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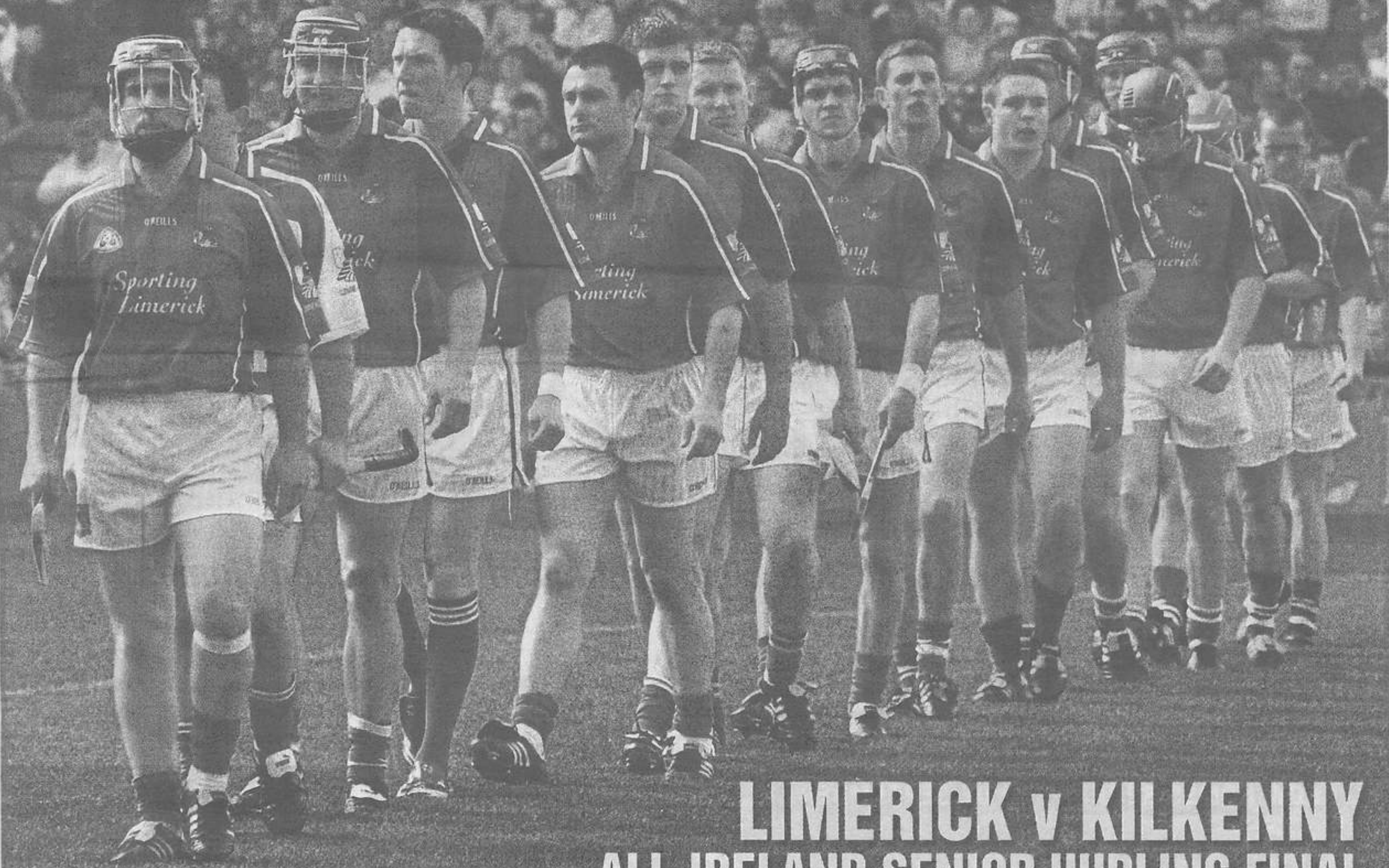
32-PAGE FULL COLOUR SOUVENIR SPECIAL

# LIMERICK LEADER

ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING FINAL SUPPLEMENT

# JUDGEMENT DAY

... 70 MINUTES FROM GLORY



**LIMERICK v KILKENNY**  
**ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING FINAL**  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2007 :: CROKE PARK**



THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE LIMERICK LEADER  
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ALL THE VERY BEST ON SUNDAY IN THE  
ALL-IRELAND SENIOR HURLING FINAL



LIMERICK LEADER . . . proudly supporting Limerick hurling

# A special place for warriors

Eleven hundred years ago, as **Brian McDonnell** explains, the Vikings were struck by the battling qualities of the Limerick people.

IN September 2003 The Irish Times' Keith Duggan, as a preamble to the Tyrone-Armagh All-Ireland football final, penned an article suggesting that a Tyrone victory would fittingly add to the glorious history of the county in question.

Duggan went on to discuss many of the famous souls associated with Tyrone and countless other examples of spirit, bravery and industry, with a potential All-Ireland final victory possibly meaning more to the people of the Red Hand county, more to their sense of self than anything that had gone before.

The fact that the All-Ireland football championship, or the All-Ireland hurling championship in Limerick's case, could mean so much to a people is a mad, but beautiful fact.

Next weekend Richie Bennis' men, smiling through gritted teeth, take the field to take on Kilkenny in the hope of adding their names to the wonderful folklore already associated with the county.

In this glorious country of ours, a country renowned for its language and poetic rhythm, Limerick is a name made in heaven. I wonder could it be claimed as the most musically sounding of all Irish counties. There's a sense of the 'Big Country' in the way it rolls off the tongue leaving it on a par with the likes of

Oklahoma.

All human life is here: heroism, villainy, achievement, failure, compassion and conflict. The story of the county is one of medieval monasteries, of Cromwell's visit, the Famine, the land struggle, and the War of Independence.

Limerick has made magnificent contributions to Ireland and can call such luminaries as Eamon de Valera, Rose Fitzgerald (mother of John F. Kennedy), Richard Harris and Frank McCourt its own.

Then there's sport; in Limerick sport is almost a religion. A year ago the city was home to the Heineken Cup champions and the county has spawned so many wonderful sportsmen - Paul O'Connell, Mick Mackey & Eamon Cregan.

But perhaps the most persistent association anyone could ever make with Limerick is the battling qualities which define its people.

Eleven hundred and some years ago a lad by the name of Tomar led a gang of happy Vikings into the local hinterland and would later describe the area as a 'special place for warriors'.

A similar assessment of the Limerick people would later make its way onto the city's coat of arms: "urbs antiqua fuit studiisque asperrima belli" - an ancient city well versed in the arts of war.

It is not known exactly when, or by whom, the city motto was first decided upon, however, it is a quotation from Virgil's Aeneid and was quoted during the time of the sieges in the mid 17th century.

No matter though the motto is as perfect as they come to describe a people and happily this same people face the battle of their lives next weekend against Brian Cody's Kilkenny.

Diarmuid Healy credits Kilkenny's modern hurling culture to Monsignor Tommy Maher who masterminded the 1957 Leinster final win. That famous victory brought an end to a worrying period of Wexford hegemony in the province and beyond.

Maheir's Kilkenny responded to Wexford's



**Pa Buckley (Ballinacurra) - a Limerick warrior.**

physicality with a scientific style - playing low diagonal balls, skipping out first to the ball and delivering it fast.

Modern Kilkenny sides still adhere to these traditions. Brian Cody, who has only lost six championship games since his appointment in autumn '98, ensures it.

While Limerick's traditional style doesn't draw as many pious platitudes from the national press, it deserves similar respect.

Limerick hurling is about enthusiasm, honesty and the jersey.

Next Sunday we will stand witness to an

intoxicating clash of these styles and to the mother of all battles; a battle we believe that Limerick can win.

Steve Hodge, the former English international, knew what he was doing in 1986. Once the final whistle blew in the World Cup quarter-final he made a point of exchanging jerseys with Diego Maradona - apparently he even barged past Terry Butcher in order to acquire his prize. He still has it, it's his retirement plan. After next Sunday hopefully the 15 Limerick jerseys will be just as valuable.

**Brian McDonnell, Sports Editor**

## A Hurler's Prayer

Give me o'Lord a hurler's skill  
 With strenght of arm and speed of limb  
 Unerring eye for the flying ball  
 And courage to match them whatever befall  
 May my aim be steady - my stroke be true  
 My actions manly - my misses few  
 And no matter what way the game may go  
 May I part in friendship with every foe  
 When the final whistle for me is blown  
 And I stand at last at God's Judgement Throne  
 May the great Referee when he calls my name  
 Say ... You hurled like a man  
 You played the game

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# Kilfinane's first All-Ireland honours

In 1897 Kilfinane claimed Limerick's first All-Ireland hurling title. **Harry Greensmyth** on those bootless wonders.

IF athletics were as popular in all corners of the land as they were in the Kilfinane, Ardpatrick, Ballylanders, Emly, Martinstown, Effin and Ballyorgan parishes of county Limerick in the 1880s, little wonder it was this form of pastime as well as hurling and football which motivated the founders of the Gaelic Athletic Association at Hayes' Hotel in Thurles on November 1, 1884.

The founders, Michael Cusack, Maurice Davin, John Wyse Power, John Mackay, JK Bracken, Joseph O Riain and Thomas St. George MacCarthy, with possibly seven others, took the initial step in changing the social fabric of a people still endeavouring to overcome the trauma of the famine.

The men of Kilfinane rallied to the new organization, competing in athletic meetings under its jurisdiction, as well as playing hurling, although the latter more localised at the 'Course Field' between Staker Wallace and Ballyhea, probably in 1888 or a year later and so great was the interest among the men from Kilfinane, a meeting was arranged to form a club.

There was no record of who set the wheels in motion, but it is generally accepted the Downes brothers, members of a long-established family with loyal Gaelic roots, were the first to take up the challenge. Michael and Tom Finn, father and uncle respectively of Mick and Jack Finn who would later help Kilfinane to All-Ireland glory, may have been there at the first meeting. Michael Carey was elected president and Patrick MacCarthy took over responsibility of secretary and treasurer. Patrick Thornhill, a local merchant, gave substantial financial assistance.



The Kilfinane All-Ireland winning team in 1897.

The new club was named after the patriot Robert Emmett, who led an abortive rising in Dublin in 1803 and who was hanged in Thomas St. Green was the colour associated with the rise of nationalism in the second half of the 18th century and, of course, part of Emmett's vision. For this reason green was chosen as the club's colour and has remained so ever since. It was later adapted as the county colours sometime in the 1920s. Such was the interest shown in

the club, it was necessary to hold trials to select 21 players for local tournaments. The opening game for Kilfinane Emmetts was against Gormanstown and proved to be a winning debut. Over a two-year period they played several games and won three cups at Ballyorgan, Bulgaden and Elton. In addition they won a set of medals at Ballylanders.

Kilfinane continued their good progress into 1890 when they gained a place in the county senior hurling

final for the first time. In the only final to be played outside the county they lined out against South Liberties at Rathluirc. In a game that produced a single point, scored by Con Sheehan, South Liberties claimed victory.

Ardpatrick and Kilfinane took part in the 1895 championship, but both made early exits. Kilfinane Emmetts beat Mungret at Croom while Ardpatrick accounted for Smith O'Brien's, only to go out following an

objection by the losers. Kilfinane then lost to Boher Nationals in the semi-finals.

Kilfinane beat Hospital in the 1896 championship at Kilmallock and then went on to score a 2-10 to 0-4 win over Ballyagran. They eventually went down to Ballygarra - 2-5 to 1-5.

The 1897 hurling championship was concluded in 1898 and ended with Kilfinane Emmetts winning for the first time in their history.

Ardpatrick gave a walkover to Cappamore in the opening round and it was Cappamore who went on to face Kilfinane in the final at the Market's Field on May 1. The final score was 4-9 to 4-8. Cappamore led by five points at half time, but John Hayes, one of the Cappamore players, in an interview over half a century later laid the blame for his team's defeat at the hands of the referee Spencer Lyons.

Two disallowed goals in the second half did not please Cappamore and they appealed the result to the county board. That appeal was not successful. There is also the story of both sides scoring goals which were not allowed and supporters of both teams were claiming victory at the end of the match. The referee from Croom Castle consulted his umpires (there were only two - one at each end) and after some deliberations awarded the match to Kilfinane, adding that the Cappamore goals were of a rough nature.

The men who placed Kilfinane in the history books were: Denis Grimes, T. Ryan, P. Flynn, M. Flynn, T. Casey, J. Hanly, John Finn, Michael Finn, F. Dunworth, Patrick O'Brien, Tom Brazill, Michael Downes, J. Corkery, M. Regan, A. Carey, J. Connery and T. Flynn.

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<p><b>BA in Early Childhood Care and Education: (MI007)</b> This four-year honours degree programme is designed to provide an exciting and challenging programme for those interested in working with young children in a range of educational settings.</p>	<p><b>B.Ed and Psychology: (MI 008)</b> This four-year honours degree programme is a joint degree in Primary Teaching and Psychology (B.Ed.) Graduates of this programme will be eligible to practise as primary school teachers and also have the option of pursuing postgraduate studies in Psychology. The course would be particularly suitable for, though not confined to, students who wish to specialise subsequently in the field of Educational Psychology.</p>

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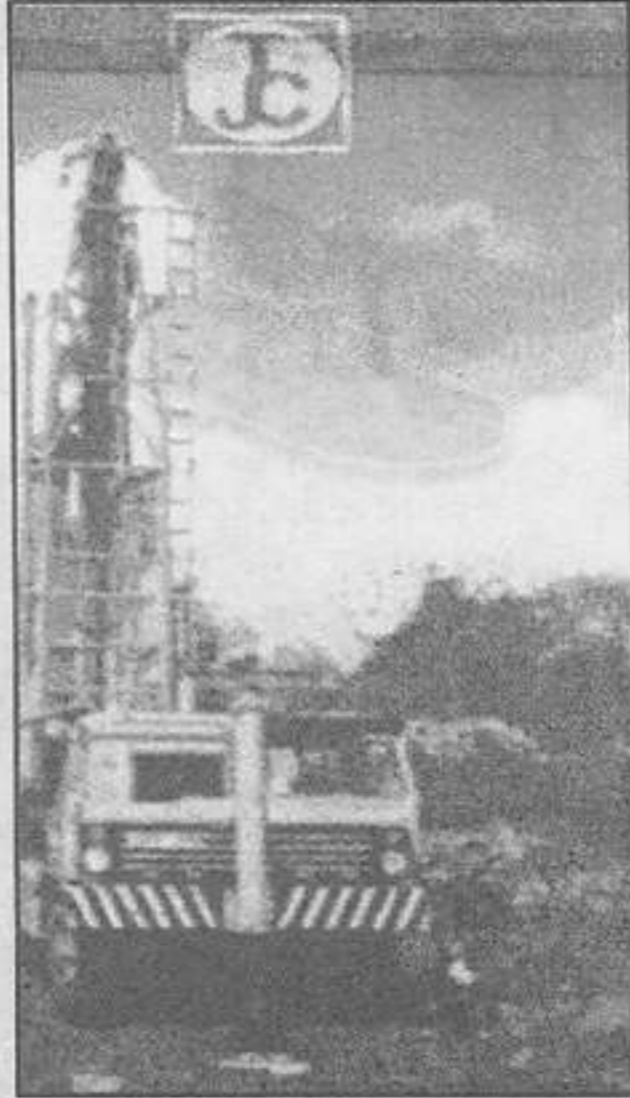
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In the 1898 series itself Kilfinane beat Doon by ten goals, but did not participate in the remainder of the championship because of their involvement in the Munster championship. Kilfinane had the option of selecting players from other clubs for the provincial and All-Ireland competitions.

Tulla Emmetts provided the opposition in the first round at Greenpark. The clare champions carried a huge reputation into this game as in the previous year they beat the famous Tubberdora team from Tipperary in the Croke Cup and went on to win it at the expense of Crosstown (Wexford). Kilfinane rose the challenge in great style and inspired by Denis Grimes they scored a narrow 2-5 to 2-3 victory on June 19, 1898. The Kilmallock Balbec Band played at the match in Greenpark and led the victors on the road home to Kilfinane.

Everything was now in readiness for the Munster Final and All-Ireland Semi-Final against Blackrock (Cork) at Tipperary Town. Kilfinane turned in a marvelous performance to bring the title back to Shannonside for the first time winning 4-9 to 1-6. Players from Cappamore, Ballingarry, Caherline and Croom helped Kilfinane to this great victory.

While Kilfinane had a good win they had to fight all the way to hold off the Cork challenge. Sean Og Hanly scored an early goal and a point, but Cork came back to level. Tom Irwin, in the Cork goal, denied Kilfinane time and again, but before half time Grimes, Buskin, Finn and Flood combined to restore the lead. At the break it was 2-2 to 1-3 in favour of Limerick. Another Hanly goal, midway through the second half, proved the all-important score and when Cattrell added another the cause was lost.

The president of Kilfinane at the time was Thomas P. MacCarthy and with John Downes, Michael and Charles O'Shaughnessy, Ned Hannon, John and Tom Tobin, Pat Thornhill and William Drake, worked tirelessly to have everything in order for the matches. The trainers

were MacCarthy and Downes. It's worth recording that the Kilfinane team did much of their training in small pitches and it was in these conditions that they thought up of the art of hooking. They were the first to introduce this skill to the game and their opposing teams ran into many problems at they tried to cope with this new fangled idea.

The scene was then set for Limerick's first appearance in an All-Ireland Final. Tullaroan of Kilkenny and Kilfinane met at Tipperary Town on November 20, 1898 for the honour of winning the 1897 crown.

The Kilfinane mentors took the match so seriously they seriously

road from the present Sean Treacy Park at the back of the railway station. A crowd estimated to be in the region of 18,000 milled into Tipperary for the final.

Things did not look good at half time with the Kilfinane men at sixes and sevens trying to keep the busy Tullaroan men at bay. The wet conditions and the players' new boots were blamed for Kilfinane's performance. The role of captain was very important during this era and Denis Grimes took the decision, after consulting with his sideline mentors, to discard the boots and resume in bare feet for the second half.

Limerick were transformed and

Kilkenny led 2-4 to 1-1. Hynes lodged the leather in the Tullaroan preserves late in the second half to level the scoring. Tom 'Goatee' Brazill sent his team ahead for the first time.

An Irish Independent reporter at the match described the after-match scenes: "it was all over, but the shouting and the thoughts of that evening as well left the field in Tipperary Town will remain green with us for a long time, for the victory was dinned into our ears by the drummer of the Kilfinane band, which played such appropriate airs as Garryowen and Gallant Tipperary".

The side posts for points were in operation at this final - four posts at

streets as the proud people of Kilfinane celebrated in style.

Bonfires blazed on the moat at the top of the village, signaling to the countryside around Ballyhoura and deep into county Cork that Limerick had won their first All-Ireland hurling crown.

Kilfinane lined out as follows: Denis Grimes (captain), James (Sean Og) Hanly, Maurice Flynn, Paddy Flynn, Mick Finn, Jim Finn, Paddy (Long) O'Brien, Tom 'Goatee' Brazill, Mick Downes, Sean Condon, John Hynes, Pat Mulcahy, Pat Butler (Cappamore), Jim Reidy, Pat Cattrell (Ballingarry), Jim Flood (Caherline), Paddy Buskin (Croom).

