



# NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 Issue 9  
October 2014

**QUARTER-FINAL  
HEARTACHE FOR  
NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG  
SENIORS AT SEMPLE  
STADIUM  
MATCH REPORT ON  
PAGE TWO**



**UNDER-21 HURLERS  
KICK OFF THEIR  
CHAMPIONSHIP WITH  
A WIN OVER  
KILRUANE**



## NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG – JUNIOR A HURLING COUNTY FINALISTS OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2014



## NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG – UNDER-13 NORTH PLATE HURLING CHAMPIONS OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2014







# NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

## NEWSLETTER

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### NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG SENIORS BOW OUT OF THE 2014 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP BY A SINGLE POINT AFTER EXTRA-TIME

#### QUARTER-FINAL HEARTACHE FOR NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG AT SEMPLE STADIUM

October 19, 2014

Nenagh Éire Óg's senior campaign came to an end at Semple Stadium on Sunday afternoon, October 19<sup>th</sup>, when Liam Heffernan's men came undone thanks to an Aidan McCormack free in the final minute of extra-time. The Blues walked out of Semple Stadium with their heads held high following a determined display which featured all of the positive values that we have come to associate with this group of players.

#### Clean Ireland Recycling County Senior Hurling Championship Quarter-Final Nenagh Éire Óg 0-19 Thurles Sarsfields 0-20

An Aidan McCormack free presented Thurles with the lead in the second minute, but Éire Óg hit back through Tommy Heffernan and Donnacha Quinn (free) to take a 0-2 to 0-1 lead by the tenth. Aidan McCormack (free) tied the game once more before Pádraic Maher's fantastic block in the 13th minute denied Michael Heffernan a goal. Two minutes later Donnacha Quinn ('65) forced Éire Óg back into the lead and Quinn added a free in the 19th minute following a foul on Richie Flannery.

A Stephen Cahill point in the 21st minute reduced Éire Óg's lead to one. Tommy Heffernan struck from play once more for the Blues and



although an Aidan McCormack free encouraged Sarsfields a brace of late points from Paddy Murphy (above) handed Éire Óg a 0-7 to 0-4 interval lead.

#### SECOND HALF

Paddy McCormack's reaction save denied Donnacha Quinn a goal in the first minute of the second half, but Quinn converted the resultant '65 and the Blues led 0-8 to 0-4. An Aidan McCormack effort dragged Thurles to within three of the Blues before Michael McNamara denied Stephen Cahill a goal with a stunning save in the 38th minute. Aidan McCormack converted the resultant '65 to leave two between them. Thurles corner-forward Michael O'Brien smacked over two points in two minutes to tie the game at 0-8 apiece by the 42nd minute. Sarsfields had now scored four points without reply and extended that scoring sequence with an Aidan McCormack point from play in the 43rd minute. Seconds later Michael McNamara made a second top class save to deny Pa Bourke a three-pointer. Éire Óg were now trailing for

the first time since the second minute and responded with a display of raw guts.

In the 44th minute Tommy Heffernan won a free which Donnacha Quinn converted and although points from Richie Ruth and Aidan McCormack forced Thurles into a 0-11 to 0-9 the Blues were fighting hard for every ball.

With ten minutes to play Michael Heffernan roused Éire Óg supporters when turning over a Thurles defender and belting over a great point. Heffernan was on hand once more in the 52nd minute to take a pass from Hugh Maloney and land an equaliser - 0-11 apiece.

Aidan McCormack fired Thurles back into a precious lead, but Éire Óg responded in kind when Michael Heffernan swung over a sideline ball







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to tie the game once more with five minutes to play. Billy Heffernan heroically blocked a Denis Maher goal chance in the 56th minute. Unfortunately, Maher gathered the rebound and took his point. Aidan McCormack converted a free with a minute to play to hand Sarsfields a 0-14 to 0-12 lead as this game ticked into injury time.

Éire Óg battled gamely on with injury time points from Paul Ryan and Tommy Heffernan dragging the Blues back into contention. Noel Maloney was harshly penalised for charging in the 64th minute – Thurles' Aidan McCormack was presented with a very awkward placed ball to win the game, but McCormack's effort drifted agonisingly wide of the right-hand post. It finished 0-14 apiece.

### EXTRA-TIME

Wing-back Michael Gleeson handed Thurles the lead in the opening minute of extra-time, but Éire Óg struck back with a Donnacha Quinn free following a foul on the highly-influential Paddy Murphy. Paul Ryan, Michael Heffernan and Paddy Murphy then landed terrific points from play to hand Éire Óg a 0-18 to 0-15 lead. Thurles re-grouped with two Aidan McCormack points (one free) to leave one between them at the break (0-18 to 0-17). A Conor Lanigan point tied the game

before a Michael Heffernan free following a foul on Paddy Murphy handed Éire Óg a precious lead. To their credit Thurles Sarsfields won and converted an equalising free in the 73rd minute.

The following seven minutes remained scoreless as both sides desperately sought out a vital edge. Thurles finally got a break in the 80th minute when winning a free deep inside their own half. Aidan McCormack took responsibility for the placed ball and landed a magnificent winning point from eight metres inside his own '65.

### THANKS

Nenagh Éire Óg would like to thank the entire panel of players for the manner in which they represented the club, their families and themselves during the campaign – Sunday represented the senior team's 16th competitive game (won 14, one draw and lost one by a point).

Nenagh Éire Óg would also like to thank the management team for all of their efforts this year – namely Liam Heffernan (manager), John Fitzgerald (coach), Enda Costello (selector) and Noel Coffey (selector).

