeys undertaken to under-age county games motivated me to work harder to fulfil ambitions. Throughout this development my father had a subtle way of keeping me in touch with reality. After games where things went well there was always a discreet "well done" or "you did okay" and then the punchline "what happened with the ball that ....." or why didn't you do that .....". On the other hand if the performance was not up to scratch there was never unnecessary criticism only an objective assessment of what went wrong. All my brothers - Gerard, Declan, Frank and Andrew - played hurling for the club and county at various levels with Declan featuring with the Offaly seniors in the eighties including the All-Ireland years of '84 and '85. My wife, Thelma, was always a keen follower and travelled to all the games. The support and encouragement of everyone made it much easier to concentrate on fulfilling many of my hurling ambitions.

In the mid seventies I attended the N.I.H.E. in Limerick. During that time I joined the Offaly senior panel and I travelled to training sessions and games with Padraig Horan who was then teaching in the city. Our conversations often centred on the future of Offaly hurling. Could Offaly make a breakthrough? Could we follow on from the Leinster club successes of St Lynaghs and Stradbally that to the county team? Eff as

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Offaly club could win a Leinster title could the county team ~~not~~ do the same?
We talked often of the Limerick team of the '70s - Grimes, Bregan, Hartigan, McKenna. How did they achieve All-Ireland success! What did it take to achieve that success! We wondered what it would be like to play in a Leinster final never mind an All-Ireland.
In these thoughts and dreams we shortened many a journey. Little did we know how close we were to a breakthrough

"For the next few weeks I'll be concentrating on keeping the crows out of the barley" A comment passed by Damien Martin in an interview after the '82 Leinster final. put hurling into perspective for me. It was a comment passed in the emotional aftermath of a match that many thought Offaly should have won. Damien, a veteran of many championship campaigns, saw beyond all the debates and arguments that would ensue following a controversial Kilkenny goal and left no one in any doubt that hurling, like all amateur sports, was only a game and life outside of it continues whether you win or lose. Defeats in the years that followed always brought me back to Damien's comments and no matter how disappointing the loss, in the greater game of life all was not lost.

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Margaret O'Leary Lacey 1961 - 1977



CLUBS:-

St Ibars
Eoghan Ruadh (Dublin)
Buffers Alley.
Oulart The Ballagh

BORN:- 1947

All Ireland Titles

1968
1969
1975

All Ireland Club Titles

1967 (ER)
1979
1981
1982
1983
1984

County Titles

1967 (ER) + ?
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984

Inter-Provincial

1965 ?
1968
1969 (Capt)
1970
1971
1972

Visited:- Apeil '96 Wexford.

Margaret O Leary Lacy

Camogie in my opinion is one of the greatest games for girls. It is part of our heritage. No other sport can match the skill speed and intelligence needed to play the game well.

I have childish memories when not knee high being brought off to the boys hurling matches in Willie Dolan's field by my late father. My brother was playing then — Oh how I wished it was myself that was getting the opportunity to play. There was always a great hurling tradition in my home area around Monaghan. So most parents urged their children to participate in our National games.

Being involved in the game of camogie since the early SIXTIES I have witnessed many changes in the intervening years. The introduction of u-age competition and coaching in Primary Schools have contributed in many young players being able to master the skills and craft of the Camán.

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MARGARET O'LEARY.

One of the biggest flaws in the game today is the lack of total commitment due to participation in other sports such as hockey football and soccer. Certainly there are greater demands on players today as there is greater emphasis on physical fitness

1968 was Wexfords greatest year, winning All Irelands in Minor Senior and colleges hurling. Then for the first time ever our senior Camogie team made the break through, winning the All Ireland. 1968 was a great year for me personally winning an All Ireland with Wexford and also winning an All Ireland club medal with Cogham Ruadh of Dublin. Later in the year I captained Leinster to win an interprovincial Medal.

My ambition is to continue playing for as long as I am able I would like to impart some of my knowledge of the game to my two young daughters Mary and Una and also to the many promising players emerging in Oulart where I now reside.



MARGARET IN ACTION AGAINST GLEN ROVERS IN GOREY IN 1967.

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Pat Dunney 1962 - 1977

ALL IRELAND SENIOR "B" TITLE

1974

ALL IRELAND JUNIOR TITLES

1962 1966 (Capt.)

ALL IRELAND INTERMEDIATE TITLE

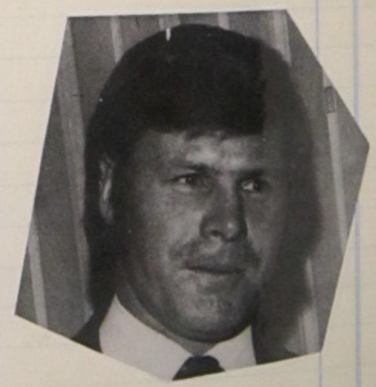
1969

RAILWAY CUPS

1971 1974
1972 1975

COUNTY TITLES

10



BORN:-
1945

CLUB:-
EIRE ÓG

RAILWAY CUP (FOOTBALL) 1974

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Visited:- April '96. Kildare.

Pat Dunney

Growing up in Prosperous in the 50' I was fortunate that Tom Johnson a Kilkenny man came to live in the area. He along with Paddy Power a schoolteacher in Caragh started hurling in the area. My Earliest memories of Hurling were of Riding a bicycle up to Halons Field to play and Practice. The Games seemed to start at Seven o'Clock and did not finish til Dark. Weeknights were divided between Hurling + Football and every night was a games night.

The under age teams I played an enjoyed great success. The local Parish Priest of the time Fr Bennett organized an under age Hurling tournament with Neighbouring counties. The Pride I felt from playing with my county made me determined that I would represent Kildare at Adult level both at Football and Hurling.

Growing Older and Playing against Players from the Strong Hurling counties who were in the Army Apprentice Schools made me realalize how much more skilful the were and the amount of Practice it would take to be as good as they were.

I was Fortunate to play and Win an All Ireland Junior title with Kildare in 1962 Quite a Few of the Players were from the Army school of Cadets; Some of who were to win Senior Medals in later years.

One of our Greatest Achievements was to win

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Pat Dunney

an all Ireland Intermediate c/ship beating Cork in the Final in Thurles.
In the Early 1960's I was fortunate to be selected to play in the Cardinal Cushing games in New York. I was lucky enough then to play both Football and Hurling with the late Christy Ring. Even then to see the skill and ability he displayed left a lasting impression with me but above all was his willingness to help a young Hurler from a non hurling county to try and improve his hurling skill.
The Sixties and Seventies were great times in Kildare Hurling We were winning Junior, Intermediate and Senior B all Irelands and playing against most of the Top Teams in the leagues and championships. I was terrific to play against these teams and we always aquitted ourselves well.
Five of my hurling club were also doing well in these years. and we were lucky enough to win three Hurling c/ships and Quite a few leagues as well.
In the early Seventies I was chosen to play for my Province in the Railway Cup and was lucky to win medals in both Football and Hurling. To play on Leinster Teams with the top players and against the top people from Munster and Connacht was a great source of Pride for me, a Kildare man. The Help and Advice I got from the late Paddy Grace, the Comradeship of the workers Offaly Kilkenny Laois Dublin Players and the Friends I made then have endured to this day.

To be Selected as a replacement All Star in the mid Seventies & travel to America was the Ultimate honour for me and stay behind for

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of the most Treasured memories of my Hurling Career. I sometimes find it difficult to believe that Hurling has been so good to me and I hope the honours we won will be repeated in the future with Kildare Hurling Teams.

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Pete Finnerty 1985 - 1994

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1987
1988

ALL STARS

1985 1987 1988
1986 1990

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1987
1989

OIREACHTAS

1989
1992

RAILWAY CUPS

1986 1989 1991 (LAST)

BORN:- 1964

CLUB:- MULLAGH



1991

● Peter Quinn, Uachtarán C.L.G. presents the Interprovincial Hurling Championship Cup to the Connacht captain Peter Finnerty after the final last Sunday in Páirc an Chrócaigh.

Home

Visited:- April '96 GALWAY.



Pete Finnerty

During my years in the Maroon + White I have had many great Days + Nights The 1st Day I played Senior in 1985 against Cork in the Down Pour All head quarters the two all Ireland victories in 1987 - 1988 the all Star awards's the trip to the States and the General Carnival atmosphere that Surrounded those 10 years was brilliant. The one occasion that Stand out above all the rest was in 1986 the all-Ireland Semi final against the Cat's. With 15 minutes remaining in the Game I looked at the Score board we were leading by 9 Points we had out hurled the Cats in all areas we had also out foxed them. The reason that this victory was so sweet was, When I was a young lad I played hurling in the field behind our home from evening 'till Dusk I imagined my self as Brian Coady Frank Kelly Eddie Keher or Billy Fitz these were the Great hero and they were all Cats. On that Day in August 1986 We Gave the youth of Galway their own home Grown hero's Cooney Ryan Kedy Lane. Could this be true was It a once off no we confirmed the result in 1987 by beating them again in the all-Ireland Final.

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Eithne Leech 1959 - 1969

ALL IRELAND CLUB TITLE
1964



BORN: - 1939

CLUB: CELTIC

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1959		(1964)
1960	1962	1965
1961	(1963)	1966

LEINSTER TITLES

1959	1962	1965
1960	1963	1966
1961	1964	1967

GAEL-LINN INTER PROVINCIAL

1960 1965
1962 1969 & 1968

Home

sived: MAY '96

Dublin

Eithne Leech.

I Started Playing Camogie when I was 14. I Played on the Road at first and I Continued to Play when I went To The Holy faith Dominick St. I Played for the Dublin Colleges twice against Cork. We were well beaten in the first game I was Captain for the Second one and I scored the only Point of the Game it was that close. I always Played out field but when I Joined Celtic after school when we used To Practice on the greens in Marino I went into goal — no one else wanted To and I loved it so when Eileen Duffey Retired I took over I was First Picked for Dublin in 1959 and I went on To win 8 all-Irelands. 9 Leinster + 9 Gale-Lines.



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JOHNNY Flaherty 1966 - 1983

ALL IRELAND TITLE

1981

ALL STAR

1981



BORN:-
1947

CLUB:-
KINNITY

JOHNNY Flaherty - left

LEINSTER TITLES

1980
1981

COUNTY TITLES

1964
1978

1979
1983

1984
1985

Home

Visited May '96

OFFALY.

Jerry Flaherty

Hurling was always a big part of my life, I can never remember the time that I was without a Hurl. I got more enjoyment out of Hurling than anything in my life time. In Kinnitty where I come from Hurling was the only game Played. We had it for Dinner Breakfast and Tea. After that we went to the Hurling field at night to develope ~~us~~ as Young Boys and men. Little would I have thought in my ~~love~~ every career that Hurling would have been so good to me and that one day I would end up Playing in an All Ireland for the County I have no doubt that Hurling is the greatest Game both for Player and Sepectator and it is a great Pity that it is not as Popular as Football The lessons, discipline, and education systems that a Player has to learn on a training fields to be a tape Class Hurles are the same lessons that one needs in

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JOHNNY Flaherty

everyday life. If used properly can be a tremendous Bones to any Player And my Wishes are that every young fellow should have a hurley and go throught a career of Hurling. I think it would leave us with a much better Society today

There were so many happy occasions too numerous to mention here because every match would have been a All Ireland in its self. If I had one Regret it would have been that when Offaly did reach its first All Ireland in 1981, well past my Prime, that it would have been 10 years Sooner

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Mickey Byrne 1945 - 1960

County Titles

1944		
1945	1956	1961
1946	1957	1962
1952	1958	1963
1955	1959	1964
		1965

Oireachtas Titles:- 1945 1949

National Leagues

1949		1957 (Capt)
1950	1955	1959
1954		1960

All Ireland Titles

(1945)
1949
1950
1951
1958

Munster Titles

(1945)
1949
1950
1951
1958

Club:-
Thurles Sarsfields



Born:-
Sept 1925

Home

Visited: June '96 Tipperary.

Mickey Byrne.



Pat Stakelum (capt.) and M. Byrne. Below—Physical jerks.

I was born in 1923.

went to school @ Thurles C.B.S.

When I was growing up in Thurles I had 15 interested in Hurling, as it was in Thurles that the G.A.A was founded, and hurling was always the topic at Corners and in the pubs around Thurles.

In C.B.S. I won my first hurling medal up. In 1940 I won my first County Championship (minor) with Sarsfields. In 1941 was picked for the county team, and was beaten by Cork in the Munster final in Limerick.

In 1944 I won my first Senior Championship winning 14 in all up to 1965 (21 years) I went on to win numerous Championships etc.

I can tell you they were the happiest years of my life and would not swap them for anything else.

I must say my hardest opponents on the field were my greatest friends and when I meet them from time to time we go back and play those games over & over again and it brings back great enjoyment.

yours in sport,

Mickey Byrne.

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JIMMY BROHAN 1954 - 1964

ALL IRELAND TITLE

(1954)

MUNSTER TITLES

(1954) 1956

RAILWAY CUPS

1957 1959 1961
(1958) 1960 1963

COUNTY TITLES

1956
1961



BORN:- 1935

CLUB:- BLACKROCK

Home

Visited: June '96 CORK.

Jimmy Brohan



From my earliest days I have always had a huge interest in hurling, earliest recollections being ball boy at Church Rd in Blackrock following the Sliotars behind the goals when they were training for their championship matches. Then later on at school in Sullivans Quay and at juvenile level with Blackrock. At Sullivans Quay one Christian brother a Brother Brodes from Wexford had a great influence on my game in school shield competiontions.

Some of my earliest heors were at club would have been the Riordan brothers Gerry and Mossie and John Quirke who was one of the greatest of all time.

From school shield I graduated to Harty cup and in 1951 caused a sensation in reaching the final but were beaten by Thurles C.B.S a team captaind by Paddy Croke and also included Tony Wall later a star with Tipperary. In 1952, 1953 I played with Cork minors but again beaten in Munster finals in both years by Tipperary.

From 1954 on to 1964 I played senior with Cork except 1955 when I was out of bounds which unfortunately were very lean years some very unlucky however I played seven years interprovincial winning six railway cup

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JIMMY BROHAN

medals. In between I won two com
championship medals with Blackrock the fi
one in 1956 was the first county the cl
had won for 25 years.

