



The BODENews

BALLYBODEN ST. ENDA'S G.A.A., CAMOGIE & LADIES FOOTBALL CLUB
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IRISLEABHAR BAILE BUADÁIN NAOMH ÉANNA
Nollaig 2003

Prunty Pitch gets the Nod

Two "Prunty type" pitches and a synthetic all-weather pitch are to be developed at the club's grounds in Sancta Maria. Work on the all-weather pitch will commence early in 2004, in the area nearest the wall that adjoins the grounds of Coláiste Éanna. The development will mark the first phase of the provision of facilities that are urgently needed to meet the growing needs of the club.

A number of specialists in this area have tendered for the project and the Executive Committee hopes to appoint the successful company/companies shortly.

General Manager Noel Sheridan told the 'Boden News' "as you know part of the purchase deal in relation to the grounds at Sancta Maria involves the provision of a sports hall for joint use by the school and the club. We are presently in the process of defining exactly what the needs of the school and the club are and we will be seeking professional advice as to the best location for this badly needed facility. We would then propose to move quickly on

the design of the building with a view to lodging a planning application at the earliest possible opportunity."

Prunty type pitches are in use in

many GAA grounds including Clanna Gael-Fontenoy's pitches in Ringsend. A range of possible options were examined before the choice was made.



D.J. Carey – guest coach at the Rathfarnham and District Credit Union sponsored hurling/camogie School of Excellence.

Noel Sheridan – the first General Manager of the club



Noel Sheridan took up his position as the club's first General Manager on 8 December, 2003. He comes with a very substantial track record of voluntary involvement in the club over the past two decades.

Noel joined the club in 1982 on being approached by Kathleen O'Sullivan to take a juvenile Camogie team for training. He had a successful spell winning the Junior Championship in 1986 and an Intermediate Championship in 1988 as manager of the teams. He also served as Secretary of the Camogie Committee for four years during this time.

He became Secretary of the Hurling Committee in 1989. In the hurling section, Noel has been selector on Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams winning championships at Junior and Intermediate levels.

Noel was elected to the Executive Committee also in 1989 and became Club Vice Chairman in 2002. Up until his recent appointment as General Manager, he served a period of 14 consecutive years on the Executive Committee.

While on the Executive Committee, Noel chaired the Social Committee for periods as well as the Development Committee for the past year.

Noel is a native of Stoneyford in County Kilkenny and is married to Rose from County Leitrim. They have three daughters Marie,

Helena and Aideen. Noel spent over 30 years with Van den Bergh Foods (formerly HB).

The role of the General Manager will include carrying out the day-to-day management of all facets of the Club with responsibility for implementing Club policy. The duties will include, supervising all full-time and part-time staff employed by the Club. Along with the club's professional advisers, oversee the major development projects that the Club is embarking on; visit all the local schools periodically to ensure that the Gaelic games needs of the schools are being met as far as is possible; work in close co-operation with all Sub-Committees operating within the Club and, where appropriate, attend meetings of those Sub-Committees; work in close co-operation with Dublin County Board, South Dublin County Council and Dúchas to ensure that the interests of the Club are protected in every respect; interact with other clubs as necessary; represent the Club at functions/events where appropriate; examine all expenditure by the Club on an ongoing basis to ensure that value for money is obtained.

Sideline Cuttings

- Aisling Farrelly and Diane Spillane were selected on the Leinster Ladies Football panel for the Interprovincial Series held in Mullingar. Bill Daly was a Selector.
- Martina Farrell won an O'Neills/TG4 All Star.
- Emmet Carroll and Conal Keaney won Blue Star Hurling awards and Darragh Spain and Derek Byrne (football) earned Replacement Awards.
- Conal Keaney and Stephen Hiney won Railway Cup medals with Leinster in 2003 and Enda McNulty won his first Railway Cup medal with Ulster.
- Ciara Lucey (UCD) and Michael Griffin (IT, Tallaght) have been awarded Leinster Council Third Level Buraries.

Contributors

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- The Echo
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- Philip Griffin
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Many thanks to all who contributed in any way.

A word from the Chairman



A word from the Chairman

It has been another eventful year in the club. Voluntary service, as in previous years, was once again at the centre of our operation and I would like to thank all our club members and friends, who gave great support to our teams and club activities over the recent months. The increase in numbers is most welcome. In terms of honours won, we have added eight championship titles to our growing roll of honour (at the time of writing) as well as a number of leagues and cup victories. But more impressively, well over 1,100 players, male and female, wore the blue and white (and the green and white) during 2003. Another 200 or so mentors were involved in making this possible. Well done to all concerned.

On the playing front I extend congratulations to our most recent championship winners – the Under 21A Football Team. Particular thanks to Manager Liam Tully, Coach Dan O'Sullivan and Mentors, Enda McNulty, Paddy Walsh and Liam Delaney and a special word of thanks to Mick O'Regan.

Hard Luck to our under 21 Football B Team who were narrowly beaten in the final Championship Final – thanks to Manager Peter Shovlin, Conor Hand, Neil Brennan, Eddie O'Sullivan and his crew.

Well done to our Junior A Hurlers on winning an Corn Fág a Bealach under Manager Emmet Pullan with Ultan MacMathúna, Dermot Maguire and Mick Fletcher. While at the time of writing I am optimistic that our Under 21 hurlers will make it a championship double at this grade.

The Senior Footballers are through to the semi final of the League for the second year in a row. Well done to Sean Fitzmaurice/Paul Bealin and fellow mentors. Success is there for the taking and hopefully by now we are celebrating our second senior football league title. Many thanks to Pat Conway, Brendan Timbs, Bobby O'Sullivan and Noel O'Reilly.

Well done to our Senior Ladies Football Team – League and Championship winners for the fourth year in a row – a remarkable achievement for Bill Daly, Mark Magahran, Shane and Elaine Keane who have been ever present and more recently Pat Nash.

Congrats to our Under 16A Camogie Team who won the Championship under Nuala Pope, John Byrne and Eileen McNamara to complete the double at this age when the Under 16A Hurling team captured championship honours. Special thanks to Liam Hogan, Brendan Swords, Robbie Lambert, Denis Nagle and Colin Durkin.

We also took championship titles at U13A Camogie (Micheál Glynn, Clarinda Noonan and Sheila O'Shea); Under 12A Camogie (Mona O'Sullivan, Catherine Cummins, Fiona Ní Shúilleabháin) and Under 10A ladies football (Derek Ward and Seamie O'Neill)

To all our Players/Managers/Mentors – a big thank you.

The Rathfarnham and District Credit Union sponsored Summer Camps were a big success with over 1,300 boys and girls attending. We had 28 Club Coaches involved. The introduction by Enda McNulty, Coaching Director of Schools of Excellence was a very progressive development and one that we hope to expand. Well done to P.J. Donohue and Brian O'Regan.

We had nine Senior Players on the Dublin panel that lost to Mayo in the Ladies All-Ireland Final. While Martina Farrell won an O'Neills/TG4 all-star award. Congratulations to Conal Keaney, Stephen Hiney and Enda McNulty on Railway Cup success; Conal Keaney/Declan O'Mahony/Niall Clarke on winning All-Ireland under 21 Football medals with Dublin and to Darragh Spain as well as Conal and Stephen on their Walsh Cup honours. As well as that we had seven players – Ciara and Emer Lucey, Fiona Ní Shúilleabháin, Aoife Scallan, Joanne Cummins, Mary Hyland, Emma Seery on the Dublin Under 18 camogie team that won the Leinster Championship with manager P.J. Donohue.

Under the excellent leadership of John Ryan and with the assistance of other club sections, the Juvenile Section held its first Annual Golf Classic. This was a real success, with substantial funds raised going towards providing Juvenile facilities.

The Fashion Show was very well organised and a great success. A Special thank you to Nuala Pope, Mona O'Sullivan and Bernie Corrigan and the Ladies Football Committee ran a very successful Raffle.

On the development front the sale of Oldcourt is now complete and we are very proud of this deal. We have finally completed the purchase of Sancta Maria and plan to commence work shortly on an all-weather pitch and two Prunty Type Pitches early in 2004.

We have appointed Noel Sheridan as the club's First General Manager. Noel took up the position on 8th December 2003. We wish Noel every success in his new role.

A special word of thanks to Peter Fitzpatrick barman who is retiring at the end of December, for all his hard work and dedication while a member of our staff.

Finally, I would like to wish all members and friends a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. Nollaig faoi sheán is faoi shonas do gach duine.

Ronan Hore

THE RAILWAY CUP AND ROME

Reporter: Emmet Pullan

Ten Club members visited Rome for the Weekend when the Railway Cup Hurling Final between Leinster and Connaught was played there on the 8th November. Emmet Pullan, Joe O'Brien, Brian O'Regan, Paul Daly, Aideen Sheridan, Sylvie and Mary Keaney went to support the two Boden

lads playing for Leinster - Stephen Hiney and Conal Keaney.