**Nenagh Éire Óg:** Michael McNamara, Mark Flannery, Noel

Maloney (captain), John Brennan, Dáire Quinn, Hugh Maloney, Barry Heffernan, Kevin Tucker, Andrew Coffey, Pearse Morris, Michael Heffernan (0-5, 0-1 free, 0-1 sideline), Tommy Heffernan (0-3), Donnacha Quinn (0-6, 0-4 frees, 0-2 '65s), Paddy Murphy (0-3), Killian Gleeson. Subs: (16th) Richie Flannery for Killian Gleeson, (38th) James Mackey for Kevin Tucker, (48th) Billy Heffernan for John Brennan, (52nd) Paul Ryan (0-2) for Richie Flannery, (60th) Conor Ryan for Andrew Coffey, (68th) Andrew Coffey for Conor Ryan, (76th) John Brennan for Mark Flannery.

**Thurles Sarsfields:** Paddy McCormack, Stephen Maher, Michael Cahill, David Maher, Ronan Maher, Pádraic Maher, Michael Gleeson (0-1), Stephen Cahill (0-1), Billy McCarthy, Denis Maher (0-1), Lar Corbett, Aidan McCormack (0-13, 0-7 frees, 0-1 '65s), Michael O'Brien (0-2), Pa Bourke, Richie Ruth (0-1). Subs: (55th) Kevin O'Gorman for Stephen Maher, (63rd) Conor Lanigan (0-1) for Richie Ruth, (74th) Ger O'Grady for Michael O'Brien, (79th) John Maher for Ronan Maher.

**Referee:** John O'Brien (Arravale Rovers).





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### JUNIOR A COUNTY FINAL - NENAGH V SKEHEENARINKY



Commiserations to our junior A hurling team who lost Saturday's county final to Skeheenarinky on a 1-12 to 1-14 scoreline. We are extremely proud of the manner in which this group of players represented themselves, their families and the club this year. We also thank the management team of Ger Tucker (manager) and selectors Matt Lillis and Donie O'Brien for their contribution to a terrific campaign. Nenagh Éire Óg would like to wish Skeheenarinky all the very best in their up-coming Munster championship campaign.

**NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG SET TO FACE SKEHEENARINKY IN COUNTY JUNIOR A HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL**  
OCTOBER 11, 2014 [CLICK HERE FOR MATCH REPORT AND PHOTOS FROM SEMI-FINAL](#)







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### THE UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP KICKS OFF WITH A WIN

#### THREE-POINT WIN GETS THE ÉIRE ÓG U21A HURLERS OFF TO A WINNING START

October 27, 2014

Nenagh Éire Óg beat Kilruane MacDonagh's 2-13 to 1-13 in the opening round of the north Tipperary under-21A hurling championship – Kilruane are the defending champions and the win gave Blues supporters a great lift following the defeat suffered in Saturday's junior A county final.

#### Under-21A Hurling Championship Nenagh Éire Óg 2-13 Kilruane MacDonagh's 1-13

Nenagh Éire Óg opened their under-21 campaign with a well-deserved victory over Kilruane MacDonagh's in Toomevara on Monday afternoon.

Kieran Cahill opened Kilruane MacDonagh's account in the fifth minute with a well-taken point and it was to be the only time in the game that they led.

From the resultant puck-out Kevin Flynn picked out James Mackey who levelled proceedings. This was



left hand side of the pitch before delivering an inch-perfect effort for the point of the game. Kieran Cahill (3) and Conor Cleary traded points with James

followed three minutes later when Philip Hickey caught Killian Gleeson's excellent line ball to give Nenagh the lead. Conor Ryan added another point before Kieran Cahill closed the gap with a free in the twelfth minute.

The decisive moment of the opening half came in the fifteenth minute when Seán Geaney took a free ninety yards out from the Kilruane goal. His effort landed in the penalty box and first to react was Mark Tuite who goaled from a ground shot.

Mackey and Donnacha Quinn (2) to leave the half-time score at Nenagh Éire Óg 1-7 Kilruane MacDonagh's 0-6.

Immediately upon the resumption Philip Hickey was fouled and Quinn pointed the free.

Moments later Conor Ryan sent an inch-perfect ball into full-forward Mark Tuite. Tuite made a great catch and was dragged to the ground for a penalty. Tuite stood up to take it, however, his goal bound effort was well saved.

Two minutes later Geaney played a quick free from an identical position to Killian Gleeson.

Gleeson covered a lot of ground along the

Quinn and Cahill both pointed for their respective sides before Gary Howard sent a searching ball into the full-forward line and Tuite, with the deftest of flicks, brilliantly guided the ball past the onrushing 'keeper for an outstanding goal. This was followed up with a superb Killian Gleeson point. Cahill responded for Kilruane and two more points were added to the Nenagh tally by John Cahalan and Donnacha Quinn and it





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looked as if Nenagh were going to run out easy winners.

Kilruane to their credit did not lie down and Cahill added two points before Conor Cleary scored an excellent goal to narrow the gap to five points with eight minutes left to play.

Aidan Boyle, who had just come on for Kilruane, cut through the Nenagh defence and he was pulled down for a penalty. Cahill's shot narrowly went over the bar for a point.

James Mackey settled the Nenagh nerves with a point of his own before James Cleary and Aidan Boyle finished Kilruane's scoring.

**Nenagh Éire Óg:** Kevin Flynn, Brian Flynn, Adam Gratton, Michael Collins, Darragh Walsh, Seán Geaney, Andrew Coffey, Killian Gleeson, Conor Ryan, John Cahalan,



Donnacha Quinn, Gary Howard, Philip Hickey, Mark Tuite, James Mackey. Subs: Christopher Ryan for John Cahalan.

**Referee:** Michael Murphy (Toomevara).

**CLICK TO MAKE TWO EURO GO A LONG WAY!**

**PLAY LOTTO**





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### JUNIOR B CAMPAIGN ENDS IN HEART-BREAKING QUARTER-FINAL DEFEAT

October 12, 2014

The junior Bs lost by the minimum after extra-time in their north Tipperary quarter-final replay at Dolla – Éire Óg fought brilliantly and can hold their heads high after a very encouraging year.