Since my first involvement with the GA
I have seen many changes, some for the
better but some I would begin to worry
about. The game itself while it has got
faster and the players fitter but I the the
skills have suffered a bit. Also I am very
worried about the new set up at inter-cou
level, I think championship should be knock out
and I am afraid the league set-up will have
a fierce effect on club championship.

I hope these few lines will be of interest
to you and I am proud and happy to have
played a part in a great association.

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TOM Mc GARRY 1956 - 1964



BORN:- 1937

CLUB:- TREATY SARSFIELDS

COUNTY TITLE

1953

RAILWAY CUPS

1958
1959
1960
1961
1963

A/I HANDBALL TITLES

SENIOR	SBD	1958 x 1959
JUNIOR	SBD	1957
MINOR	SBD	1955
MINOR	SBS	1955

Home

Visited:- July '96

LIMERICK

Tom McGarry

It is now over thirty years now since I worked with Limerick but my memories go back to earlier days. I remember as a youngster standing behind the goals in Shelbourne Park watching the county senior players practising. There was one man who made a lasting impression on me. He was Timmy Murphy God Rest him now. He played at centre back. He had a great pair of hands and was a wonderful header. No centre back I ever saw after that including the great county men ever impressed me as much. He had everything.



TOM McGARRY
(right half-back)

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PADDY MOLLOY 1955 - 1971

RAILWAY CUPS

(1964)
1965
1967
(1971)

COUNTY TITLES

1954
1957
1958
1960 (Capt.)



BORN:-

1934

CLUB:-

DRUMCULLEN

PHOTOGRAPH:- GAELIC PARK. NEW YORK - 1965

IRELAND JERSEY:- 1966

Home

Visited: Aug '96

OFFALY.



Paddy Molloy

Paddy Molloy

I used to listen to Michael O Hehir broadcasting the matches when I was a youngster. All the players he named were heroes to me this day I can still name the players of the great Cork four in a ~~team~~ winning team. There were only two wireless in our neighbourhood crowd used to gather around Gunans in the village of Killyon. Michael O Hehir's description of the field painted a vivid picture for me a youngster. He divided the field into sections and made it easy follow the game. The first game I remember listening to was the 1944 Munster final Limerick V Cork. This was the Mackey and Ring era and remember the stunning silence when Mackey was about to take a 21 ds free for Limerick. He always seemed to score goals with every empt. Then the great roar of approval from the crowded kitchen as he ished the ball to the net. Similarly at the other end when Ring took shots - it got the same response. As a youngster Michael O Heher de a great impression on me and I used to imitate him for days after my own commentary with the help of a bucket over my face excitement that O Hehir could bring to the airwaves was immense made a great impression on my young mind. He brought the thrills the game into the kitchen and as a result I had a dream. It was this t one day when I grew up, he would sing my praises on the Radio I would be selling the dummies e sidestepping my man and shing the ball to the net and taking frees slap bang in front of goal and sending them over the bar. How often did I hear him he bends lifts and strikes e sends it over the bar. It took me a time to achieve my goal but luckily I made it near the end of my ying days. I think Michal O Hehir was the greatest commentator of all and is the unsung hero of hurling especially, and a deep debt of itude is owed to him

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PADDY MOLLOY

My family was steeped in the GAA tradition. My father Larry
the first county title with Drumcullen in 1908. Previous to that
he won a county title with Fortal. He also played for the fa
Toomevara Greyhounds v the also famous Nenagh-De Witts a
were known at that time. In the early 1900's he also played wi
the county team. He was chairman of the Offaly Co Board for a tem
and was succeeded by the late Sean Robbins. My Uncle Mick also
played for the county & won 3 county titles with BIRR where he
worked at that time. Nowadays I am happy to see my own sons
take such a keen interest in the game. Enda won an All Ireland min
medal in 1987 and Paul & Padraig won the Community Games All Ir
under 14 in 1993. Daragh who is now aged nine practices punching the b
into a bucket and is known to score six out of six and entices m
now and again to a puck around. As I write these lines, my mind
goes back to the past, and I recall with much sadness the names
four colleagues who are no longer with us. They are Nick O Donn
Des Foley, Ted Carroll and Allie Walsh. May their souls Rest in pe
In conclusion I am deeply grateful to Brendan Fullam for allowin
me the privelege to write those few humble lines in such
exalted company.

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Mick Hayes 1943 - 1953

ALL IRELAND TITLE

1948

MUNSTER TITLE

1948

RAILWAY CUPS

1946 1948 (1949)

CLUB:- BUTLERSTOWN



M. Hayes, left half-back in the Waterford line-out.

DIED:- AUG. 200

BORN:- 1921

Home

sived: Aug '96

WATERFORD

Michael Hayes

My dearest wish for the future would be to see the G.A.A. make arrangements whereby former heroes would obtain a ticket for All-Ireland Hurling final day, It is so sad to hear of so many of these men who who thrilled and entertained tens of thousands, and helped to make Hurling the great spectacle that it is unable to get a ticket for Hurling's greatest day

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DES FERGUSON 1951-1964



BORN:- 1931

CLUB:- St. Vincents

LEINSTER TITLES

Hurling		Football	
1952	1955	1959	1962 ??
1961	1958		1963

RAILWAY CUPS

1956
1962

COUNTY TITLES

Hurling	Football
5 (c)	12 (c)

ALL IRELAND FOOTBALL TITLES

1958
1963

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Visited:- Sept. '96. DUBLIN

Des. Ferguson.

I recall the happy hours of yesteryeans spent hurling on the streets of Donnycarney practicing the skills with many of the lads who afterwards made the St. Vincents and Dublin teams. Players like Norman Allen, Pat Hillis, Tony Young. No boredom in those days! all activity from dawn to dusk.

The G.A.A. I feel owe a huge debt to the Christian Brothers for the dedication and unselfishness of their time spent coaching and training of school team.

I am full of admiration for the mentors of the so called weaker hurling counties who struggle with pleasure in promoting the game year after year. Hoping always to make the big break thro'.

The G.A.A has been part of my life for so long - stretching from my parents to my own family - Maine my wife, sons, daughters all are involved and enjoy the spirit and traditions of the G.A.A. I have no regrets other than the loosing of the 1961 all Ireland hurling final against Tipp.

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Christy O'Brien 1952-1969

My love for the game of hurling developed by listing to tales of great deeds on the hurling fields as we sat around the open fire later it went a step further by attending the Boyscod in Borris in Ossory where my teacher was Bob O'Keefe president of the Gaa 1935-1938 my first memory of holding a hurl was when my Brothers paddy - jimmie - Bicky who is now Bro Basil and neighbours Joe Whelan and his Brother Pat used to play at our home in the "liberty" later our sister mary used to join in the games. The goalposts were two Chesnut trees. I went on to play with the school where my my first succass was winning a medal by defeating Rosrea, following this minor and adult competition were next in line Times have changed compared with the early years. no proper coaching Togging out under the ditches and often hurling in the Bare feet as boots were scarce at the time. We hurled on our way to schol and back again every chance we got we had a hurl in our hands. Hurls had to be cut by

Visited: Oct '96

LAOIS

Christy O'Brien



COUNTY TITLES

1956 (Capt)
1957
1960
1961
1972

RAILWAY CUPS

(1956)
1962
1964
1965

CLUB:- BORRIS-IN-OSSORY

BORN:- 1933

Home

Christy O'Brien

axe & saw - shaped out by hatchet, plane - spoke shave and finished off by a piece of Broken glass. The Transport was by Horse - trap - donkey - cart Bicycles and an odd motor car. as the years went by the improvements in preparation improved and I often think back and compare the past with the present. Good facilitys sponsorship and being well looked after by club & County are now available and rightly so I believe it is a step in the right direction to attract our youth to our games as we have to compete with other attractions.



Christy O'Brien relaxes on top of the Empire State Buildings, New York on his visit to the U.S.A. for the Cardinal Cushing Games.

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DERMOT KELLY 1951-60



MUNSTER TITLE
1955

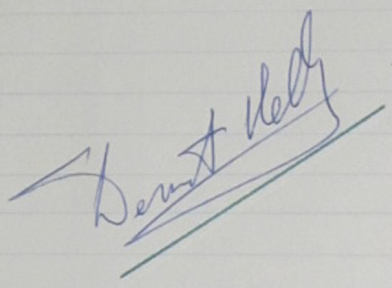
RAILWAY CUPS
1957
1960

COUNTY TITLES
1957
1958

BORN:- 25·12·1932

CLUB:- CLAUGHAUN

Visited: Nov. '96. LIMERICK.



"THE HURLERS."

E GENTLY TUGS HIS FATHERS COAT, MAM SAID, KEEP CLOSE NOW PAT.
OU'RE GOIN TO A HURLING MATCH, YOUR FIRST, REMEMBER THAT.
ON'T GET LOST IN THAT BIG CROWD, BLESS YOURSELF WHEN GOIN OUT
ND AFTER IN THE PUB - KEEP QUIET - LET DADDY DRINK HIS STOUT.

ND SO I SAW THE MIGHTY GAME AND TRACED THE SLIOTAR'S FLIGHT.
THE FLASHING ASH, THE ROARING CROWD, THE COLOURS ALL ABOUT.
PINCHED MYSELF, LOOKED UP AT DAD, SO PROUD THAT I WAS THERE,
SUCH DRAMA, ACTION, MUSIC, LAUGHTER, SPLENDOUR EVERYWHERE.

HE YEARS ROLLED ON AND ON THE JOY - OF BALANCING THE BALL
PON THE BAS AND THEN A TOSS AGAINST THE GABLE WALL.
MY FIRST DAY ON THE CLAUGHANE TEAM - A BOY, BUT I WAS PROUD
TO BE A HURLER - I COULD HAVE CRIED OR SHOUTED IT ALOUD

THEN TO THE BROTHERS, THE HARTY CUP - THE BROTHER'S NAME WAS TYNAN
A TIPPERARY MAN FOR SURE AND ONE YOU COULD RELY ON
AT PHYSICS MATHS AND LATIN - A GENIUS AT HIS STATION
BUT HURLING WAS HIS BURNING LOVE - AN IRISH CELEBRATION.

THE COUNTY TEAM THEN BECKONED ON, AN HONOURABLE PROMOTION
WITH HURLING GAMES IN MUNSTER, SUCH PASSION AND EMOTION.
LIMERICK CORK TIPPERARY CLARE THE PROUD MEN OF THE DECIES
THE EBB AND FLOW OF LUCK AND WOE - THE HOPE ONE NEVER REACHES

DERMOT KELLY.

AND THROUGH THE CROWD THE CALLS CAME LOUD, SOME GOOD AND
MANY STRANGE SOUNDS
"GET THE LEAD OUT OF YOUR ASS'S BOYS" - COME ON YE MACKEY'S GREYHO
DOUBT YA BOY - THERE GOES THE CRY, RINGEY WAS AWOKEN
HE'S WON THE MATCH WITH LIGHTNING DASH - ALL LIMERICK HEARTS ARE LE

AND SO THE HURLERS COME AND GO, TODAYS LADS ARE MUCH FASTER
WITH HELMETS, SHIN GUARDS, RUBS AND PILLS THAT MAKE THE BALL GO FUR
NAMES COME TUMBLING THROUGH MY BRAIN, MICK MACKEY, POWER AND RINGEY
THE RACKARDS, BOBBY NICK AND BILL AND WHO'D FORGET BOULD YOUNGIE

THE RATTLER, DIAMOND, GOGGLES, FOX, CON MURPHY, CONNOLLY BROTHERS
SMYTH OF CLARE AND EDDIE KEHER, DOYLE, STAKELUM AND OTHERS
THE WRITERS JOHN D, RAYMOND SMITH, FULLAM, PADDY DOWNEY,
NORMAN ALLEN, AUSTIN FLYNN AND BUSTING DAN McINERNEY.

MICHEAL O'HEHIR, LIAM MULVIHILL, O'SIOCHAIN, TYNAN, CREGAN,
PAT HARTIGAN I COULD GO ON BUT YOU'D BE HERE ALL EVENIN
THE SHADOWS STARK THE GABLE WALL THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO SHO
PULL THE DOOR WHEN YOU CROSS THE FLOOR AND BLESS WHEN GOIN OU

28.11.96



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Home

John Kiely

John Kiely, hurler. Born Dungarvan, Co Waterford 1926, died Waterford, 16 June 2004

GREY-haired John Kiely, a forward star on the leading Waterford side of the 1950s and 1960s, died in Waterford Regional Hospital last week after a protracted illness.

From Dungarvan, he was a member of the panel when Waterford won its first senior All-Ireland in 1948 by beating Dublin but was an established star by the time the county won their second title in 1959. Widely regarded as one of the greatest players to play for the county, his achievement in winning two All-Ireland medals for Waterford was only equalled by Mount Sion legend Philly Grimes.

Grimes and Kiely were joined on that Decies side by other greats of the game such as Séamus Power, Frankie Walsh, Tom Cheasty, Martin Óg Morrissey, Larry Guinan and Mick Flannelly. It still remains a mystery why they won just the one All-Ireland, and that following a replay against Kilkenny.



John Kiely: two All Irelands

He won Railway Cup medals with Munster and junior county medals with Eire Óg of Dungarvan and Brickey Rangers. He also played in London before he retired from the game in 1962.

Ronan O'Sullivan

Home

HN KIELY 1948-1962 WATERFORD

John Kiely
It was a great Honour
To have Played for Waterford
and. To have made so many
Friends



VISITED: DEC. '96



LONDON SENIOR HURLING TITLE:- 1960

ALL IRELAND TITLE

1959

MUNSTER TITLES

1957
1959

RAILWAY CUPS

1952
(1957)

HANDBALL

GOLDEN MASTERS (S)

1983

GOLDEN MASTERS (D)

1989
1990

DIAMOND MASTERS (S)

1993

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TERENCE 'SAMBO' McNAUGHTON 1980-1997

ALL STAR:- 1991

My earliest memory is a Sunday afternoon in July 1977 when my manager -Alex Emerson - handed me the sliotar and told me to lead the Under Twelves on to the field for the Championship Final. As I won my first medal that day I had no way of knowing the unforgettable joys and sorrows ,the memories and the passions, but above all the wealth of friends that I would encounter from my love affair with hurling.