The match itself was a hard fought contest with Leinster winning by the narrowest of margins. Both Conal (at midfield) and Stephen (at wing-back) played their part in this victory.

The rest of the weekend was spent with the

gang following Sylvie on a tour of several Roman historic points of interest - the Mean Fiddler, Trinity College Bar and Druids Rock Pub, to name but a few. Oggy and myself were particularly impressed at Sylvie's knowledge of the Ancient City????!!

A Great Weekend was had by all.



Supporting the Railway Cup Hurling Final played in Rome were (from left): Paul Daly, Sylvie Keaney, Conal Keaney, Brian O'Regan, Stephen Hiney, Emmet Pullan, Joe O'Brien, Aideen Sheridan and Mary Keaney. Kneeling: Ceara Nic Coitir

Paddy Ryan Olympic and World Champion

- the Boden Connection -

Next year will see the Olympic Games return to its birthplace in Athens, 100 years after the first Modern Games.

Irish sportspeople have enjoyed a fair measure of Olympic success over the years but not always in the colours of this country.

One such Olympian is Paddy Ryan of Pallasgreen, County Limerick who is the grandfather of senior Camogie player Siobhan O'Dwyer.

At the height of his fame Paddy was living in America and represented the USA in international competitions including winning a gold medal for the Hammer event and a silver medal for the 56lbs weight throw in the 1920 Olympics in Antwerp. He also held the world hammer throwing record from 1913 to 1938 - a period of 25 years. The record was set on 17 August at the Fireman's Athletic Games in Long Island, New York. The distance set was 189' 6".

At a time when the GAA also ran athletics (that's the reason for the inclusion of the

world "Athletic" in the title), Paddy won 9 All-Ireland medals spread across three different events.

A Group has been established in the country to raise funds for a monument to Paddy Ryan to be erected in his native Pallasgreen. The group needs to raise €30,000 and is aiming to have the monument in place in time for next Summer's Games. Anyone who would like to lend support can contact Siobhan O'Dwyer or John Keating.

Siobhan, his granddaughter, has played with distinction for Ballyboden St Endas since 1993 and has won 4 Senior Championship medals in Dublin (3 with the Boden and 1 with UCD) as well as a Tipperary Championship honour with her native Cashel. She was selected on the Combined Colleges team in 1992 and 1993 and her brother Ryan is in line for a place on the Tipperary Minor Hurling panel in 2004. Siobhan is also a very active Camogie coach imparting the skills as part of her job as a teacher in St. Mac Dara's Community School.



Co. Limerick man Paddy Ryan represented the USA in 1920 Olympic Games held in Antwerp

Incidentally, the 1920 Games were awarded to Antwerp to honour the suffering that had been inflicted on the Belgian people during World War I. The Opening Ceremony was notable for the introduction of the Olympic flag and the presentation of the Athletes' Oath.



The Hermitage - Scoil Éanna

The Hermitage – Playing in the Shadows of History

For more than 20 years, boys and girls have played gaelic games on the grounds of St. Endas' Park better known to all of us as the Hermitage after the house that adorns this beautiful location.

The club is extremely fortunate in having such a facility so close to our heartland. Numerous juvenile hurling, football, camogie and ladies football teams play there during most weeks of the year and each Saturday morning – the nursery coaching sessions introduce hundreds of children to the games.

Currently the likes of John Healy, Eamonn O'Sullivan, Donal Regan, Jane Hogan, Pat McNamara, Donie Kerin, Michelle Ryan are actively carrying on that tradition each week. In the past Kathleen O'Sullivan, Bill Daly, Niall Kelly, Conor Doolan, Mick Kennedy, Charlie O'Connell, Vinny Bradley, Denis Ryan, Tony Lynch, Eamonn O'Sullivan (Barton Road), and others did trojan service.

The Hermitage is known principally as the site of Scoil Éanna, the school founded by Pádraig Pearse and the site where he endeavoured to put into practice the revolutionary educational ideas that he espoused in his famous work the "Murder Machine". The playing of gaelic games had a core part in Pearse's educational philosophy and without doubt he would be pleased at the sight of seeing our national games being played there throughout the year.

The presence of the club in St. Endas Park forges a connection with several of the major events of Irish history of the past two centuries.

In the Summer of 1910, Pádraig Pearse and his brother discovered the Hermitage and were immediately convinced that this was the ideal home for their fledgling school – Scoil Éanna - which opened its doors two



Donal Regan and Jane Hogan with Camogie nursery group.



Football Starter-Pack with Donie Kerin



The Garden at St Enda's Park



Bust of Pádraig Pearse

years previously on 8 September in Cullenswood House, Ranelagh.

Pearse was captivated by the sylvan setting, the peace and tranquillity, away from the distractions of the noisy city as in 1910, the Hermitage was very much a part of rural Dublin.

According to Scéal Scoil Éanna published by the National Parks and Monuments Service of the Office of Public Works in 1986, the freehold of the "Fields of Odin" (as the Hermitage was formerly known) was granted by Thomas Connolly in 1786, to Edward Hudson, a prominent Dublin medical man. One of Hudson's neighbours who lived across the road from the main entrance was John Philpott Curran.

Curran did not take kindly to his daughter Sarah's romantic interests in a young man named Robert Emmet. To avoid the attentions of Sarah's less than pleased father, the young couple used to meet regularly in the grounds of the Hermitage. However, a few years later in 1803, Robert Emmet met his death at the end of hangman's noose after his failed rebellion of 1803. His association with the Hermitage is commemorated by the tree-lined avenue to the left of the house which is known as Emmet's Walk and a folly in the South East corner of the park called Emmet's Fort.

On Edward Hudson's death in 1827, the property passed to his son William Elliot Hudson who is remembered for, among other things, donating £500 (€635) to assist the publication of the first comprehensive Irish dictionary. W. E. Hudson died in 1853.

From the time Pádraig Pearse moved to the Hermitage, financial pressures



Hermitage hurlers – Cian O'Sullivan, Niall Kiernan (Faughs) and Denis Healy.



Hurling nursery group with coaches (from left): John Crowley, John Healy and Mark Mellett.



The ball is in...

threatened the future of the school. The rent plus the fall in student numbers due to the distance out from the city were the main causes of this difficulty and Pearse did not always give the project his full attention due to other ambitions on the political front.

Although in deep financial trouble, Pearse continued to keep Scoil Éanna open and with others planned the Easter Rebellion of 1916 at the Hermitage. When a shipment of guns was landed at Howth from the Asgard in 1914, a number of them were hidden at the School.

All of this time, Pearse was under constant financial pressure to meet the debts on the house which was leased from a William Woodbyrne but with support from America he just about managed to keep his head above water.

On Easter Monday, 24 April 1916, the Rising began. But by 29 April, the Insurrection was over. Fifteen ex-pupils of Scoil Éanna fought in the Rebellion and on 3 May at 3.30 am, Pádraig Pearse was executed by firing squad.

The British briefly occupied the Hermitage in the aftermath of the Rising as Scoil Éanna returned to Cullenswood House. Three years later, the school returned to the Hermitage in 1919 and after a fund-raising campaign the property was purchased and handed over to Mrs. Margaret Pearse, mother of Pádraig and William, in December 1920.

Financial difficulties and the loss of the Pearse Brothers were fatal blows to the school and in 1935, it was forced to close. Three years before that Mrs. Pearse died and in her will she bequeathed the Hermitage to her daughter Margaret for the duration of her life and thereafter to the nation.

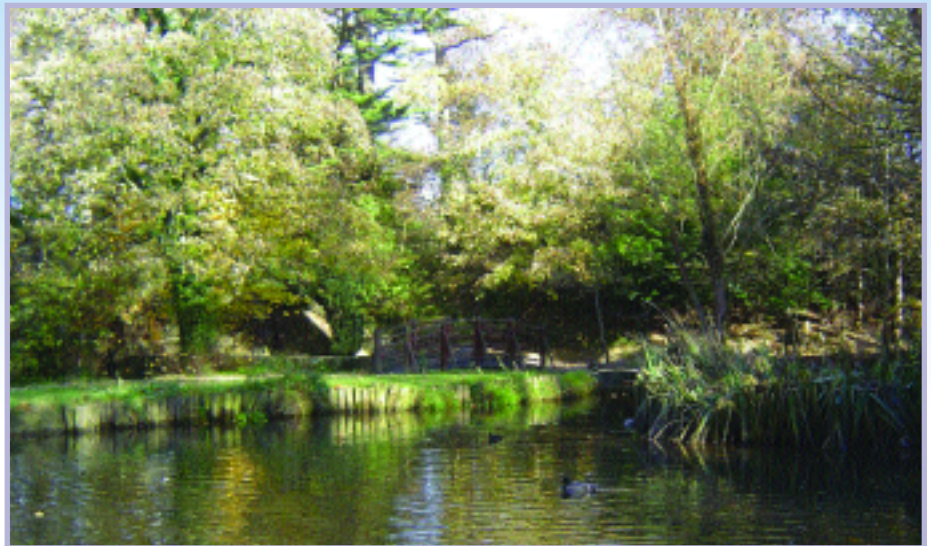
Margaret Pearse was later appointed a Senator and remained at the Hermitage until her death in 1969, the year Ballyboden St. Endas was formed from the merger of Ballyboden Wanderers (1910) and Rathfarnham St. Endas (1966). The grounds and the house passed into the care of the state and are now superbly maintained by Dúchas.