Tullaroan team: J. Walsh (captain), J. Doheny, P. Maher, M. Walton, E. Teehan, M. Lawlor, J. Lawlor, James Lawlor, J. Grace, M. Malone, J. Walsh, M. Perry, J. Quinn, P. Fielding, P. Ryan, E. Dunne and P. Malone.  
Referee: JJ MacCabe

When the merits of this Kilfinane team are discussed, the name Sean Og Hanly, is spoken as the greatest of them all. James was nicknamed Sean Og when as a strapping lad of 16 he displayed his hurling skills and an old-timer watching told those in attendance that James was every bit as good as his grandfather Sean Og. From here on James was known as Sean Og. Sean Og, from years in the smogs and fumes of London (far from the clean air of the Kilfinane hillside) died in his early 50s and was laid to rest in the Kensal Rise Cemetary (London).

A fitting tribute was paid to Sean Og some 43 years after his death when one of the greatest writers on Gaelic games, PD Mehigan, selected a hurling team and called it the "Best Men of My Time": John 'Skinny' O'Meara (Tipperary), Dan Coughlan (Cork), Sean Og Hanly (Limerick), Mick Dervin (Galway), Pat Stakelum (Tipperary), Jamesy Kelliher (Cork), Dick Grace (Kilkenny), Lory Meagher (Kilkenny), Jim Hurley (Cork), Eugene Coughlan (Cork), Mick Mackey (Limerick), Tom Semple (Tipperary) and Christy Ring (Cork).

The wet conditions and the players' new boots were blamed for Kilfinane's performance. The role of captain was very important during this era and Denis Grimes took the decision, after consulting with his sideline mentors, to discard the boots and resume in bare feet for the second half. Limerick were transformed . . .

they decided to get boots for the players who, until the final, had played in their bare feet.

Horse and donkey drawn cars made their way to Tipperary from early morning and the eager occupants were confident they would be celebrating before evening.

A long car, drawn by two horses, carried the team to Tipperary. Jim Flood rode on horseback from Caherline to join the team at Kilfinane. Special trains ran from Kilkenny, Clonmel and Limerick. The latter stopped at Limerick junction where jarvey cars conveyed the Croom and Ballingarry players and supporters to Tipperary Town. Cappamore players and supporters made their own way.

A field, locally known as McGrath's, was the venue, although there is mention of a Frazer's Field too. The field was situated across the

stood up manfully to the Kilkenny charges. They eventually drew level and with the opposition failing to score in the second half the games went Limerick's way and they were crowned All-Ireland champions for the first time.

Jim Reidy had a fine game in goal and at the other end of the field it was Cappamore's John Hynes who scored the equalizing goal. This goal, from a placed ball, was to be taken by Sean Og Hanly, but he called on Hynes - a good decision in hindsight. Late points from Brazill and Condon sealed it. It was Pat Mulcahy who flashed over the opening Limerick points, although it was Kilkenny who claimed the first score. Flood stemmed a dangerous rush, but the Leinster champions rammed home a goal.

The Limerick goalmouth continued to be peppered and at half time

each end of the field without cross-bars. Goals were awarded when the ball passed through the centre pair and points when the ball passed through the outside pair.

The teams togged out at nearby fences and kept spectators were kept from encroaching on the field by stewards armed with blackthorn sticks and ash plants.

Teams were 17-a-side and the hurleys were made from black sally, not ash - the sally allowed for more timber, particularly on the bos and pole, without increasing the weight. The pole was flat on the ground which helped the hurley to be more effective for ground strokes.

Kilfinane band paraded around the village when the newly-crowned champions returned home. The alcohol embargo, placed on the team in the weeks preceding the final was lifted and merriment engulfed the



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# Remember the last time?

Thirty-four year ago Limerick stunned defending All-Ireland champions Kilkenny at Croke Park. **Cormac Liddy** was there.

*Limerick Leader* - September 1973  
All-Ireland Hurling Final  
Limerick 1-21 Kilkenny 1-14  
At Croke Park, Dublin

SELDOM, if ever can a team of champions have been battered to such total submission as were Kilkenny in Sunday's superb All-Ireland senior hurling championship final.

A fantastic display thrilled thousands in what was surely one of the greatest sporting triumphs ever by any Limerick team in any code.

The blistering pace set - and maintained was a revelation as the side tore Kilkenny to shreds.

The ecstatic scenes at the finish were fitting evidence that Limerick were champions once again.

That it had taken thirty-three years to regain the title made success all the sweeter. It was an occasion that will be remembered for every by thousands who could hardly have anticipated such a classical performance in such conditions.

Mist and rain could have ruined the game. But Limerick, principally, and Kilkenny also by their total dedication and skill made the thousands forget that they were drenched as they provided all the skills which makes hurling the greatest game in the world.

This surely was a performance that stunned many by its brilliance.

Granted there were times when a great deal of messing and miss-hitting was given by both sides. But taken overall this was a superb final and Limerick were worthy champions.

Kilkenny, too, deserve great credit for playing their parts in making the game such a classic. Many other champions would have resorted to destructive tactics when their game came crashing down, and Kilkenny to their great credit battled as skilfully as they were allowed right up to the end.

They proved once again that when it comes to sportsmanship they are tops. But this was Limerick's day and the thousands who had waited so long for the opportunity, left all and sundry know how they felt about being champion once again. Delirious scenes marked the finish as thousands raced on to the field to roar approval for a magnificent win.

Players, who seemed supermen only minutes before were thrown into the air like confetti by their delighted supporters and it was a considerable time before team captain Eamonn Grimes was able to receive the McCarthy Cup from GAA President, Dr Donal Keenan.

When he did so, the thousands went wild all over again in what must surely have been one of the most exciting victory scenes ever witnessed at the venue.

There were many who had dreamed and hoped for a Limerick win, but even the most confident could hardly have bargained for such a convincing win.

Once in action, Limerick sparkled. From the very throw-in the team were into

their stride and when Frankie Nolan shot the opening point after little over a minutes, the stage was set for the great things that were to follow.

Selectors, oft maligned and criticised, this time must take credit for this glorious triumph.

They gambled in converted Eamonn Rea from a full back into a superb full forward... they risked criticism too, for taking Eamonn Cregan from the attack, the Claughaun man turned in a superb display at centre back.

By the interval, Limerick had edged into a two points lead.

Five minutes after the resumption the advantage was gone and a minute later Kilkenny were back in front again.

There were many who wrote off Limerick's chances then.

The early flutter of action... the slamming over of some of the finest scores ever seen at Croke Park or anywhere else... seemed as if it were all in vein as Kilkenny cut loose.

Kilkenny had hardly time to realise that they had drawn level when they were rocked utterly by a Limerick goal that Mossy Dowling at least three times attempted to hit before finally working it over the line... with the considerable help of Eamonn Rea, who hustled and hustled and generally spread-eagled the panicking Kilkenny defence.

When all is said and done, who is likely to forget the all-round brilliance of red-haired Richie Bennis.

This truly was his day... the match in which he stamped his claim as being what I described him some few short years ago... 'The Mackey of the Seventies.'

Some of his scores were incredible. In such atrocious conditions, it was amazing and breathtaking how he managed all those scores.

For thousands, the display of corner back Jim O'Brien, will be the highlight. He was rampant and completely the master of Mick Crotty, one of the games greatest corner attackers of the present time.

Those who had advocated ground hurling as a formula for Limerick success must have been even more delighted than others. This time the team played more of the typical Limerick brand of hurling and that the county are the champions now can in a big way be attributed to this tactic.

**Limerick:** Seamus Horgan, Wille Moore, Pat Hartigan, Jim O'Brien, Phil Bennis, Eamonn Cregan, Sean Foley, Richie Bennis, Eamon Grimes, Bernie Hartigan, Mossie Dowling, Liam O'Donoghue, Frankie Nolan, Eamon Rea, Joe McKenna. Sub: Tom Ryan for B. Hartigan.

**Kilkenny:** Noel Skehan, Fran Larkin, Nicky Orr, Phil Cullen, Pat Lawlor, Pat Henderson, Brian Cody, Frank Cummins, Liam O'Brien, Claus Dunne, Pat Delaney, Paddy Broderick, Mick Crotty, Jim Lynch, Mick Brennan, Subs: Kieran Purcell, William Harte, John Kinsella. Referee: M. Slattery (Clare).



Limerick - the 1973 All-Ireland hurling champions.



The legendary Mick Mackey.

# The greatest of them all

Before Ollie Moran's emergence centre-forward had proven a troublesome position to fill. That's an ironic situation considering that Limerick spawned the greatest of them all - Mick Mackey. Here the Limerick Leader's **Camán** celebrates that great Ahane man.

**Limerick Leader, Saturday, December 23, 1961**

The announcement that Mick Mackey has been voted the greatest hurler of all time, and his nomination to the Caltex Hall of Fame, is a wonderful Christmas gift for Limerick hurling and one that should prove of much encouragement in the fight-back for hurling fame in which the county is deeply immersed at the moment.

This latest distinction is one that Mick richly deserves and is the crowning achievement of one that was undoubtedly the most colourful hurling personality the game has known.

Mick Mackey won everything worth winning on the hurling field, for in addition to the many grand trophies to his name, he won the love, respect and admiration of Gaelic Ireland as a true sportsman in the broadest sense of the term, and one that was never in the slightest degree affected by the acclamation of his admirers or the criticism of the opposing forces, who could not be expected to relish seeing some of their best playing second fiddle to the wonder boy from Castleconnell.

There were occasions, few in number be it said, when Mick met his master, but he had a trick up his sleeve for the best of them, so any triumph they gained was a temporary one.

His deeds on the field gained for Mick Mackey the title 'King of Hurlers' and no crowned head

had better credentials for this title than the same Mick.

It is an undisputed fact that that no other hurling hero has a background half so glamorous, half so appetising to the lovers of hurling tradition as that of the Ahane and Limerick star of the 30s.

John Mackey - better known as 'Tyler' - was, in his day, one of Ireland's best known hurlers and he is, of course, the father of Mick Mackey. Mick Mackey's solo runs became famous, but it was 'Tyler' who originated this spectacular method of breaking through for a score. Dash and daring were the outstanding characteristics of the man whose personal courage was never in question as he collected the ball around midfield, danced through a few opponents, cut another from his path with a turn of his shoulder, put the most venture-some over the sideline with a power-packed charge and slapped the leather in the goal-mouth for a spectacular score. A man must be judged by company and none can doubt that 'Tyler' shone against some of the greatest men hurling has known. He often walked dozens of miles to play championship games; togged off at the side of a ditch (even for a Munster Final), played in his bare feet and afterwards walked home.

The Castleconnell man lived for the game and put his heart and soul into playing. A born leader, he captained Limerick to two All-Ireland finals and

through many stirring campaigns. His robust style and directness in attack often gave the impression of roughness, but those who hurled with or against him bear testimony to a gentle and generous nature.

'Tyler' got more hard knocks than he gave and it's characteristic to him that he was able to take them with a smile. He revelled in the hard going and I believe that if those knocks were missing the game would not have held the same attraction for him.

'Tyler' Mackey had four brothers - Paddy, Timmy, Michael and Anthony - all of them hurlers in the best tradition for Castleconnell. Mick was the oldest and was born 49 years ago. His first game in the Ahane colours was on a notable occasion on September 9, 1928: the opening of the Limerick Grounds. The first appearance together of the brothers John and Mick Mackey on an Ahane team took place on August 4, 1929 when they helped in the defeat of the Patrickswell minors.

The following Sunday both wore the county jersey for the first time when they lined out against Waterford in Dungarvan in the opening round of the Munster championship.

Mick was selected to play for Limerick in the 1930 Munster Junior Hurling Championship. They drew with Tipperary at Clonmel, but lost the replay.

Mick's first senior game was against Kilkenny in the National Hurling League at the Gaelic

Grounds on November 16, 1930 which the Noresiders won 3-4 to 0-3. On October 4, 1931 Ahane won the first of their 15 senior crowns.

Limerick lost the 1932 National Hurling League Final to Kilkenny - Mick's first introduction to big time hurling. Although beaten that day Limerick later won five National Leagues in a row.

Mick Mackey's first All-Ireland final was against Kilkenny in 1933. That was the famous game won for Kilkenny by Johnny Dunne's wonder goal.

John Rochford, the noted Kilkenny hurler was so impressed with Limerick that he said after the match: "I don't know how that Limerick team was beaten. It's the best team I ever saw coming out of Munster".

For the fourth year in succession Limerick won Munster hurling honours in 1936 beating Tipperary 8-5 to 4-6.

One of the greatest tributes I ever heard paid to Mick Mackey was also one of the shortest. The speaker was Ned Maher, of Tubberdora, goalkeeper of the Tipperary All-Ireland winning teams of 1895, 1896 and 1898: "Mick Mackey was the greatest hurler ever and I saw them all".

Ireland's leading sporting journalists have now confirmed that verdict and this Christmas weekend the toast wherever hurling enthusiasts meet will be: "Long may he reign - Mick Mackey, the greatest hurler of them all".

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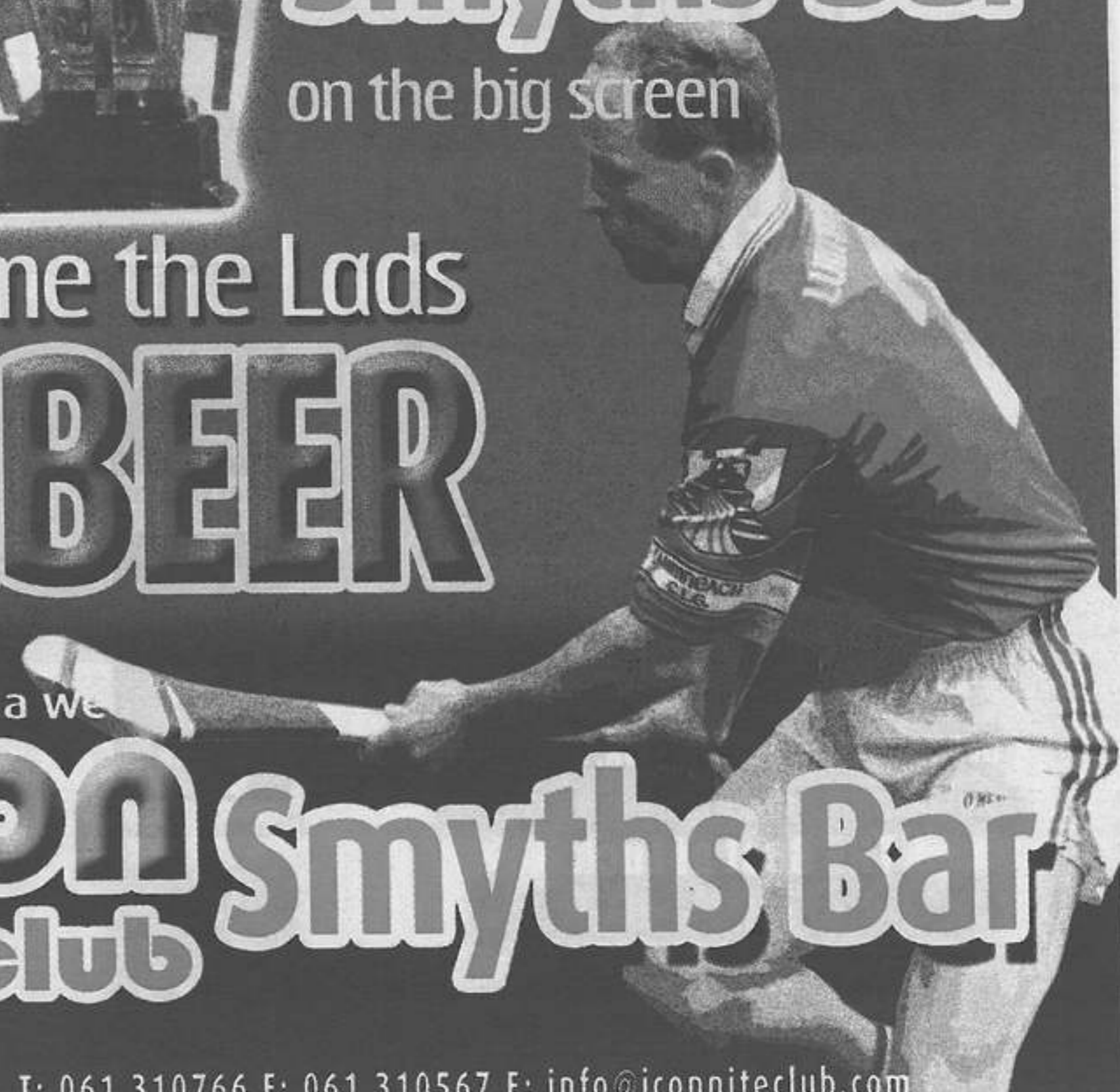
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# A renowned hurling nursery

Colm Kinsella paid a visit to Limerick CBS, the city school which has nurtured so many inter-county stars.

WALK upstairs in Limerick CBS and the familiar faces stare out at you. Some are in black and white, others in colour.

The walls are a shrine to the past pupils of the Sexton Street educational institution, who found fame on the sports fields of Ireland and beyond.

Pretty much since it opened its doors for the first time in 1829, Limerick CBS has been a renowned sporting nursery.

Coliste Mhuil was a haven where budding young hurlers honed their skills. Six members of Limerick's last All-Ireland winning side of 1973 were educated at 'Sextons'.

A sizeable portion of Limerick's Munster and All-Ireland senior-winning side of 1984 received their second level education at the school as did a healthy number of Limerick's Munster and All-Ireland U-21 winning teams of 2000, 2001 and 2002.

But CBS was the alma mater of a significant number of stars from other sports.

Hughy legends Tom Clifford, Paddy Reid, Brian Spillane and Niall O'Donovan attended the school as did several soccer internationals of more recent vintage, including Willie Ireland, Brian O'Callaghan and Conor Kennaway.

The diverse nature of sporting activity within Limerick is reflected in CBS' proud history.

Back in the 1800s and 1900s, Limerick CBS claimed four Munster Schools Senior Cup rugby titles. At one stage in the 1920s, the school were kings of rugby and hurling within Munster.

Outside of Limerick 'Sextons' is best known as a school where hurling enjoyed top status. But it wasn't



The Limerick CBS Dr. Harty Cup team of 1984 - front row from left: P. Foley, J. O'Grady, B. O'Mara, L. O'Connor, A. Corneely, R. Fitzgerald, P. Donnelly, D. Nash. Back row from left: P. Davoren, G. Hegarty, J. Fitzgerald, V. Murnane, P. Mulqueen, S. Enright, G. Ryan.

always the case, according to school principal, Noel Earlin.

"Hurling would have been the dominant sport for many years alright," Noel Earlin said.

"But in the late 1920s and into the '30s we were very strong at rugby. At one time (1925) we held both the

Munster Schools Senior Cup in rugby and the Dr. Harty Cup in hurling.

"That must have been unique.