These friendships criss -crossed all counties, other countries and even continents. I've enjoyed a welcome from team-mates, opponents and supporters of all ages .Where ever I go I've been priveleged to meet the famous and the not so famous in hurling and many other sports and enjoyed the acquaintance of many fine journalists and sports writers.

Like every other young hurler in Ireland I dreamt of playing in an All-Ireland and in 1989 that dream came true.When Antrim faced Tipperary. The pride throughout the County was palpable yet out of the desolation of defeat came a special sporting memory.We were astounded at the welcome we received from fans all over Ulster on our return.We went on a tour of the county to thank the fans for their support. At two o ' clock one morning we arrived in the footbaling village of Glenavy where the fans had waited for us over four hours in the pouring rain. The incongruous sight of Ulsters' beaten All-Ireland hurlers being cheered to the skies by hundreds of football supporters while Union Jacks fluttered over our heads will stay with me for ever.

As my county career wares I find myself spending more and more time with Ruairi Og juveniles. I get a great buzz from coaching and managing my young hopefuls . My wish is that I may be the influenceom them that Alex Emerson was on me .I hope they never feel the need to cash in commercially on any success that hurling may bring them, but may give freely and willingly of their time and expertise to promote the game in all its glory to others . May they find in the G.A.A, as I did , the close comradeship of their team mates, the ability to admire excellence in an opponent, the shared joy of success and the gracious acceptance of defeat but above all the fierce pride I felt wearing the Maroon of Ruairi Og and the saffron of Antrim.

BORN:- 1964

CLUB:- CUSHENDALL (RUAIRI Og)

COUNTY TITLES

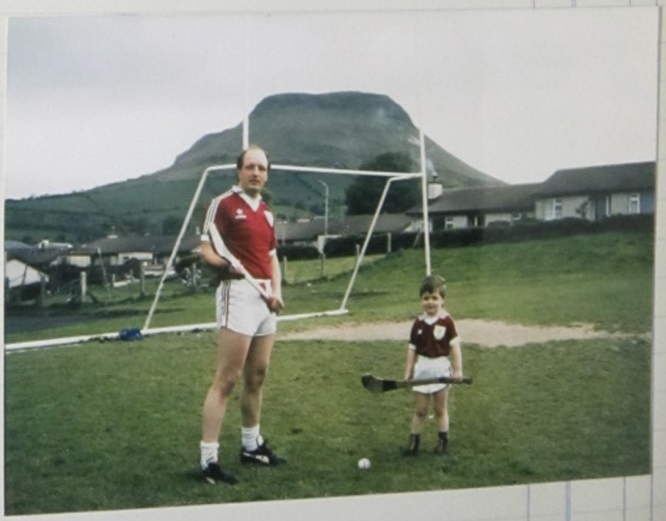
1981 1985 1987 1991 1992 1993 1996

ULSTER TITLES

1990 1991 1993 1994 1996

ULSTER CLUB TITLES

1990 1991 1993 1994 1996



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Visited: JAN '97 ANTRIM

Terence SAMBO MC Laughlin



My earliest memory is a Sunday afternoon in July 1974 when my manager - Alex Emerson handed me the sliotar and told me to lead the under twelves on to the field for the championship final. As I won my first medal that day I had no way of knowing the unforgettable joys and sorrow the memories and the passions but above all the wealth of friends that I would encounter from my love affair with hurling.

Jack.

May they find in the G.A.A. as I did the close comradeship of their team mates the ability to admire excellence in an opponent the shared joy of success and the gracious acceptance of defeat but above all the fierce pride I felt wearing the maroon of Ruaire Og and the saffron of Antrim

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PHIL "FAN" LARKIN 1962 - 1979

LEINSTER TITLES

1963	1972	1975
1964	1973	1978
1971	1974	1979

ALL STARS

1973	1976
1974	1978

COUNTY TITLES

1969	1976
1975	1981

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1963	1974	1975
1972		1979

RAILWAY CUPS

1972	1975	1977
1974		1979

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1976 (Capt)

A/I CLUB TITLES

1976 (Capt) 1982



BORN:-

1941

CLUB:-

JAMES STEPH

KILKENNY

Visited:- JAN '97

Phil 'Fox' Larkin



Highlights of my club career — Phil 'Fox' Larkin

The years 1969-1982 were very successful ones for my club, James Stephens. During that time we contested 7 Co. Championship finals — winning 4.

One of the real highlights of my career was our championship victory over The Fenians in 1968. This was our first success since 1937 so naturally there was great excitement and celebration in 'The Village'.

Our next big year was 1975 when I had the honour of captaining James Stephens. We had gotten to the Co. Final and thus qualified to represent Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Club Championship for the first time. After

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PHIL "FAN" LARKIN.

a great Leinster campaign, including a thrilling victory over Buffers Alley in Wexford Park, we won our semi-final and qualified to meet famed Blackrock in the All-Ireland final at Semple Stadium. After a terrific game against powerful opponents we emerged victorious and became the first Kilkenny and Leinster team to win this highly-valued championship. Receiving the cup that day for my club was probably the highlight of my sporting career.

Later that year we went on to win again our own Co. Championship - beating the Rower Inistigue in the final. This meant a lot to us as no other reigning All-Ireland club champions had succeeded in retaining their own Co. Championship.

Before retiring I had the pleasure of tasting success at local and national level again. In 1981 we beat the Fenians in the Co. final and went on to contest the All Ireland again against renowned Mount Sion. The final was once more played in Thurles and we had a thrilling victory over very difficult opponents.

It was great to win this final so late in my career and I look back on my years playing with Jones Stephens with great pride and sense of achievement.

Phil "Fan" Larkin







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Billy Dooley 1991 -

ALL IRELAND TITLE
1994



ALL STARS
1994
1995

BORN!-
1969

OIREACHTAS
1994

NATIONAL LEAGUE
1991

CLUB!-
SEIR KIERAN

LEINSTER TITLES
1994
1995

COUNTY TITLES
1988 1995 1996

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Visited: JAN '97. OFFALY.

Billy Dooley



I Started of in Clareen N.School in 1987 where we won our First School Final We Had Lusmagh the Second smallest Parish in offaly, Brendan Kelly and John Troy, Pat Temple where Hurling with Lusmagh at that time. That was the start For me. Damien White was the Hurling instructer at N.School level and help me alot at Skills. After that I went to Birr Community School, where I had underage with them. My First Allireland medal was won with the colleage where we beat North-mon of Cork in the Senour colleages final in Portlaoise in 1986. The same year we won the minor Hurling Final with offaly by beating Cork and the next year we beat Tipperary in the Final. Pat-Joe Whelan had a big Influence on my Hurling Career, He train us to the two Minor Final, when I never

Home

BILLY DOOLEY

though I could get to play in Al-Ireland
In 1989 we play Tippeary in the Al-Ire
Under 21 Final and I feel we could ha
won that Match. But we were beaten b
2 Points, After that I started on the
Panal. My first sucess with the Senior
was in 1991 when we won the the
League Final, Offaly first One and only one,
beat us the Same year in the ~~Cha~~ Champion ~~the~~
~~year~~ It was 1994 before Offaly made t
break true again, and we ~~w~~ went on
win the Al-Ireland. ~~Thing~~ This was the high
of my Career up todate. In 1995 we we
beaten in the Al-Ireland Final by Clare wh
was the most Disappointing day of my Life
As of last year Wexford beat us in t
Lenister Final, but ~~we~~ I was delighed
See them win the Al-Ireland Final. Ca
Cregan ~~Jx~~ ~~Dark~~ Derry Donavan had a big
Influence on me over the last 4 yea
and has help me too become a better h
At Club level I won my third Cha
medal this year, Up too ~~t~~ 1988 we had
Only a Junior Chapionship in Seir Kieran
But we were Lookey to get A group of
player's at one time. We have beaten B
in the 1995 Sein-Final - and beat Bingler i
Final, which are the two strongest Club
in Offaly at the moment. That was the
highlight of my Career with Seir Kieran. B
year - I won my my third medal with f
more of my brothers.

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GER Loughnane 1972 - 1987

ALL STARS

1974
1977

RAILWAY CUPS

1976 1978 1981

NATIONAL LEAGUES

1977
1978

BORN:- 1953



Ger Loughnane (An Clár)

CLUB:- FEAKLE

COUNTY TITLES

1988

Home

Visited: Jan '97.

CLARE

Gen Lafferty



It is a great honour for me to be included in this book recalling great games and marvellous players. When I first started playing hurling at National School in Feakle I never anticipated that I would get such great pleasure, meet so many people, play in so many famous venues or achieve success in a game which is such a huge part of the fabric of rural life in Ireland. I suppose listening to the commentaries of the late Michael O'Hehir was the first inkling I got of the excitement and passion which the game of hurling arouses. Watching the expressions on the faces of our neighbours as the followed every puck of the ball and commented on every score filled me with a desire to be part of such a great game. I remember when I was very young hoping that Michael O'Hehir would still be commentating when I was playing and that he would mention my name on the radio. I started in an one when there was no formal coaching. He had just one ball which we fought over, often using

Home

GER Loughnane

a rule-book which we invented ourselves. Of course when I entered St. Flannan's College in 1966 everything changed. I soon realised that the sporting lan of the College were the players in the Hurty te and if you didn't play hurling you were left the shadows. I was most fortunate that at the time two of the priests who had just commenced coaching in the school were Fr. Seamus Gardiner and Fr. Willie Walsh, now Bishop Walsh. I was on the first U-15 team coached by the two of the and they remained with our team right up to 5th when we lost the Hurty final. My skills in playing the game and my ideas in coaching were all formed by these two. Indeed, I was delighted to meet Fr. Gardiner in the Hogan stand after the All-Ireland in 95 and to thank him for the imp he had on me many years before. I played for the Clare Minor for two years and for the Clare U-21's for three years reaching Munster Finals in both codes all without success. The Defeats of Clare in the Munster Senior finals in the 70's and 80's have been well docum but when I look back over my career my main memories are of the thrill of putting on the Clare jersey in every game, the marvellous players I played with and against, the tra all over the country to venues big and sm but above all the thrill of just playing great game of hurling. My ambition when I set out was to win a Co. Championship with Feakle and to win an All-Ireland with Clare. It is ironic that we should the Co. Championship in my last game for in 1988 after a lapse of 43 years and the finally Clare should win an All-Ireland with as manager rather than as a player. I couldn't have asked for anything let

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BRIAN LOHAN. 1993 -

ALL IRELAND TITLE

1995

MUNSTER TITLES

1995
1997

ALL STARS

1995
1996

COUNTY TITLES

1996 (Capt)

MUNSTER CLUB TITL

1996 (Capt



BORN:- 1971

CLUB:-
WOLFE TONES

RAILWAY CUPS

1995
1996
1997 (CAPT)

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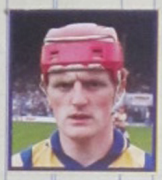
Visited: JAN '97. CLARE



I was born into a hurling family in November 1971. My earliest memories of hurling started when I was bought a yellow plastic hurley when I was about four. It didn't take me long to graduate on to the ash variety, saving the plastic stick for my brother Frank who was to arrive three years after me in 1974.

As a I ~~grew~~ developed and reached the ages of 9 and 10, ~~you~~ the highlight of my week was training on a Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday with my father in Newmarket on Fergus. At that time the blues from Newmarket were coming towards the end of a very successful hurling period in which they won hurling championships almost yearly. 1981 was the year in which my father won his 11th or 12th senior hurling championship medal. ~~My interest in~~ On reflection, it ~~was~~ strikes me now, that my interest in training and hurling developed directly as a result of those nights inside in Newmarket.

Wolfe Tones na Sivuna was beginning to blossom in the early eighties. There was a fantastic underage structure in the club which developed as a result of the tremendous effort and work done by the national school teachers. Gradually Wolfe Tones started to become a force in Clare hurling, winning our first 'A' title in the early eighties to winning every 'A' title in hurling and football in 1988.

Home

BRIAN LOHAN.

The success of underage level gradually matured to U21 and later to the situation of present where we have, in the past year, won the county senior title combined with the Munster club.

I struggled to make county teams at underage level, failing to make the county minor or 21's except in my last year. In 1992 when I made my intercounty debut in the U21 championship, we lost the Munster Final to waterford who later went on to win the All-Ireland. The following years of 93 and '94 were not much better on the county scene. In '93 we were destroyed, ruthlessly so, by a Tipperary team which turned very well on the day. In '94 we were well beaten by Limerick, probably the most disappointing performance by any Clare team which I've been associated with. There is no doubt that ~~deal~~ defeat focuses the mind much more than victory. ~~and also that~~

In 1995 Clare won the All-Ireland. There was no magic formula which led to victory. We trained very hard. There was a fantastic work ethic within the team and the individuals associated with us.

1996 was a fantastic year for hurling. There is no doubt in my mind that it is the greatest game in the world. Each year it seems to be getting better and the approach is becoming more and more professional. Most inter-county players are training five nights a week over a twelve month period, building up to possibly six/seven nights a week between club and county. It is a huge commitment, but one which I've made without giving it a second thought.