#### Watch Centre Junior B Hurling Championship Quarter-Final Replay Nenagh Éire Óg 1-18 Toomevara 0-22

Éire Óg enjoyed a terrific start to this contest when Aidan Healy's shot for a point in the second minute hit a post and fell perfectly for Conor Kirwan to belt in the only goal of the game. A minute later Aidan Healy added a right-handed point and Éire Óg led 1-1 to no score. Toomevara responded with a point in the fifth minute, but an Anthony Walsh effort in the ninth left four between them (1-2 to 0-1). Three Toomevara points (one free) closed the gap to one by the 14th minute before the highly-influential Conor Kirwan won a free which Anthony Walsh converted in the 16th.

Éire Óg notched the score of the game in the 19th minute when Alex Jones won the ball brilliantly and worked it into the hand of Kieran Duffy. Duffy, in turn, found Conor Kirwan who took on the Toome defence before laying off to Aidan Healy and the corner-forward belted over a terrific right-handed point. Brian Darcy converted a terrific long-range free and when Anthony Walsh fired over a placed ball in the 22nd minute Éire Óg led 1-6 to 0-4.

To their credit Toomevara hit back with three consecutive points from play before an Anthony Walsh free in the 33rd minute brought the opening half to a conclusion – 1-7 to 0-7.

#### SECOND HALF

Toomevara seized the initiative immediately after the break with two points before Conor Kirwan checked the Greyhounds' momentum when the full-forward won a free which Anthony Walsh converted in the 34th minute.



That reprieve proved temporary, however, with Toome hitting their consecutive points (one free) to take a 0-12 to 1-8 lead with fifteen minutes to play.

Second half substitute Paddy Harrington landed an equaliser following a fine pass from Conor Kirwan. Kirwan was then fouled for yet another converted Anthony Walsh free in the 47th minute and the Blues led 1-10 to 0-12.

Toomevara re-claimed the lead with two consecutive points (one free) as this entertaining affair entered the final ten minutes.

Anthony Walsh won and converted an equalising free in the 52nd minute and seconds later Walsh landed another free following a foul on Paddy Harrington to force Éire Óg into a 1-12 to 0-14 lead. Toome hit back with a free of their own to tie the game, but when Anthony Walsh converted a late free it looked as if the Blues had done enough to see off Toome at the second time of asking. To

their credit Toome won and converted a late free in the 64th minute to force extra-time.

#### EXTRA-TIME

Éire Óg started extra-time in encouraging form. Thomas O'Brien was fouled for a free which Anthony Walsh converted in the opening minute before Paddy Harrington laid off to Conor Kirwan and the full-forward belted over a terrific score. Then, as early as the second minute of extra-time, a superb Thomas O'Brien point helped the Blues into a 1-16 to 0-16 lead.

Toome hit back with a free, but when Aidan Healy set Anthony Walsh up for a 17th Éire Óg point in the fifth minute it appeared as if the Blues were well on their way to the semi-finals (1-17 to 0-17). Toomevara, however, had other ideas and won the remainder of this contest 0-5 to 0-1. Two points before the break dragged the Greyhounds to within one of Éire Óg while another immediately after the break tied the game. In the 77th minute Jamie Gallagher intercepted a Toome clearance and belted over a great point from the middle of the field to force Éire Óg back into the lead (1-18 to 0-20). Toomevara, however, fired over two late points to win this dramatic quarter-final replay. Our thanks go to the junior B panel for the manner in which they represented Nenagh Éire Óg this year. We also thank the management team for their terrific efforts this year – Conor Ryan (manager), Derek Lillis & David Minogue.

#### MATCH DETAILS

**Nenagh Éire Óg:** Brian Darcy (0-1, 0-1 frees), Alex Jones, Kevin Gubbins, Paddy Flynn, Michael Hynes, Lenny Ryan, Aodhán Geaney, Gavin O'Connor, Kieran Duffy, Paul Slattery, Anthony Walsh (0-11, 0-9 frees), Thomas O'Brien (0-1), Aidan Healy (0-2), Conor Kirwan (1-1), Jack Sheedy. Subs: (45th) Paddy Harrington (0-1) for Jack Sheedy, (53rd) Jamie Gallagher (0-1) for Kieran Duffy, (60th) Keelan Higgiston for Paul Slattery, (FT) Brian Duffy for Michael Hynes, (77th) Kieran Duffy for Keelan Higgiston.