During the celebrations of the 1916 Rising, then President Eamon de Valera accepted the key of the house on behalf of the nation. Ten years later on the centenary of Pádraig Pearse's birth (10 November 1979), President Patrick Hillery declared the house and the grounds formally open to the public.

So the next time you are lining out in the Hermitage, taking a training session or just enjoying the beauty – remember you are walking in the footsteps of the history of this great nation. Spare a thought from time to time for those that dreamed the dream.



Field of dreams.



Peaceful setting at St Enda's Park

Pearse Museum and St. Endas Park

Tel 01 493 4208

Open (Daily):

November – January10.00 – 16.00

February – April10.00 – 17.00

May – August10.00 – 17.30

September – October10.00 – 17.00

Closed for lunch 13.00 – 14.00

Admission: Free



KEN MURRAY

MEET

Ken Murray



Ken and Nóirín

Ken Murray has been playing senior football for the club for 20 years – Ken is seen here with his twin daughters Niamh (left) and Eimear.

Name Ken Murray

DOB 31/12/1965

Height 6' 6"

Weight 17 St +

Occupation

Civil Servant

Family Married to Nóirín, 3 children; Eimear & Niamh age 6 and Niall age 2.

Schools Attended:

Loretto National School

St Mary's BNS.

Coláiste Éanna CBS.

Honours won:

Member Dublin Hurling Panel 1988/89

Member Dublin Football Panel 1995/96

Senior Football Championship

Senior Div 1 Football League.

2 Blue Stars

Senior Div 1 Hurling league

AIB Cup x 2

St V de P Cup x 2

Boland Cup x2

Junior Hurling Championship

Junior Hurling League

Corn Ceitinn

Corn Fag a' Bealach

Corn Fogarty

U/21 Football Div 15

U/21 Div 2 Hurling League.

Minor Football Div 1 league

Centenary Minor Cup

Minor Hurling League Div 2.

And various underage leagues at both hurling football.

Senior Club Debut:

1983/4 V. Kilmacud Crokes in Cup match.

1983/4 V. Faughs in Senior Hurling League.

Intercounty Debut:

1995 National League V. Armagh in Armagh (F) .

1988 National League V. Kerry in Croke Park (H).

Favourite Players:

Brian Kelleher, Ben Molloy at club.

Eamonn Heary and Dessie Farrell at county level.

Player to watch for the future:

Me or any of our current U/21's.

Favourite non-GAA sportsperson: Keith Wood.

All-Ireland Hurling Tip 2004: Kilkenny.

All-Ireland Football Tip 2004: Dublin.

Best piece of advice received:

Concentrate on the next ball.

Last movie seen:

Monsters Inc or Shrek
daily viewing in my home.

Favourite album/cd:

The Best of Dr Hook.

Last book read:

Bad Men by John Connolly

Best day in Blue and White:

Winning championship in 1995.

Worst day in Blue and White:

1988 Senior Hurling Championship final defeat.

Desert Island Partner:

Nóirín.

What would you do if you won the Lotto:

Buy 2 new knees.

Favourite Joke of the moment:

None of my jokes are printable



*Back (l-r) Ciaran Smith, Brendan Wall, Emmet Pullan, Ultan Mac Mathúna, Philip Larkin, John Healy
Front: Martin O’Sullivan, Finn McGarry, Peadar and Ruari Mac Mathúna, Martin Donohue and Andrew Kiernan.
The dog belongs to Martin.*

A clean sweep – By our Marine Correspondent

During June it was decided to sand Páirc Uí Mhurchú. On a Friday before a Junior Hurling Cup game scheduled for the Sunday, tons upon tons of the stuff were spread on the hallowed turf.

By late Friday evening, it was more like Ballybunion than Ballyboden so panic was beginning to set in among Emmet Pullan and the boys. There was only one course of action open. So on Sunday morning, the emergency services had to be called up to get the pitch ready.

How were they going to get the pitch playable? “Mousey” was objecting – he had his bucket and spade and was already busy building sand castles. He was just about

to put in the wiring when Emmet threatened to draft him into the team and after that there were no more complaints.

Philly Larkin and the Hells Kitchen crew could see nothing wrong with the pitch. They were eagerly looking forward to raising more dust around the square – they even considered using a ball every now and then.

In any event “Operation What the hell was PJ doing sanding the pitch in the driest Summer since Adam was a boy!!!” was mobilised on the Sunday morning of the game. Brushes and rakes were commandeered and the gang went to work for hours and hours...

Work done, the boys headed for Croker to watch Laois beat Dublin in the Leinster Football Final and then return to the club for the game that evening.

A notable absentee from the photograph was Liam Phelan who kindly left his brush and his rake in Martin Donohue’s porch and headed back to bed. Junior manager Emmet Pullan wasn’t impressed and promptly dropped him from the team.

By evening time all was in readiness and after a cracking game, the Juniors beat St. Brigid’s which is just as well because if the game finished level, the replay was being planned for Dollymount.

SCHOOL AROUND THE CORNER

St Colm cille's, K n o c k l y o n



Well done to Sorcha Timmins and Vivian Ruddy mentors of the St. Colm cille's Girls Football Team which won the Cumann na mBunscol Corn Austin Finn 2003.

St Mary's N.S., G r a n g e R o a d



Barry Kehoe of St. Mary's raises the Herald Cup aloft in Croke Park.

This first term in St Mary's Boys School has indeed been a very busy and historic time in terms of football. The school entered a record four teams in Cumann na mBunscol competitions which ensured that over 85 boys donned the blue and gold of St Mary's this season. Thanks must go to the various teachers who looked after each team namely, Ms Hampsey and Ms Naughton (Junior B), Mr O'Farrell and Mr O'Neill (Junior A), Ms Heffernan and Mr Ó Murchú (Senior B) and Mr O'Riordan (Senior A).



St. Mary's hurlers line up in Croke Park



St. Mary's Boys NS Senior Football team - Corn Kitterick winners 2003 with Edward O'Riordan, Chairman Cumann na mBunscol



St Mary's Boys NS Junior Team which reached the Cumann na mBunscol Final 2003.

Ballyroan Boys N.S.



Ballyroan Boys NS with John Joe O'Sullivan were winners of an Corn Mhic Phiarais in a see-saw battle with St. Maelruain's to win by 4-7 to 4-6. Twelve of the first 15 play for the club



The club had nine representatives on the Dublin panel that was pipped by a last minute goal by Mayo in the All-Ireland Ladies Football Final. A total of five players played in the final. This is the largest number of club players from Ballyboden St. Endas to play in an inter-county All-Ireland final.

In addition to the five players featured, the other panelists were Sarah Denvir, Sorcha Timmins, Tonya Allen and Orla Smith.

Photographs courtesy of Sportsfile.com

Karen Hopkins

TG4 All-Ireland Ladies Football Final 2003



Gemma Fay



Louise Kelly



Sorcha Farrelly



Martina Farrell

An Blian seo thart 2003



Senior A Ladies Football Championship winners Back (l-r); Mark Magahran (mentor), Shane Keane (mentor), Mary Waldron, Diane Spillane, Claire Butterly, Aine O'Sullivan, Tonya Allen, Paula Murray (captain), Niamh Smith, Bill Daly (manager), Sharon Molloy, Aisling Farrelly, Elaine Keane, Orla Keane (child), Pat Nash (mentor). Front (l-r): Orla Smith, Martina Farrell, Louise Kelly, Sorcha Farrelly, Tara Murphy, Ceara Nic Coitir, Orla Scolard, Sorcha Timmins, Karen Hopkins, Sarah Denvir, Gemma Fay, Helen Barr.

Ladies Football – Níomh Madigan

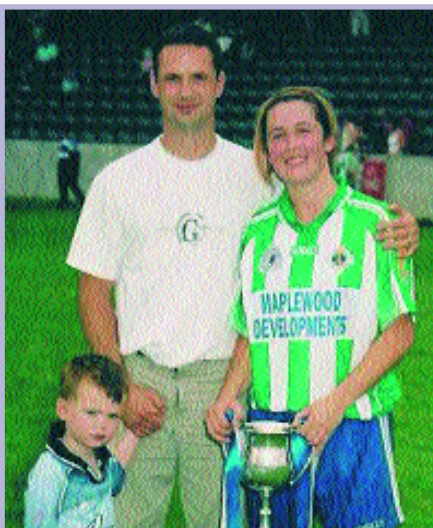
The Ladies Football section enjoyed another excellent year with championship titles being recorded at either end of the age spectrum.

The Under 10A team (Derek Ward and Seamie O'Neill) brought the first championship title at this grade to the club while the Senior A team managed by Bill Daly with Mark Magahran, Pat Nash, Shane Keane and Elaine Keane made it four championships (beating Garda in the final) and league titles on the trot – an unprecedented record in the club.