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Sean Silke 1972 - 1984

ALL IRELAND TITLE
1980



BORN: 1950

CLUB:- MEELICK-EYRECOURT

NATIONAL LEAGUE
1975

RAILWAY CUPS
1980
1982 (CAPT)

ALL STARS
1975
1980

OIREACHTAS TITLES
1976
1977
1981

Home

Visited: June 1997 GALWAY

Sean Silver

June 8 1997

It was impossible not to become involved in Hurling — As I was born into a house where sport was always discussed as hurling was played by my Dad & uncles. Also & more importantly our house & farm was located in Parish of Meelick Eyrecourt — who proudly remember their participation in the 1st All Ireland Final v Thurles Sarsfields of Tipperary in 1887. Memories of great games, and great hurlers were shared as Neighbours uncles or visitors paid a visit. Men like Joe Salmon, Billy Duffy Fintan Spillane (All locals) were mentioned with Reverence and put up as stars to emulate. Thus we were given targets to Aim At. However success didn't arrive easily in fact my first memory of representing my club was as a sub for the U.14's — who received a great dressing down without calling on my services. The amount of taunting & criticism I received propelled me to try harder & practice more often — which I did at the gable-end of our house which fronted the main ROAD & thus interfered with passing traffic — still allowed me to know every car registration passing the ROAD!! Throughout this time I realised how great it was to belong to our parish — in fact as I commenced to play for Meelick-Eyrecourt seniors at 16 I realised how special it was — This special feeling still remains as I now wear their Junior B Jersey. Hurling for me was a dream. Key to my success in those years was the encouragement received from locals Michael Joyce NT, and especially

Home

Sean Silke

Fr. Vincent Marrett (RIP) and Kevin Thornton in Garbally where my hurling progressed alongside Rugby, and especially athletics. Interestingly this was the time of the GAA Ban - and life provided the constant fear of suspension if the club became aware. Now I know they were always aware of my misdemeanours - But they understood my predicament. My coaches seemed such giants esp Kevin Thornton who guided the Garbally Hurling Team to its first Connacht College Hurling Title in 20 years over Rivals St. Marys Galway in 1968 while we later lost the All-Ireland Semi final to eventual winners St Peters Wexford this Garbally team provided a number of players to the Country Team Frs Iggy & Joe Clarke Andy Fenton, Ciaran Fitzgerald (Ireland Rugby Captain) Michael Donohue & John Lyons. It also started a long relationship with my Mother Martin Quigley whom I competed against until 1984, as he gave loyal service to Wexford.

As a minor I enjoyed the privelege of playing against Cork as Galway competed in Munster. Unfortunately fulfilling the fixture was the limit of our contribution as Team preperation & Training were less methodical & more Amateurish than current preperation.

After Garbally College I moved on to St Patricks College Maynooth winning 2 Fitzgibbon Cup medals in 1973, 1974 and Two University Colleges League medals. It was there under the guidance of Fr. Gerry Meagher (Tipperary RIP) and Fr Pat Ryan (Limerick) that my game & especially & importance of a team contribution continued to develop. Hours spent in the ball alley or practising esp ground hurling with Iggy & Joe Clarke, Andy Fenton Paddy Barry, Sean Stack, Aidan Kerrigan, Henry Goff Frs Willie & Paul Fitzmaurice, Ollie Perkins, Jack O'Neill, Victor Blake, Seamus Fitzgerald, Gus O'Driscoll, and many others most of whom played successfully for their own counties some of whom played in All Ireland Finals.

Paddy Bolland

It was during those years I had the privelege to win County Juniors & Intermediate medals with Meelick Eyrecourt - what an occasion - and how our small parish celebrated & enjoyed our success - Gradually some of my clubmates received the County Call with Jack Lucas starring at Wing Back for the Seniors. It was during this time I received the call from Galway Seniors also - and played commencing initially in 1971 to continue until in 1972 for the next 12 yrs finished after the Centenary year in 1984

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Highlights of my Career were our success in making the Breakthrough in 1974/5 League & eventually won - recording victories over Cork, Kilkenny & eventually Tipperary on the way. That was an especially joyous occasion followed three months later with the All-Ireland Semi final victory over a well fancied Cork side. WE floated on Air for Days until M J Inky Flaherty sobered us up with the reality of what lay ahead. - WE were meeting the "Cats" in our first All-Ireland final and unfortunately WE played well below our best. They were the team of the early 1970's with Kiker, Delaney Purcell Henderson, Coady, Brennan O Brien Crotty etc -. It would have taken a great performance to deny them which WE were unable to give.
The following year in Cork Wexford denied up after a Replay. I always believe our Drawn game was the best Hurling game I played in & a point from Frank Burke - at least 100 Meters out - is still vivid in that very hot humid Day.
After our failure again & Kilkenny in 1979 - victory 12 months later was both well overdue & well deserved. It was like being released from a Prison. Many supporters had lost faith through our continuous defeats - the players through the encouragements of Babs Keating & Joe McCarthy 1978-79 and Cyril Farrell & Inky Flaherty in 1980 had infused a tremendous love pride & determination which excluded throwing in any towel. More than anything else the victory provided great encouragement & mentors of Club Teams within the County and also a fitting reward & longer-serving stars who experienced so many Bad Days - especially players like John Connolly who was a Colossus on weak Galway teams a dozen years before. Essentially victory was attained from great displays from about 12 players with other 3 neutralising their opponents.
The following year provides the low point of any - players career - loosing a final as Captain. Unfortunately the 1981 final was played between 2 new traditional counties - Minnows of Hurling as someone said, and Offaly gradually, gradually stole away the Fiat McCarthy as we missed many good scoring chances while pat Delaney & especially Johnny Flaherty ended our dream for two in a row. Their uncanny ability to stay in touch while defending against our superior forwards in the first half contributed immensely to their victory.

In Summary I'd like to think the many great people mentioned who infused such a great love for the game - without them Brendan's Book would not have my Hurling memories. Thanks for the opportunity.

Jim Sims

June 8 1997

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Joe Cooney 1984 -

ALL IRELAND TITLES
1987
1988

COUNTY TITLES
1989 1993
1992 1995

RAILWAY CUPS
1986 1989
1987 1991

ALL IRELAND CLUB TITLES
1993
1994

NATIONAL LEAGUES
1986 1989
1987

O'REACHTAS
1988 1991
1989 1992

TEXACO HURLER of the YEAR 1987



CLUB:-
SARSFIELDS

BORN:-
1965

ALL STARS
1985
1986
1987
1989
1990

Visited: June '97

GALWAY.



I started playing hurling in National School in Ballourn. We trained after school hours because our teacher had no intrest in hurling. I did not win much at under age level but once we reached minor we won a few co. championships. From minor on our team improved and we won a good few medals. David McCann was one of my biggest influnces in the game, he was a teacher from the other side of the parish. Every thing he taught us we remembered and we never forgot it. I first went to an all Ireland final in 1980. My brother Jimmy was playing for Galway in that match. I was sitting in the stand and thinking would I ever get a chance to play in Croke Park. Galway won that match and I played 3 years after that for Galway in a Minor final which we won also. Winning a Club final in 1993 was one of my proudest memorys which I will never forget. Mick Jacob, Sean Silke Iggy Clarke, Jimmy Barry Murphy, Tony Doran and Sylvie Linnane were some of my Idols in those years. I love the game and met many many fine people through the game of hurling.

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Mary O'Leary 1975 - 1984

All Ireland Titles

1978
1980
1982
1983

County Titles

1984
1975 (Capt)

Gael-Linn Inter-

1980
1982


MARY O'LEARY

Born:-

1955

Clubs:-

Watergra
and
Imokil

B.I Camogie Player of the Year

1982

Munster Titles

1975 (Capt)
1976
1977
1978
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984

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Visited: July '97 CORK

Mary Geary



Mary O'Leary

I started my Camogie Career in 1968 with Glamorgan where I won my first Junior Club medal. Then in 1970 I joined my present Club - Watergrasshill. My Inter-County started at under 18 level in 1971 & in 1973 I won my first All-Ireland at Junior level. This was a great achievement for us as we were the first team to win this title for Cork & the first time that both Junior & Senior had been achieved by any County. Then in 1975, I captained the Cork Seniors but we lost to Wexford in the All-Ireland final. I remember Kathleen Tanks in goal that day for Wexford - she was excellent.

1978 then was the year I won my first Senior medal against Dublin & then in 1980 against Limerick - after a replay & 1982 & 83 again against Dublin. My biggest disappointment was losing the 1981 All-Ireland against Kilkenny in a replay - but you have accept these things & accept the good with the bad.

One of the highlights of my Inter-county was with Munster in 1982 against Leinster, which we won by a point. It was one of the best Camogie games in my time for sheer guts & determination from both sides & it was a pity that it was witnessed by so few people. Another of my sporting highlights was with my Club Watergrasshill

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Mary O'Leary.

in Ladies football when we won the Clubs Senior All-Ireland final in 1981. For such a small Clubs, with limited amount of ~~talent~~ players to choose from, it was a fantastic achievement.

In most recent times I am delighted to see that R.T.E. are giving the game more coverage & that it will be televised like this year. Maybe we could help ourselves as well in using the players of high profile to help try to promote the game even to a higher level that it is.

I thoroughly enjoyed my playing days both with my Club & County, on & off the field because I feel that even though playing the game is all important but meeting & mixing with people after-(as just as important) and being able to talk about the game is just as important.

I'm one of the lucky ones in that I achieved alot at Inter-County - but it is not easy - you have to put in the hard work to be able to get anywhere - but as well as that I played with some of the best players around & also against them both then & now.

Play the game to enjoy it & accept that you can't win them all - but you can try.

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Mary O Leary's grandparents
Tom and Hannie Mahony

Tom won Munster titles in 1902
and 1907 and an All-Ireland
title in 1902.

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529 FOREWORD
by
CON HOULIHAN - Legends of the Ash

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Foreword.

Innocent people such as myself like to speculate about pre-history, about the world of which we have no records.

When we speak about the "dawn of history", we mean more or less the time when records began to be kept.

I have a theory concerning the ball-and-stick games that were part of our ancestors' culture - it may be no more than fantasy but I will give it to you.

Early man was a gatherer and a hunter; his hunting was done with his bare hands for a long time. Thus he caught fish and birds and little animals. The next step came when he learned to use missiles, such as rounded stones.

Then came a great leap forward in evolution when he began to use tools and weapons. I wasn't around then but I can see my ancestors using a stick to drive rounded stones at flocks and herds.

Man learned to draw before he learned to write; there is an a abundance of depictions to show that ball-and-stick games were widespread in early civilization.

Hurling was well established in pre-Christian Ireland. In the Brehon Laws you will find sophisticated provisions to compensate the families of any man killed by a hurley or a hurling ball. King Cahir The Great of Tailteann left 50 brass hurleys and 50 brass hurling balls in his will.

There were two forms of hurling in Ireland: Winter hurling was played with a narrow stick and a hard ball; Summer hurling was played with a broad-bladed stick and a soft ball. You weren't allow to handle the ball in the former; it was very much a feature of the latter.

Michael Cusack pondered long and deeply when the time came to decide which version he would make official; he chose the Summer version probably because it was more widespread at the time and was more attractive.

Winter hurling survived in the odd nook and occasional cranny; it was played in South-West Kerry until about 40 years ago, mainly on the roads and with improvised camans.

It is probably fair to say that Summer hurling was played in the better land and by the better-off people - the Winter game was favoured more by the working class.

It was played too in our part of Kerry, a few miles north of Castle Island. There was little traffic in the War years; we engaged in fierce battles on the Dublin Road - for a ball we used the bottom half of a small polish box.

Many years later I was delighted to discover that we have been playing Winter hurling, much as the two men in one of Moliere's

plays were thrilled when they found out that they speaking prose all their lives.

When Cusack wrote that the GAA swept the country like a prairie fire, he was thinking mainly of Gaelic football; it proliferated phenomenally. Hurling is our national game in that it is old and unique to us - Gaelic football is the more widespread.

The bogey of tradition has hindered the growth of hurling; there is a mystique about the game that inhibits the so-called lesser Counties.

We are almost given to believe that every boy in Kilkenny and Cork and Tipperary is born with a wee hurley in one hand and a tiny sliotar in the other; no other County can attain their expertise - so we are told.

In this generation we have seen the ancient game make some progress. A big factor was the emergence of the Faithful County in 1981. The emergence of Waterford in 1948 hadn't the same impact because it had always been deemed a hurling county.

Incidentally, some of the traditionalists looked on Offaly's great achievement as some kind of freak happening; I heard them called "scoopers".

This word probably comes from scuaibin, the name given to cross-country hurling, the counterpart of Caid in football.

Television has given a great boost to the ancient game - and so, of course, has the coming of headgear. It is so salutary that you wonder why it wasn't adopted long ago.

I know of no game that arouses more passion than hurling and I know of no game that evokes more dedication in its exponents; around it there is a kind of healthy madness, fiabhras na fuinseoige.

Imprinted on my mind there are three images that tell a lot about the game.

I see Lory Meagher putting a ladder up against a cock of hay and going back about fifty yards and pucking a sliotar under the bottom rung - and pucking another under the next rung and so on - and sometimes starting again until he has got it all right.

When Christy Ring drove an oil lorry around the roads of Cork, he kept a hurley and a bucket of sliotars in his cab; the bucket was flattened on one side; he put it down in a field during his lunch hour - that was his target.

Then there was the occasion when Galway, long out of the centre court, were on the way to winning the Final of the League.

The three Connolly brothers, natives of Connemara, were on board; Micheal O'Muircheartaigh broke into Gaelic and delivered the last twelve minutes of his commentary in the old tongue.

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We all love to speculate about who was the greatest hurler of all time - it is good and endless fun. I prefer to name the man who for me most symbolises all that is great in the game. He is Tony Doran, the Happy Warrior.

Brendan Fullam has gone into the forest that he has so long loved and that he knows so well and brought back great stories. Mo bheannacht.

Con Houlihan.

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Con 14

When Cusack wrote that the G.A.A. swept the country like a prairie fire, he was thinking mainly of Gaelic football;

it proliferated phenomenally. Hurling is our national game in that it is ~~so~~ old and unique to us - Gaelic football is the more widespread

Con's calligraphy

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535 FOREWORD
by
LIAM GRIFFIN. - Legends of the Ash.

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The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again, who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best, knows the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

Roosevelt's word's - IT MUST ALWAYS BE ABOUT THE PLAYERS.

I feel honoured but somehow unworthy between the covers of a Brendan Fullam book. "Gods of the Game" - "Hurling is magic in game form" - So many words could be used. The unique way that Brendan has set out his books is fascinating in it's simplicity. The players tell their stories and all so differently. John T. Power who won his first All Ireland with Kilkenny in 1907 was interviewed in his 99th year (Giants of Ash) the oldest living player interviewed is Jim Power of Galway who will be 102 next November (Giants of Ash) - All the way to the great George O'Connor and Martin Storey of Wexford 1996, and some of the great camogie players also. Some extremely interesting statistics are also presented in Giants of the Ash. Two leather bound journals of seven hundred pages each have captured for posterity the autographed personal written contribution of each player interviewed.
How did Brendan Fullam even think of doing this - How much effort has it taken to get to all of these great players - How can hurling people thank this man for his priceless work. Who will keep it up - Perhaps the G.A.A. should take it on board, Brendan Fullam is owed that much. To hurling people these are the records of the "Masters" more important to me than the "Book of Kells."