**Referee:** Martin Griffin (Silvermines)

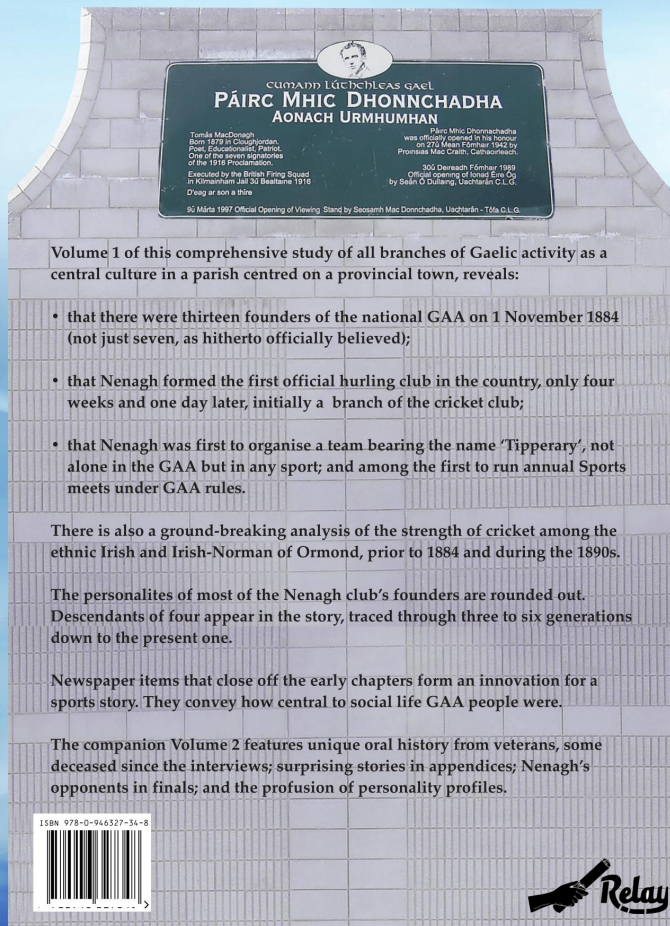


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### THE EAGERLY AWAITED HISTORY OF GAELIC SPORT IN NENAGH. VOLUME ONE AND TWO OF THIS COMPREHENSIVE STUDY IS SOON TO BE LAUNCHED



**CUMANN LUCHHEILEAS GAEL**  
**PÁIRC MHC DHONNCHADHA**  
**AONACH URMHUMHAN**

Tomás MacDonagh  
 Born 1878 in Clough Park,  
 Poree, Co. Wick. One of the  
 original signatories of the 1884  
 Proclamation.  
 Ennobled by the British Firing Squad  
 in Kilmarnock and St. Bastians 1916.  
 Draig ar son a thriú

Páirc Mhícheál Donnchadh  
 was officially opened in his honour  
 on 27th March 1942 by  
 Professor Mac Carthy, Cambridge.

300 Derrachaí Fómhair 1999  
 Official Opening of Ionad Éire Óg  
 by Seán Ó Súilleabháin, Uachtarán, C.I.G.

95 Mína 1997 Official Opening of Viewing Stand by Seosamh Mac Donnchadh, Uachtarán - Tófa C.I.G.

Volume 1 of this comprehensive study of all branches of Gaelic activity as a central culture in a parish centred on a provincial town, reveals:

- that there were thirteen founders of the national GAA on 1 November 1884 (not just seven, as hitherto officially believed);
- that Nenagh formed the first official hurling club in the country, only four weeks and one day later, initially a branch of the cricket club;
- that Nenagh was first to organise a team bearing the name 'Tipperary', not alone in the GAA but in any sport; and among the first to run annual Sports meets under GAA rules.

There is also a ground-breaking analysis of the strength of cricket among the ethnic Irish and Irish-Norman of Ormond, prior to 1884 and during the 1890s.

The personalities of most of the Nenagh club's founders are rounded out. Descendants of four appear in the story, traced through three to six generations down to the present one.

Newspaper items that close off the early chapters form an innovation for a sports story. They convey how central to social life GAA people were.

The companion Volume 2 features unique oral history from veterans, some deceased since the interviews; surprising stories in appendices; Nenagh's opponents in finals; and the profusion of personality profiles.

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A CENTRAL CULTURE

## Gaelic Sport in Nenagh

A CENTRAL CULTURE  
Gaelic Sport in Nenagh



Donal A Murphy  
PJ Maxwell  
Nancy Murphy

Donal A Murphy  
PJ Maxwell  
Nancy Murphy

Vol. I VOLUME ONE

### DID YOU KNOW THAT NENAGH WAS FIRST TO ORGANISE A TEAM BEARING THE NAME 'TIPPERARY', NOT ALONE IN THE GAA BUT IN ANY SPORT?





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### WITH THE HISTORY PROJECT REACHING IT'S CONCLUSION, THE AUTHORS SHARE WITH US SOME SNIPPETS FROM THE BOOK

On Sunday 13 February in that stirring year of 1887, just a week after the start of that first county championship, a hurling match came off at Grange, a neutral venue indeed, between two town teams, one from the Turnpike and one from Pound Street, and resulted in an easy victory for the latter, who scored three points to nil.

Could the Éire Óg v. Nenagh/Sarsfields/Wolfe Tones protagonists of the 1930s-40s have been influenced by folk

memory of this? In April Silvermines hosted and roasted Nenagh at midway Ballyphilip under Daniel Quinn as referee, 1-1 to nil at half time and 1-7 to 0-1 to finish.

Toomevara committed a foul, and a free puck was awarded to Nenagh. As the puck was about to be taken and before the whistle was blown, Toomevara charged, their impetuosity giving origin to a dispute, and lengthened arguments followed.

*[1912] Michael Geaney (Late of Moylan's) begs to inform the general public of re-opening of Jones's Coach Factory in Barrack St. [His grandson, also Michael, an interviewee for this book, died in 2010. Also in 2010, that Michael's grandson Aodhán was captain of the U14 hurling County champions and Man of the Match in the North win.]*

*JERCIFUL MAYSUS, WE WERE BET IN MULLINAHONE.*



NENAGH C.B.S. TEAM CROKE CUP WINNERS 1951  
BACK ROW POLEARY S.CLEARY P.HALLINAN J.BURNS J.FOLEY G.O'CONNOR R.M'CARTHY  
S.RYAN A.M'DONALD O.M'GRAATH  
FRONT ROW G.SHEEHAN S.NEALON M.BURNS A.HACKETT M.GILMARTIN T.HARRIS L.GLEESON

Mr Hennessey said he happened to be present at the match and agreed that the Nenagh 'chaps' were all under age, but when he looked at the Borrisokane team he could not find three of them who were not over twenty years. He did not blame Nenagh at all for having put in a middling strong fellow (laughter).

At Nenagh Sports on 1 September 1929, at the Show Grounds of course, their own Sgt John Rice of some football fame won the 100yds, and the Long Jump with an actual 17ft 5in, both open handicap events. The third man of the same name to grace this story, Martin Kennedy, Friarfield, Kilcommon, won the 16lb Shot with an actual 36ft 8in and the Hammer with 147ft. Now a veteran, Kennedy had won national titles in five weights events, including all five in 1922, the final year under GAA rules.