"In the 1990s soccer came to the fore and we won two All-Ireland titles in 1994 and '96. And earlier this year we bridged that gap and won the All-Ireland senior soccer title for a third

time.

"While hurling would probably been number one over the history of the school we had many pupils who played for their country at rugby, soccer, squash and golf.

"They include the likes of the great Tom Clifford, Paddy Reid, Brian

Spillane, Tom Turner, Niall O'Donovan, Pat Cross, Francis Broonahan and Pat Collier, the former South of Ireland golf champion.

"Currently we have 320 students, not as many as previously but there are more schools now and the demographics have changed.

"The profile of the students has changed as a result. We don't have as many rural-based students as before.

"But there is still a rural input and we welcome that.

"We have the balance very important.

Limerick CBS have been the most successful of the local schools in the Dr. Harty Cup, Munster Colleges' premier competition.

CBS have captured the title on 18 occasions and were the last side from Limerick to win the Harty Cup in 1981.

The Sexton Street side added two Croke Cups, All-Ireland senior colleges' hurling titles, to their collection in both 1964 and '96.

"We have two All-Ireland finals in 1964 and '96.

"On the Limerick 1973 team we had six past pupils, the two Hartigans, Pat and Dennis, Eamonn Grogan, James Gorman, Sean Foley and Liam O'Donoghue," Noel Earlin said.

"The team was trained by Mick Grogan, Eamonn's brother, who was also a past pupil of the school.

"When you go back to our 1964 team, not alone did they come from the city and Limerick county but they came from Tipperary with Noel O'Garra and Seamus Shinnors from Newport and from Co. Clare as well.

"But we were THE hurling school in the entire catchment area. The hurling was a huge attraction.

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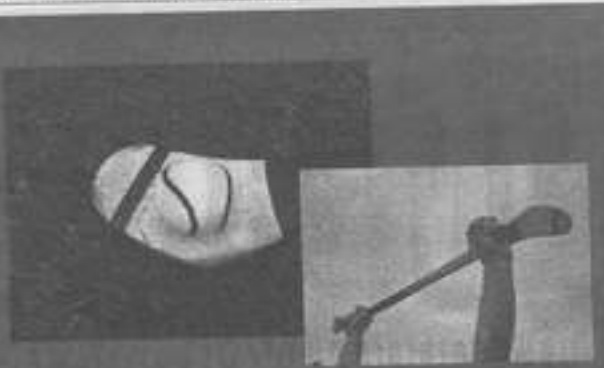
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## Be passionate.

Good luck to the Limerick Hurling team from the team in AIB Limerick.



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"Then the Christian Brothers put in such time and effort, the likes of Br Hanniffy, Willie Moore and Pat Fleury, men who have given a great deal to the school.

"The players on the successful sides of that era played very little sports other than hurling. But the ban was still in place then.

"Perhaps some of them played other sports undercover, but predominantly they were hurlers

"The memories I would have of being a primary school pupil at the time, '64 and '66, would be going away with bus loads and train loads to the various matches, whether in Croke Park, Birr, Nenagh or Newmarket-on-Fergus. The whole Limerick population following us. There were 15,000 to 20,000 at games. It was tremendous.

"Of course Limerick were starved at success at senior level, so CBS filled a void.

"They were the flag bearers of Limerick hurling. It was a wonderful time in the school. You were auto-graph hunting. After all when you are 12 years of age a guy 17 or 18 is an old man. The song competitions and hat competitions were in full swing. It made for a terrific buzz.

"The students came from a wide catchment area, out around the Ahane, Castleconnell area, Newport, Cratloe, Patrickswell, Adare and Ballybrown. We don't have as many from there now.

It's no reflection on the school. There is a greater choice of school today and there are more schools located closer to them. CBS had the hurling field to themselves back then.

"Our last Harty Cup final win was in 1993. We were beaten in the 1984 final by Farranferris after a replay. That side included 11 members of the Limerick panel who went on to win Munster and All-Ireland minor medals the same year. They included the likes of Ger Hegarty, Leo O'Connor, Gus Ryan, Andy Cunneen, Declan Nash, Pat Davoren, Tony Carmody, John Fitzgerald, Val Murnane.

"And that same bunch of players

went on to have success with the Limerick U-21s in 1987.

"On the Limerick three-in-a-row All-Ireland U-21 winning sides of 2000, 2001 and 2002 we were also well represented with the likes of the Tobins, Kevin and Pat, Sean O'Connor, Timmy Houlihan, Willie Walsh and Mark Keane."

After the school's senior side fell on lean times in the Dr Harty Cup in recent years, the decision was taken to withdraw from the competition.

It wasn't an easy one to make, according to Noel Earlie.

But up to half a dozen players from CBS have been getting the chance to compete in the Harty Cup through the amalgamated Limerick Colleges side.

"It would be my fervent wish to see the profile of hurling within the school rise again," Noel Earlie said.

"You only have to look around the walls here to see how we embrace all sports in the school. But hurling has such a tradition here in CBS that we would dearly love to see back in a manner which would allow us become serious Harty cup con-

tenders once again.

"Of the current Limerick senior hurling squad, Sean O'Connor, Barry Foley and Pat and Kevin Tobin are past pupils of the school.

"We can also lay claim to Mark Foley he was here up until the Junior Cert when his dad became principal of St Clement's and he, understandably, transferred over.

"But Mark still has a great affinity with CBS. Players like himself and Ollie Moran have been great servants of Limerick hurling.

"People like Mark and Ollie

deserve All-Ireland medals more than anyone.

The circumstance of the All-Ireland final defeats in 1994 and '96 were so catastrophic for Limerick. People would say we had the '94 final against Offaly won. I suppose there was never a game before or since to prove that a final is never won until the final whistle sounds.

A current 15 year old would only have been four years of age when Limerick were last in an All-Ireland final. So they could only remember very little of it."



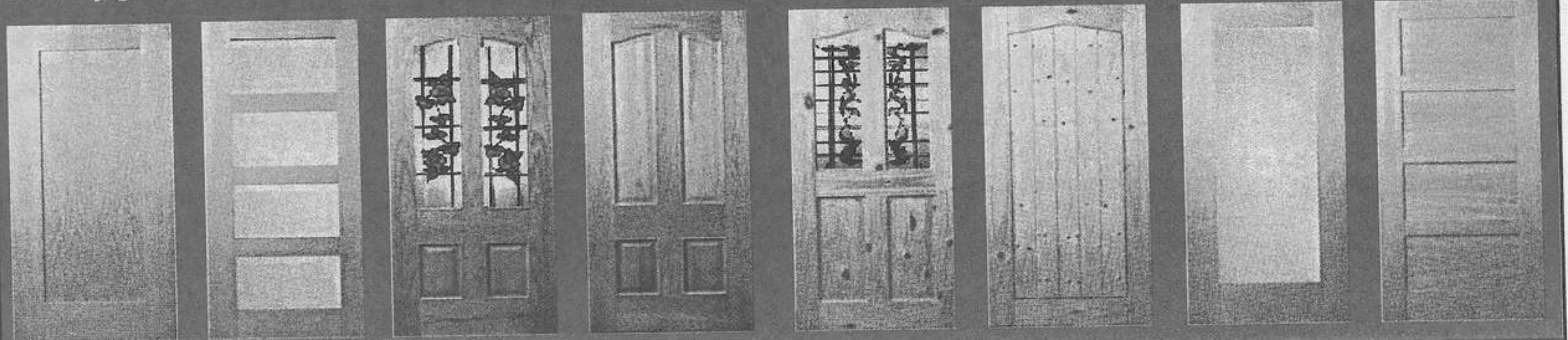
Eamonn Cregan holds the Croke Cup aloft after Limerick CBS's All-Ireland success in 1964 at Croke Park.

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10. LIMERICK LEADER ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINAL SPECIAL



This year's All-Ireland hurling final sees two of the Army's finest sportsmen take to the field of battle in Croke Park. Pictured above are Army sharpshooters Lieutenant Andrew O'Shaughnessy (Limerick) and Private Eoin Larkin (Kilkenny) who will be fighting it out on opposing sides in Croke Park when the sides clash next Sunday.

Maxpix

**Limerick's Ten-Year Record**

1997	Limerick 2-20 Waterford 1-17
	Limerick 0-13 Tipperary 1-20
1998	Limerick 3-11 Cork 1-20
1999	Limerick 1-15 Waterford 1-16
2000	Limerick 1-11 Cork 2-17
2001	Limerick 1-16 Cork 1-15
	Limerick 4-11 Waterford 2-14
	Limerick 1-17 Tipperary 2-16
	Limerick 2-15 Wexford 4-10
2002	Limerick 1-13 Tipp 1-20
	Limerick 1-15 Cork 1-16
2003	Limerick 0-13 Waterford 1-12
	Limerick 0-24 Kerry 1-14
	Limerick 0-14 Offaly 1-18
2004	Limerick 2-12 Cork 1-18
	Limerick 2-12 Tipperary 3-10
2005	Limerick 2-14 Tipperary 2-14
	Limerick 0-18 Tipperary 2-13
	Limerick 4-15 Antrim 1-9
	Limerick 2-15 Laois 1-9
	Limerick 2-14 Galway 1-18
	Limerick 0-13 Kilkenny 0-18
2006	Limerick 2-12 Tipperary 0-22
	Limerick 0-10 Clare 2-21
	Limerick 2-29 Offaly 2-19
	Limerick 2-16 Dublin 1-13
	Limerick 0-18 Cork 0-19
2007	Limerick 1-19 Tipperary 1-19

Limerick 1-24 Tipperary 2-21
Limerick 0-22 Tipperary 2-13
Limerick 1-14 Waterford 3-17
Limerick 1-23 Clare 1-16
Limerick 5-11 Waterford 2-15

**Kilkenny's Ten-Year Record**

1997	Kilkenny 2-20 Dublin 2-13
	Kilkenny 1-11 Wexford 2-14
	Kilkenny 4-15 Galway 3-16
	Kilkenny 1-13 Clare 1-17
1998	Kilkenny 4-23 Dublin 0-14
	Kilkenny 3-11 Laois 1-14
	Kilkenny 3-10 Offaly 1-11
	Kilkenny 1-11 Waterford 1-10
	Kilkenny 1-13 Offaly 2-16
1999	Kilkenny 6-21 Laois 1-14
	Kilkenny 5-14 Offaly 1-16
	Kilkenny 2-14 Clare 1-13
	Kilkenny 0-12 Cork 0-13
2000	Kilkenny 3-16 Dublin 0-10
	Kilkenny 2-21 Offaly 1-13
	Kilkenny 2-17 Galway 0-17
	Kilkenny 5-15 Offaly 1-14
2001	Kilkenny 3-21 Offaly 0-18
	Kilkenny 2-19 Wexford 0-12
	Kilkenny 1-13 Galway 2-15
2002	Kilkenny 3-21 Offaly 0-18
	Kilkenny 2-19 Wexford 0-12

2003	Kilkenny 1-20 Tipperary 1-18
	Kilkenny 1-20 Clare 0-18
	Kilkenny 3-16 Dublin 0-10
	Kilkenny 2-23 Wexford 2-12
	Kilkenny 3-18 Tipperary 0-15
	Kilkenny 1-14 Cork 1-11
2004	Kilkenny 1-16 Wexford 2-15
	Kilkenny 4-20 Galway 1-10
	Kilkenny 1-13 Clare 1-13
	Kilkenny 1-11 Clare 0-9
	Kilkenny 3-12 Waterford 0-18
	Kilkenny 0-9 Cork 0-17
2005	Kilkenny 6-28 Offaly 0-15
	Kilkenny 0-22 Wexford 1-16
	Kilkenny 0-18 Limerick 0-13
	Kilkenny 4-18 Galway 5-16
2006	Kilkenny 1-23 Westmeath 1-9
	Kilkenny 1-23 Wexford 2-12
	Kilkenny 2-22 Galway 3-14
	Kilkenny 2-21 Clare 1-16
	Kilkenny 1-16 Cork 1-13
2007	Kilkenny 1-27 Offaly 1-13
	Kilkenny 2-24 Wexford 1-12
	Kilkenny 3-22 Galway 1-18
	Kilkenny 0-23 Wexford 1-10

**Ten-Year Records Compared**

	P	W	D	L
Limerick	33	11	3	19
Kilkenny	47	38	1	8

**Limerick in All-Ireland Finals**

1897	Kilfinane 3-3 Tullaroan 2-4
1910	Castlebridge 7-0 Castleconnell 6-2
1921	Limerick 8-5 Dublin 3-2
1923	Galway 7-3 Limerick 4-5
1933	Kilkenny 1-7 Limerick 0-6
1934	Limerick 5-2 Dublin 2-6
1935	Kilkenny 2-5 Limerick 2-4
1936	Limerick 5-6 Kilkenny 1-5
1940	Limerick 3-7 Kilkenny 1-7
1973	Limerick 1-21 Kilkenny 1-14
1974	Kilkenny 3-19 Limerick 1-13
1980	Galway 2-15 Limerick 3-9
1994	Offaly 3-16 Limerick 2-13
1996	Wexford 1-13 Limerick 0-14

1909	Mooncoin 4-6 Thurles 0-12
1911	Kilkenny 3-3 Tipperary 2-1
1912	Tullaroan 2-1 Blackrock 1-3
1913	Mooncoin 2-4 Toomevara 1-2
1916	Boherlahan 5-4 Tullaroan 3-2
1922	Kilkenny 4-2 Tipperary 2-6
1926	Cork 4-6 Kilkenny 2-0
1931	Cork 5-8 Kilkenny 3-4
1932	Kilkenny 3-3 Clare 2-3
1933	Kilkenny 1-7 Limerick 0-6
1935	Kilkenny 2-5 Limerick 2-4
1936	Limerick 5-6 Kilkenny 1-5
1937	Tipperary 3-11 Kilkenny 0-3
1939	Kilkenny 2-7 Cork 3-3
1940	Limerick 3-7 Kilkenny 1-7
1945	Tipperary 5-6 Kilkenny 3-6
1946	Cork 7-5 Kilkenny 3-8
1947	Kilkenny 0-14 Cork 2-7
1950	Tipperary 1-9 Kilkenny 1-8
1957	Kilkenny 4-10 Waterford 3-12
1959	Waterford 3-12 Kilkenny 1-10
1963	Kilkenny 4-17 Waterford 6-8
1964	Tipperary 5-13 Kilkenny 2-8
1966	Cork 3-9 Kilkenny 1-10
1967	Kilkenny 3-8 Tipperary 2-7
1969	Kilkenny 2-15 Cork 2-9

1971	Tipperary 5-17 Kilkenny 5-14
1972	Kilkenny 3-24 Cork 5-11
1973	Limerick 1-21 Kilkenny 1-14
1974	Kilkenny 3-19 Limerick 1-13
1975	Kilkenny 2-22 Galway 2-10
1978	Cork 1-15 Kilkenny 2-8
1979	Kilkenny 2-12 Galway 1-8
1982	Kilkenny 3-18 Cork 1-13
1983	Kilkenny 2-14 Cork 2-12
1987	Galway 1-12 Kilkenny 0-9
1991	Tipperary 1-16 Kilkenny 0-15
1992	Kilkenny 2-13 Cork 1-12
1993	Kilkenny 2-17 Galway 1-15
1998	Offaly 2-16 Kilkenny 1-13
1999	Cork 0-13 Kilkenny 0-12
2000	Kilkenny 5-15 Offaly 1-14
2002	Kilkenny 2-20 Clare 0-19
2003	Kilkenny 1-14 Cork 1-11
2004	Cork 0-17 Kilkenny 0-9
2006	Kilkenny 1-16 Cork 1-13

**Kilkenny in All-Ireland Finals**

1893	Blackrock 6-8 Confederation 0-2
1895	Tubberadora 6-8 Tullaroan
1897	Kilfinane 3-3 Tullaroan 2-4
1898	Tubberad'a 7-13 Three Castles 3-10
1904	Tullaroan 1-9 St. Finbarr's 1-8
1905	Erin's Own 7-7 St. Finbarr's 2-9
1907	Mooncoin 3-12 Dungourney 4-8

**Final Records Compared**

	P	W	L
Limerick	14	6	8
Kilkenny	53	29	24

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*Wishing the Limerick hurlers every success in the All-Ireland final*



The 1934 All-Ireland hurling champions - Limerick beat Dublin in the final 5-2 to 2-6.

Archival photo courtesy of Sean Curtin.

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# The pain of a paradise lost

During the '90s Limerick lost two All-Ireland finals to Offaly and Wexford, **Aidan Corr** was there to take it all in.

THE losers' dressingroom on All-Ireland hurling final day is one of the worst places on earth.

On two occasions I have experienced the awful atmosphere that threatens to tear you apart and reduces grown men to tears.

Those memories still hurt badly 13 years later.

Ironically, it was Limerickman Eamonn Cregan who plotted Limerick's downfall in the 1994 decider with Offaly snatching victory from the grasp of the Shannonsiders in the final minutes.

"Mr Corr," said the then Limerick Leader sports editor Cormac Liddy to me as the boys in green raced into a seven point lead, "I think we are going to be part of Limerick hurling history."

A few pinches of snuff later it was all over and they celebrated in Birr, Tullamore and every other hurling corner of the Faithful County for almost a month.

On the way down to the Limerick dressingroom after the match I stood back to allow the jubilant Offaly boys through with the McCarthy Cup. I shook hands with Cregan whose mixed emotions were obvious.

"Will you do me a favour?" he asked. "Will you come into the Limerick dressingroom with me. This is going to be difficult."

I agreed and after a gentle tap on the door of a silent dressing area we went into an atmosphere that resembled a funeral parlour following a major family tragedy.

Even before we made eye contact with the players you could hear the sobbing. Mentors, a handful of county board officials and a lone

supporter whom I swear I also saw in the Dalymount Park dressingroom when Limerick AFC won the FAI Cup for the first time in 1971, kept silent watch.

Eamonn cut his oration short but it did not dissolve the lump in his throat. This was always going to be a tricky situation for the former Limerick hurling great and no matter how the result of that final went he was always going to have mixed feelings. Cregan headed off to the winners' dressingroom mobbed on the way by jubilant Offaly men. For the thousands of green and white fans it was a long and sad journey home.

Two years later and Limerick were back in the All-Ireland final, again courtesy of another easy passage in the semi-final against Antrim. For manager Tom Ryan this was the moment but the rumbles coming from Liam Griffin's Wexford were threatening.

Not much went right for Limerick that afternoon. They broke away from the pre-match march before the Artane Boys' Band had turned to page two of their music score and Wexford held their discipline for the rest of the day's entertainment. Even when the Martin Storey-led Leinster champions had a player sent off Limerick failed to show the benefit of the extra man.

The Slaneysiders took the honours despite a spirited final few minutes from Limerick.

Losing two All-Ireland finals in two years was difficult to take for both the Limerick management and their supporters. The post-match flak flew in all directions

and some of it stuck. Fingers were pointed, accusations were made and it was going to be 11 years before Shannonside would reach another hurling decider on the first week-end of September.

This week the then Limerick manager Tom Ryan recalled his emotions of that time.

"I took over from Phil Bennis in 1993/94 after a disastrous defeat by Clare in Ennis.