Read Doctor Crokes letter of 1884 in Giants of the Ash, how relevant is it today !

Open a page - Games played before you were born come to life. I see Terry Leahy's point to win the '47 All Ireland against Cork as clearly as if I was there. I see Bobbie Rackards performance at full back at the end of the '54 All Ireland and I can smell the rain as Jimmy Kelly of Carrickshock sends over the winning point to win the famous Thunder and Lightening All Ireland of '39. Billy Rackard was the greatest centre back I ever saw - I never knew John Keane - I feel I do now. The names and events my Father spoke of in the old Morris Minor ZR 338 on the way to and from matches all those years ago - people I never really knew - Tyler Mackey and his famous sons, "Fowler" McInerney, Tommie Doyle, Joe Salmon, Jim Langton, Matt Nugent (Why Clare lost in '55- Dermot Kelly) The Bicycle Munster Final of '44. "Over the bar" says Lory Meagher "Into the square" says Charlie Ware.

"Now Cork is beat; the hay is saved the thousands wildly sing -
They speak too soon, my sweet garsun, For here comes Christy Ring."

The place and Club names - Bennetsbridge, Thurles, Mooncoin, Mount Sion, Rathmure, Glen Rovers, Ahane, Antrim, Cork and all Counties between. The hair stands on the back of your neck, goose pimples on your arms - beautiful wonderful work - "NECTAR". I started with Roosevelt, I'll give the last word to his wife Elenor.

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Thank you for your dream Brendan and thank you for giving us the dreams of so many of the greats of the Riverdance of Sport.

Liam Griffin

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Speech by Brendan Fullam
at
Guinness Reception Centre
on
18th November 1997
on the occasion of the launch
of
Legends of the Ash

A dhaoine uaisle, bíodh agus sláinte chugaibh go léir agus fáilte romhaibh cuig seolaidh mo leabhar nua "Legends of the Ash"

It was the dying moments of a game between Cork and Tipperary. Scores were level. Cork won a side-line cut about 50 yards out from the Tipp goal. Christy Ring turned to the referee and asked how much time was left. Time is up said the referee. Ring took two or three paces back and from the moment he struck the sliotar it was travelling straight over the bar for the winning point.

After the game the teams assembled in the hotel. Ring walked into the room with Jim Barry, the Cork trainer. As he did Mickey Byrne of Tipp turned to him and said: "By God, Christy we'll have to shoot you" And Christy replied: "Sure ye might as well Mickey - ye've tried everything else"

It was 1936 and a great Limerick team was preparing to tour the U.S. In their ranks was a veteran named Mickey Cross - he had been playing since the early twenties and would have been about 35 or 36. He belonged to a matriarchal household - his mother ruled the roost. Mickey never married. His mother

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called him aside and said: Mickey, you're going to America. There's a dangerous woman over there. Her name is Mae West. Stay away from her.

Legends of the Ash completes a trilogy of works on the great game of hurling and the history of our county, social and otherwise, courses through its pages.

The book contains 70 articles. There is one on the late Michéal Ó Hehir and one on Michéal Ó Muircheartaigh - two men who have made an immense contribution to hurling and to the G. A. A.

The oldest living man in the book is Tom Mc Inerney - now in his 92nd year - who hurled with Clare in the half forward line in the 1932 All-Ireland final against Kilkenny. Unfortunately Tom cant be with us tonight but I am glad to say that his daughter Teresa and grandchild are here. Fáilte romhat, Teresa. Also in the gathering is Morden White, a Kilkenny forward and one of the few survivors of the 1932 clash. You should be ashamed Morden for beating Clare in 1932 by that one goal margin - and they still say in Clare that two of the three goals were square balls and that you were involved in them (laughter). You're very welcome Morden.

I'm delighted to welcome Nancy Power, widow of the late great Mady Power, a Kilkenny man who starred with Dublin and Kilkenny teams in the twenties and thirties. You're very welcome Nancy - also your two daughters

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Hurling has been described as:
- The greatest field game in the world
- The Riverdance of Sport
- A game for the Gods

Legends of the Ash like its two predecessors is a tribute to the great game and to the men who made it great.

But only some of them,
For there were so many.

And it recounts their anecdotes, celebrations, defeats and memories but above all their immense love for the game.

Hurling is about many things:
- Passion
- Artistry
- Speed of thought and action
- Courage
- Fierce man to man combat

And it breeds in those who play it a:
- Bond of Loyalty
- An admiration
- A Friendship

And a desire as the years roll on to
Relive the Past
and
Recall days of Yore
when dust was flying in the square

At the present time the game is going through
A Golden Era.
So many Epic contests
So many fine exponents,
exponents who as the Guinness Ad proclaims
Can Break Hearts at Seventy Yards.

Legends of the Ash features many of them, not

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only,
8 layers of the Present Day
and Modern times
But also great names from
Every decade of the G. A. A.
Names that encompass all that is great and magnificent in our ancient game.

In an earlier Golden Era - the 30s and 40s,
Corbey, the renowned journalist had this to
say after witnessing the 1939 and 1940
Munster finals between Cork and Limerick -
and I quote:
Scribblers are Bankrupt of Phrases
Our Vocabulary is exhausted
We must invent a new language to
describe modern day hurling.
Aptly indeed do those words describe many of
the epic contests we have seen in recent
times

The emergence of Wexford and Offaly who between
them have shared equally the last four
Leinster titles:
The emergence of Clare and Limerick who between
them have shared equally the last four
Munster titles:
has added immensely to the image and glamour
of the game

In Legends of the Ash I have featured the careers
of six great camogie players - I will name them.
Mary O'Leary of Cork
Mgt O'Leary of Wexford
Liz Neary of Kilkenny
Married Mc Alarney of Antrim - from the Glens
Eithne Leech and
Orla Ni Shiochain from Dublin

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And talking of Camogie Players, it is with a sense of sadness that I recall that Kathleen Mills, that genius of the camogie field who was with us at our last launch has passed away. And to Kathleen to-night we say

i seilbh zrāshmhar bē zo raibh cū anochc
agus i zeōnaī a Cāvc

Carbery to whom I have already referred once said of hurling:

"Hurling survives and is indestructible because of its stern, naked, grandeur"

when I think of hurling, I think of-:

A National Heritage
A National Treasure
A Reflection of our Temperament
A Badge of Identity, just like our language
A Game that gave me countless hours of immense enjoyment in my younger years.

And I think too of Great Players-:

Artists
Amateurs

Legends of the Ash, playing a great game

Finally some words of thanks and appreciation

To my wife Mary who typed and computerised every word in the book
To my Publishers Wolfhound Press for a superbly finished product
To Joe Mc Donagh, Uachtarān C.L.C.G. for very kindly launching the book
To the Guinness Company for very kindly sponsoring this occasion
To my brother, Aodān, a thug cabhair agus congnamh dom i morān stighthe

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And to all who helped in any way with the book.
Sin a bhfuil le rá agam-sa
Beir Bua agus Beannacht agus Buiochas

Brendan Fullam

Those in attendance included:-
Eithne Leech, Una o' Connor and
Orla Ni Shiochain of camogie fame.
Former Presidents of the G.A.A.
Paddy Boggy and Seamus o' Riain
From Antrim
Sambo McNaughton and Brendan Harvey

Con Houlihan, journalist, author and
sports writer.

From Limerick
Dermot Kelly and Tom McGarry
From Waterford
Austin Flynn and Tom Cheasty
From Galway
John Killeen
From Laois
Martin Cuddy
From Offaly
Johnny Flaherty
From Wexford
Phil Wilson
From Tipperary
John Doyle, Phil Shanahan, Jimmy Finn
Mickey Byrne, Donie Nealon
From Kilkenny
Pa Dillon, Seamus Cleere, Eddie Keher
Mn White

Treasa McInerney, daughter of Tom McInerney

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Nancy Power, widow of the late Matty Power
of Kilkenny - and her two daughters.
From Dublin
Jimmy Fay

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Brigid Doyle 1968 - 1977

BORN:-

CLUB:- ADAMSTOWN



Brigid Doyle, captain of the victorious Wexford senior camogie team and her son, Paul, who is keeping a tight grasp on the trophy which will rest in the Model County for another year.

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1968
1969
1975

B & I AWARD

COUNTY TITLES

1968
1969
1970
1972
1973
1974

POWER'S AWARD ON 3 OCCASIONS

Visited:- JAN 2002. WEXFORD

Brigid Doyle

I come from a very large family of nine girls and eight boys. When we were old enough to walk we were all given a hurley stick. When the farm work was finished in the evening all of us would take our hurleys to the field at the back of the house and hurl until dark. We picked a mixed team each night of boys and girls and made two goals at either side of the field. We tried our hearts out to see who would win on the night. It was here our love of the game began and probably also here that we were "toughened up" by our brothers.

Shortly after I married I came to live in Adamstown, (having married an Adamstor man and Fr Aidan Redmond C.C. formed a camogie club. He asked me to play and it was that man who really got me going. I rambled over to that field every evening and soon the county team

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Brigid Doyle.

Spotted my talents (That time we wore big black tights and a heavy uniform and we had to change in the ditch – and nobody minded!!) I imagine now if I was young and fit and had all the gyms and saccuzzi they have nowadays that I could be a superhuman person.

I thoroughly enjoyed my playing days with my club and county and made my good friends over the years. I probably won more than most winning 6 county championships medals Leader Medals 3 All-Ireland Medals, Powers Awards Gael-Linn trophy & B+I Award. My greatest thrill in life was lifting the All-Ireland Cup in Croke Park in Sept '69 with all my family around me and my two year old son holding the cup with me.



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Paddy Cullen 1966-1979

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1974 1976 1977

LEINSTER TITLES

1974 1976 1978
1975 1977 1979



BORN:-

18th Oct 1944

CLUB:-

O'Connell Boys

ALL STARS

1974 1977
1976 1979

RAILWAY CUP

1974 (sub)

NATIONAL LEAGUES

1976
1978

Visited: 7 Nov 2008 Dublin

Paddy Cullen.

I attended St. Laurence O'Toole's National School, Seville Place, Dublin (INNER CITY) Grew up playing for the School teams, organised by our Christian Brother teachers, they were fantastic. The 'Boot Room' for football boots was on the top floor, and it was a major rush each Wed. to get a decent pair, 1st come 1st served, after that Pot Luck!

I played in only one final for the School in Croke Park against Larkhill School, Whitehall, and lost by 3 pts. I found out in later years that Jimmy Keaveney was on the Larkhill team.

I joined O'Connell Boys Club from School and played for them all my football life.

I also played Soccer in goal and this is how I came to play in goal for Dublin, as I never played there for my Club, Jimmy Keaveney changed it.

My Childhood hero's were Dublin football teams of 50's + 60's and Wexford hurlers of same era.

My Brother-in-law Johnny Greene was the man who brought me to 'Croker' every Sunday as a young boy, lifting me over the stile. simple Days!

I write this in the hope that Mikey Sheehy will read it someday.

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Seán Óg Ó hAilpín 1996 – 20

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1999 2004 2005

ALL STARS

2003 2004 2005

NATIONAL LEAGUES

1998 (H) 1999 (F)

COUNTY TITLE

1995 200

MUNSTER TITLES

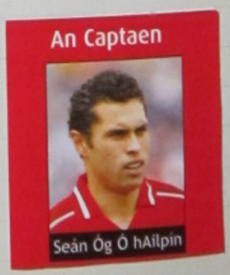
1999 (F) 2000 2005
1999 (H) 2003 2006

RAILWAY CUP

1999 (F)

BORN:-

22 MAY 1977



CLUB:-

NA PIARSAIGH

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Visited: 29 Nov 2008

CORK



SEÁN ÓG Ó hAILPÍN
COCCAIGH

'FATHER FROM FERNAVAGH, MOTHER FROM FIJI
NEITHER A HURLING TRADITION'
MICHEÁL Ó MUICHEARTAIGH

I ONLY STARTED PLAYING THIS GREAT GAME OF HURLING FROM 11 YEARS OF AGE. I WAS BORN ON MY MOTHERS ISLAND OF ROTUMA IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND GREW UP IN THE SOUTHWEST SUBURBS OF SYDNEY AUSTRALIA IN THE EARLY YEARS OF MY CHILDHOOD. HAVING AN IRISH FATHER I WOULD HAVE HEARD OF HURLING AND GAELIC FOOTBALL BUT GROWING UP IN SYDNEY AUSTRALIA WHERE I DIDN'T SEE OR HEAR MUCH OF IT I THOUGHT HURLING WAS ANOTHER PISEOG, LIKE THE LEPRACHAUN!

WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN 1987 THAT THE FAMILY WERE MOVING TO CORK, IRELAND I DIDN'T BELIEVE SUCH A PLACE EXISTED BUT REALITY HIT ME WHEN I LEFT SYDNEY AIRPORT IN OCTOBER 1987 TO EMBARK ON AN AMAZING JOURNEY AND NEW CHAPTER IN MY LIFE.