Then, close to Christmas Eve: by defeating M Doherty of Galway, in

Roscrea, Joe Hassett of Nenagh has brought another All-Ireland laurel home to Tipperary. Three hurling honours and two handball honours have been won in 1930.

The elder of the two clubs, by promptly setting up a league has left us a rich legacy by way of an array of names of Gaelic players of the era – a virtual census of one strand of local, male youth. The other strand, playing with rugby's oval ball [had] a few who

betimes also played hurling and/or with Gaelic's round ball – Carey, Condon, Farrell, Hackett, Jones, Tobin.

Templederry were unable to withstand ruthless charges set by the Éire Óg forwards, who bore the brunt of sustained challenges by a strong opposition, and disputed every inch of territory from midfield to the parallelogram. Éire Óg was well in the lead by 3-3 to 1-1 at half-time.

Templederry Turn Tables on Éire Óg as they win by 4-6 to 1-1 in a game marred by stoppages, free fights and encroachment of spectators. *Éire Óg*: Eddie O'Donnell (goal), Jimmy Spearman, Jim Hourigan, Dick Hogan, Tom Minogue, Seán Gleeson, Vincent Quigley, Johnny Ryan, James Kelly, Toddy Bolger, Robert Morgan, Martin Gleeson, Eddie Gleeson, Chris Kennedy, Paddy Rohan, Thos Quigley.





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A CBS League. Captains of the rival teams: Pilib Cleary [Church Road] (Na Fianna), Seán Slattery [Pearse St] (Clann Oisín), Frank Lewis [MacDonagh St] (Clann na hÉireann). The Ireland-Gaelic ethos in scholastic John's Lane would surely have adverted also to Cúchullainn the hurler-warrior as an icon.

In the Vocational School, Johnny Ryan 'Hyder' played with us as a night student. We were against a Kilkenny team once who included a few hockey players. Our goalie Christy Coen [of Killadangan] was beaten for four goals, which we couldn't understand because he was good, until we discovered that the Cats had a mirror and they were deflecting the sun into Christy's eyes at the right moment.

That O'Connor, Cleary-McLoughlin, Rory Leahy, Carey and Costello had CBS success from U15 Croke to U17 North Minors within six months speaks of both innate talent and school-cum-club rearing. Leahy recalled: It was an awesome experience for all of us to play in Thurles for the 1940 Croke Cup. I can only compare it to a Muslim making the trip to Mecca.

Full time: Nenagh 1-2, Shannon Rovers Nil. Toomevara beat Kyle. That game was classed locally as the day that 'the new field was opened'. The final was also decided at the Whitewalls on 7 December, where Nenagh defeated Toomevara by 1-2 to 0-1. A cross-wind somewhat marred good open football, tackling became over keen and the over-exuberance of some of the Nenagh spectators tended to excite the



**NENAGH (EIRE OG) SCHOLARSHIP WINNING TEAM**  
Front row: B. Chadwick, J. Ryan. Second row: D. Halloran, N. Corbett, J. Donoghue (Capt.), R. Shoer, C. Whelan, T. Donoghue. Third row: S. Slattery, M. O'Connor, P. Bourke, P. McGrath, Jim Ryan, Mr. B. Murphy (Players'-Wills), J. White. Back Row: B. McNamara, S. McCarthy, F. Fagan, A. Fagan, P. Scroope, J. McCullough.



Players'-Wills representative Mr. B. Murphy presents cup to J. Donoghue, Captain of the winning Scholarship League team.

players with the result that the referee was obliged to warn some and to put a Nenagh player to the line. *The North Champions*: Anthony Ryan (goal), Michael Brennan, Seán Moylan, John Maguire, Danny Shortt, John Rice, Paddy Heaney, Willie Tobin, James Barbour, John Whelan, Paudie Fitzpatrick, Michael McMahon, Seán Hyland, Rory Leahy, Willie Healy.<sup>1</sup> Interestingly, only Ryan, Tobin, Barbour, Whelan and Leahy of these hardy mid-December footballers were among the July-September hurlers.

At Dolla on 6 June Templederry and Éire Óg met in their first round, with

Tom Conway, Toomevara, as referee. Unfortunately the game was unfinished. With 54 minutes of the game gone the crossbar was broken in smithereens. Several attempts to repair the 10foot plank proved unsuccessful. Tom Conway from a farming background and being a practical man ordered a rope to replace the wooden cross bar but the Kenyon men were having none of it and refused to continue. Dick Hogan was able to elaborate when asked during his Sunday morning perambulation of the CBS grounds in later life: Yes, I can tell you about the day the crossbar got broken in Dolla

On the turnover Éire Óg added four more goals against the wind and ran out easy winners, 8-2 to 2-0. Tom Conway, Toomevara, refereed. [A boardroom referee would yet be needed; the tale is told in Chapter 50.] *Éire Óg*: Val Power, Connie Coonan, Michael Shaughnessy, Eamonn Leahy, Seán Leahy, Jackie Gaynor, Alex [Alec] Reid, Michael Doyle, Billy Talbot, Billy O'Brien, Donie O'Brien, Mickey Spain, Mickey Fitzpatrick, Maurice Corcoran, Paddy Burns, Tom Roche, Willie Brady, Peter Doyle, Jack Burns, Tim Kennedy, Michael Quigley.

*Nenagh/Wolfe Tones*: Johnny McGrath, Anthony Kennedy, Michael O'Sullivan, Anthony McLoughlin, Tomás Costello, Jack Nolan, Tom Egan, Brendan McGrath, Bill Fitzgerald, Mick Grey, Bill Butler, John Costello, Eddie Sheridan, Paddy Hyland, Paddy Kennedy, Clare St, Jimmy O'Grady, Michael Cleary, Paddy Cadell, Jack Nolan, Eddie Sheehy.