The club had the distinction of being involved in both the Junior and Senior Championship finals on 9 August in Parnell Park when the Senior B team (Kevin Cahill with Marie Denvir, Gerry Keane and Mick Hunt) reached the final against Fingallians who went on to reach the All-Ireland Junior Club Final.



Conor Dolan, Captain of the victorious Under 21A football team



Paula Murray, Senior Ladies captain with husband Sean and son Sean.



Senior final action



Under-10 Championship winners: Back row L to R; Seamie O'Neill (coach), Niamh Doyle, Alison Plant, Ashling O'Neill, Ciara Ruddy, Elaine McGrath, Alice Gillen, Saidhbh Ni Shuilleabháin, Aoife O'Gara, Stephenie Conall, Aoife Cantwell, Niamh Rowland, Megan Kelly, Derek Ward (coach). Front row L to R; Brona Henry, Orlaith Rafferty, Jenny Whelan, Michelle Clancy, Michelle O'Reilly, Jennifer Ward, Teresa Basquelle Fahy, Nicole Basquel, Sarah O'Brien (capt.) Cathy O'Neill, Tracy Kennedy, Megan Carney.

The Senior A team relinquished their Leinster Club title to Seneschelstown of Meath who were beaten by our old rivals Donoughmore of Cork in the All-Ireland Final.

The Under 16 team responded well to Paul Coffey's training and reached the championship final before going down to Fingallians.

We didn't quite make it to the finals of Féile Peil but the Under 14 team (Lebby Galvin, Tom Madigan and Níomh Madigan) made a trip to Trabolgan and enjoyed themselves immensely. The Under 14B side (Ceara Nic Coitir and Bill Daly) gave a number of games to girls who otherwise would have had a limited playing involvement during the year.

The progress of the Under 12A team (Robbie Murphy, Joe Brennan, Karl Young) which won the league augurs well as does the fact that we field three teams at this age group - Under 12B (Cormac O'Farrell, Jer Basquel) and Under 12C (Barry Coll, Ger McGirr),

The Under 10B side (Eugene Duffy and Pat McGrath) played 13 games and a blitz and improved immensely during the year.

Nursery Coaching

Between Páirc Uí Mhurchú (Barry Coll) and the Hermitage (Michelle Ryan) nurseries over 80 girls between the ages of 6 and 10 years are receiving coaching. Added to this Donal Spillane is doing great work in Loreto Primary School.

The section is now 10 years and has grown to a team for each of those years. In 2003, 279 players were registered with



Under 12A Camogie championship winners...Back row (From left) Mona Uí Shuilleabháin (mentor), Sarah Cummins, Caoimhe Murray, Rachel Duke, Laura Murphy, Aoife O'Leary, Colleen Daly, Dearbhla Hone, Eadaoin Walsh, Lorna McMullan, Dearbhla Brennan, Róisín Ni Shuilleabháin, Laura McCarthy, Catherine Cummins (mentor). Front row (From left) Sheena Styles, Sarah Barrett, Ciara Farrell, Caoimhe Merriman, Kym Doyle, Jane Nolan (captain), Una McSherry, Danielle Brogan, Megan O'Byrne, Fiona Ni Shuilleabháin (mentor)

Cumann Peil Gael na mBan with 246 of these belonging to the juvenile section.

Camogie – Mona O'Sullivan

The Camogie section enjoyed a fine season recording three championship successes and boosting participation.

Championship titles were garnered at Under 12A (Mona O'Sullivan, Catherine Cummins, Fiona Ni Shuilleabháin) who put a poor start to their season behind them to come good at the finish; the Under 13A (Mick Glynn, Sheila O'Shea and Clarinda Noonan) added the league title to a great championship win and the Under 16A's win (Nuala Pope, Eileen McNamara, John Byrne) was even more meritorious because

the squad was largely made up of Under 15s. The bulk of this side also took part in the Under 15 championship and reached the semi final stages.

The Under 10 Hermitage team (Fiona Coleman, Nora O'Sullivan, Donal Regan) have one of the most beautiful training environments while "colour coding" has been introduced to organise the huge numbers at Under 10 Cherryfield (Sorcha Farrelly, Mary Hyland, Ciara Lucey, Emma Seery, Sarah Pope, Catherine Pope, Deirdre Farrelly, Rachel Ruddy, Aisling O'Leary).

At Under 11A level (Mick Kennedy, Deirdre O'Reilly, Carol Ann Woulfe, Richard Fitzpatrick, Jackie Boyd Lyons) had an enjoyable year which included the inaugural



Under-12 camogie County Final action with Naomh Brid at Cherryfield

Mini All-Ireland internal blitz. The Under 11B team (Ciara Scallan, Niamh Scallan, Maeve Gaynor, Claire Gaynor) is in the fortunate position of being coached by three current players – two double sisters as well!

The Under 12Bs (Gerry O'Driscoll, Rosemarie Deevey, Gladys O'Connor) played their best and enjoyed their trip to Croke Park for the All-Ireland finals.

The Under 13B team (Patricia Higgins, Paula Gorby, Pádraig Ó Duibhir) were greatly encouraged by a much improved showing in 2003.

Despite going down to St. Vincents, the Under 14A side (Quentin Nea, Dave O'Driscoll) were among the few sides to give the All-Ireland Féile champions a stiff challenge. The Under 14B (Anne McGarrigle, Ciara Blair) gave their all during the year.

A great year for the Under 16Bs (Bernadette McGlynn) was crowned with their first ever league title.

The Junior B team (Grace O'Neill, Orna Lucey, Bernie Corrigan) captured the league title with an unbeaten run. The Junior A team (John Hayes, Jim Cremin, Trish Seery, Rosie Tracey) put in a great effort but were beaten by eventual championship winners Ballinteer St. Johns by just a single point.

The Senior A team (Gearóid Ó Súilleabháin, Micheál Mac Fhloinn, Éamonn Ó Súilleabháin with assistance from Mona Uí Shúilleabháin) reached the Open Cup final and the semi finals of the league. A number of young players were introduced to top flight camogie and will have greatly benefited from the experience.

The Senior B team (John McCormack, Dermot Hughes, Enda Hughes) has qualified for the Open Cup semi finals which have been deferred until 2004. Best wishes to John McCormack for a speedy return to full health.

There were 318 players registered with Cumann Camógaiocht na nGael.

Juvenile – John Archbold

A major innovation in the past year has been the opening of the club's third coaching nursery centre at Knocklyon Park in



Under-13A Camogie Championship Winners. Back row (l to r): C. Noonan (Mentor), R. Gaffney, N. Cunningham, R. Tyson, S. Fleming, O. Clarke, L. Coffey, N. Hyland, A. O'Leary, P. McGrath, S. Noonan, A. Giffney, A. Cunningham, M. Glynn (Mentor). Front row (l to r): K. O'Farrell, F. O'Shea, J. Ryan, S. Hughes, L. Barnwell, C. Corrigan, (C) S. Glynn, A. Noonan, K. Synnott.



Under 16 Camogie Championship Winners. Back row (l to r): Simone Comerford, Laura Nolan, Susan Kelly, Aoife Burke, Maeve Galvin, Sharon Glynn, Niamh Scallan, Lorna Curtis, Alana Cronin, Orla O'Shea, Triona Ni Dhuidhir. Front row: (l to r) Nuala Pope (Mentor) Caoilfhionn Ni Neill, Rachel Ruddy, Deirdre Farrelly, Anne Griffin, Emer Lucey, Niamh Hogan, Aoife Clarke, Cliona McNamara, Catherine Cope, Rachel Mansel, Noelle Brogan, John Byrne (Mentor), Eileen McNamara (Mentor).

Ballycullen. The decision was made necessary by virtue of the large numbers that are attending Cherryfield where space was at a premium.

From this year on children who were born

in 1995 onwards are being catered for at Knocklyon Park which is turning out to be a fabulous facility. The club is deeply appreciative of South Dublin County Council who have developed and maintain the grounds.



Under 16 Hurling Championship winners: Back row (l-r) Daragh O'Gorman, Pierce Kenny, Dermot Manley, Ciarán Twomey, Brendan Treacy, Shane Durkin, Paul Ryan, Kevin Doody, Barry McCarthy, Niall Brew, Shane Dunne, Alan Kennedy, Maurice Nagle. Front row (l-r) Alan Lambert, James Doody, Conor McCormack, Simon Lambert, Martin O'Sullivan, Simon Hughes, Tiernan Swords, Padraig Lawlor, Mark Judge, Alan Carter



Junior Hurlers - Corn Fág a Bealach Winners 2003 Back row (l-r): Liam Phelan, Brendan Wall, Niall O'Neill, Brian Kennedy, Chris Nagle, Shane Murphy, Brian O'Regan, Michael Phelan, Stephen Nagle, Thomas Cronin, David Fletcher and John Healy. Front row (l-r): Philip Ryan, Brian Keary, Martin Donohue, Gavin Duff, Emmet Pullan (captain), Philip Larkin, Micheál Spain, Ciaran O'Neill.