TUAIRISCEOIR TURAS FADA LE COISCÉIM AMHÁIN'
I REMEMBER LANDING INTO CORK ON A MISERABLE FEBRUARY DAY IN 1988 HAVING SPENT THE CHRISTMAS IN ROTUMA WHEN MUM

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Sean Óg Ó hAilpín

SAID HER FINAL GOODBYES TO HER FAMILY. THAT WAS A TOUGH DAY FOR HER AND HER EMOTIONS SHOWED IT TOO. AFTER THE INITIAL FEW WEEKS AND SHOCK OF SETTLING INTO OUR NEW LIFE IN CORK HURLING CAME TO MY RESCUE. I JOINED THE NEAREST HURLING CLUB FROM OUR HOUSE IN FAIRHILL, NA FIANNAIGH HSF CLUB, AND NEVER LOOKED BACK SINCE. I CAME PART OF A COMMUNITY AND THE NEIGHBOURING PEOPLE ACCEPTED THEIR NEW ADOPTED SON. I STARTED TO MAKE FRIENDS BUT THERE WAS ONE MAJOR OBSTACLE I STILL HAD TO OVERCOME. HOW TO MASTER THIS BEAUTIFUL ANCIENT GAME OF HURLING. HAVING PLAYED RUGBY LEAGUE FOR MOST OF CHILDHOOD YEARS IN SYDNEY, I WASN'T EXPOSED TO THE GAME AND EXPERIENCED EARLY YEARS OF FRUSTRATION AND EMBARRASSMENT WHEN STARTING OFF. THAT'S WHY I HAVE THE NA FIANNAIGH CLUB AND MY SCHOOL NORTH MONASTERY CBS TO THANK FOR BECAUSE WITHOUT THEIR ENDLESS HELP, SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT I WOULDN'T HAVE FULFILLED MY DREAMS OF MAKING TO THE TOP LEVEL. I WANT TO THANK THE EARLY INFLUENCE OF ABIE ALLEN, TOM HEGARTY, BILLY CLIFFORD AND CHRISTY KIDNEY OF NA FIANNAIGH HSF CLUB. THEY LAID A STRONG FOUNDATION TO MY HURLING CAREER WHICH WAS BUILT ON FURTHER AT THE NORTH MON CBS. I ENJOYED MY 5 YEARS IMMENSELY AT THE 'MON', HOME TO JACK LYNCH AND MANY MORE CORK STARS PREVIOUSLY, AND IT WAS DUE TO THE WORK OF NICKY BARRY, GERRY KELLY AND DÓNAL Ó'GRADY THAT MY HURLING CAREER PROGRESSED TO ANOTHER LEVEL. HAVING BEING PART OF THE 1994 VICTORIOUS HARTY CUP TEAM WITH

THE NOW, THIS GAVE ME HUGE CONFIDENCE OF TAKING MY HURLING TO THE ULTIMATE LEVEL, INTERCOUNTY. I PLAYED 2 YEARS MINOR FOR CORK WHERE I WON AN ALL-IRELAND IN 1995 UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE FORMER CORK GREAT JIMMY BARRY MURPHY. ANOTHER STEPPING STONE. NEXT UP WAS THE 3 YEARS I PLAYED FOR THE CORK U-21'S WHERE WE WON 2 ALL-IRELANDS IN 1997 AND 1998. GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS BUT YOU SOON REALISE AFTER SPENDING YEARS IN CORK THAT ITS ABOUT WINNING SENIOR ALL-IRELAND MEDALS. MY FIRST BREAK CAME IN 1996 WHEN I CALLED INTO THE CORK SENIOR HURLING SQUAD BY THE MANAGER THEN JIMMY BARRY MURPHY AFTER GUIDING THE CORK MINORS TO ALL-IRELAND GLORY THE YEAR BEFORE. A DREAM WAS REALISED WHEN I MADE MY DEBUT IN SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP HURLING FOR CORK WHEN I CAME ON AS A SUB AGAINST LIMERICK THAT YEAR.

'NOW CORK IS BEAT, THE HAY IS SAVED
THE THOUSANDS WILDLY SING,
THEY SPEAK TO SOON MY SWEET GARSUN
FOR HERE COMES CHRISTY RING'
MY DREAM FOR PLAYING FOR CORK STARTED WHEN THE LIAM MCCARTHY WAS BROUGHT TO THE SCHOOL IN 1990 WHEN CORK BEAT GALWAY IN THAT YEARS FINAL. I LOOKED UP TO THE 1990 TEAM WHEN GROWING UP AND THEY WERE MY IDOLS. I FOLLOWED CORK TEAMS EVERYWHERE AND LOOKED FORWARD EVERY YEAR TO SEE THEM IN ACTION. BY FOLLOWING MY HEROES I STARTED TO DISCOVER THE BEST IN MYSELF AND ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR FUELING MY

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Sean Óg Ó h-Ailpín

NEW FOUND AMBITION OF PLAYING FOR CORK SOMEDAY. I COULDN'T WAIT EVERY SUMMER TRAVELING TO PÁIRC UÍ CHAOIMH OR THE MECCA OF HURLING IN SEMPLE STADIUM TIMELESS TO SEE CORK IN ACTION. MY VIVID TEENAGE MEMORIES WERE THE GAMES WE SPENT IN THE BACK OF OUR HOUSE REPLICATING WHAT TONY O'SULLIVAN, GER CUNNINGHAM, KEVIN HENNESSEY AND CO. DID EARLIER THAT DAY AT A CHAMPIONSHIP GAME BEFORE DARKNESS SPOILED OUR PARTY. GREAT YEARS AND GREAT MEMORIES BEING AN ADOPTED CORKONIAN. I SOON REALISED AFTER REPRESENTING CORK THAT IT'S MORE THAN A GAME OF HURLING. IT'S A WAY OF LIFE AND A TRADITION THAT DATES BACK DECADES. AND THE REASON WHY EVERY CHILD ASPIRES TO PLAY FOR CORK IS 2 FOLD. CHRISTY RING. WE CAN'T GO ANYWHERE IN CORK WITHOUT CHRISTY RING BEING MENTIONED AND HE HAS LAID THE PATH FOR FUTURE PLAYERS TO FOLLOW.

HURLING CAME AT A TIME IN MY LIFE WHEN MY MORALE WAS LOW AFTER LEAVING AUSTRALIA. I WAS HEARTBROKEN LEAVING SYDNEY. HURLING AND IT'S DEMANDS HAVE DEVELOPED ME FROM A BOY TO A MAN. WITHOUT THE GAME I WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE NOT TURNED OUT TO THE WELL ROUNDED, GROUNDED PERSON THAT I AM TODAY. I THANK THE GAME FOR THAT. I THANK THE SPORT FOR INTRODUCING ME TO VALUES SUCH AS DETERMINATION, COMMITMENT, HONESTY, WILL TO WIN, DEDICATION AND RESPECT. VALUES THAT I'VE BROUGHT TO OTHER ASPECTS OF MY LIFE.

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BUT MOST OF ALL I THANK THE GAME
FOR THE ENDLESS FRIENDS, PLAYERS AND
PEOPLE THAT I'VE MET. HURLING COMMUNITY
IS UNIQUE. MAR A DHEIRFEAN AN
SEANFHOCAL ' AN RUD IS ANNAMH, IS IONTACH '

Home

SEAN McMAHON 1993 - 2006

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1995
1997

MUNSTER CLUB TITLES

1998
1999

ALL IRELAND CLUB

1999

RAILWAY CUP

1996

OIREACHTAS

1996



BORN:-
27th Oct 1973

CLUB:-
St. Joseph's
DOORA-BA

ALL STARS

1995
1997
1998

MUNSTER TITLES

1995
1997
1998

HURLER of the YEAR:- 1995

FITZGIBBON CUP - UL 1994

COUNTY TITLES

1998
1999
2001

Visited: 3 Dec 2008

CLARE

Seán McMahon

I first started hurling at my home in Roslevan in the late 70's with my father Michael showing me what to do. I spent most weekends and evenings after school hurling with my best friend Félim Collins in the field beside his house. Many an evening was also spent belting balls off the gable end of the house.

I attended Ennis CBS primary school and we played alot of hurling here. The first time I played in Cusack Park in Ennis was a 3rd Class league final where we beat Ennis Boys National School. They got their revenge on us in our final year in primary when they beat us in the county Schools final. Teachers there who played a big part in our hurling were Michael Connolly, Brian Fitzgerald, Br. Lynch and Br Mulloughney. Unfortunately we didn't play alot in secondary school in Rice College because we had alot of good players but the interest didn't seem to be there.

I started playing for my club St Joseph's Doora Barefield at around 8 and we won the U-12B championship in 1982 which was a huge win for us. We had little success despite alot of effort until we won a Minor A title in 1990, we followed this with 2 U21 A wins in 1993 and 1994. The players from this group were the bases for the Club All Ireland success in 1999. It was amazing that so many of this group stayed together and it was great to get the reward we did.

Another treasured success was the Fitzgibbon Cup won in 1994 with University of Limerick we beat UCG, UCC and Waterford IT to win the title. The amazing thing was all 3 matches ended level and we won all 3 matches in extra time. Brian Lohan and Fergal Hartley were on that team aswell. I remember getting called onto the Clare panel in the Autumn of 1993. I was in U.L. at the time and there

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Sean Mc Mahon.

no mobile phones so my brother had to come to Limerick to tell me to be in Ballyline the following night for training. I was thrilled with the news as I always dreamed of playing for my county at senior level. I remember well feeling out of place the following evening but Anthony Daly sensing my unease made me feel welcome and I always appreciated that.

I made my championship debut the following May versus Tipp. This was a massive game for Clare as Tipp had beaten Clare by 18 points in the previous Munster final. The whole year was spent focusing on this game and victory at the end was very special. Clare beat Kerry in the semi final and we met Limerick in the final. This was a huge disappointment for Clare and myself as Limerick won by 9 points. There was 7 points from play scored off myself and that was very disappointing. I learnt alot from that but still it was a huge let down at the time.

1995 was obviously a special year for all from Clare. We got well beaten by Kilkenny in the league final but our win over Cork in the Munster semi final set us on our way. I was lucky to make the Munster final as I broke my collarbone against Cork and then was only 5 weeks to the final. It was a day that no one wanted to miss as we were very determined to make up for our 2 previous disappointments. We won by 9 points in the end and for me it was my greatest moment hurling because we had been beaten so often in Munster finals that to make the breakthrough eventually was unbelieveable.

Winning the All Ireland afterwards was beyond our wildest dreams but it was amazing to be involved and to see what it did for the county.

Winning in 1997 again and beating Cork Kilkenny and Tipp twice was really satisfying as it proved that 1995 was no fluke.

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We came close again and had a few near misses and 1998 and 2005 were especially disappointing for different reasons. These were probably my 2 biggest disappointments, not winning the All Ireland those years.

Looking back now I was really very fortunate to have played with the teams (~~I did~~) and the players that I did in my club St Josephs and with Clare. I owe an awful lot to those players in my club and with the county and to all the trainers and coaches who gave their time to improve us as players.

I also feel fortunate to have played against so many great players such as Declan Ryan, Ken McGrath, Henry Shefflin, Gary Kirby, etc and to be able to say that I look forward to meeting those lads when ever I do.

My family have been a great support from the very start to the end of my playing days and I have always appreciated that.

Finally I would say that I have enjoyed every minute of my hurling life and feel very fortunate to have been able to play the greatest game in the world.

Up the Banner!

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Eugene Coughlan 1976-1990

ALL IRELAND TITLES

1981
1985

LEINSTER TITLES

1980
1981
1984
1985
1988
1989
1990

HURLER of the YEAR

1985

County Title

1988

ALL STARS

1984
1985



BORN:- 15th Nov. 19[illegible]

CLUB:- Seir Kie[illegible]

Visited: JAN 2009

OFFALY



Eugene Coughlan

Living in Clareen, I knew from an early age I was going to be hooked on hurling, as there was a great hurling tradition, both in my family and my club Seir Kieran. My Grandfather, Edward was on the first team that won a Junior hurling Championship in 1912. My father John was a great hurler for the club. He won Junior and captained the side to Intermediate success and also wore the Offaly Jersey. He was looked up to in the club. He played at centre halfback and centre forward. He was a bigger man than me. He was a great fan of the Wexford hurling team of the fifties, lots of Offaly people were. My uncles Eamon and Tom, also played and won medals with the club. On my Mothers side there was also a strong hurling tradition, her brothers Seamus and Sammy Gunnan won senior hurling championship medals with Coolderry. So hurling was in my blood.

Growing up at home on the farm in Bell-Hill in the Sixties was different than it is today. At that time there was a lot of Physical work. like milking the cows, saving the hay, thinning turnips and harvesting the corn. There were no televisions, computers Playstations or mobile Phones, so it had to be the hurley. We Played a lot of hurling between ourselves. We always went for the cows on time, but the hurleys and sliotar were also brought along, and as a Result the cows were often late being milked. Saving the hay was a great time

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of the year, as we used the trees of hay as goal Posts. The weather seemed to be great that time, and there was also lots of time for the hurling, as my father often clashed the fork for the hurley and played with us.

I have five brothers, Brendan, Sean, Michael, Niall, Liam and two sisters Bernadette and Carmel. Five of us Played in County Senior finals, and my eldest brother Brendan Played in an under 21 County final. Carmel was a very good Camogie Player and won a Championship medal with BIRR, and also Played for Offaly. Michael was on the Offaly Panel that won the All Ireland in 1985. He Played Centre back in 1988 when we beat Wexford in the Leinster final. Liam was on the Offaly Panel in 1995 that lost to Clare in the All Ireland final. He Played in goal in the 1996 Championship but was beaten by Wexford in the Leinster final.

I went to Scoil Kierans National School. Everyday during lunch break we used to play hurling. My last year in the School was the first time we fielded a school team. I won a Leinsters schools medal with the Presentation Brothers College BIRR. I Played for the Offaly minors and went on to Play for two years with Offaly U.21's. The highlight was Playing a draw against Kilkenny on one occasion.

I Joined the Offaly Panel in 1976 that year Waterford beat us in the Championship. I Played my first game at Senior level in the Offaly Jersey against near neighbours Laois at BIRR in a league game in 1976. And by a strange Coincidence my last game for Offaly was against the same opposition at the same venue in the National league of 1990/91.

1976 was a low time for Offaly hurling. But things started to improve as we won division 1B of the league, which Promoted us into division 1A. That gave us a chance to meet the top teams, and we gained great experience and confidence from these matches.

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In 1980 Diarmuid Healey joined the Offaly back room team. His main focus was on the skills of the game, and he gave us the belief that we could be successful. Diarmuid was a brilliant coach and played a major part in Offalys breakthrough. This was a great decade for Offaly hurling. Between 1980 and 1990 I played in eleven Leinster finals winning seven, played in three All Irelands winning two. The highlight was winning my first All Ireland in 1981. The homecoming was very special, and when the Cup came to Seir Kieran, Padraig Horan our Captain handed me the Cup on the outskirts of the Parish and said to me "this is your night". It was a great feeling to bring the Liam McCarthy Cup into the Club for the first time.