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## OUT AND ABOUT WITH ÉIRE ÓG



**ANOTHER "TRUE BLUE" PLYING THEIR TRADE ABROAD IS MARY DILLON** who is currently studying in China. Mary recently played Ladies Football in the Asian games in Kuala Lumpur with Shanghai. Following this she played in an exhibition camógie match after the football finals which were thoroughly enjoyed by the locals and ex-pats who attended. Transferring allegiances in this game Mary lined out for Hong Kong and beat Singapore by a single point. Michael O'Muireatharthaigh was on hand to present Mary and her teammates with their medals. Interesting enough Mary's teammate and goalkeeper was Margaret Madden from Portroe, a sister of Portroe camógie star Claire.



**FOLLOWING ON FROM MARY DILLON'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ASIAN GAMES**, we must remember the last participant from the club in these games, Paul Lillis. Paul togged out with Seoul Sexy Sharks GAA Club from Korea and they won the title out. Paul, has regularly reminded everyone that people like Michael Cleary, John Heffernan, Conor O'Donovan and Mick Burns were only champions of one country while Paul succeeded in becoming a champion of an entire continent, a much greater achievement he argues, and we all concur Paul!



### **ANOTHER FORMER ÉIRE ÓG HURLER PLYING HIS TRADE ELSEWHERE IS BRIAN DILLON.**

Brian is hurling for Faughs in Dublin and were unfortunately beaten in the senior hurling quarter final by their next door neighbours St. Judes 0-22 to 0-07. Brian has captained the Dublin outfit to a Leinster league title in the past and has settled in very well to his adopted club in Templeogue. Faughs, the most successful hurling club in the capital which has had many Nenagh hurlers play for them over the years, have been out of the reckoning for a number of years and it is great to see Brian leading them back to the knockout stages of the Dublin championship.







## OUT AND ABOUT WITH ÉIRE ÓG



Congratulations to senior club P.R.O. Brian McDonnell and Jenny Bracken who got married recently. Best wishes for your future happiness from everybody in the club.



### CAN YOU HELP TO IDENTIFY THE PEOPLE IN THE PHOTOGRAPH?

Many thanks to Josephine Nolan for this wonderful photo. The only supporters identified so far are Liam McKenna, Donie Nolan and Paddy O'Donoghue who are all in suits.

The only player we can identify is Jack Nolan who is sitting third from the right. Is that Billy O'Brien sitting third from the left?

IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE EMAIL [EIREOGNENAGH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:EIREOGNENAGH@GMAIL.COM)



Thank you to the staff and pupils of St. Mary's Boys National School for the warm welcome given to Mickey McNamara and Michael Geaney recently when they brought the senior club's cups from this season for a visit.



**CLICK ON THE PHOTO ABOVE TO VIEW A FINALS DAY REPORT FROM THE AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS. WILLIE IS PICTURED FORTH PLAYER FROM THE LEFT.**



On the weekend of the 18th and 19th of October the Camogie club had their annual flag day collections. We want to thank all those who kindly donated, volunteered to collect and the premises for allowing us to fundraise outside their shop fronts.





# NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

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### NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG HEALTHY CLUB PROJECT PRESENT A NIGHT OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> AT 7-30PM



## Nenagh Éire Óg HEALTHY CLUB PROJECT



A night of hope and caring for our community

**Shane Martin Reg. Psychol., Ps.S.I.**  
**"Harnessing Strengths during Challenging Times"**  
 Shane Martin is a psychologist dedicated to teaching the very best self-help Psychology to empower people to enhance the quality of their lives

Shane has been a keynote speaker at numerous national and international conferences on a range of topics around empowerment, recovery and happiness



**SHANE MARTIN**

Shane's Moodwatchers self-help course has been delivered at community venues throughout the length and breadth of Ireland. His work has received coverage in national media and in recent years he has linked with hundreds of primary, secondary and third level educational institutions. Come listen to his helpful advice on how to keep stress levels down and your mental health in order.

[CLICK TO CONNECT WITH SHANE MARTIN'S MOODWATCHERS WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

## The next phase

The Healthy Club Project Team invites you to an evening with Shane Martin

Abbey Court Hotel | Wednesday | Admission  
Nenagh | Nov 19th - 7.30pm | 5 Euro



Supported by



White Swan Multimedia

**HOW ARE YOU ON POSITIVE THINKING, SELF-ESTEEM, SELF-CONFIDENCE?** How are your relationships? Would you like to be able to relate better to others? Nenagh Éire Óg Healthy Club Project Team are inviting you to another interesting night on Health and Well Being in the Abbey Court Hotel on Wednesday November 19th at 7.30pm. This is a gathering not to be missed.

**"Harnessing Strengths during Challenging Times"** is a presentation that will be given by Shane Martin Reg. Psychol., Ps.S.I. Shane is a psychologist dedicated to teaching the very best self-help psychology to empower people to enhance the quality of their lives. Shane has been a keynote speaker at numerous national and international conferences on a range of topics around empowerment, recovery and happiness.





## A TRIBUTE TO FR. TONY BUTLER SMA



Nenagh Éire Óg Healthy Club Project Team

### A Tribute to Fr. Tony Butler SMA

It is with sadness that we inform you of the death of Fr. Tony Butler SMA which took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at Cork University Hospital. Many of you will remember Tony and his meeting with us in the Abbey Court Hotel on June 6<sup>th</sup> last as part of our Health and Well Being initiative. It was a night to remember where Tony willingly shared his many stories and the ups and downs of life.

Fr. Tony was a gentle humble Irish Missionary who shared his life with so many in Africa and helped them to find hope and to see life with a different lens. He came back home to Cork and for the past number of years he continued his ministry of giving hope and meaning to so many people.