A nursery coaching group was initiated by Enda McNulty, Director of Coaching chaired by Derek Ward. The Group meets approximately once a month and discusses coaching issues that might arise. The other members of the group are Mick Keville, Brian O'Regan, Seamie O'Neill, Enda McNulty, Vincent Carney, Barry Coll, Mick Ryan, Eugene Duffy, John Healy and Liam Carter.

The annual David Maycock Memorial Tournament took place on Saturday 28 June. The cup was won by Dublin with Paddy Corrigan as manager and Eoghan O'Neill as the winning captain. We would like to thank the Maycock family for their attendance on the day. We would also like to thank David Sweeney, Darragh Spain and Conal Keaney for helping out refereeing and coaching on the day.

Rathfarnham and District Credit Union Summer Camps 2003

The Summer Camp 2003 was a great success. The camp was co-ordinated by PJ

Donohoe, Enda McNulty and Brian O'Regan. Over 1,300 boys and girls took part over the 7 weeks. The exceptional weather really made this camp one of the best camps yet. The two all sports weeks were a great success and the trip to Dublin Zoo went down a treat with both children and the coaches. There were over 28 club coaches employed at different stages over the summer.

As an added feature of the summer camp this year, a School Of Excellence for boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 16 was run. There was one week of football/ladies football and one week of hurling/camogie. Over 100 boys and girls attended these two weeks.

We would like to thank the following GAA stars for attending both the summer camp and the School Of Excellence: DJ Carey, Sue Ramsbottom, Paul McCormack, Conal Keaney and Oisín McConville.

Juvenile Hurling

On the playing front, the Under 10 hurling squads (Paudie Ó Neill, Paddy Corrigan, Niall Desmond) enjoyed a great year that

included trips to Naas, Portlaoise, Ahane and Bennettsbridge.

At the Under 11 age group (Ciaran Maguire, John Ryan, John Small, Mick Garry) – an Féile Iomána was the highlight (reported elsewhere in this edition) and they enjoyed a great success in winning the Camaint competition in Parnell Park against St. Vincents.

The high point of the year for the Under 12 (Seamus Ryan, Pat Kenny) was winning the Portlaoise tournament in August.

While at Under 13A (Paul Daly, Francis Sharkey, Aidan Kennedy - First Aid: Robert Woodcock) the side remain unbeaten in the league and captured the P. J. Troy Trophy with a great win over Erins Isle.

Féile na nGael is always uppermost in the minds of players and mentors at Under 14 and in the season finished, the team (Eithne McGarry, Joe Young, Michael Phelan. Coaching: Michael McGarry) turned in excellent performances to reach the All-Ireland Division 2 final after losing the Dublin final by just one point to St. Vincents. The side is still in contention for the League.

At Under 15A (Vincent Bradley, Eamon



Under 14 hurling team All-Ireland Féile na nGael Div 2 Runners-up 2003. Back row (from left) Killian Cannon, Ciaran Archbold, Eoin O'Reilly, Tomás McNamara, Andrew Kiernan, Colin Hyland, Michael Howard, Brian Flaherty, Andrew Breen, Peter Buckeridge. Front row (from left) Dermot Coffey, Turlough Chambers, Finn McGarry, Matthew Weldon, Eanna Walsh, Alan McMullan, Mark Lambert, Thomas Deane, Paul Young, Shane Lucey, Niall McMorrough, Daniel Sinnott, Matthew Curran.

Treacy, Liam Carter, Frank O'Connor) a good championship run ended with a one point defeat to St. Vincents in a thrilling semi-final. The team is unbeaten in the league with two matches remaining. While at Under 15B (Gerry O'Sullivan, Malachy Buckeridge) this team was unlucky to lose a few games narrowly and showed great improvement as the year went on.

The Under 16s (Liam Hogan, Robert Lambert, Brendan Swords, Denis Nagle, Colin Durkin) took the championship in style to earn the first major honours for this panel when they beat Lucan Sarsfields in the decider.

Juvenile Football

The Under 9A (Jimmy Walsh, John Keegan, Martin Dunne, Ger Flaherty), Under 9B (Mary Byrne, Sean O'Reilly, Eugene McGee, Brian Byrne) and Under 9C (Seamus De Frein, Neil Buckingham, Mary Costelloe, Aidan Byrne) all thrived and continued to learn the game.

At Under 10A (Ned Flood, Patrick Murphy, Tom Mullany, Niall Desmond) – league winners, Under 10B (Paul Waters, Seamus O'Flaherty, John Robinson, Sean O'Connor, Philip Griffin) and Under 10C (Pat Drohan, Edward O'Riordan, Conor Farrelly, Tom Boyle) work at improving the teams was continued.

The Under 11A (Noel Basquel, Sean Crowley, Kevin Murray) emerged as Joint winners of the Winter league 2002 and were narrowly beaten in the Final of the Cup last Spring. They have a great chance to win the league outright in 2003. The Under 11B (Tom Mullen, John O'Toole) team has made great strides and won their league and the Under 11C (Neill Johnston, John Swan) made progress.

Under 12A (Vincent Carney, Tony Seery, Shay Devlin, Bob Sheehan), Under 12B (Dave Ryan, P.J. Claffey, Sean Fahy, Conor McGreevy) and Under 12C (Pat Shine, John Joe O'Sullivan, Jim O'Reilly) are coming along nicely.

The Under 13A (Vivian Ruddy, John Mulligan, Jim Keane, Declan O'Reilly, Kevin Maguire) won the pre-Christmas league 2002 beating St. Vincents in a play-off. The team is currently top of the League with about 4 matches remaining. While the Under 13B (Tony Wallace, Eamon Clancy,



Ard san aer, minor football winners of Thomas Davis tournament.

Larry Quinn, Pat Finnerty, Sean Bonar) team has already captured the league title with the Under 13C (Maurice Murphy, Michael Irwin, Tony O'Reilly, Michael McTiernan) performing solidly.

The Under 14A (Liam Deane, Fionnan Hyland, Padraig Chambers, John Archbold) fell to the eventual All-Ireland Féile na nGael winners – Kilmacud Crokes at the Dublin stage and the Under 14B (John Burns) enjoyed a mid-table league finish

Still in contention for league honours, the Under 15A (Liam Carter, Conor Doolan, Matt Fletcher, Helen McGuinness) saw luck desert them in a one point championship defeat to St. Judes in the semi-final.

The Under 15B (Gerry O'Kelly, Micheal Cooney, John Turner) performed well and the Under 15C (Paddy Brady, Dan Browne) also fared well.

A narrow defeat in the championship denied the Under 16A (Liam Monaghan, Robert Lambert, Denis Nagle) a better run while the Under 16B (Niall Kelly, Aidan Kennedy) reached the championship semi-final before bowing out to a very good Garristown side.

Childrens Officer.

In September last, the club was delighted that Therese Keville agreed to become Children's Officer for the club. Therese has had a long interest and involvement in Juvenile matters in the club and she outlined her role in detail at the mentors evening in September. It is imperative that all mentors are aware of the importance of this role in the club, and make all players and their parents aware of this office.

Adult Football – Sean Flynn

Top marks to the Under 21A (Liam Tully, Enda McNulty, Ronan Hore, Dan O'Sullivan, Liam Delaney, Michael O'Regan) which brought the championship back to the club after a six year gap while the Under 21B (Peter Shovlin, Conor Hand, Neil Brennan, Eddie O'Sullivan) were pipped by a goal by Ballymun Kickhams in the C Final.

The Senior team (Paul Bealin, Sean Fitzmaurice, Bobby O'Sullivan, Brendan Timbs, Noel O'Reilly and Pat Conway) didn't have a good run in the championship but enjoyed better fortune in the league and is currently



Hell's Kitchen – Junior hurling full-back line – Micheál Spain, Philip Larkin and John Healy.



Under 21 Football Stars - Niall Clarke, Conal Keaney, Mark Fitzgerald and Robbie Maher

in the semi final at the time of writing against St. Mary's. The team was also pipped by a point in the Evening Herald Floodlit Cup final by the same opposition.

The Intermediate football team (Mick Maher, Ben Molloy, Martin Murphy, Tony Morgan) retained their status and had a good run in the Loving Cup.

The Junior A (Conor Hand, Tom Flynn, Jim Bolger and Denis Donoghue) competed in the B championship but due to circumstances outside their control have been awaiting semi-final opponents for some time. They finished a very commendable second place in the league.

Eddie O'Sullivan and Neil Brennan were in charge of the Junior B team and were beaten by the eventual winners of the C Championship St. Brigid's. The Junior C (Andrew Conaghy, John Joe O'Sullivan and Peter Shovlin) always managed to field and turned in a creditable championship campaign before exiting at the quarter-final stage.

The Minor A team (Peter Shovlin) finished fifth in the league and won the Christy Riordan Memorial Tournament run by Thomas Davis.