"With Rory Kiely and Liam Lenihan we had to build almost a completely new team and we left no stone unturned in our preparation for the Munster Championship in 1994.

"Dave Mahedy played a major role in the training.

"I was mainly the hurling man, calling the shots for the tactics and for team selection. We beat Cork in the Gaelic Grounds and that set us on our way.

"Then we had a tough game against Waterford in Semple Stadium which we also won and we over-ran Clare in the final. Ger Hegarty was a key man for us as we reached the final with a good win over Antrim.

"Looking back on the 1994 All-Ireland final, it was a disaster. I felt more for the supporters that day than I did for myself.

"What happened in the latter stages of the game was that we changed our game plan at a time when we had the win within our grasp.

"We just got careless, we dropped our guard and we lost a seven point lead that we should never have conceded.

"My policy is that there is no use

in crying about a defeat, you just have to get on with it."

Asked about the 1996 defeat Tom Ryan said that losing to Wexford that day aggrieved him more than the defeat by Offaly two years previous.

"First of all the disallowed goal was a disgrace. If that happened today with all the action replays and better camera positions there would be a major furor.

"The performance of the officials that day also left a lot to be desired. What people fail to appreciate is that we pulled Limerick out of a very gloomy times.

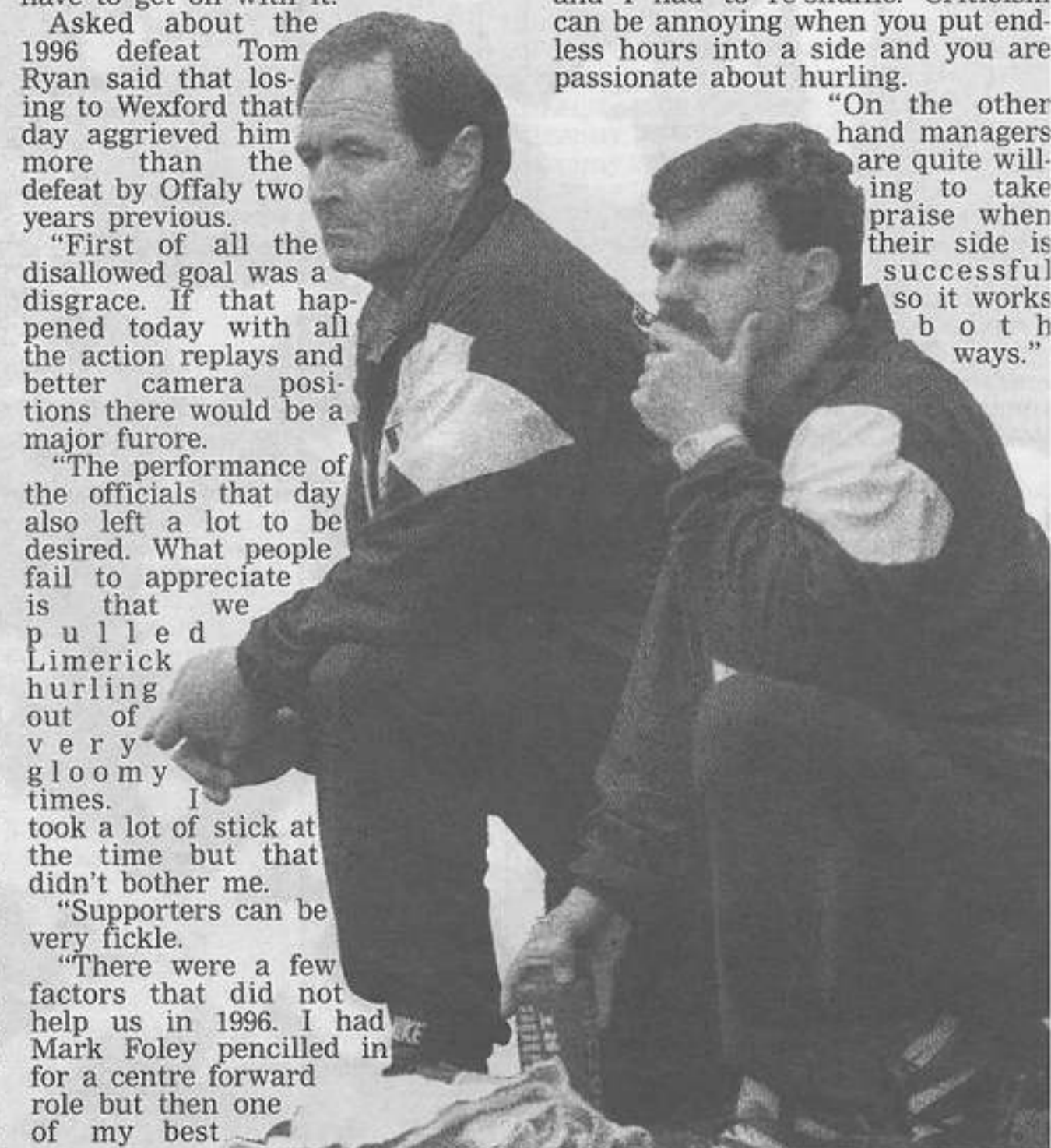
I took a lot of stick at the time but that didn't bother me.

"Supporters can be very fickle.

"There were a few factors that did not help us in 1996. I had Mark Foley pencilled in for a centre forward role but then one of my best

players, John Flavin, broke his leg and I had to re-shuffle. Criticism can be annoying when you put endless hours into a side and you are passionate about hurling.

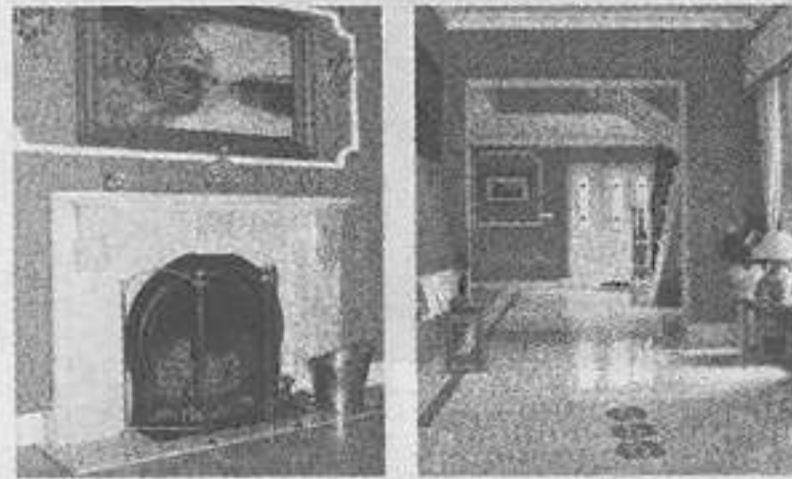
"On the other hand managers are quite willing to take praise when their side is successful so it works both ways."



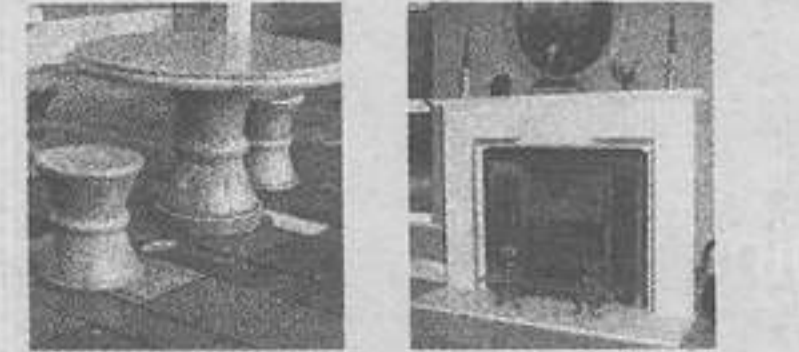
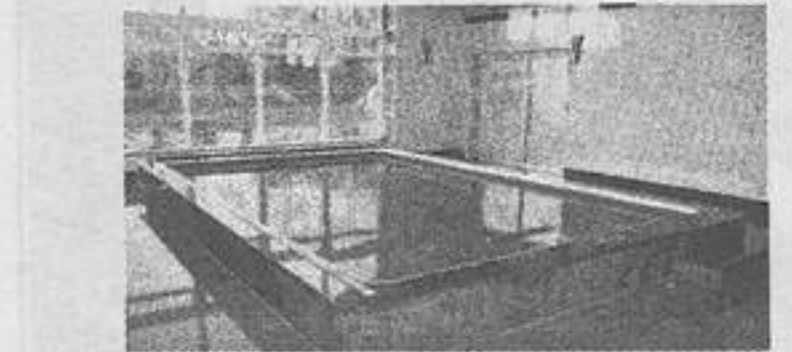
September 1, 1996: Tom Ryan (Limerick manager) and trainer Dave Mahedy watch Limerick take on Wexford in the All-Ireland final.

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Best Wishes to the **LIMERICK SENIOR HURLING TEAM**

Saturday, September 1, 2007.

"Richie Bennis was one of the best hurlers to come out of this county since Mick Mackey," former Limerick manager Tom Ryan claimed this week.

"One of my main regrets after a lifetime in the game is that I did not work with Richie at coaching level. I was one of three names put forward for the Limerick job last year when Joe McKenna stepped down but I have no regrets.

"I have the highest regard for the current Limerick coaching staff and they have certainly proved to be the right men for the job."

There are a number of qualities about this current Limerick hurling squad that add to the belief that they can win their first All-Ireland title since 1973.

Only one member of the side remains from that which lost to Wexford in the 1996 decider and, according to the then manager Tom Ryan, he could play a significant role in next Sunday's big game.

"Mark Foley would have played at centre-forward in 1996 only for circumstances beyond my control," Ryan told the Limerick Leader.

"John Flavin broke his leg and we had to re-shuffle and that proved costly. I would rate Mark Foley very highly and he has been inspirational during this campaign. A big game from him on Sunday would give Limerick the edge at that area of the field.

"Kilkenny have not yet been fully tested this season.

"They struggled for a bit against Galway and the two wins over Wexford never pushed them to the limit. From what I have seen this season Limerick are the only team in the championship who can cause them serious problems.

"There is a lot of psychology involved in hurling finals and Limerick will have the edge there. They will go into the game as outsiders, which will suit them, and the fact that Kilkenny have now taken on an 'unbeatable' tag will not be to the liking of Brian Coady."

While Kilkenny are aerial masters they can be vulnerable to the fast



One of the greats: surely Ciaran Carey deserved to win an All-Ireland medal, but he was denied on two occasions losing in the 1994 final to Offaly, while he also lost in the '96 decider to Wexford. Ciaran is pictured above shaking hands with Martin Storey before the throw-in in 1996.

ball on the ground, claims Ryan. "Limerick's policy must be to cut

down on conceding frees, do a man marking job on Sheflin and ensure

that space is not allowed in behind the defence for the Kilkenny preda-

tors. There is no denying that this is a great Kilkenny team but they have their weaknesses. Overall, this is a far superior Limerick team than we had in 1996.

"They play traditional hurling, they are physical and extremely fit and they know what they are up against.

"When I saw them beat Offaly last year in Tullamore in the play-offs I was impressed straight away.

"The manner in which they put Offaly away in the last ten minutes showed that confidence had returned to Limerick hurling and we have built from that game.

"This week is very important for the players.

"There is a danger that some of them might be thinking that they can walk on water now after beating a fancied Waterford.

"They should keep out of the lime-light and play down their chances. Inwardly they will know that they are equally as good as Kilkenny and if they get a rub of the green, like they did against Tipperary in the second drawn game, they could win it."

Tom Ryan claims that he was more disappointed after the 1996 defeat than losing to Offaly two years earlier: "I'm not one to dwell on a defeat, I move on.

"Reaching those two finals brought Limerick hurling back to the top of the ladder for four years. We had reached a level of serious competition.

"There was no back door in those days, every championship game you played was an All-Ireland final, there was no second day out.

"We watched a play-off game this year between Cork and Tipperary in Thurles and there was hardly a hurley broken in it. But that will change and will change very soon.

"I believe it will be a tight final. Possibly Kilkenny will come out on top at the end but only by a few points. There will not be a lot in it."

Tom told us that he is not yet out of the loop of club management: "I would not be able to live without hurling," he said.



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Best wishes to  
The Limerick  
Hurling Team



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and the Limerick Team  
in the All Ireland Final  
From John Cregan T.D.*

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John McNamara & Associates, Solicitors, 28 O'Curry Street, Limerick.

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Final

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# Final hit men

**Brian McDonnell** profiles two men who could make all the difference on All-Ireland hurling final day.

THEY must extract some pleasure from it; the freetakers chance to indulge the cessation of time itself; something akin to the baseball pitcher dawdling on the mound; savouring the moment before committing themselves to action. That's the lot of marksmen Henry Shefflin and Andrew O'Shaughnessy.

There's pressure of course, but there must be some pleasure to be gleamed there on the biggest of stages with every eye peeled on you waiting to see if you effect the necessary and raise a white flag.

Next weekend a lot will ride on the freetaking performance of both men.

It's hard not to feel some sympathy for Andrew O'Shaughnessy. Imagine he's still only 22, but at this stage he's a Limerick veteran.

He has two All-Ireland under-21 medals to call his own (one of which he won at 16) and amazingly he's in his sixth season as a senior since he was parachuted in by Eamon Cregan in an All-Ireland qualifier against Cork in 2002.

A lot has been expected of O'Shaughnessy for quite some time now with his introduction to the senior side at the age of 17 placing him in the 'much expected' category. Perhaps if Andrew had been born in Cork red and in Kilkenny stripes the transition would have been smoother. Limerick though had no option but to fire him in there and for a time he disappointed a little. Harsh assessments of the Kilmallock man no longer hold water; he's a man the Kilkenny backs will be watching closely; no greater compliment could ever be paid to a corner-forward. At the other end of the field Ballyhale's Henry Shefflin will warrant just as much attention.

The first introduction to Shefflin for those from outside Kilkenny came on Easter Sunday (1999) when Kilkenny faced Wexford in Nowlan Park. Noting what he contributed to the score board misses the point (1-3 from play), Shefflin was marking Ger Cushe, a move designed to carefully test the 19-year-old; but one which Shefflin passed - as Cushe guided the young Kilkenny forward toward the sideline under the old stand, Shefflin showed him the ball and flicked it over his head before charging for goal. It was nothing and it was something.

It's interesting to trace the career of the player; not in terms of the scores notched and medals accumulated but instead in terms of the lessons learned and where the soul of a player can be found, that moral courage of a player who's prepared to go for the crucial scores, win the hard possession and take the punishment. How many times has Tipperary's Nicky English emphasised that courage on the hurling field has nothing to do with giving a belt, but instead it has everything to do with being able to take one.

Wouldn't it be interesting to ask the man, what experience meant most to him in his formulation as a hurler and as a person?

Perhaps it was when Henry missed the frees which cost Kilkenny the game in the 1997 minor semi-final; maybe it was his battles with WIT in the Fitzgibbon cup; or when he stood one hand on his hip and the other leaning on his hurley as he listened to Mark Landers' acceptance speech (1999); or maybe it could have been his encounter with Gregory Kennedy (All-Ireland Semi-Final v Galway 2001) that finally made the man, for by the end of 2002 Henry was Hurler Of The Year and had carried a new Kilkenny team, built around him, to an All-Ireland.

Then again maybe a single painful memo-

ry cannot illustrate the development of a player but rather a sum of the parts, an accumulation. Although we may never be able to gauge Henry with the ultimate test - of carrying weak Kilkenny team - the necessity of such an argument originates from careful examination of how Henry approaches his play, and take advantage of his elusive qualities.

Often as Kilkenny move into attack he peels away, drifts and is allowed the comfort to do so by a team good enough to find him on a blind side run. Should Henry ever have to play in weak Kilkenny team he would not enjoy such luxury. Still though he and O'Shaughnessy are going to take some watching.

In the 1972 Olympics Miruts Yifter finished third in the 10,000m, but didn't make it to the starting line of his 5,000m heat, a contest for which he was hot favourite. The reason for the failure initially appeared a mystery until the inconsolable athlete was found deep in the belly of the stadium - some jealous 'hoor' had locked the Ethiopian in the toilets.

Although an unrealistic prospect it's about the only chance that the unfortunate souls who are detailed to mark these lethal men have to contain them.

**HEAD TO HEAD IN 2007**

O'Shaughnessy	Shefflin		
v Tipperary	0-6	v Offaly	0-12
v Tipperary	0-6		
v Tipperary	0-6		
v Waterford	0-3	v Wexford	0-9
v Clare	0-11	v Galway	0-7
v Waterford	2-7	v Wexford	0-14
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2-39</b>		<b>0-42</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>0-8</b>		<b>0-10</b>



**Deadly:** Kilkenny's Henry Shefflin already has 42 points to his name in 2007.

# On the mark in 2007



OPPOSITION	LIT	TIP	GAL	KIL	DUB	ANT	OFF	LAO	TIP	TIP	TIP	WAT	CLA	WAT	TOTAL
Andrew O'Shaughnessy	0-2	1-8	0-3	0-5	0-4	0-7	1-4	2-8	0-6	0-6	0-6	0-3	0-11	2-7	6-80
Ollie Moran	0-0	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-3	0-1	1-3	1-0	0-5	0-5	0-3	0-1	0-1	0-2	3-25
Sean O'Connor	0-2	0-0	1-1	0-0	1-0	3-0	2-3	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	7-8
Barry Foley	0-2	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	1-4	2-0	0-1	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	3-12
Mike Fitzgerald	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	1-3	0-2	0-3	0-4	0-0	1-17
Niall Moran	0-0	0-2	0-0	0-4	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-1	0-2	0-3	0-5	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-18
Donie Ryan	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-2	2-0	3-5
Brian Geary	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-4	0-0	0-0	0-2	0-3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-11
Mike O'Brien	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-2	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-10
Brian Begley	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-2	0-0	1-0	2-4
Pat Tobin	0-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	1-7
Kevin Tobin	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-2	0-0	0-9
James O'Brien	0-0	0-0	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-1	0-8
Donal O'Grady	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-6
Eoin Foley	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-2	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-2
Peter Lawlor	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1
Conor Fitzgerald	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1
Hugh Flavin	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1
Mark Foley	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0-12</b>	<b>2-13</b>	<b>1-9</b>	<b>0-12</b>	<b>1-15</b>	<b>4-17</b>	<b>6-20</b>	<b>3-15</b>	<b>1-19</b>	<b>1-24</b>	<b>0-22</b>	<b>1-14</b>	<b>1-23</b>	<b>5-11</b>	<b>26-226</b>

**Danger here: if Andrew O'Shaughnessy isn't careful he could end up the top scorer in the 2007 championship.**

## Scoring honours within Shaughs reach

ANDREW O'Shaughnessy (Limerick) and Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny) are all set for a head-to-head shoot-out in the Guinness All-Ireland hurling final to decide who tops the '07 scoring charts.

Offaly's Damien Murray currently leads the way on 3-39, three points ahead of O'Shaughnessy and five clear of Shefflin. However, Murray's campaign is over whereas the other two will be gunning for big returns in the All-Ireland final. Shefflin has accumulated his 0-43 total from four games whereas O'Shaughnessy's 2-39 has come from six games. He was actually lying in 9th place prior to the All-Ireland semi-final against Limerick where he scored 2-7 to send him zooming up the rankings.