We in the Healthy Club Project Team remember Fr. Tony with affection and gratitude for giving so generously of his time to us. Indeed we had spoken to him of giving more time to our Project but God called him home.

On behalf of all of us in the Nenagh Éire Óg Healthy Club Project Team and all of you who were fortunate to receive his wisdom and his insight, we extend our heartfelt sympathy to Fr Tony's brother Don, his sister-in-law, nieces, nephew, relatives, friends and his fellow priests in the Society of African Missions.

Ar dheas Dé go raibh a anam





### BLAST FROM THE PAST – 1992 NORTH FINAL

#### “THIS ONE IS FOR EVERYONE WHOEVER WORE THE BLUE JERSEY”

The iconic words of captain Paul Kennedy rang out loud and clear over Thomas MacDonagh’s pitch in Cloughjordan as Nenagh ended a 28 year famine and reclaimed the Frank McGrath Cup for the fourth time in the clubs history having previously won it in 1915, 1957 and 1964. For a town and club like Nenagh it was hard to fathom how we had won so few and with many near misses and heartbreaks over the years the emotion felt on that Sunday in August was clear for all to see. Hurling means a lot to our town and there was no end of tears shed by the supporters of the Blues, many of whom were too young to remember our previous success. Corner back Noel Coffey summed up perfectly the motivation behind that great win. It wasn’t for the team but for the people of Nenagh..... “we waited 28 years for it, we deserved it and as Paul Kennedy said any man that has worn the sky blue all up along, it’s all for them, the men that have gone, the men that have passed, the Tommy Stanleys, you name them, that lived and died for Nenagh, that were following them since ‘64 that were following us all up along.....we have it”. Upon receiving the Frank McGrath Cup Paul Kennedy gave as memorable, as iconic and as meaningful a speech when he declared “it’s been twenty eight years, it’s a long wait, this one, with a bit of luck we could have won a couple, we didn’t, but today we finally done it and this one is for everyone who ever wore the blue jersey”. The cheers that greeted these words spoke volumes on what this meant. The foundations for this win was laid over many years with tremendous work put into our juveniles throughout the



*Nenagh captain, Paul Kennedy*

1970’s and 1980’s but it was Liam Heffernan and his fantastic management team that put together the final piece of the jigsaw that got Nenagh over the line. Politician Michael O Kennedy, himself a double North winner with Nenagh in ‘57 and ‘64 remarked “They’ve (management) been with Eire Óg as supporters, trainers and coaches for years, and they deserve great credit in the first instance. Some hurled with Eire Óg and we were lucky to win medals, I got mine in ‘57, the last in ‘64, it’s a long time back now. I’d have to say to the four lads who have been with them a long time now is that they deserve great credit. What they have done for the young people of Nenagh and the Eire Óg club generally, all of the members of Eire Og, I’m so proud of them. They’ve given a spirit to our town” One of our greatest ever supporters and clubmen Paddy O Donoghue was interviewed in the aftermath of the game and his words summed up what it meant to everyone: “It means everything. I’ve waited a long long time for it. I’m not able to talk now, I’m speechless. The ticker I thought would give way there during the game but I’m lost for words”. Here is Gerry Slevin’s match report

**NENAGH’S TITLE AFTER 28 BARREN YEARS**  
Twenty eight years of failure, disappointment and frustration were swept aside on a high tide of enthusiasm at Cloughjordan on Sunday, as Nenagh Eire Óg cantered to their first championship win since 1964, defeating Lorrha by 1 -18 to 0-8 In the North Tipperary senior hurling final.

The determination was there, and the will was there, but just when Lorrha's momentum had injected some real life into the game, Nenagh struck

for a succession of points, and suddenly the whole structure took on a complete new dimension and the game was dead and buried as a spectacle.

Taking full advantage of almost every opportunity, they-missed two gilt-edged opportunities in the hour, Nenagh pulled the rug from under the legs of Lorrha with seven first half points to lead at half time, 0-7 to 0-5. Aided by the strong wind in the second half, Eire Og began to really stamp their indelible authority on the proceedings, and a goal by John Kennedy, after twenty two minutes left them in an unassailable position. At the call of time supporters of the dark blues were in great heart and for good reason, there could be absolutely no denying their right to bring home the Frank McGrath Cup, after twenty eight years in the desert, and away from the championship list of honours.

The after-match scenes were almost indescribable, players were hugged, tears were not far away and it took almost fifteen minutes for the team captain, Paul Kennedy, to reach the presentation dias, but these were moments to be savoured and Nenagh





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had closed a long barren gap in their club's history. The celebrations continued after the presentation, a warm welcome awaited the newly crowned champions in their home town. It mattered little they were behind their scheduled time of arrival in Banba Square and in the midst of it all, an old timer recalled the catch cry of 'Up Eire Og and bring your mothers', but times change and once more, Nenagh had joined the elite of the division.

The Cloughjordan park committee's arrangements were top class for the big event, and the final will be remembered as one in which everything went happily right except the weather and the match itself. It was a final which never became the hoped for showpiece and one that rarely got off the ground. This was true even in the largely probing opening half, despite the scores being level on five occasions. The exchanges were tense and tentative and were not helped by a difficult wind blowing into the town goal, and a near torrential shower that might have well caused the abandonment of the pre-match parade behind the Moycarkey Pipers' Band.

### JOYOUS OCCASION

It was a joyous occasion for Nenagh folk, who so often in the past have left in desolation after big match defeats. That emotion was replaced by triumphalism on their return to MacDonagh Park, twelve months after their defeat by Toomevara in last year's decider. A remarkable display of speed and artistry carved Eire Og's name once more on the roll of honour, on a day Nenaghmen will always remember.