The Minor B (Sheila Clear, Paddy Hogan, Wally Durkan, Eugene Kenny, Don McMahon) team made it to the Championship semi final and enjoyed a nice week-end in Waterville. The Minor C side (Liam Monaghan, Robert Lambert) reached the Shield Semi Final.

Adult Hurling – Joe O'Brien/Noel Sheridan

The Senior A hurling (Paudie Ó Neill, John Ryan, Paddy Corrigan) put in a tremendous effort and had a promising campaign in the league phase of the championship but once again Craobh Chiarain proved a stumbling block as they also did in the League final. Apart from the huge number of training sessions including guest coaches Paudie Butler and Padjo Whelehan, the side played 24 matches.

The Senior B side (Conor Sheehan, PJ Breen, Francis Sharkey, John Connolly, Donal Ryan) were very unfortunate to drop down to Intermediate ranks after a one



Minor B hurling star Graham Ward receives his man of the match award from John Connolly of MUTEK, team sponsors after his performance in the Minor C championship final victory against Parnells. Also in picture Noel Sheridan, Club Vice Chairman (2002/03) and team manager John Keating.



Dublin Under 18 camogie team celebrate Leinster success at Páirc Uí Mhurchú



Man down – Senior Football Championship v Ballinteer St John's.

point defeat to Trinity Gaels in a relegation play-off.

At Intermediate level (Bernard Curtis, Brian Reilly, Ciaran Smith), the side maintained its league status and went out of the championship to Lucan Sarsfields at the quarter-final stage.

The Junior B team (Emmet Pullan, Mick Fletcher, Dermot Maguire, Ultan MacMathuna) had a very good year reaching the final of the championship and winning An Corn Fág a Bealach. The side played 29 games only losing four. Unfortunately St. Finians of Swords got the better of us in the championship.

The Under 21 team (Emmet Pullan, Mick Fletcher, Darragh Spain, Dermot Maguire) is through to the championship semi final at the time of writing. While the highlight of the Minor A (Martin Donoghue, Ollie Hickey, James Galavan, Hugh O'Neill) year was winning the prestigious James Stephens Tournament.

The Minor B team (John Keating, Liam Hogan, Joe Ryan) laid down a marker for the coming year by winning the Minor C championship and league.



UNDER-21 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2003

back (l-r): Conal Keaney, Chris Cremin, Ciaran Whitty, Kenneth Walkin, Craig Curtis, Shane Tully, Gavin O'Gara, Robert Maher, Daire Walsh, Mark Fitzgerald, Craig Mooney, Eoin Nevin, Stephen Hiney, Paul Manley. Front (l-r): Declan O'Mahony, Colm Leane, Darragh Shovlin, Murray Breen, Conor McAteer, Conor Dolan (capt), Andrew Kerin, Cian Hore, Cian Hiney, Niall Clarke. Pic courtesy of the Evening Herald



Coaching Director, Enda McNulty (left) at the Football School of Excellence with fellow Armagh Stars Oisín McConville and Paul McCormack.



Sue Ramsbottom, Laois Football Star at the Ladies Football School of Excellence.

Féile Iomána 2003 – “It’s even better the second time ’round” says Ciarán Maguire



The second annual anything is always a challenge. You can be a bit complacent because you’ve done it before, but there’s always a desire to improve on the original. It was with such feelings that we set about organising the second annual Féile Iomána for the last weekend in August.

We threw in the ball and agreed the format in early June. It was going to be bigger this year. Last year, it was for Under 9s and Under 10s, but last year’s Under 10s were now Under 11, and they weren’t going to be left out. Liam Phelan was press-ganged into representing the U9s, while Niall Desmond represented the U10s. In order to match such talent, the under 11s needed to put in three stooges - Kevin Geoghegan, John Ryan and Ciarán Maguire.

Preparation began in earnest after the Golf Classic and, very quickly, an important lesson was learned about hurling down the country - they only play in even numbers. Niall made three phone calls, and he had three delighted participants for the under 10 competition. Dúrlas Óg, James Stephens and Tullamore signed up straight away, and the job was done. The under 9s and under 11s, however, scoured hurling-speaking Gaeldom to find teams in their age group. Eventually, Liam secured Ballyragget, Portlaoise and Bray Emmets for the under 9 competition.

The U11s ran two separate competitions: on Saturday, St. Judes, Ballinteer St Johns and Lucan Sarsfields came over to Cherryfield and had a good competition which was

eventually won out by St. Judes who brought up to 40 players over from Tymon Park.

The Under 9 competition was heading for a Dublin v Wicklow finale when tea was called. The Boden and Bray teams had defeated their rivals from Kilkenny and Laois and were ready to square up to one another in the final. Everybody headed into the hall for tea and sandwiches and cake. There were allegations that Bridie Phelan was saving the best apple tart for the Ballyragget contingent, but not enough hard evidence was left to secure a conviction.

The final itself was a free-flowing affair with excellent displays from both sides. There were great skills shown by many of the Boden crew including Conor McKeon, Ben Griffin, Conor Maher, Evan Flanagan, Eoin McKenna, Andrew Hughes and Fionn Maguire. With such warriors in battle, it was no surprise that the home team were the eventual winners.

Kilkenny corner forward, Eddie Brennan, fresh from his destruction of Tipperary, was on hand to present sliotars and tee-shirts. Eddie was very complimentary of the skills and commitment that he had seen and was worried that Dubs would soon be overtaking Kilkenny with players like these.

Next, it was the turn of the under 10s to take to the field. Each club was represented by not one but two teams, and separate competitions were run in Páirc Uí Mhurchú and in Cherryfield. Tullamore from Offaly, Dúrlas Óg from Tipp, The Village (James Stephens) from Kilkenny and the Boden from Baile Atha Cliath gave battle for the glory of their parishes on opposite sides of the Firhouse Road.

Due to another hurling match taking place that evening in Donnycarney, Niall Desmond was left to fill the role of Organiser in Chief, Coach, Manager, Steward and Crowd Control Executive! But for the great help he received from parents of the players, especially Nicky Jermyn who did sterling work, it’s certain that Niall would have been reduced to a blubbing mess in the middle of the field.

Paul Waters and Ned Flood managed the two Ballyboden teams in the absence of Paddy & Paudie. Niall also received some very encouraging remarks from denizens of the Marble City which helped revive his drooping spirits. Kevin Warren, who has never played hurling, spotted a crisis looming and without discussion with anyone, grabbed the whistle and refereed some of the games. No one seemed to notice his lack of match practice.

Back on the field of play, both finals were contested between Ballyboden and James Stephens with the Noresiders narrowly winning out on both occasions. There were terrific displays of hurling from Piaras Griffin, Eoghán O’Neill, Brian McCarthy, Adam Jermyn, Gavin Corrigan and Jamie Desmond. Paul Doherty was probably Man of the Match in the final. Afterwards, everybody was fed courtesy of Una Johnston,

Catherine Robinson, Yvonne Corrigan and the whole team of parents. Sliotars and tee-shirts distributed and everybody retired happy.

Sunday dawned, bright and sunny and it was the turn of the U11s. There was a great geographical spread with teams from Tipp (Moycarkey-Borris and Holycross-Ballyc-ahill), Kilkenny (St. Lachtains and Bennets-bridge), Antrim (St. John's), Meath (Ash-bourne-Donoughmore), Laois (Colt) and Dublin.

Boden came in as runners up in their qualifying group being narrowly beaten by St. Johns. We had to face the men from Moy-carkey-Borris in the semi-final as they had won the other group. The game was tough and tight until the last five minutes or so when the home team pulled away to win by six points.

The scene was set for a great final between Boden and St. John's. The game was hard and close all the way through, and the spectators were treated to a great display of skill by both teams. St. John's had the edge as the second half wore on, but the mighty Boden men never gave up and played some of the best hurling they've ever played. In the final minute, Boden raised the green flag from a free and pipped the boys from Belfast by a point.

Club Senior Hurling captain, Darragh Spain, did the presentation to both finalists and gave an inspiring talk to the lads urging them to wear their county jerseys with pride.

We were delighted that so many parents, club members and especially senior hurlers came out to support the lads in the final.

Thanks to all who supported the weekend – Liam Carter, Juvenile Chairman attended throughout. Six of the under 15 hurling team including Liam McCarthy and Alan Carter refereed the games. Mick Ryan did a great job as Road Safety Manager. The great Ned Slattery was, as usual, a rock throughout. He never complained once not even when he was dragged out of bed at nine o'clock on Sunday morning. Special thanks are due to the catering teams headed by Geraldine Reynolds, Una Johnston and Angela Ryan who did a loves and fishes act and fed about 450 people over the weekend.

It must be nearly time to start planning Féile 2004 – John, have you booked the pitches yet?



John Small and Mick Garry issue half time instructions to the U-9s.



Kilkenny All-Ireland and All-Star winner, Eddie Brennan presents prizes to the Bray Emmets captain watched by Liam Carter, Juvenile Committee Chairman and Ciarán Maguire.