Shefflin is bidding to top the charts for the third time in four seasons having also finished on top in 2004 (6-45) and last year (2-47).

### 2007 Leading Scorers

Player	Total
Damien Murray (Offaly)	3-39
Andrew O'Shaughnessy (Lim)	2-39
Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)	0-43
Eoin Kelly (Tipperary)	1-38
James Young (Laois)	2-32
Dan Shanahan (Waterford)	8-12

The top marksmen in the hurling championships for the past 10 years:

2006 Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)	2-47
2005 Ger Farragher (Galway)	3-57
2004 Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)	6-45
2003 Joe Deane (Cork)	4-29
2002 Eoin Kelly (Tipperary)	2-39
2001 Eugene Cloonan (Galway)	5-25
2000 Johnny Dooley (Offaly)	0-41
1999 Joe Deane (Cork) & Henry Shefflin (Kilkenny)	1-24
1998 John Troy (Offaly)	2-31
1997 DJ Carey (Kilkenny)	4-22

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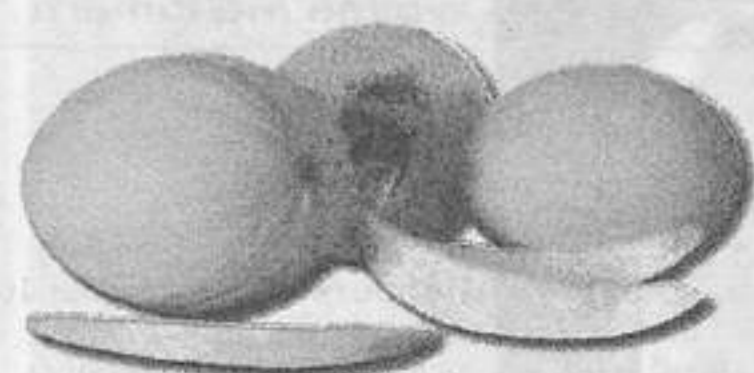
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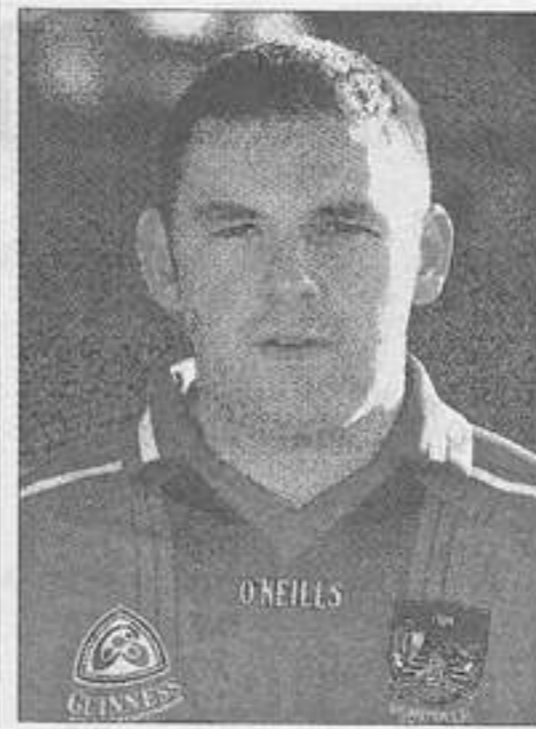
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Hurling 2006



**Brian Begley**

Age: 27  
 Club: Mungret  
 Height: 6'5"  
 Weight: 16 stone  
 Occup.: Garda  
 Honours: All-Ireland Under-21 Hurling, Munster Under-21 Hurling & Football, All-Ireland B Hurling Colleges, County Intermediate Football & County Junior A Hurling.



**Eoin Foley**

Age: 25  
 Club: Patrickswell  
 Height: 5'11"  
 Weight: 14 stone  
 Occup.: Security Sales  
 Honours: Two Munster & All-Ireland Under-21 Hurling, Two County Minor Hurling, Three County Senior Hurling, County Junior A Hurling & Seven Under-21 Divisional.



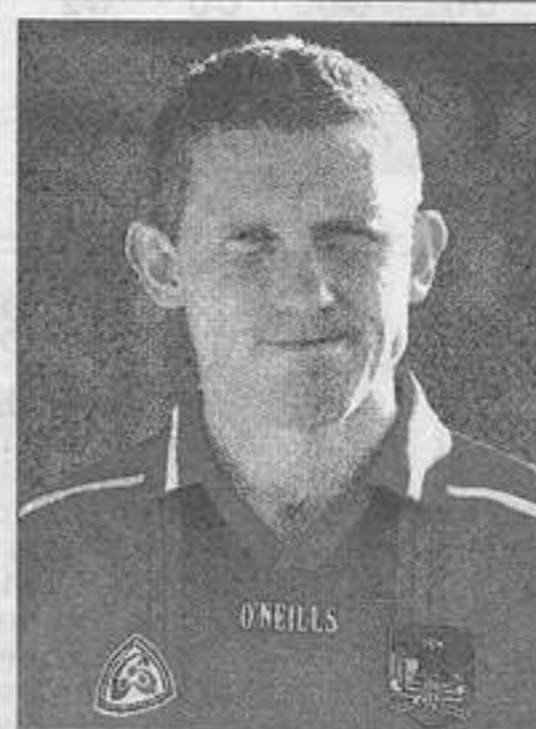
**Stephen Lucey**

Age: 27  
 Club: Croom  
 Height: 6'2"  
 Weight: 14 stone 2  
 Occup.: Medical Doctor  
 Honours: Two Under-21 Munster & All-Ireland Hurling, Under-21 Munster Football, Fitzgibbon Cup, Three McGrath Cup, Two County Minor Hurling, County Under-21 Hurling, County Intermediate Hurling & Three Dublin Senior Hurling.



**David Bulfin**

Age: 27  
 Club: Mungret  
 Height: 5'9"  
 Weight: 12 stone 5  
 Occup.: Primary Teacher  
 Honours: Two All-Ireland Under-21 Hurling, Two Munster Under-21 Hurling, All-Ireland B Hurling Colleges & County Junior Hurling.



**Mark Foley**

Age: 32  
 Club: Adare  
 Height: 5'11"  
 Weight: 14 stone  
 Occup.: Publican  
 Honours: Munster Senior Hurling, National Hurling League, Two Railway Cup & County Senior Hurling.



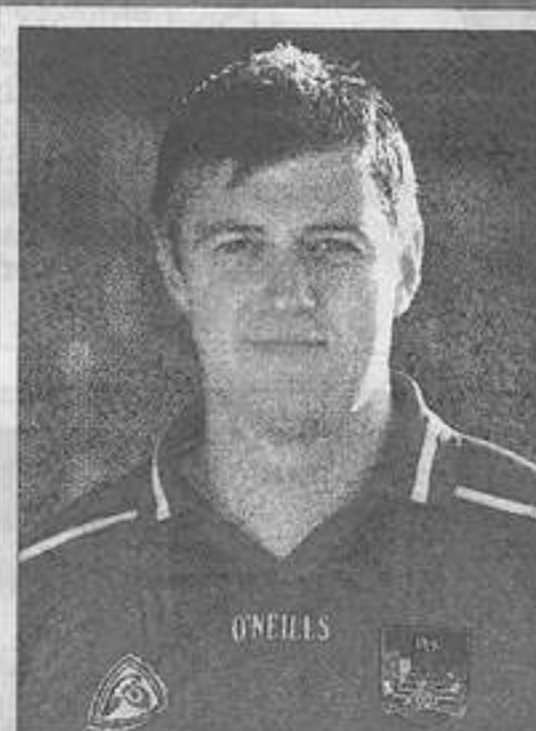
**Niall Moran**

Age: 24  
 Club: Ahane  
 Height: 6'2"  
 Weight: 14 stone  
 Occup.: Teacher  
 Honours: Two Munster Under-21 & All-Ireland Under-21 Hurling, Two County Senior Hurling, Fitzgibbon Cup & Dr. Harty Cup.



**Michael Fitzgerald**

Age: 20  
 Club: Doon  
 Height: 5'11"  
 Weight: 13 stone  
 Occup.: Garda  
 Honours: County Minor Hurling, County Under-21 Hurling & Ryan Cup Medal.



**Brian Geary**

Age: 27  
 Club: Monaleen  
 Height: 6'3"  
 Weight: 14 stone 8  
 Occup.: Sales Executive  
 Honours: Two All-Ireland Under-21 Hurling, Two Munster Under-21 Hurling, Fitzgibbon Cup, Harty Cup, All-Ireland Colleges, Railway Cup, County Intermediate Hurling & Two County Senior Football.



**Ollie Moran**

Age: 31  
 Club: Ahane  
 Height: 6'2"  
 Weight: 14 stone 7  
 Occup.: Financial Adviser  
 Honours: National Hurling League, Two Fitzgibbon Cup, Four Railway Cup, Three Shinty International Caps, Three County Senior Hurling, County Minor Hurling & County Minor Football.



**Hugh Flavin**

Age: 27  
 Club: Croom  
 Height: 5'11"  
 Weight: 13 stone  
 Occup.: Teacher  
 Honours: Dr. Harty Cup, All-Ireland Colleges, Three County Minor Hurling, County Under-21 Hurling & numerous underage medals.



**Seamus Hickey**

Age: 19  
 Club: Murroe-Boher  
 Height: 6'  
 Weight: 13 stone  
 Occup.: UL Student  
 Honours: Two Harty Cups, All-Ireland Colleges & Higher Education League.



**Brian Murray**

Age: 22  
 Club: Patrickswell  
 Height: 5'8"  
 Weight: 12 stone  
 Occup.: Courier  
 Honours: Two County Senior Hurling, Four Olo Cups & Numerous Divisional Underage Medals.



**Barry Foley**

Age: 30  
 Club: Patrickswell  
 Height: 5'10"  
 Weight: 13 stone  
 Occup.: Fabricator  
 Honours: National Hurling League, Munster Senior Hurling Championship, Six County Senior Hurling, County Minor Hurling & Two County Under-21 Hurling.



**Peter Lawlor**

Age: 25  
 Club: Croom  
 Height: 6'1"  
 Weight: 13 stone 7  
 Occup.: Electrician  
 Honours: Two Munster Under-21 Hurling, Two All-Ireland Under-21 Hurling & County Under-21 Hurling.



**Wayne McNamara**

Age: 21  
 Club: Adare  
 Height: 6'  
 Weight: 13 stone  
 Occup.: Electrician  
 Honours: County Under-16 Hurling, Colleges Under-18.5, Various Divisional & Underage Medals.



**James O'Brien**

Age: 26  
 Club: Bruree  
 Height: 6'2"  
 Weight: 13 stone 5  
 Occup.: Student Nurse  
 Honours: Under-21  
 Munster & All-Ireland  
 Hurling, One County  
 Senior Hurling & Ryan  
 Cup.



**Donal O'Grady**

Age: 26  
 Club: Granagh-Ballingarry  
 Height: 6'  
 Weight: 12 stone  
 Occup.: Sales Rep.  
 Honours: Under-21  
 Munster & All-Ireland  
 Hurling, County  
 Intermediate Hurling.



**Damien Reale**

Age: 26  
 Club: Hospital-  
 Herbertstown  
 Height: 5'9"  
 Weight: 12 stone  
 Occup.: Health & Safety  
 Honours: Three Under-21  
 Munster & All-Ireland  
 Hurling, Railway Cup,  
 County Intermediate  
 Hurling & County Junior A  
 Hurling.



**Maurice O'Brien**

Age: 23  
 Club: Garryspillane  
 Height: 5'10"  
 Weight: 13 stone  
 Occup.: Quantity Surveyor  
 Honours: Two Munster  
 Under-21 & All-Ireland  
 Under-21 Hurling,  
 Fitzgibbon Cup, County  
 Senior Hurling, County  
 Under-21 Hurling, Two  
 Harty Cups & Two All-  
 Ireland Colleges.



**Gavin O'Mahony**

Age: 20  
 Club: Kilmallock  
 Height: 6'3"  
 Weight: 12 stone 7  
 Occup.: Civil Eng. Student  
 Honours: Four County  
 Minor Hurling, County  
 Minor Football, Fitzgibbon  
 Cup & Two County Under-  
 21 Hurling.



**Donie Ryan**

Age: 30  
 Club: Garryspillane  
 Height: 5'10"  
 Weight: 12 stone 5  
 Occup.: Farmer  
 Honours: County Senior  
 Hurling, County Under-21  
 Hurling, County  
 Intermediate Hurling &  
 All-Ireland Sevens.



**Mike O'Brien**

Age: 29  
 Club: Glenroe  
 Height: 6'  
 Weight: 12 stone 5  
 Occup.: Farmer  
 Honours: All-Ireland  
 Intermediate Hurling,  
 Munster Intermediate  
 Hurling, County Junior A  
 Hurling & All-Ireland  
 Agricultural Colleges.



**Mark O'Riordan**

Age: 26  
 Club: Croom  
 Height: 5'11"  
 Weight: 13 stone 2  
 Occup.: Carpenter  
 Honours: Two Under-21  
 Munster & All-Ireland  
 Hurling, Under-21 Munster  
 Football, Three McGrath  
 Cup & Numerous Club  
 Medals.



**Donncha Sheehan**

Age: 27  
 Club: Adare  
 Height: 5'7"  
 Weight: 11 stone 11  
 Occup.: Biochemist  
 Honours: Under-21  
 Munster & All-Ireland  
 Hurling, Fitzgibbon Cup &  
 County Senior Hurling.



**Sean O'Connor**

Age: 26  
 Club: Ahane  
 Height: 6'3"  
 Weight: 14 stone  
 Occup.: Construction  
 Honours: Two Under-21  
 Munster & Two All-Ireland  
 Under-21 Hurling, Three  
 County Senior Hurling, Six  
 Divisional Hurling &  
 Under-16 County Hurling.



**Kieran O'Rourke**

Age: 20  
 Club: Bruree  
 Height: 5'8"  
 Weight: 12 stone 6  
 Occup.: Student  
 Honours: County Senior  
 Hurling, Colleges Freshers  
 All Ireland Football &  
 County Minor Hurling.



**Kevin Tobin**

Age: 26  
 Club: Murroe-Boher  
 Height: 5'11"  
 Weight: 13 stone  
 Occup.: Sales Rep.  
 Honours: Three Under-21  
 Munster & All-Ireland  
 Hurling, Fitzgibbon Cup &  
 County Intermediate  
 Hurling.



**Paudie O'Dwyer**

Age: 24  
 Club: Kilmallock  
 Height: 6'4"  
 Weight: 13 stone  
 Occup.: Electrician  
 Honours: Under-21  
 Munster & All-Ireland  
 Hurling, County Under-14  
 Hurling, County Under-16  
 Hurling, County Minor  
 Hurling & County Under-21  
 Hurling.



**Andrew O'Shaughnessy**

Age: 22  
 Club: Kilmallock  
 Height: 5'11"  
 Weight: 13 stone 6  
 Occup.: Army Officer  
 Honours: Two Under-21  
 Munster & All-Ireland  
 Hurling, Two All-Ireland  
 Colleges, Three Dr. Harty  
 Cup & Numerous Club  
 Medals.



**Pat Tobin**

Age: 24  
 Club: Murroe-Boher  
 Height: 5'9"  
 Weight: 12 stone  
 Occup.: Car Sales Exec.  
 Honours: Two Under-21  
 Munster & All-Ireland  
 Hurling, County Under-21B  
 Hurling, Senior Divisional  
 Hurling, County  
 Intermediate Hurling &  
 Two Under-21A Divisional  
 Hurling.



Hurling 2007

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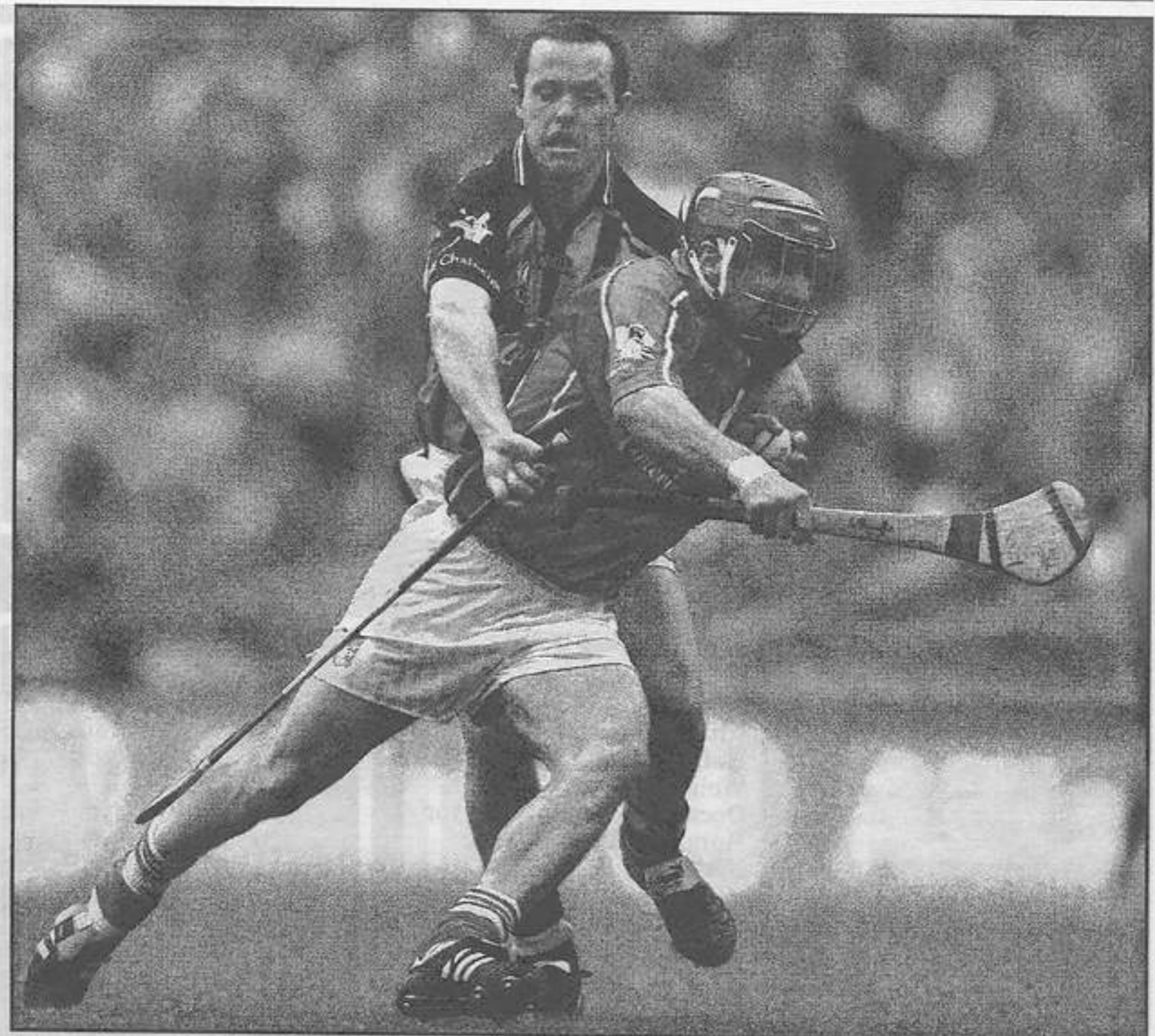
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Best wishes to the Limerick hurling team in the All-Ireland Final



July 31, 2005: Andrew O'Shaughnessy tangles with Kilkenny corner-back Michael Kavanagh during their All-Ireland quarter-final clash in Croke Park, Dublin.