In 1988 my club made the big break through as we won our first Offaly Senior hurling Championship. It was a great honour for me to Captain the side to victory, bringing back the biggest prize in Offaly hurling "the Sean Rabbitte Cup" to our Club. There is something extra special about the Club and Club success. When you know all the People, approximately 400 in the Parish, it makes it a very special occasion. This is the great thing about the G.A.A. it can be so big in such a small place.

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MARY LEACY x UNA LEACY

ALL IRELAND TITLE

2007

FEILE NA NGAEL

M 1998 U. 2000 U. 2001 U
Capt. M 1999 U. 2002 U. Capt

COUNTY TITLES

2003 2005 2006
2004 2007

ASHBOURNE CUP - UCD

2007
2008

COUNTY SNR. FOOTBALL TITLES

M. 2006 M. 2004 U. M. 2008
M. 2005 U.

MARY - BORN

10th Dec 1985

UNA - BORN

17th MAY 1985

CLUB:-

OULART - THE BALLAGH

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Visited:- JAN 2009 WEXFORD

Mary Leacy

One of my Earliest Memories of Playing Camogie is at my homeplace in Oulart, Spending hours upon hours trying to roll lift the ball and every time I taught I successfully had Managed it, I use to run in to my house and drag Mam and Dad out to see me do it. My Mam has been a major influence to my Camogie Career so far, Since I first started to play to Now, I could honestly say she has been at 99% of my Matchs.
When I was younger, me and my Sister Una would be up at the hurling Pitch with mam while she trained or trained the under age, Always of Course with a hurley in Our hands. In Primary School, Breda Flood was a major Influence. She had us out side at Lunch with a hurley in our hands and also introduced us to indoor hurling. The Fun we had, Girls playing against the boys!
Anne Kirwan, the Late Dave Sinnott, Aidan Moran, Pat Ryan and My mother were over us in under age and have influenced me greatly each with their own unique approach and input.
My first Memories of Playing Competitive Camogie was an under ten Camogie tournament in Oulart which was organised by Mam and Anne. We ended up in the Final against Blackwater We did win that Match but I especially remember this final as I fractured my finger in two places in the first half but because I was so determined to win my first trophy I continued on. (My first real injury due to Camogie)

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MARY LEACY

Another Key Memory was our first Rackard League final 96', very exciting my first time playing in Wexford Park, Also it was our first big win o our rivals Ratnure.
In 97' as well as playing and Winning the und twelve club camagie championship, I also played with the under twelve Oulart boys, At first Playing with the boys was a bit awkward but Mick Jacob the Managen at that time settled me into the team an by the time we got to the Priemiership final I part of the gang. This final really sticks out in my memory, We were loosing by two points w one minute left, the Referee blew for a fre to us but for what ever reason Bunclody t team we were playing taught it was the final Whistle and evaded the pitch and were celebrati After five minutes the Referee finally cleared the p and we got the free that was awarded to us. this free, the ball Some how ended up in the ne So this left us leading by a point. In the End we won by a point, one of the most exciting endi to a match I have been involved in.
Feile na Gael 98', The first of five Feile's on c won, was also one of the most exciting match's I have played in. Lead changed hands on several oc We looked to be in big trouble early in to the s half when we feel in arrears by six points. t due to heart and determination we never gave and eventually won by one point. There was joyous scenes when Caroline our Captain l the Cup and major celebrations. The week En itself was brilliant hosting other clubs, The F na Gael truely a Marvellous Experience The 99' Feile very special to me as I was Captain. I Remember the Morning of the fixtu I was at mass in Oulart and Father Jord was wishing us all the best and said fro the Alter "it Mary is able to hold Number eleven

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from Milford Scoreless we will win. Talk about Pressure We won by 2:3 to 0:0
99' was a very special year for Camogie as it was the first year of fifteen a side which I think has contributed enormously to Camogie.
In 00' at the age of fourteen I got my first Senior County Debut at wing back. This was against Dublin in the first round of the All Ireland Championship. I was so thrilled, its funny of all the match's I have played, I still remember this one like it was yesterday. I Remember Dan Quigley our Manager at the time telling me not to let any of the Dublin Players bully me on the pitch as they would know I was only a young one.
I was also very lucky to be part of the Colaiste Bride Junior (01) and Senior 03' and 04' All Ireland winning teams. These Schools years became of Camogie were unbelievable. The team Atmosphere the friendships formed will be remembered for Many years. Thanks Mrs Mariarthy, Mr Guinen, Martin Storey and Fran Fitzhenry for those years. They'll never be forgotten.
02' was an unbelievable year, our first club Senior Title. We had been knocking on the Door for about five or Six years, Loosing County final after County final by the narrowest Scorelines. I Remember in the Dressing Room before we went out Fiona Dunne got us all to hold hands and to Look each other in the eyes, we promised eachother we were going to give it everything, and this is what we did do. This was one of the joyous occasions of winning at club level. After winning the first one we completed five on a Row and hopefully Some day we will get a chance to win the All Ireland club Title.
07 what a Year! The Most Memomorial

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MARY LEACY

Camogie experience of my life. Being Captain of
Wexford Camogie team on All Ireland Day was a
honour and a very special memory. When the
Whistle went the feelings was unbelievable, every
players dream is to play in Croke Park and
Win an All Ireland To see the Sea of
and Gold accross Croke Park is a vision
Never forget. Lifting the O' Duffy Cup was
the most exciting feeling ever, it mean
much I word's can't describe how much
Home Coming to Wexford was brilliant, we
expect so many people to turn out, that's
It was so special to me and all the
think One thing evident from this panel of
we were not just team players but we
friends. I Think the friendships formed during
significantly contributed to our success
also another fond memory of the All Ireland
seeing my granny (Margaret O Leary) w
biggest Wexford hat on her Standing clos
where I was lifting the O' Duffy Cup
Age of 87 this was no means achieve
Just to conclude I would like to sinc
thank all my tracners, Managers and Sele
over the years to present and hopefully
Will Continue to play for Many more ye
A Special thanks to my Dad and Mam
who have supported me throughout my life

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UNA LEACY WEXFORD

Una Leacy

My first camogie memories would be as a kid going to Josie's pitch in Oulart with my mam, the biggest influence on my camogie career.
There, mam trained the underage or trained herself with the adult teams, there was plenty of evenings of the week that hours were spent in the pitch.
At School, there was a skills competition I will never forget where the boys and girls competed against each other, I remember one particular year, I really wanted to win so I practised so much I had to win. I had my roll-lifts and free's over the bar down to a tee.
Breda Flood, our principal at the time was very influencial, she had us entered in any camogie competition there was, Also she gave us cereal before any match we played.
Mam was a selector with the County Camogie team in the ealy 1990's, I remember being at a very young age going to county training with her, particularly one day in Wexford Park, myself and Mary were behind the goal when I got a smack of a ball in the eye.
Underage was always very memomorial in the club, my mam, Ann Kirwan, Aidan Moran, the late Dave Sinnott, and Pat Ryan were involved for years coaching us the best they could.
It was with all their hard work and effort that made Oulart the Ballagh, the club it is today. The club won numerous underage titles before the most prolific success which was the

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UNA LEACY

the 5 Féile na nGael successes in a row. I will never forget the Féile, it was the most fun-filled weekend of any camogie girls career. Our first two years of success was held in Co. Wexford in 1998-1999 where we hosted club from Galway (Clarinbridge) and a club from Tipperary (Templemore). It was lovely to win while being held in Wexford and to win victories in both these finals being very magical. In 2001, we won our fourth Féile, particularly special for Aulat the Ballagh, as we won the top grade in both Camogie and Hurling and the celebrations definietly went on for weeks.

2002 was my last year under 14, where it was held in the North of Ireland for the 2nd time. We stayed in Dungiven, Co. Derry, where we had a brillant experience. We made great friends and had a fun packed weekend, with the cup still on wining. I will never forget the final that year in Casement Park, It was such a special and honourable moment for me as it was my fifth title won and I was Captain of this great team.

The Schools, I attended were hugely part of the camogie tradition. Colaiste Bride were under the influence of Elva Moriarty, Jimmy Quinn and Martin Storey and Fran Fitzhenry, we enjoyed many All-Ireland Junior and Senior success. The craic with this team was mighty and the friendships still remain to this present day.

Another key memory was making my Senior club debut in which we lost a county final to St. Ibars, played up in Ferns in 2000. Fiona Dunne, one of the best camogie players in Aulat broke her ankle, in which I was the player to replace her.

Senior success eventually came to the club in 2002 winning its very first ever Senior title

Visited: JAN 2009.

We had been knocking on the door for years before we made the break through, very special year for the club, particularly winning the fifth Feile na nGael and then our first Senior County title. Our first time will never be forgotten, with Butch O Connor, Mick Redmond and Pat Ryan who got us on the road to Senior success. Martin Storey also helped in training the team that year, giving motivating speeches also. Martin has being very influencial over the years with training in Claiste Bride and eventually he became Manager of Aulat the Ballagh along side two other sporting legends in the Club, Martin Dempsey and Sean Dunne.

Over the years, I have played Camogie with so many different teams, ranging from under -12 hurling with the boys in Aulat to Clasiste Bride, UCD, Leinster inter-provincials and with the County teams.

Playing Camogie is an important part of my life, from the day I could walk, I could imagine my mother having a hurl in my hand. My oldest Sister Ramona had two twin girls Rachel and Catherine who are 2 years old, and what would you think Mam gave them for christmas, only two little hurleys. They have no getting away from it, give them another year or two and she will surely have them at the pitch training.

The most memorial Camogie experience was definietly in 2007, when we won the Senior All-Ireland beating Cork in the final. To play an All-Ireland final in Croke Park really was a dream come through and for me to score two goal was the best feeling in the world. When the final whistle eventually came, all I remember is jumping around with Aisife

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Una Leacy

O Connor as people knocked us to the with such happiness. The crowd got so quick, there was no holding back Stewarts, Ciara Storey in particular being out before the final whistle be she was hugging me within seconds final whistle.

I will never forget my Granny, Mags Leary, she was with us every where went, as proud as punch. I remember home - coming, we stopped in every to route to Wexford, with Granny being each step of the way. We reached the Ferrycarrig hotel at about mid night and was still there only my wonderful gra

Throughout my camogie career I have so many good friends with Colaiste B UCD, the county team and most importa brillant club team. Im swe these friend will last forever.

Every Match that I have played, o get home, I get the match analysis father and mother. If we lose we are t we did wrong, also if we win, we c what we could do better. Thanks Dad mammy.

My main aim will be to be like my Mot and to play for as long as Im able a hopefully at some point win a club All-Ireland with Oulart the Ballagh only title we have yet to achieve



Una Margaret Mary

Home

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CORA Staunton.

Home

Visited: MAY 2010

MAYO

Cora Stanton

My first football memories are, as a young seven-year old girl, going to Ballintubber boys Under 10's training in Ballyglass. My Brothers David and Brian used to cycle with me to training. The cycle was about 3 miles and we used to have really fun times going to training. Sean Hallinan was our coach at the time and he picked me out from playing in School and asked me to come along to boys training. Sean had a big influence on by Career at the Start. I played with the boys till under-14's. Myself, and a girl from Killawalla, Michelle mc ging, were the only two girls playing with the boys team. We are both still playing with our Club team Carnacon. I was also involved alot in all sports in our school Carnacon National School. Our Principal at the time Art O Sullivan ~~was~~ had a huge interest in Sport we play a huge range of Sport from Gaelic football, handball, Soccer, Rounders and much more. Mr O Sullivan had another big influence on my career as he allowed me to play any Sport I liked with the boys. I was the only girl playing Sport with the boys in National School. I was known as a bit of a "Tom boy". I looked forward to lunch every day to go out and play football. I would then go home from school and would

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CORA STAUNTON

go out to the garden and play football till it got dark. Our house & garden hosted some big matches every even with all our neighbours coming to pl
I continue to play with the Ballintub ladies team and play in County Finals w them. I was lucky enough to play with Alan Dillon (A County Star with Mayo at the moment). My nett big fu Step was playing with Ballinrobe Comm School. I went to this school just to play football all my older Sibli went to Balla school. In Ballinrobe In my first year I won two All-I titles a Senior and Junior A Title. B Community School was a nursery for ladies football in Mayo. 9 of the te that won the All-Ireland in 1999 h gone to Ballinrobe. I started playi with my club Carnacon in 1991 and I have won many titles with the The first one being an All-Ireland feile in 1994. Our managers back and who are still our managers two Beatrice Casey and Jimmy Corbett had the biggest of all influences on Career. They have helped me developed hugely as a footballer. They brought me ever County and club match in my yo days. They have been the corner-stone of our club since its formation in My family also has played a huge part My success as a footballer with the of my mother Mary in 1995 they h supported me hugely in my development A person and player. My father Micha and my 4 brothers and 3 sisters have also helped and I am hugely indebted

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to them all. My County Senior Career Start in 1995/1996 with me Playing with Mayo Underage since 1992. I have been very lucky to have won 4 Senior all-Ireland with Mayo and these are days you will treasure and never Forget. They are all equal as special and no one All-Ireland Standing out. The Main reason for our succesful period in these years were the talented bunch of Players we had and the talented Management team of Finbar egan and Johnathon Mullin. Finbar play a huge part in the player I am today and A man I have huge respect For. Finbar egan was the man that Put Mayo ladies Football on the Map and braught the game of ladies football to a new level in Mayo. My Proudest and My biggest achievement happen in 2002, when I was 20 years old, was captaining my Club Carnacon to its First Senior All-Ireland Club. this memory will Stay with me Forever. I am so lucky to come from a wonderful clubs and lucky to have won so much In this time we have a hugely talented bunch of players and a hugely Commitment. Management team Club means everything to me. Three all-Ireland Club medals is a great honour to have and hope to add to it in the future. The older I am getting the more I look back and appreciate what I have achieved in my Career. I have been very

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CORA STAUNTON

fortunate to have played with and play
against some wonderfully talented
and also to have been managed
a number of excellent manager. My
have meet some of my best frie
out of playing Gaelic Football. An
I will always have when my ca
Finishes. They all know who they
and these are the girls who
you through the tough days. M
Sports people I know remember th
ones (Finals) that got away, I
no different and the finals, I lo
will live with me. Finally my
is to keep playing for as Long
my body will allow me to
you want get that feeling
you run out in Croke Park, wi
an Ireland or score a goal
anywhere else in the world.
is Someone watching over us.
helping us along I am lucky
have my mother doing that.
as a club we are lucky we
our club mate Aisling Mc ging
Died in 2003 watching us.