Under-9s team with coaches Ciarán Maguire, Ray McKenna, Liam Phelan and John Maher.

TEAM SPONSORS



**Danny Horkan
Costcutters – spare
nothing on Junior B
Football team**

Back left Brian Jennings, Brendan Sheehan, Gerry Blake, Neil Brennan (mentor), Cillian Blake, Paul Naughton, Darren Gordon, Eoin Dillon, Michael Ryan, Derek Saville

Front left Mark Magahran, Peter Farrell, Ciaran Griffin, Craig Curtis, Eddie O'Sullivan (manager), Darragh Shoolin, Johnny White, Charlie Kennedy.

**MUTEC sponsors of
the Minor Hurling
team that won the
James Stephens
Tournament – the
first Dublin winners**

From left – Noel Sheridan, Ollie Hickey (mentor), John Connolly (MUTEC), Brian Kennedy, Jimmy Galavan (mentor) and Martin Donohue (mentor)



**South Dublin Ford
Centre inject the
drive into the Under
21A Football team
which won the
championship.**

At the launch of the sponsorship were Aidan Kane (Sales Manager) second from left, with Niall Clarke, Liam Tully (team manager), Conor Dolan (team captain) and Danny Griffin (Club Sponsorship Manager)

Tomás Ó Riordáin Snr.

– a member of the first adult hurling team
in the club to win a championship in
1973 on life in Lovely Leitrim and
how he joined the 'Boden



“I never retired just nobody asked me to play anymore” is how Tomás “Tom” Ó Riordáin describes the way his playing career came to an end at The ‘Boden. And what age were you then? “54 years” – the answer is flashed back with that characteristic twinkle in the eye of a man who played hurling and football in three provinces.

He passed his 75th birthday last October and in that space of time there has seldom been a moment when the GAA was far from his thoughts. A member of the club since 1971, Tom’s long association with Ballyboden St. Endas could have ended a few years after he joined.

“28 years ago in 1975, after playing a game in Scholarstown Road I suffered a

heart attack on the 7th of December. It happened in the car. I was carted off to Vincent’s Hospital. Tommy Furlong (Crumlin) was refereeing the match and he was just after doing a first aid course. To this day he maintains he saved my life. I came out of Hospital on Christmas Eve. Most people would say what sort of eejit were you playing hurling at 47 but Dr. Risteárd Mulcahy – the heart man in Vincent’s – said you were a lucky man you were playing. He told me ‘I don’t know how far you hit the ball but when you get out make sure you hit it twice as far’.”

Life began for Tom in the town of Kilmallock in County Limerick in October 1928. He was the son of Sean T. Ó Riordáin, an activist (First Galtee Battalion) in the War

of Independence who spent time in jail in Wormwood Scrubs, Parkhurst and other English prisons in the lead up to the Truce in 1922. His mother was Josephine.

One of a family of six, Tom has two brothers and three sisters. Along with his brothers John (who passed away earlier this year) and Eamonn, they donned the colours of the Kilmallock club. And in one year – 1945 – Tom played minor, junior and senior (in goals) for the club – all at the age of 16. “John was a very good hurler but wasn’t as interested as I was and Eamonn was a great trier.”

He played minor hurling for Limerick in 1946 and junior in 1947. His only county hurling title in his native county was a minor award. “The Kilmallock club had a row with the South (Limerick) Board and as a result they withdrew all teams from competitions. This left John and myself free to play with the next parish – Bulgaden - and that’s who we won with. There was a great character there – Dan O’Brien - who picked up strays from everywhere. I don’t think we were legal at all.”

Success on the hurling front with Kilmallock in terms of championships didn’t materialise but he did win a South Limerick Junior Football Championship in 1947 against Galbally. “It was the greatest thrill of all time. We had two footballers and thirteen hurlers – a Kerryman who was in the Army in Kilmallock and the other fellow was I think a rugby player. The Kerryman put me at midfield. He knew I was very fast so he told me to run like hell when I got the ball and then kick it. There was a hurricane of a wind the same day and we were playing against it in the first half. We were only five points down at half time - then we knew we had a chance. About ten minutes into the second half we weren’t getting many scores. I got this ball and I remembered what your man said to me. So I ran and this mountainy man came at me and out of solid fear I kicked the ball up in the air – I never kicked a ball as far in my life. The goalkeeper and our full forward were after having a ‘barney’ and the two of them were flat on their faces in the square and the ball hopped into the net. We got several scores after that.”

After National School in Kilmallock, he cycled the five and a half miles to and from the CBS in Charleville during the height of



Anglo Celt (Cavan) 22nd January 1971
Eamonn, Kathleen, Seán, Tom and Lily.

World War II rationing. The school had a fine hurling team and reached two Harty Cup semi-finals but unfortunately St. Flannan's of Ennis powered by Jimmy Smith ended their dreams.

Before he had a chance to do his Leaving Certificate, he succeeded in getting a job in 1947 as a Post Office clerk and was posted to Boyle, County Roscommon to assist with relief duties. About four weeks later he was switched to Ballina, County Mayo where not much more than 24 hours later he lined out for the home club in the Mayo County Hurling Final – which they won.

After Ballina, he was posted to Ballinasloe – “the 3 Bs” as Tom calls them – Boyle, Ballina and Ballinasloe - and soon joined forces with the local club. He quickly caught the attention of the Junior and Senior Galway selectors. He won a Connacht Junior Championship with Galway when they beat Roscommon in 1948 and were unlucky to be beaten by Limerick by a point in the semi-final. He was also added to the Senior panel for the 1948 All-Ireland semi final against Waterford. The Munster side went on to win the Liam McCarthy Cup that year. Colm Corless was one of Tom's teammates on the Junior side.

The Friday before the Waterford game, Tom was told to report for duty to Carrick-on-Shannon the following Monday. “When I arrived in Carrick, I was told I shouldn't be there. So I took a week's holidays and headed back to Ballinasloe. I returned to Carrick-on-Shannon, told I shouldn't be there but said I'd stay for a couple of days and that turned out to be 23 years. I had no wish to go to Leitrim. There was no hurling there – it was like going to Siberia.”



Galway 1948 All-Ireland semi-final v Waterford - Tom is the first player on the left in the front row.

The local club in Carrick had disbanded that year (1948). “Things were in total disarray and the County Board wasn't much better. I ran a Sweep in the Post Office and cleared off all debts and got the club back on its feet again. As a result I was nominated for Secretary for the Leitrim County Board without my knowledge. Under protest I was elected in 1953 and remained in the position until 1971.”

He started hurling in Leitrim and was also Secretary to that Board. Tom has the distinction of being possibly the only County Secretary to also play at the same time for his county. He went on to win two Connacht Junior titles (to add to the one he won

with Galway) reaching an All-Ireland final against Meath in 1970. For 22 years he was a member of the St. Mary's Club winning 8 county senior hurling medals and one senior football award.

He also played senior football for his adopted county and won a Connacht Junior title in 1962 when they beat Mayo by 2 – 11 to 2 – 7 in Ballinamore. Playing at left corner forward, the Longford Leader reported that “O'Riordan tried hard to outwit the Mayo star Willie Casey.”

During the late 1950s, Leitrim had a fine senior football team and reached four successive Provincial finals from 1957 to 1960 going down to Galway on each occasion. This was the golden era of Packy McGarty and Cathal Flynn who were prominent members of many Railway Cup teams. As County Secretary, Tom was a selector. Politics was never far from the agenda. “Picking the Railway Cup team was the best of all. There was no point in going to the Galway or Mayo selectors, I always did a deal with Sligo and Roscommon to vote for each other. If we didn't Galway and Mayo would have dominated the team. I never failed to have a Leitrim man on the team for the 17 years I was selector. Connacht haven't won one since 1969 and I travelled to America with the team that year.”

He was never asked to be a selector on the Connacht Hurling team, a fact that still rankles with him. “Galway dominated that. If I was good enough to be a sub on the 1948 team, I was surely worth a consideration as were Sean Clohessy (Kilkenny) who worked in Mayo as well as Jackie Power of Limerick who was also based in Mayo for a spell.”

Life was never less than interesting. “If I told you all the stories – I'd end up in the High Court.” One that he allows to filter out concerns a Sligo referee who was in charge of a Junior Football final. “He was doing all right until he gives a penalty to Galway. At half time I went in to him and he said to me ‘how I am doing’ – I said you're doing fine but what the **** did you give the penalty for. ‘I thought I was giving it to Leitrim’, he replied. He says then to me ‘tell the full forward the first ball he gets to go to ground in the second half and I'll make up for it’. I called the full-forward aside and explained things to him. What I didn't know was that the selectors had changed your man to centre forward and brought in the centre forward who knew nothing about the deal. But as luck would have the first ball he got he went to ground and we got our penalty.”



From left: Christy Ring and Tom in Carrick.



Christy Ring with Eamonn and Seán Ó Riordáin.