## Eight and counting

Sunday represents Limerick's ninth championship clash with Kilkenny - **Jerome O'Connell** traces the history

**1897 - Limerick 3-4 Kilkenny 2-4**  
KILFINANE represented Limerick, while Tullaroan were the Kilkenny representatives. An early exchange of points was soon followed by a Kilkenny lead point. Then the Leinster champions scored the afternoon's first goal to gain the initiative. At the end of the opening quarter, Limerick hit back with a goal of their own. Undeterred, Kilkenny goaled again to lead at half time, 2-4 to 1-1. Ten minutes from the end, the sides were level 2-4 to 2-4. Three late Limerick points secured a first ever All-Ireland hurling title.  
Limerick: D. Grimes, S. Hanley, M. Flynn, P. Flynn, M. Finn, P. O'Brien, T. Brazil, J. Condon, J. Catteral, J. Hynes, P. Butler, J. Flood, P. Mulcahy, M. Downes, J. Reidy, J. Finn, P. Buskin.

**1933 - Kilkenny 1-7 Limerick 0-6**  
SIX months earlier, the sides met in the National Hurling League and 'The Cat's were emphatic winners. A record crowd of 45,176 turned up and were not disappointed. The early exchanges were tight and just before the break, Kilkenny levelled, 0-4 a-piece. For the first 20 minutes of the second half, the sides scored just two points each. Then came the goal that won it for Kilkenny, when Johnny Dunne jinked his way past his marker to flash the winner.  
Limerick: M. Fitzgibbon, P. Scanlon, T. Ryan, J. Mackey, M. Mackey, M. Cross, T. McCarthy, P. Clohessy, E. Cregan, M. Ryan, P. Ryan, J. Roche, G. Howard, C. O'Brien. Sub: W. O'Donoghue.

**1935 - Kilkenny 2-5 Limerick 2-4**  
ANOTHER record crowd for a Limerick v Kilkenny final, with 46,591 attending. By half time, a Jack Duggan goal edged Kilkenny ahead, 1-3 to 1-2. Five successive points mid-way through the half had Kilkenny in the driving seat. However, they were not to score again. Mick Mackey went for goal from a free and the rebound was crashed to the net. In the closing minutes, Mackey missed a free that could have forced a replay.  
Limerick: P. Scanlon, E. Cregan, T. McCarthy, M. Kennedy, M. Cross, P. Clohessy, G. Howard, T. Ryan, M. Ryan, J. Mackey, M. Mackey, J. Roche, J. O'Connell, P. McMahon, J. Close.

**1936 - Limerick 5-6 Kilkenny 1-5**  
Kilkenny were unusually inaccurate in the opening exchanges, but the champions of '33 and '35 were still in the game, as Limerick led 2-3 to 1-4 at half time. While the attendance were set for a cracking second half, it never materialised as Limerick soared into a lead. The champions were to score just one point in the second half, while Limerick scored three goals and three points.  
Limerick: P. Scanlon, T. McCarthy, P. O'Carroll, M. Kennedy, M. Cross, P. Clohessy, G. Howard, T.

Ryan, M. Ryan, J. Mackey, M. Mackey, J. Roche, D. Clohessy, P. McMahon, J. Power.  
**1940 - Limerick 3-7 Kilkenny 1-7**  
KILKENNY were reigning champions and started better, but Limerick found their feet in the second quarter and led. Kilkenny levelled and then two late points, saw them ahead 1-4 to 1-2 at the break. 'The Cat's went further ahead after half time, and Limerick reacted by switching Mick Mackey to midfield. A swift goal put Limerick in the driving seat.  
Limerick: P. Scanlon, J. McCarthy, M. Hickey, M. Kennedy, T. Cooke, P. Clohessy, P. Cregan, T. Ryan, J. Roche, J. Mackey, M. Mackey, R. Stokes, E. Chawke, P. McMahon, J. Power. Sub: A. Herbert.

**1973 - Limerick 1-21 Kilkenny 1-14**  
THE free-taking accuracy of Richie Bennis helped Limerick to a 0-12 to 1-7 half time lead. Kilkenny resumed well and upped the tempo and three points put them ahead. Bennis levelled and then a scrambled goal put them ahead. Kilkenny did get scores, but the Limerick attack matched all their efforts with like scores.  
Limerick: S. Horgan, W. Moore, P. Hartigan, J. O'Brien, P. Bennis, E. Cregan, S. Foley, R. Bennis, E. Grimes, B. Hartigan, M. Dowling, L. O'Donoghue, F. Nolan, E. Rea, J. McKenna. Sub: T. Ryan.

**1974 - Kilkenny 3-19 Limerick 1-13**  
REVENGE for Kilkenny. Limerick started well with four quick points. Then Kilkenny found their rhythm with goals from Mick Brennan and Eddie Keher, who was missing one year previous. By half time, Kilkenny led 3-7 to 1-9. By the 50th minute, the game was still in the balance, but not for long. Noel Skehan kept Limerick at bay and in attack, the points were mounting for the Noresiders.  
Limerick: S. Horgan, W. Moore, P. Hartigan, J. O'Brien, T. Ryan, E. Cregan, S. Foley, B. Hartigan, E. Grimes, J. McKenna, R. Bennis, M. Ruth, L. O'Donoghue, E. Rea, F. Nolan. Subs: P. Bennis, P. Kelly, P. Fitzmaurice.

**2005 - Kilkenny 0-18 Limerick 0-13**  
THE first championship meeting of the sides that was not an All-Ireland final. Limerick trailed 0-11 to 0-5 at half time, but in the third quarter Limerick outscored Kilkenny 0-6 to 0-1. Crucially Limerick never got ahead of their opponents and failed to score for the final 12 minutes.  
Limerick: T. Houlihan, D. Reale, S. Lucey, M. Foley, O. Moran, B. Geary, P. Lawlor, P. O'Grady, N. Moran, D. Ryan, J. O'Brien, M. Cahill, P. Kirby, T.J. Ryan, A. O'Shaughnessy. Subs: A. O'Connor, P. Tobin.

# Top of the hurling class

RICHIE Bennis men have taken the field in fourteen competitive games in 2007.

Their first outing was against Davy Fitzgerald's LIT on January 14 in the Waterford Crystal Cup.

Amazing three players have started in all fourteen games: 'keeper Brian Murray, Glenroe's Mike O'Brien and Kilmallock's Andrew O'Shaughnessy.

Stephen Lucey and Brian Geary notched up 13 starts and only missed games against Antrim and Kilkenny respectively in the league.

Donal O'Grady and Ollie Moran have also managed to avoid injury for the majority of the year and have started on twelve occasions each.

O'Grady missed the league games against Antrim and Offaly while Moran was marked absent against LIT and Kilkenny.

### Top Starters for Limerick in 2007

Player	Starts
Brian Murray	14
Mike O'Brien	14
Andrew O'Shaughnessy	14
Stephen Lucey	13
Brian Geary	13
Donal O'Grady	12
Ollie Moran	12
Damien Reale	10
Sean O'Connor	10
Niall Moran	10



Ever present: Brian Murray has started every competitive game this year.

Limerick have played 14 games in 2007. The following graph records who started in which games.

	Jan. 14 v LIT	Feb. 18 v Tipperary	Mar. 4 v Galway	Mar. 18 v Kilkenny	Mar. 25 v Dublin	Apr. 1 v Antrim	Apr. 15 v Offaly	May 13 v Laois	Jun. 10 v Tipperary	Jun. 16 v Tipperary	Jun. 24 v Tipperary	Jul. 8 v Waterford	Jul. 29 v Clare	Aug. 12 v Waterford
Brian Begley														
David Bulfin														
Michael Fitzgerald														
Hugh Flavin														
Barry Foley														
Eoin Foley														
Mark Foley														
Brian Geary														
Seamus Hickey														
Peter Lawlor														
Stephen Lucey														
Wayne McNamara														
Niall Moran														
Ollie Moran														
Brian Murray														
James O'Brien														
Maurice O'Brien														
Mike O'Brien														
Sean O'Connor														
Paudie O'Dwyer														
Donal O'Grady														
Gavin O'Mahony														
Mark O'Riordan														
Kieran O'Rourke														
Andrew O'Shaughnessy														
Damien Reale														
Donie Ryan														
Donncha Sheehan														
Kevin Tobin														
Pat Tobin														



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Limerick Institute of Technology would like to wish all our graduates and current students participating in the All Ireland Final 2007, the best of luck.

*Damien Reale, Maurice O'Brien, Gavin O'Mahony, Ciaran O'Rourke, Peter Lawlor, Donal O'Grady, Gary Kirby, Eoin Foley, Paudie O'Dwyer and Kevin Tobin.*

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Best of luck to the Limerick hurlers from . . .

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# A-Z of Limerick

**A** is for ANDREW. O'Shaughnessy goes head-to-head with Henry Shefflin to finish as top-scorer in the All-Ireland championship. The Kilmallock man's season tally is 2-39, just three points behind current leader - Offaly's Damien Murray. Henry Shefflin is well placed to retain his title with 0-43.

**B** is for BOWLING. The night before their memorable semi-final win over Waterford in Croke Park, Limerick relaxed with a visit to the Aer Lingus Ten-Pin Bowling Club in Dublin. Rumour is that Gary Kirby's team were victorious.

**C** is for CATS. Kilkenny have played in eight of the last 10 All-Ireland senior hurling finals. The Liam McCarthy Cup has went Nore side on 29 occasions in total - 1904, '05, '07, '09, '11, '12, '13, '22, '32, '33, '35, '39, '47, '57, '63, '67, '69, '72, '74, '75, '79, '82, '83, '92, '93, '00, 2002, 2003, 2006.

**D** is for DAD. Brian Murray's father, Terence refereed the 1987 and 1993 All-Ireland senior hurling finals. James O'Brien's father Jim and Eoin Foley's father Sean both played in Limerick's 1973 All-Ireland win.

**E** is for ELEVEN. Limerick's last All-Ireland final appearance was 1996, against Liam Griffin's Wexford. Twenty one year old Mark Foley and 19 year old Barry Foley were on Tom Ryan's team that day, along with current selector, Gary Kirby.

**F** is for FITZGIBBON. Eight members of the current squad are holders of Fitzgibbon Cup medals. Brian Geary, Donncha Sheehan and Niall Moran with UL, Damien Reale, Maurice O'Brien and Gavin O'Mahony with LIT, Ollie Moran with WIT and Stephen Lucey with UCD.

**G** is for GOALS. Nine green flags have been raised in six championships games. Eleven have been conceded. Donie Ryan (3), Andrew

O'Shaughnessy (2), Brian Begley (2), Ollie Moran and Pat Tobin are the Limerick goal scorers.

**H** is for HONOURED. Ollie Moran collected two Player of the Month awards in June - the Vodafone GAA award and the Opel GPA award. Moran was also Man of the Match in the Tipp trilogy, along with Brian Geary and Mark Foley. Croke Park has been Andrew O'Shaughnessy's arena with Man of the Match awards against Clare and Waterford.

**I** is for INTERMEDIATE. Mike O'Brien won an All-Ireland intermediate hurling medal in 1998. In the final, Limerick defeated Kilkenny, who included a young Henry Shefflin in their team.

**J** is for JUNE. June 10 was the start of the Tipperary trilogy. The three-week long battle with Tipperary produced four hours of hurling with 2-65 for Limerick and 5-53 for Babs Keating's side.

**K** is for KEARNS. When Liam Kearns managed the Limerick senior footballers current hurlers Stephen Lucey, Mike O'Brien, Brian Begley and Mark O'Riordan all played senior football championship.

**L** is for LIAM. The Liam McCarthy Cup is named in honour of the late Liam McCarthy who gave outstanding service to Cumann Luthchleas Gael in Britain. It was first presented in 1921, with Limerick the first holders of the cup. A new trophy is in existence since 1992.

**M** is for MACKAY. Limerick's legend, Mick Mackey. Three All-Ireland's and five Munster titles for the Ahane man. Captained Limerick to All-Ireland success in 1936 and 1940 - beating Kilkenny on both occasions. Centre-forward on the GAA Hurling

Team of the Century and the GAA Hurling Team of the Millennium.

**N** is for NURSERY. Fourteen different clubs are represented on the Limerick squad - 10 are senior clubs, four (Glenroe, Monaleen, Mungret and Hospital/Herbertstown) are intermediate. Croom lead the way with four players.

**O** is for ODDS. Last December, Paddy Power and Boylesports bookmakers offering Limerick at 20/1 to win the All-Ireland title. Almost eight months later, on the morning of the semi-final, Limerick were still 16/1. Champions Kilkenny have been short-priced favourites to retain their title from the outset.

**P** is for PLAQUE. A plaque on the side wall, reminds patrons that Dineen Hill 16 is the official title of the terrace in Croke Park. Frank Dineen, a Ballylanders, native purchased land on Jones's Road (now Croke Park) in 1908. He served as GAA President and General-Secretary at different times.

**Q** is for QUERY. Six minutes from the end of the All-Ireland semi-final, Seamus Roche awarded Limerick a penalty. With a one-point lead, Andrew O'Shaughnessy asked management for direction. "I was only hoping they would say go for goal - either way, I probably would have gone for it," said Shaugh's afterwards.

**R** is for RELATIONS. Ollie and Niall Moran are brothers, as are Kevin and Pat Tobin. Damien Reale and Mark O'Riordan are first cousins, as are Barry and Eoin Foley. Manager Richie Bennis is an uncle of selector Gary Kirby. Selector Anthony O'Riordan is an uncle of Damien Reale and Mark O'Riordan.

**S** is for SAINT. St. Flannan's and St. Colman's, where five squad members won Dr. Harty Cup medals. Brian Geary, Niall Moran and Seamus Hickey with the famed Ennis secondary school and Andrew O'Shaughnessy and Maurice O'Brien with the Fermoy college.

**T** is for TEMPLEMORE. On November 11, 2006 Limerick commenced their championship preparations with a challenge game. The Garda College were victorious 2-13 to 2-9 with Sean O'Connor getting the Limerick goals. Almost 10 months later, 13 players that faced the Guards are still involved in the squad.

**U** is for under-21. Seventeen members of the squad of 30 are holders of All-Ireland under-21 medals. Damien Reale and Kevin Tobin were involved in all three successes.

**V** is for VICTORY. Limerick have been crowned All-Ireland senior hurling champions on seven occasions - 1897 (Kilkenny), 1918 (Wexford), 1921 (Dublin), 1934 (Dublin), 1936 (Kilkenny), 1940 (Kilkenny) and 1973 (Kilkenny)

**W** is for WILT. The week prior to the Munster Final, the Limerick Leader headline, 'Waterford will wilt', caused much disquiet in Deiseland. So much so, the front page was displayed on the wall of the Waterford dressing room and Dan Shanahan mentioned it in his post match interview.

**X** is for XTRA. Two periods of 10 minutes of extra time were needed in Semple Stadium on June 16 in the first replay of Limerick and Tipperary. Three minutes into injury time at the end of extra time, Limerick trailed 2-21 to 1-23, when the umpire signalled a '65. Andrew O'Shaughnessy dispatched the ball to force a second replay.

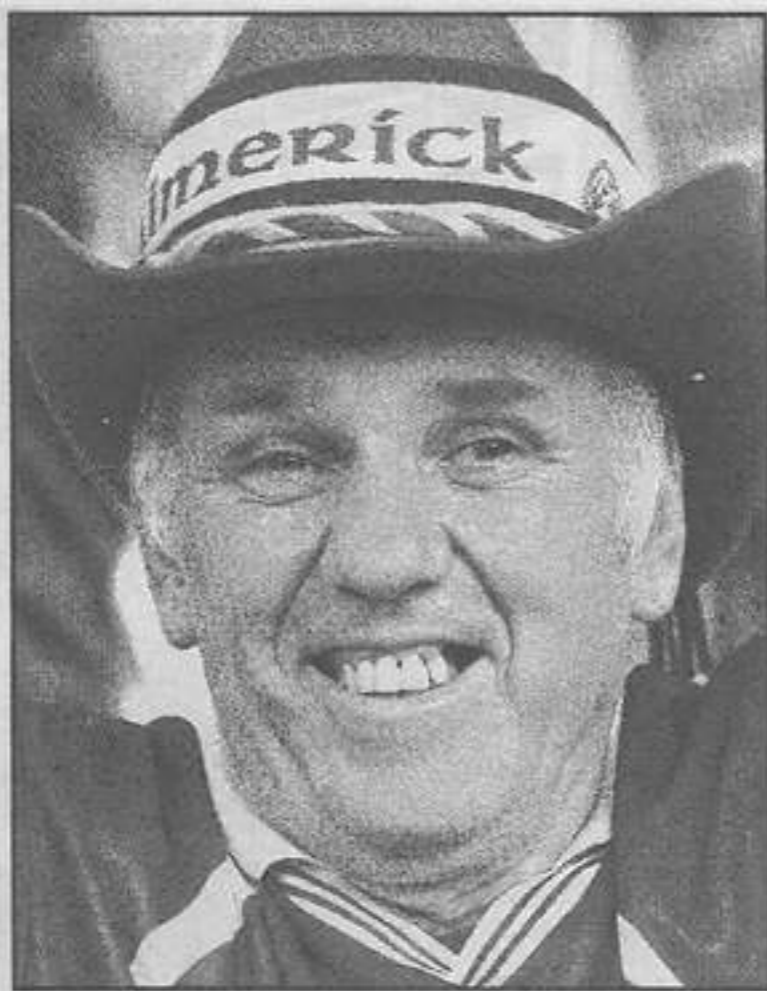
**Y** is for YOUNGSTERS. Seamus Hickey, Michael Fitzgerald, Gavin O'Mahony, Wayne McNamara and Kieran O'Rourke are the young guns of the squad. Hickey and O'Mahony played in the 2005 All-Ireland minor final. All five played U21 this season.

**Z** is for ZERO. Dan Shanahan hit eight goals in Waterford's four games en route to the All-Ireland semi-final - including a hat-trick against Limerick in the Munster Final. Second time round, 'Dan the Man' was kept goal-less.



A is for Andrew O'Shaughnessy.

**RIGHT:** Limerick supporter Tom Moloney on Hill 16 against Waterford



# Knowing one end of a hurl from t'other

If you're a rugby fan, or some such, and heading to Croke Park, here's **Colm Kinsella's** rough guide to what you can expect to hear above.

THERE will be a few patrons in Croke Park on All-Ireland final day for whom the finer points of the game of hurling remain a mystery.

The lure of the fiery junior B club hurling game has been lost on them for years.