Home



Antrim

Barr, C.

Mc Naughton, T.



Armagh



Carlow

Quirke, P.



Cavan



Clare

Callinan, J.

Loughnane, G.

Mc Mahon, S.

Mc Inerney, T.

Lohan, B.



Cork

Murphy, B

Murphy, D.

Lyons, J.

Barry, P.

Buckley, J.

Murphy, J.

Fenton, J.

Mc Carthy, M.

Coughlan, D.

Brohan, J.

O' Leary, M.

O' hAilpin, S.

Home

Derry				
Donegal				
Down				
Dublin	Grey, J.	O' Connor, U.	Leech, E.	Cullen, P.
	Mills, K.	Ni Shiochain, O.	Fergurson, D.	
Fermanagh				
Galway	Clarke, Fr. I.	Hayes, C.	Finnerty, P.	Cooney, J.
	Mc Donagh, J.	Killeen, J.	Silk, S.	Gantley, P.

Kildare	Dunney, P.		
Kerry	Hennessey, B.		
Kilkenny	Clohosey, S.	Coughan, M.	Skehan, N.
	White, M.	Hennessy, J.	Henderson, P.
	Downey, Agla.	Downey, Ann.	Cummins, F.
	Fennelly, L.	Comerford, A.	Neary, L.
	Larkin, F.		
Laois	Doyle, J.		
	O' Brien, C.		
Leitrim	Quinn, M.		

Home

Limerick	Creggan, E.	Enright, L.	McGarry, T.	
	Mc Kenna, J.	Bennis, R.	Kelly, D.	Hattigan, P.
Louth				
Longford				
Mayo	Staunton, C.			
Meath				
Monaghan				

Offaly

Moylan, B. | Delaney, P.

Horan, P. | Flaherty, J. | Fogarty, A.

Molloy, P. | Dooley, B. | Coughlan, D.

Roscommon

O Mally, G.

Sligo

Tipperary

Coffey, JB. | Doyle, J. | Keating, M.

Kennedy, J. | Roche, M. | Murphy, M.

Cummins, F. | Ryan, M. | Shanahan, P.

Byrne, M.

Tyrone



Waterford

Barron, W.

Cheasty, T.

Flynn, A.

Kiely, J.



Westmeath



Wexford

Doran, T.

Nolan, P.

Thorpe, S.

Mc Grath, O.

English, J.

Jacob, M.

Kehoe, P.

O Leary-Lacey, M.

Leacy, M.

Leacy, U.



Wicklow

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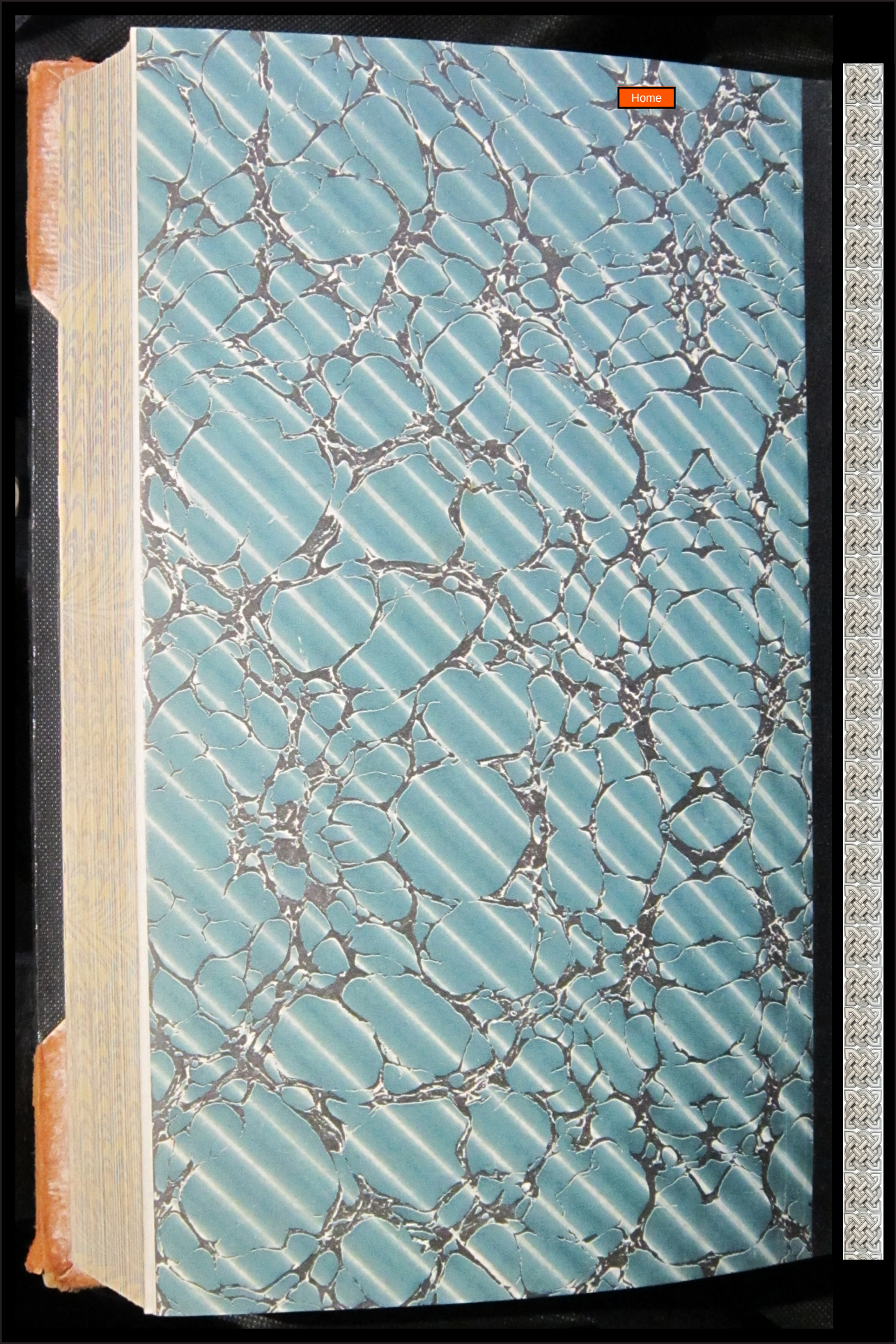
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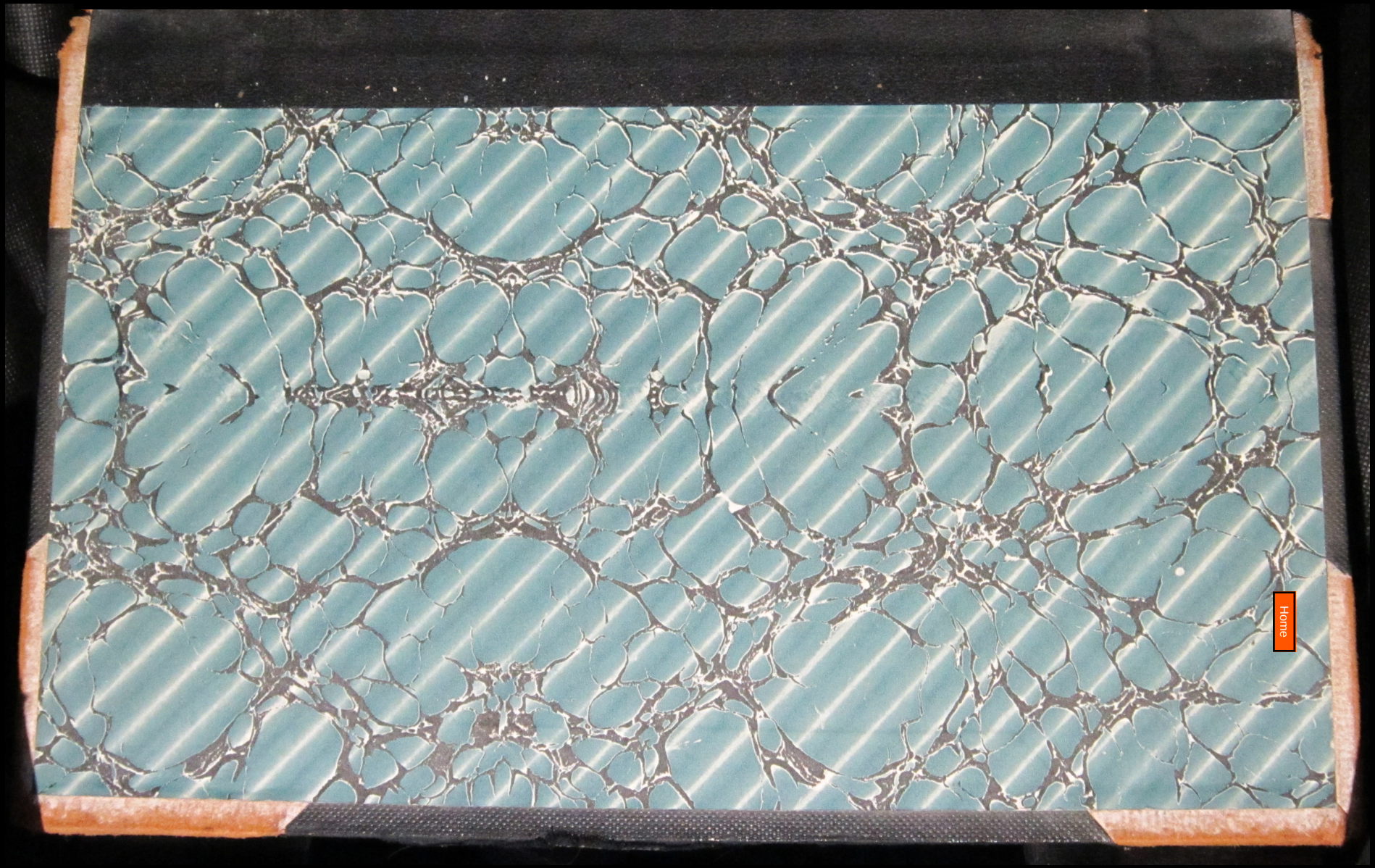
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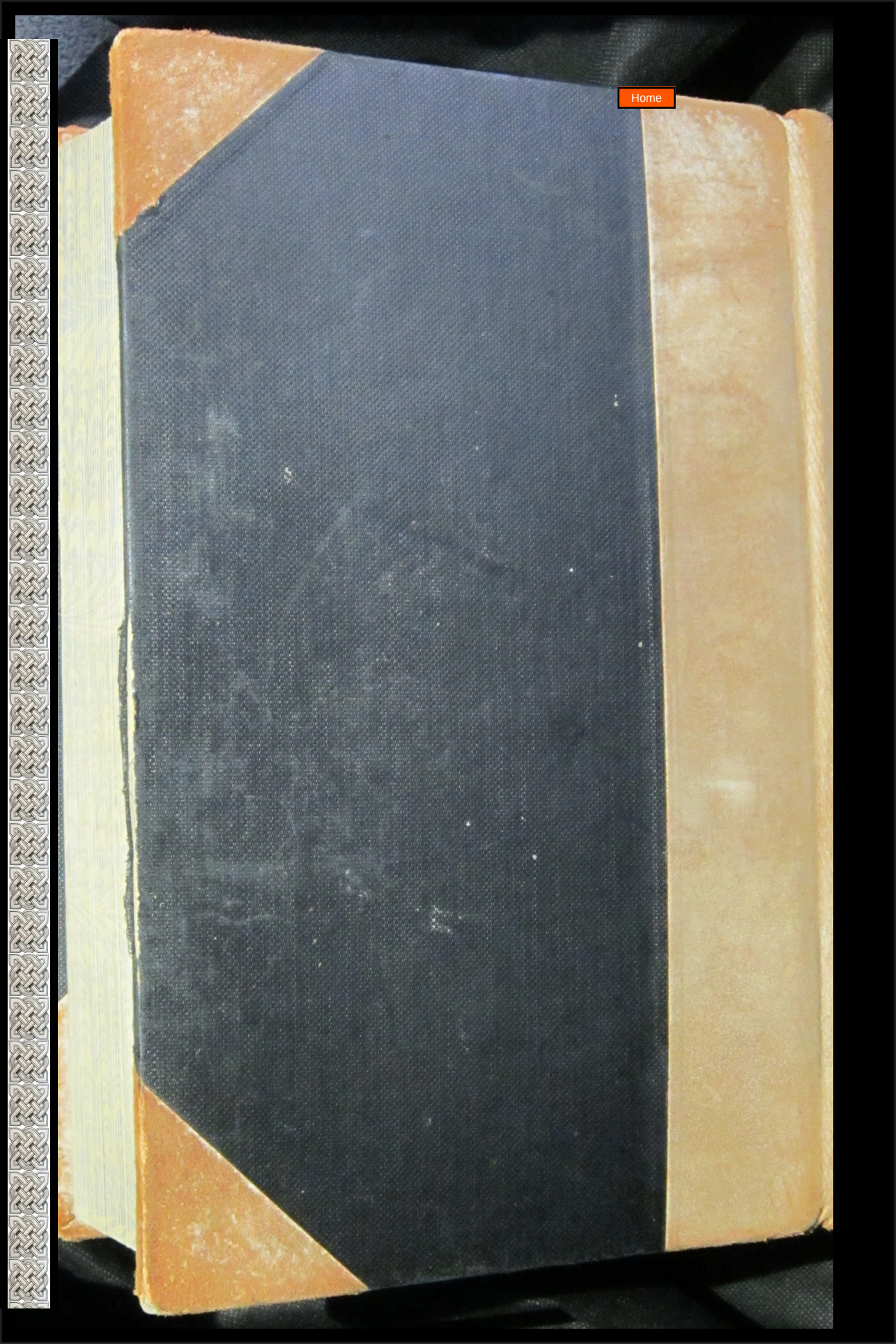
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