During his time in Leitrim, the great Christy Ring was a frequent visitor to Tom and Lily's home in Carrick-on-Shannon. Mick Mackey was also another who would call when on trips from Ardnacrusha to Arigna. On the day that the photographs with Christy Ring, shown in this feature, were taken, the Ahane maestro was also in Carrick but time prevented him calling to the Ó Riordáin household. "I could have had the greatest photograph of them all. As I said afterwards – the three greatest hurlers in Ireland!!!!"

While in Leitrim, Tom met Lily and they married in 1951 and have eleven children – all born in Leitrim. Presently the grandchildren tally stands at 29 and this is on course to rise to 30 next May. The entire family gathers each St. Stephens Day in Cypress Drive and a certain Santa Claus has been known to make a late arrival. Lily has her own sporting distinction winning the first ever Leitrim Senior Camogie championship with Carrick-on-Shannon.

The family pecking order runs like this - Kathleen is the oldest, mother of Orla Colreavy of the Dublin Senior Ladies football team; Seán, Eamonn, Maura (whose daughter Aoife Tobin plays camogie for the Boden), Una, Siobhán, Gráinne, Rory, Tomás, Niall and Orla – the last three being triplets.

Tom and his sons Sean and Eamonn lined out together for Leitrim and St. Mary's and along with Rory, Tomás Óg and Niall – all five sons and father have played for Ballyboden St. Endas and all have played for Leitrim.

Despite his earlier misgivings about moving to a county with no hurling tradition, Tom grew to love Leitrim and it was with a lot of sadness that he left the county when promotion caused him to move to Dublin in 1971.

His lasting legacy to the county however was Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada in Carrick-on-Shannon. Tom was the major mover in getting that project to a successful conclusion and he compiled a fine programme for the official opening on 24 May 1964. Was his job in the Department of Posts and Telegraphs a help? "Of course it was, shure I didn't cost the County Board a bob!"

Before he left Leitrim, he became heavily involved with the GAA's early initiatives at introducing a more structured approach to coaching. As a member of the GAA's Coaching Council, along with Donie Nealon, Fr. Tommy Maher, Des "Snitchie" Ferguson –



20 Years Ago - Senior Hurling Team - First Appearance in Championship Final 1983. Tom's twin sons Niall and Tomás and Eamonn played in the 1983 County Senior Final in Croke Park on the occasion of the first appearance of a club team in a Senior Championship Final. Back (l-r) Niall Ó Riordáin, Jim Kennedy, Mick Kennedy, Tom Brown, Aidan Power, John Cummins, John Hayes, Tony Donohoe, John Kirwan, Mick McCarthy, Kevin Griffin, Niall Scolard. Front (l-r) Ray Glynn, Eamonn Ó Riordáin, Martin Donohue, Paul Coffey, P. J. Donohue, Tony Gleeson, Joe Ryan, Ken Ryan, Tomás Ó Riordáin.

Tom was active in the influential courses that took place in Gormanston College in the late 1960s.

From 1981 to 1983, he was Assistant Director to Mick Kinsella of Wexford at the Christy Ring Hurling School of Excellence which was held in Carraig na bhFear; St. Kieran's College and Gormanston College over those years with the aim of boosting hurling particularly in weaker counties. In 1984, he took on the job of managing the Down minor hurling team and ended up meeting Limerick powered by the likes of Gary Kirby in the All-Ireland Semi Final. Later he took charge of the Down Senior team.

When he left Leitrim in 1971, John D. Hickey of the Irish Independent wrote a tribute and commented "I will be surprised if he is not 'signed' by some club in the Metropolis that needs an uplift." Many clubs did in fact make approaches except Ballyboden St. Endas which in 1971 did not have any adult hurling. But a Leitrim acquaintance by the name of Noel Mulhern, a Garda who played football for the club invited Tommy along for a game and the rest as they say is history.

In 1972, the first junior hurling team was formed in the club boosted by the arrival of a number of players from St. Columbas in Crumlin most notably Nicky and Noel Keary and Martin and Paddy Kenny. Backed by other stalwarts like Mike Sweeney, the late Dan Matthews, Jim

Cremin, Kevin Griffin, the Dohertys, Liam Hyland – the club had the makings of a good junior team.

Tom was the first Secretary of the Hurling Section and although he played a stormer in the Championship semi final of 1973, he was on the bench when the team won the championship beating St. Ita's of Portrane in the final. This was the first adult hurling title won by the club – all of thirty years ago this year. His son Eamonn played in goals.

He was a Board delegate for a number of years, served on the club's Executive Committee and was the first Schools Coach appointed by the club when he worked for about 5 years in Coláiste Éanna to be succeeded by P. J. Donohue.

Writing in the programme for the opening of Páirc Seán Mac Diarmada almost forty years ago in May 1964, the then Uachtaráin of the GAA, Alf Ó Muiri wrote "the new more complete club which I would like to see would be one which would provide the rallying point, the social centre, for a district...It would make the local GAA an important force in local life and it would allow the National influence to reach, not only a few players but all the people of a district." These are sentiments Tomás Ó Riordáin would subscribe to and he has played a major part in helping them reach fulfillment in Ballyboden St. Endas and in Leitrim.



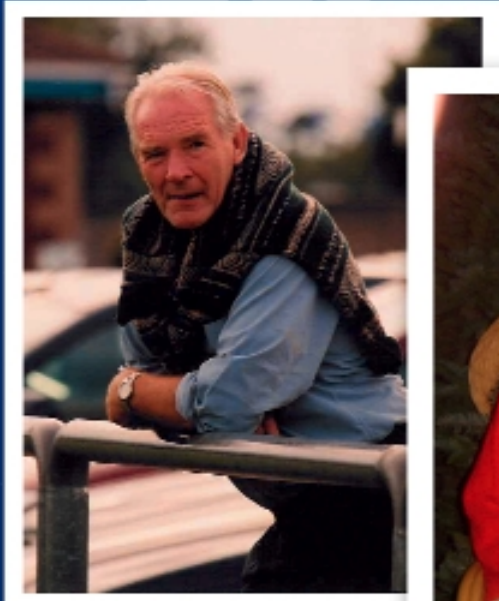
30 Years Ago - Junior Hurling Champions 1973 Back (l-r) Kevin Cardiff (mentor), Liam Hyland. Jim Cremin, Sean Doherty, Kevin Griffin, Mick Doherty, "Golly" Galvin, Paddy Kenny, Noel Keary, Mickey O'Sullivan, Bernard Droney, Tomás Ó Riordáin. Front (l-r) Brian Brennan, Dan Matthews (RIP), Martin Kenny, Louis Duffy, Nicky Keary, Tom Harty, Paddy Maddock, Denis Donegan, Ted Doherty, Eamonn Ó Riordáin, Eamonn Coleman



The Ballyboden St. Endas Club Lotto Year 5 has a total prize fund of €110,000. The proceeds are earmarked for coaching development. Results to date can be accessed at www.bodengaa.ie. At the launch were from left: Dan Browne (Lotto Committee), Emma O'Regan and Cathal Macarthy of Macarthy Auctioneers and Estate Agents - sponsors of the Lotto Brochure.



Camogie goes Gaisee... Beirt imreóirí camogaiochta Fiona Ní Sháilleabháin agus Cliona Ní Giollagáin a fuair gradam Gaise Uachtaraín na hÉireann i mbliana. Tá an beirt cailíní ag freastal ar Coláiste Iosagáin agus tá Fiona ina Captaen Spóirt i mbliana sa scoil.

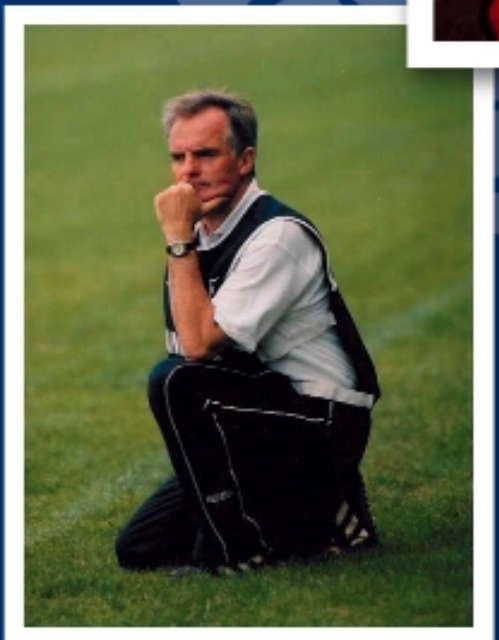


The Lone Spectator... Noel Callan is a regular supporter at all games no matter what the grade. Noel is a former player and Executive Committee member of the club.



Nollaig faoi sheán is faoi mhaise do gach éinne

Santa Claus as popular as ever... Santa Claus was an enormous hit with the young and the young at heart when over 300 children turned up to meet him. Contrary to rumour Santa did not ask the children "have you paid your membership???"



Bill Daly, Senior Ladies Football Manager – Pondering his next move



Santa's Grotto... a wonderful creation enjoyed by Ciara O'Byrne and Evan Soave and all who visited – well done to Noel Browne and his team of workers.