But on September 2 they will find themselves in the plush seats at Croke Park.

If you are one of those 'non educated' patrons, fear not. Help is at hand. By the time the ball is thrown in on Sunday, you can familiarise yourself with the game's jargon.

Below is a list of some of the most commonly used phrases which can be heard at club hurling games up and down the country.

They are sure to come in handy when Limerick cross swords with 'The Cats' in the battle to decide which county claims the Liam McCarthy Cup.

- Mighty** - very good.
- Hames** - a right mess e.g. "he made a hames of that clearance".
- Timber** - intimidation of a hurling opponent.
- Welt** - swing at.
- Lamp** - a good thump.
- Schkelp** - a good thump.
- Bullin** - angry e.g. "the centre half back was bullin' after I lamped him".
- Bull Thick** - very angry.
- Joult** - a push.
- Joshe!** - a shoulder push.

- Comm-it-eeee** - local GAA administrators.
- Bushted** - e.g. "ouch, me arm is bushted".
- Hang Sangwidge** - consumed with 'tay' on the sides of roads after matches in Thurles.
- Blast** - a great amount of anything.
- Rake** - also a great amount of anything; usually pints after a match.
- Shamozzle** - a group of players shkelpin' one another but not exactly hitting anyone at the same time!
- Flakin'** - usually goes on for a whole game. To 'flake' a lad for a whole game usually starts off with a bit of the aforementioned 'joshellin' and 'joultin' and develops into a bit of 'weltin' and may even result in a good 'lampin' for the victim.
- Horsing** - a bout of intimidatory tactics as in 'we horsed them out of it'.
- Hape** - a big quantity i.e. heap.
- In The Paw** - to catch the ball.
- Row** - fight involving four or more players swinging hurleys.
- Dinger** - usually a fast wing-forward who can leave his opponent for dust.
- Leh-it-in-ta-f\*\*\*-would-ya** - full-forward's appeal to a midfielder for a more timely delivery

**BELOW:** On the way to Croke Park: Dan Gallahue of Gallahue's Garage, Anglesboro, with friends and his Limerick 'green machine'



Best wishes to Limerick Hurlers from

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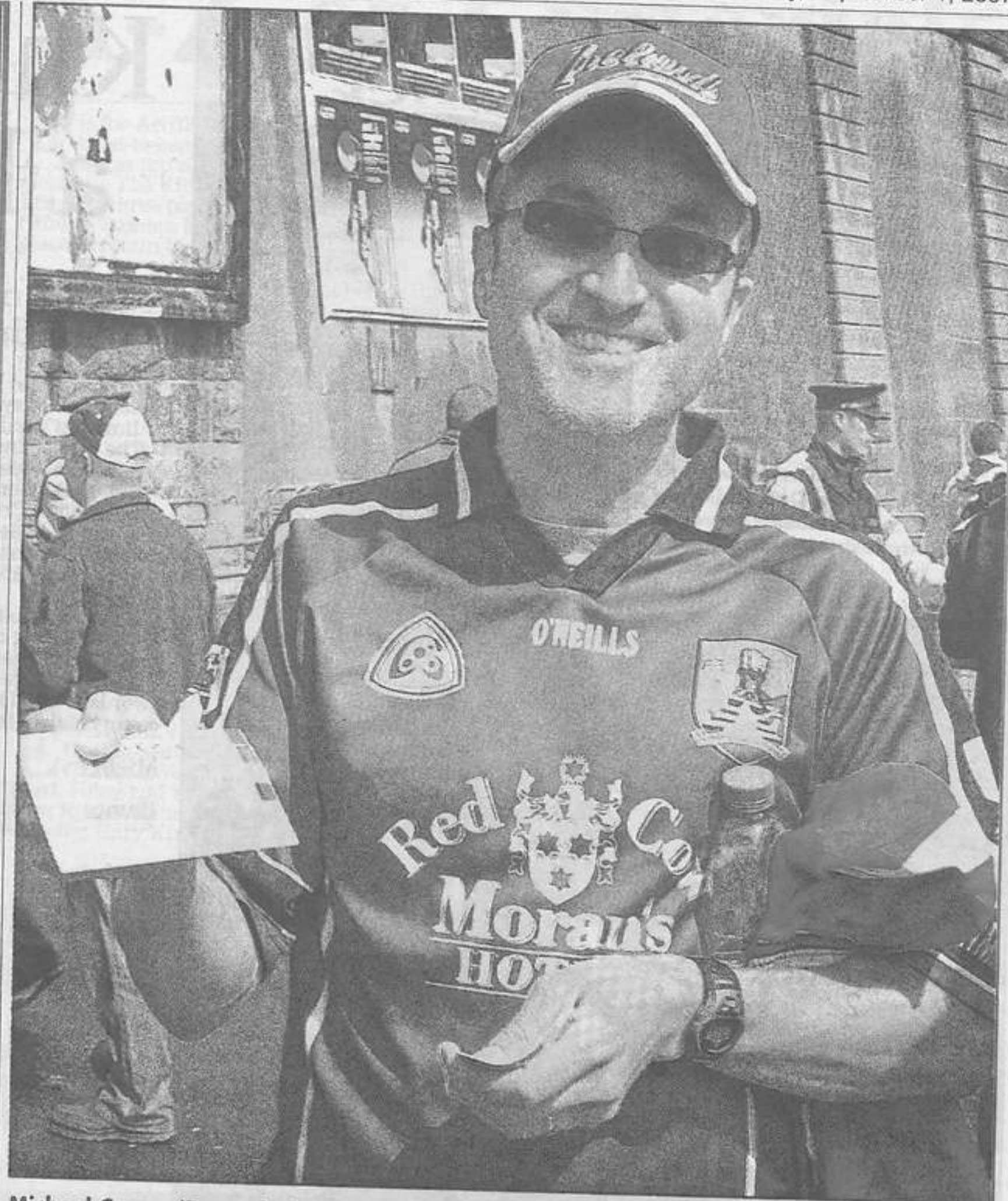
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Michael Crowe (Dooradoyle) shows off his match ticket at before the All-Ireland semi-final against Waterford at Croke Park.

(LL)

**Good Luck to Limerick Hurlers from all the staff at Bus Éireann**



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Bruff	Dep 07.40.	Rathkeale	Dep 07.40.	Herbertstown	Dep 07.35.
Grange	Dep 07.55.	Croagh	Dep 07.45.	Caherconlish	Dep 07.50.
Ballyneety	Dep 08.05.	Adare	Dep 07.55.		
		Patrickswell	Dep 08.05.		

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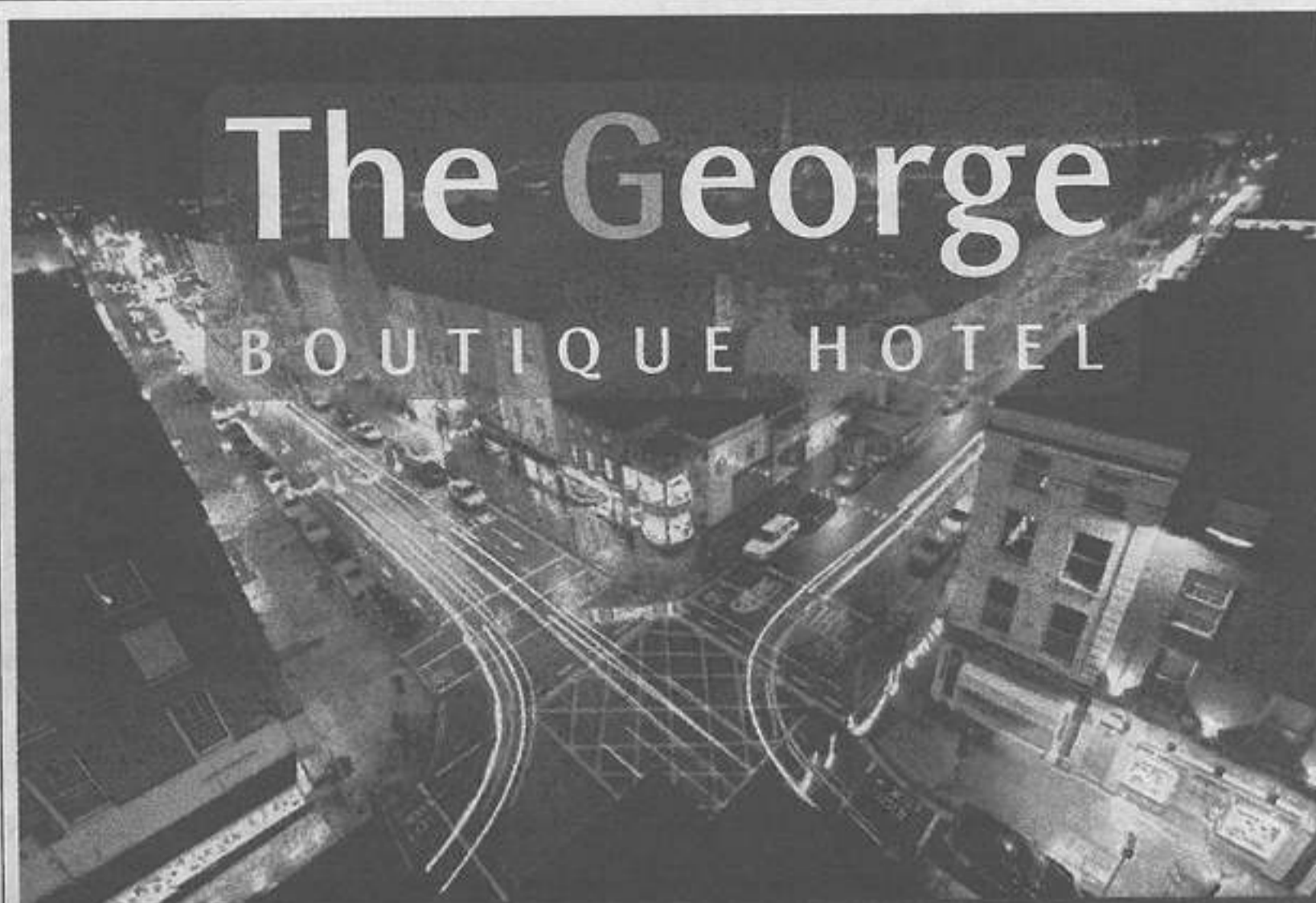


## My kingdom for a ticket

WONDERING why it is so difficult to get your hands on a match ticket for Sunday's final when the capacity of Croke Park is more than 82,000?

Below is the breakdown of exactly how tickets for the 2006 All-Ireland finals were distributed and a similar distribution process is in place for the September 2 meeting of Limerick and Kilkenny.

Overall Capacity	82,300
Long Term (On Cusack Stand)	4,143
Premium and Box Tickets	10,528
Miscellaneous	141
Available for General Circulation	67,488
County Allocations	24,422
Competing County Allocations	26,028
Extra Allocations for Competitors	5,777
Ard-Chomhairle	786
Former Presidents	641
Provincial Councils	385
Handball	162
Camogie	120
Ladies Football	140
Overseas	520
Schools and Educational Bodies	2,518
Public Representatives	132
Staff and Sub-committee	1,466
Sponsors	679
Ard-Stiúrthóir	326
Media	245
Competing Minor Players	70
Jubilee Teams & CLG/INTO	313
Player's Tickets (Competitors)	540
Inter-County Panels	1,920
Páirc an Chrócaigh Teoranta	198
Match Officials	58
National Referees Panel	42



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Hurling Club 90



1940 All-Ireland Final  
Limerick 3-7 Kilkenny 1-7

KILKENNY were reigning champions and started better, but Limerick found

their feet in the second quarter and led. Kilkenny levelled and then two late points, saw them ahead 1-4 to 1-2 at the break. 'The Cat's' went further ahead

after half time, and Limerick reacted by switching Mick Mackey to mid-field. A swift goal put Limerick in the driving seat.

Team pictured above - back row: Mick Hickey, Jim McCarthy, Tommy Cooke, Paddy Scanlan, Tony Herbert, Jim Roche, Paddy McMahon, John Mackey,

Paddy Mackey, Timmy Ryan, Dave Hurley, Jackie Power, Martin "Robbie" Lawlor.  
Front: Paddy Clohessy, Mick Mackey, Mick

Kennedy, Ned Chawke, Dick Stokes, Peter Cregan.

Archival photo courtesy of Sean Curtin.



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day, September 1, 2007.



1936 All-Ireland Final  
Limerick 5-6 Kilkenny 1-5  
Kilkenny were unusually  
inaccurate in the opening

exchanges, but the champions of '33 and '35 were still in the game, as Limerick led 2-3 to 1-4 at half time. While the attendance were set for

a cracking second half, it never materialised as Limerick soared into a lead. The champions were to score just one point in the

second half, while Limerick scored three goals and three points.

Limerick: P. Scanlon, T.

McCarthy, P. O'Carroll, M. Kennedy, M. Cross, P. Clohessy, G. Howard, T. Ryan, M. Ryan, J. Mackey, M. Mackey, J. Roche, D.

Clohessy, P. McMahon, J. Power.

Archival photo courtesy of Sean Curtin.



David Ryan and the team in Work Access Ltd would like to offer our support to Ritchie Bennis and the Limerick team in the All Ireland final.

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■ Making history: the Limerick players stand to attention before July's Munster final against Waterford.



**Overall Championship Statistics**

County	P	W	D	L	F	A
Kilkenny	338	238	15	85	1014-3670	699-2830
Cork	344	230	22	92	1034-3513	698-2654
Tipperary	309	188	23	98	877-3031	622-2455
Dublin	260	125	15	120	728-1957	626-2097
Wexford	231	112	9	110	615-2303	614-2202
Offaly	229	102	8	119	499-2146	585-2249
Limerick	254	101	19	134	672-2159	634-2181
Clare	219	84	14	121	515-1862	566-2116
Waterford	191	63	11	115	151-650	312-910
Galway	145	58	4	83	354-1561	379-1539

**Limerick's Championship Record**

Opposition	P	W	D	L	F	A
v Antrim	3	3	0	0	7-65	1-33
v Clare	49	32	1	16	148-453	126-371
v Cork	60	14	4	42	131-437	187-555
v Donegal	2	2	0	0	9-20	1-14
v Dublin	3	2	1	0	15-14	8-12
v Galway	10	5	1	4	27-97	23-87
v Kerry	12	9	1	2	45-78	18-58
v Kilkenny	8	4	0	4	12-70	9-75
v Laois	1	1	0	0	2-15	1-9
v London	1	1	0	0	1-15	0-7
v Offaly	3	1	0	2	4-56	6-51
v Tipperary	64	22	10	32	151-525	167-487
v Waterford	33	20	1	12	101-274	72-274
v Wexford	5	1	0	4	19-39	15-38
<b>Totals</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>672-2159</b>	<b>634-2181</b>



**Jim Flavin**

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10am to 3pm - Sat.

# What a year!



**Monday, August 13 - Limerick smash five goals past Waterford and qualify for the final - Limerick 5-11 Waterford 2-15**

## MAGNIFICENT LIMERICK

Hurlers reach first All-Ireland in e

*[Small text from newspaper clipping]*

**Monday, July 30 - Clare are no match for Limerick in Croke Park - Clare 1-16 Limerick 1-23**



## ONWARD RICHIE'S SOLDIERS

Hotel lift drama fails to halt Limerick's march

*[Small text from newspaper clipping]*

**Monday, June 18 - this time Limerick trailed Tipperary by ten points and made nothing of it in Thurles - Limerick 1-24 Tipperary 2-21**

## LIMERICK LEADER



## THE COMEBACK KINGS

Huge crowd set for second replay but no live TV

*[Small text from newspaper clipping]*

**Monday, June 11 - Limerick storm back to earn a 1-19 apiece draw with Tipperary at the Gaelic Grounds**

## LIMERICK LEADER

## All about PRIDE



Massive blaze destroys city tyre depot

*[Small text from newspaper clipping]*



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Wishing the Limerick Hurling team best of Luck in the All-Ireland Final

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Best wishes to the Limerick team in the All-Ireland Hurling Final

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**Best of Luck to the Limerick team**

from all at the "FORTY ONE BAR" Kilmallock

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**Best of Luck to Limerick Hurlers from The Mill Bar**



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# 2007 The Story So Far

### Leinster Championship

May 27  
Quarter-Final - Tullamore  
Offaly 1-26 Laois 0-10  
June 9  
Semi-Final - Nowlan Park  
Wexford 2-14 Dublin 3-10  
June 10  
Semi-Final - Portlaoise  
Kilkenny 1-27 Offaly 1-13  
July 1  
Final - Croke Park  
Kilkenny 2-24 Wexford 1-12

### Munster Championship

May 27  
Quarter-Final - Thurles  
Cork 1-18 Clare 1-11  
June 10  
Semi-Final - Gaelic Grounds  
Limerick 1-19 Tipperary 1-19  
June 16  
Semi-Final Replay - Thurles  
Limerick 1-24 Tipperary 2-21  
June 17  
Semi-Final - Thurles  
Waterford 5-15 Cork 3-18  
June 24  
Semi-Final Second Replay - Gaelic Grounds  
Limerick 0-22 Tipperary 2-13  
July 8  
Final - Thurles  
Waterford 3-17 Limerick 1-14

### Ulster Championship

May 13  
Quarter-Final - Casement Park  
Derry 1-14 Armagh 0-16  
Semi-Final - Casement Park  
Antrim 4-16 London 3-8  
May 20  
Semi-Final - Casement Park  
Down 1-13 Derry 0-16  
May 26  
Semi-Final Replay - Casement Park  
Down 5-16 Derry 1-15  
June 3  
Final - Casement Park  
Antrim 2-24 Down 0-4

### All-Ireland Qualifiers

June 30  
Group 1A  
Clare 3-21 Antrim 2-15 - Casement Park Galway  
3-20 Laois 1-14 - Portlaoise  
Group 1B  
Cork 3-20 Dublin 0-15 - Parnell Park  
Tipperary 2-17 Offaly 2-13 - Thurles  
July 7  
Group 1A  
Clare 2-10 Galway 0-14 - Ennis  
Antrim 1-23 Laois 1-13 - Casement Park  
Group 1B  
Cork 1-27 Offaly 0-11 - Pairc Ui Chaoimh  
Tipperary 1-20 Dublin 1-11 - Parnell Park

July 14  
Group 1A  
Galway 2-31 Antrim 1-9 - Pearse Stadium  
Clare 2-14 Laois 1-11 - Portlaoise  
Group 1B  
Offaly 2-25 Dublin 2-13 - Tullamore  
Tipperary 2-16 Cork 1-18 - Thurles

### All-Ireland Championship

July 28  
Quarter-Finals  
Wexford 3-10 Tipperary 1-14 - Croke Park  
Kilkenny 3-22 Galway 1-18 - Croke Park

July 29  
Quarter-Finals  
Limerick 1-23 Clare 1-16 - Croke Park  
Cork 3-16 Waterford 1-13 - Croke Park

August 5  
Semi-Final  
Kilkenny 0-23 Wexford 1-10 - Croke Park  
Quarter-Final Replay  
Waterford 2-17 Cork 0-20 - Croke Park

August 12  
Semi-Final  
Limerick 5-11 Waterford 2-15 - Croke Park

September 2  
2007 All-Ireland Hurling Final  
Kilkenny v Limerick - Croke Park

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Best wishes to the Limerick hurling team . . .

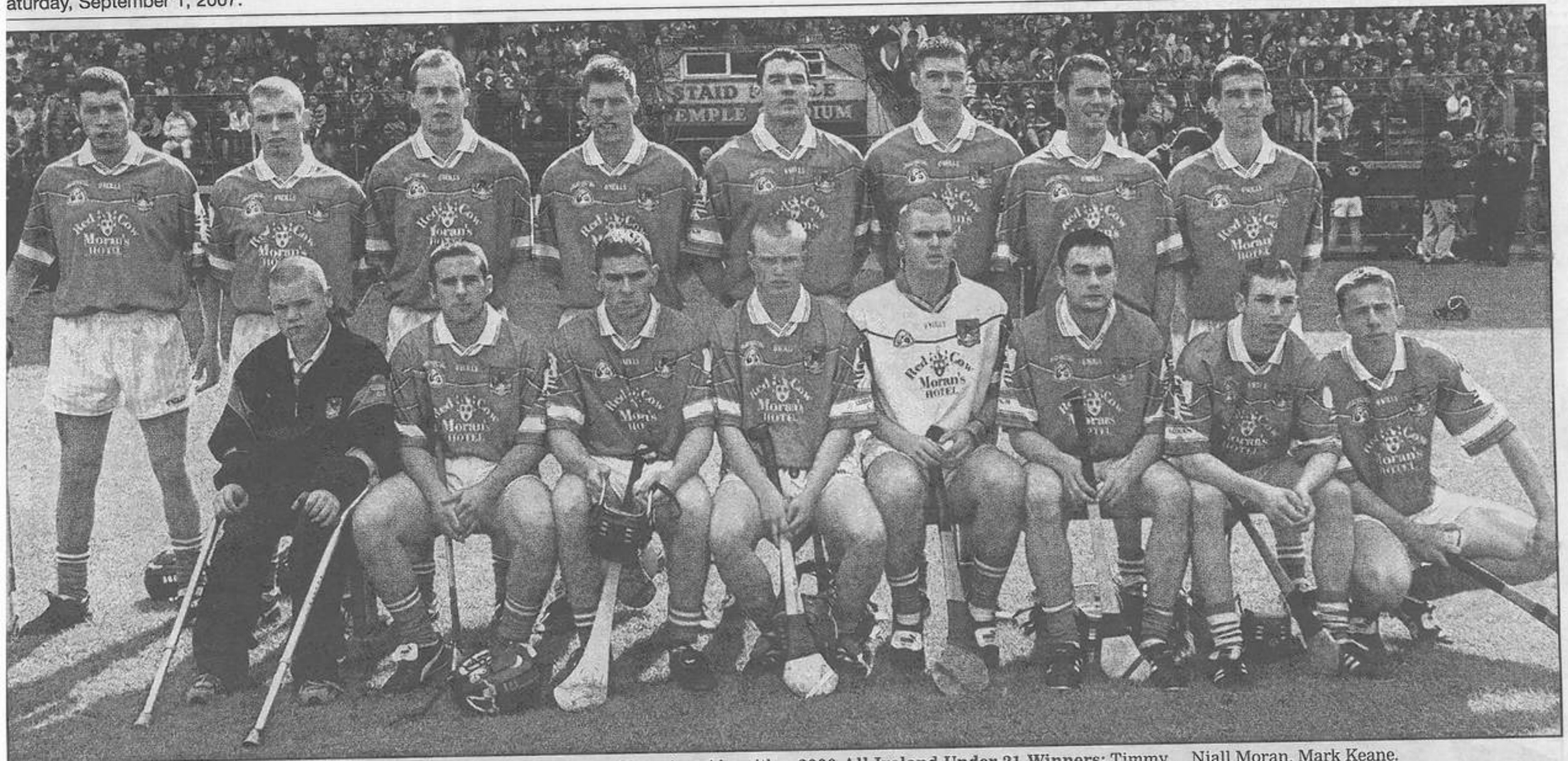


From Neil and all the lads at the

# Westward Ho

Mungret

**LAUNCHING NEW BAR FOOD MENU SOON**



IN the aftermath of Limerick winning three All-Ireland under-21 titles at the turn of the millennium there was an unfair expectation placed on those players to blossom and win a senior All-Ireland for the county. Perhaps the Limerick hurling public could have been more patient with such a gifted bunch. Take near neighbours Tipperary for example. Tipperary won back-to-back under-21 All-Ireland titles in 1979, 1980 and in 1981, but didn't progress to win a senior All-Ireland until 1989 - fully ten years after their '79 title. Those under-21 winning teams however did form the

backbone of that successful senior side with Colm Bonnar, Pat Fox, Bobby Ryan, Donie O'Connell, Nickey English and Pat McGrath featuring. Similarly Limerick won All-Ireland under-21 titles in 2000 (beating Galway), 2001 (beating Wexford) and 2002 (beating Galway). Seven players from those wonderfully successful sides started against Waterford in this year's All-Ireland semi-final: Damien Reale, Brian Geary, Stephen Lucey, Sean O'Connor, Brian Begley, Peter Lawlor and Andrew O'Shaughnessy.

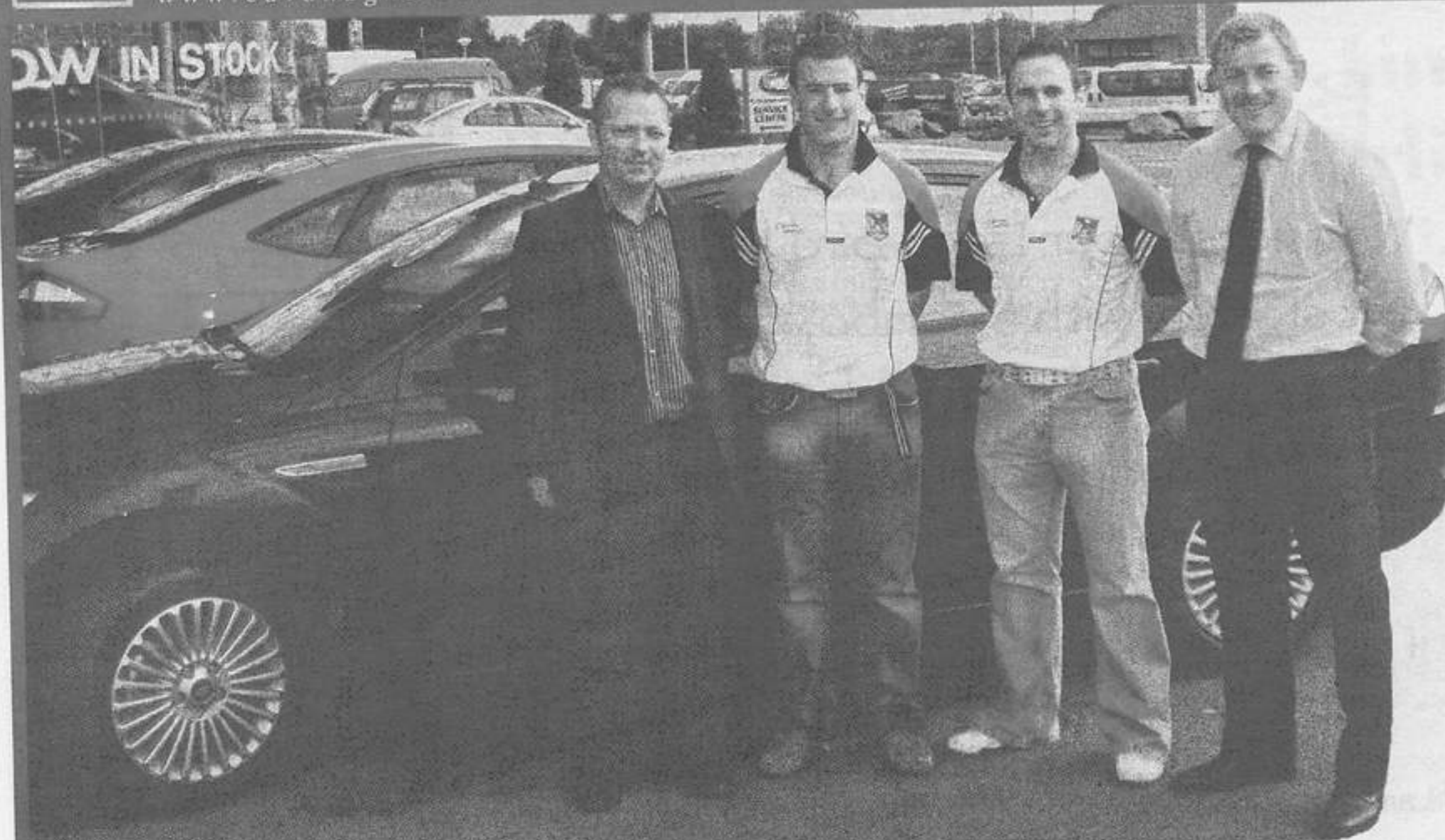
**2000 All-Ireland Under-21 Winners:** Timmy Houlihan, Damien Reale, Eugene Mulcahy, Paudie Reale, Paul O'Reilly, Brian Geary, Willie Walsh, John Meskill, Stephen Lucey, Paul O'Grady, Sean O'Connor, David Stapleton, Donnacha Sheehan (Captain), Brian Begley, Mark Keane.  
**2001 All-Ireland Under-21 Winners:** Timmy Houlihan (Captain); Damien Reale, Brian Carroll, Kieran Bermingham; Mark O'Riordan, Brian Geary, Willie Walsh; Stephen Lucey, Peter Lawlor; Eoin Foley, Sean O'Connor, Kevin Tobin; Conor Fitzgerald,

Niall Moran, Mark Keane.  
**2002 All-Ireland Under-21 Winners:** Timmy Houlihan; Damien Reale, Eugene Mulcahy, Mickey Cahill; Eoin Foley, Paudie O'Dwyer, Maurice O'Brien; Peter Lawlor (Captain), Niall Moran; Conor Fitzgerald, James O'Brien, Kevin Tobin; Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Pat Kirby, Mark Keane.

**Pictured above is the winning team from September 16, 2001 when Limerick beat Wexford in the All-Ireland under-21 final.**

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## Proudly Supporting the Limerick Hurling Team



### Signed Jersey Draw



Cavanaghs of Charleville would like to wish Damien Reale and the Limerick Hurling Team the best of luck in the forthcoming All-Ireland final. September is All-Ireland month and also sees the return of our Fleet Cars which have been leased during the summer months. These cars are less than 3 months old, have low mileage and can be had for thousands less than the list price. Call to our dealership in September and test drive any car, new or used, to be entered into a draw for an official GAA jersey signed by some of the stars of the Limerick Hurling Team. Keep an eye on our website [www.cavanaghs.com](http://www.cavanaghs.com) soon.

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Ardscoil Ris is delighted to welcome Limerick senior hurler Niall Moran to its staff and looks forward to his valued contribution in the classroom and on the pitch! Niall is a past pupil of Ardscoil, so it's with great pride that the staff, students and board of management wish him all the best in this year's All-Ireland senior hurling final. A gradu-

ate of UL and UCC Niall will take up a post as a business teacher in the school. Niall is part of a distinguished trio of past pupils who hope to bring Liam McCarthy back to Limerick for the first time since 1973. Niall's older brother Ollie and Brian Geary have both been inspirational this year and the school is very proud of their

achievements. We also hope to see them return to the school victorious in the coming weeks! Hurling at Ardscoil has been transformed in recent years and it is now the only school in Limerick competing at the A grade in Munster Colleges competitions. Preparations for this year's Dean Ryan and Harty Cup competitions

are already well underway. Ardscoil Ris is also proud to announce the establishment of its Hurling Academy. Transition year students will complete a GAA Coaching and Administration course in the coming year and the school will host a hurling blitz for primary schools on September 22. Exciting times for hurling in

Limerick and for Ardscoil Ris! We wish our past pupils and the entire Limerick panel and management every success in the final.

**Above: Niall Moran is welcomed to the staff of Ardscoil Ris by principal Brid de Brun in the presence of the Harty and Dean Ryan teams.**  
Dave Gaynor



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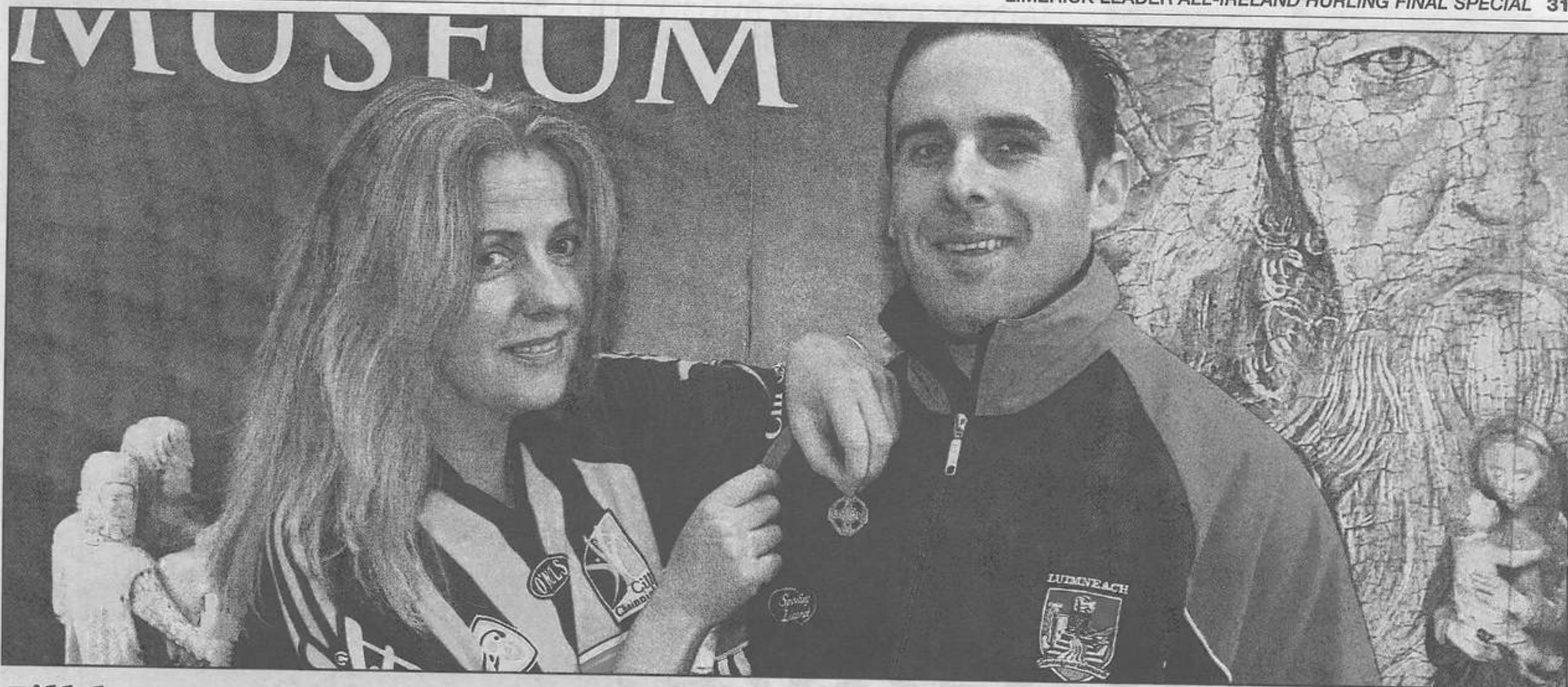
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## I'll have one of those please!

Limerick Senior Hurling Captain, Damien Reale took some time out from his busy training schedule ahead of the All-Ireland hurling final on September 2, to take a close, envious look at the first All-Ireland hurling medal won by Limerick in 1897.

The medal is about to go on display at the Hunt Museum, Limerick, as part of an exhibition of rare and valuable silver. The medal in question was won by Mick Downes of Kilfinane in 1897.

Coincidentally, the All-Ireland final that year was, like this year was between Limerick and Kilkenny and victory was with the Shannonsiders, on a scoreline of 3-4 to 2-4.

No doubt Damien Reale and his teammates will be hoping for a rub of luck from Mick Downes' medal!

In those very early days of the GAA, the honour went to the club champions from each county to go on to represent their county in the All-Ireland championship.

In 1897 Kilfinane club represented Limerick, while Tullaroan represented Kilkenny.

In a twist of fate, Virginia Teehan, Director of the Hunt Museum Limerick, a native of Kilkenny has strong family ties with the GAA and specifically with the Tullaroan Club, Kilkenny.

Her grand uncle, Edward Teehan was on the losing 1897 Tullaroan Team. If you are a believer in fate - then perhaps it's Limerick's turn again!

"As the Director of the Hunt Museum," explained Virginia, "I can't be on a losing side this year."

"If the Cats fail at least I know I can welcome a very precious piece of silverware for a visit to the Hunt Museum this autumn in the form of the Liam McCarthy Cup!"

This senior hurling medal was made by Moore & Co., Dublin, 1897.

It has a traditional Celtic cross design. The front has a shield-shaped design with an Irish harp stamped in the centre.

The inscription reads: 'Gaelic Athletic Association'.

The reverse inscription reads: 'Hurling Championship 1897'.

The forthcoming exhibition at the Hunt Museum, called 'Celebrating Limerick's Silver' is due to open on September 14 and

will contain some very interesting sporting memorabilia including the Mick Downes All-Ireland medal from 1897.

There is also a football medal won by Malachi O'Brien (nicknamed the 'Little Wonder' due to his small stature) when Limerick Commercials, representing County Limerick, beat Young Irelands (Dundalk), representing Louth, as well as a large selection of other historic GAA medals, rugby medals and the famous Assolas Racing Trophy.

This cup dates from around 1720 and was won at the prestigious Assolas Race Meeting, which was staged close to Dromoland Castle.

It is one of the oldest known racing trophies in Ireland and was last exhibited in the Ulster Museum in 1956.

Other important racing trophies include a pair of silver salvers won by Richard Fitzgerald of Glin at the races at Clogheen, Co. Tipperary in the late 1700's.

Also of sporting interest is the 1920 Olympic silver medal won by Patrick (Paddy) Ryan at the 1920 Summer Olympics held in Antwerp, Belgium, for the 56lb weight throw.

Paddy Ryan (1883-1964) was a native of Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick who also won a gold med fro the 16lb hammer at the same event.

A Limerick silver exhibition wouldn't be complete without a Heineken Cup Rugby Medal (2006), which also features in the exhibition.

As well as items of sporting significance, the exhibition will also contain a wide-ranging eclectic mix of ecclesiastical silver (from both the Catholic and Church of Ireland traditions), civic silver ware and a diverse range of domestic silver.

Limerick senior hurling captain, Damien Reale, is pictured above with one of the first All-Ireland hurling medal won by Limerick in 1897.

Damien is pictured alongside Virginia Teehan, Director of the Hunt Museum Limerick, a native of Kilkenny who's grand uncle Edward Teehan was on the losing 1897 Tullaroan Team.

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