Lorrha's exertions against Toomevara on three successive Sundays appeared to have taken its toll, as from an early stage they were never playing with the same fire, which characterised their play in the quarter final, and only John McIntyre showed the same overall power and coolness. They were in reasonable contention for three quarters of the hour



*Paddy O' Donoghue being interviewed after the match*

but once Nenagh found their rhythm they cantered like hurling thoroughbreds, and won comprehensively in the style of champions. Eire Óg played some splendid hurling in the final quarter, but Lorrha's challenge had been completely undermined, and the Nenagh players raced into the open spaces and away from their leg-weary opponents.

For the neutrals, it had to be a disappointment, there have been more classical and exciting finals but nothing can take away from Eire Og's performance. They confounded their own critics, and the play of Michael Cleary and Donie O'Brien must stand alongside the best in the annals of the club's three championship successes over the past thirty five years.

On a wild blustery day, Nenagh played with great determination from the start, having far the better of matters in some vital sections. Lorrha's famed, fighting spirit surfaced, as Cathal McIntyre's point nine minutes into the second half cut the deficit to a solitary point. Eire Og dug deep into their reserves to draw clear away, to the delight of their large following, leaving Lorrha floundering in their wake.

Nenagh were turning on the style, and seemed qualified to give lessons in the arts and crafts of the game, as they powered their way into an unassailable lead. One felt more than a tinge of

sympathy for Lorrha, who were only a pale imitation of the team who battled for two hundred and ten minutes against Toomevara, and in the end were offering a defiant but passive role.

Hopes were genuinely high in Lorrha they would lay their hands on the Frank McGrath cup for the fourth time, and such was the play of Cathal McIntyre, Tom Madden, Donal O'Donoghue, John Madden, John McIntyre and Aidan Maher in the early stages it looked as if their dreams could well be realised. But it was the same, sad old story, and their followers groaned as wide

followed wide, and at the end of the hour they were left to ponder on what might have been. Lorrha never pulled back from the challenge, and in some quarters gave as good as they got, but in the end could only stand and watch as Eire Óg ripped them asunder.

The consensus of opinion was Lorrha were leg weary, at times they appeared so in the testing conditions but their ambitions were pushed beyond recall by Eire Og's team performance supplemented by some truly outstanding individual performances with Michael Cleary topping the list over the full sixty minutes. His artistry and accuracy was a joy to behold, and eight times in the sixty minutes he was on target, with four of his eight points total scored against the wind.

His point eleven minutes into the second half, did not meet with Ken Hogan's approval for accuracy, and referee Michael Lenihan's book was out when the goalkeeper seemed to dissent with the umpire's decision leading an embankment spectator to comment to the whereabouts of the Dublin based Garda's own notebook.

On the day Eire Óg were the superior team and deserved to win the championship for the fourth time. Against the wind they made the early running and John Kennedy shot them into the lead inside two minutes. Lorrha





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began to settle and with Cathal McIntyre dominating on the half back line, and Ken Hogan's goalmouth deliveries dropping deep in Nenagh territory, Lorrha were frequently in and around the Nenagh goalmouth.

The game was developing into a free-taking contest between Kieran Hough and Michael Cleary, and at the end of the first quarter, each side had scored three points. Martin Young edged Lorrha clear, but full of determination, Eire Óg came back for Eddie Tucker to equalise. Lorrha were out in front again, John McIntyre successfully pointing a long range free but again Tucker struck back for Eire Óg. The Nenagh team were making their presence felt and coming up to half time, Michael Cleary pointed two frees to leave Eire Óg leading at half time by 0-7 to 0-5, Lorrha recording seven first half wides to two for the town team. With the wind behind them Eire Óg made the early running on the restart but Ken Hogan was equal to anything that came his way. Brian Mannion made an early appearance for the injured Johnny Sullivan and when Lorrha's Cathal McIntyre hit the opening point inside nine minutes, the famous Lorrha courage and determination seemed set to surface. These attributes were al- Eire Og's ways present but not in the corresponding manner, as in previous games.

Eire Óg began to find their touch and points flowed from Robbie Tomlinson, John Kennedy and Michael Cleary. Lorrha had re-arranged their forces but still the Nenagh bandwagon rolled on with points from Cleary (free), Tucker, John Kennedy, Cleary (free) and Ronan Burns and the town team were out by 0-15 to 0-6. A Lorrha rally was pushed beyond the bounds of possibility as John Kennedy hit the only goal of the game in the 22nd minute.

Paul Dolan and Ronan Burns made it 1-17 to 0-6. Cathal McIntyre (free) and Michael Cleary exchanged points, Ken Hogan did not attempt the long up field journey for a Lorrha twenty one, which was saved and cleared. The final score fell to Lorrha's Declan O'Meara but the



Noel Coffey

famine was over, and Eire Óg had reached the Promised Land after twenty eight long years.

### MANTLE OF GLORY

Eire Óg had cloaked themselves in the mantle of glory and every man played his part in a team effort which saw them striding out like champions near the end, a credit to their trainer Liam Heffernan. Michael Cleary was on top of his game from the off and along with Philip Kennedy marshalled their forces, covering acres of ground and turning defence into attack.

The Cleary Kennedy midfield combination was the architect of Nenagh's famous victory but high on the list came Donie O'Brien, who played a storming first twenty minutes when his goal was under constant siege from Ken Hogan's massive goal deliveries. Noel Coffey was solid in the first half but blossomed forth along with Conor O'Donovan and did a masterly job in containing whatever trio Lorrha pitted against them.

Christy McLoughlin has only conceded one goal in four games in the championship, he was again his cool and confident self-getting great length into his clearances, even against the wind. The Eire Óg half back line of Paul Kennedy, Frank Moran and John Heffernan did the business for Eire Óg and five of the forwards got their name on the scoring sheet. The sixth, Neillie Corbett did a vast amount of spade work and the sextet as a unit were more than

adequate to the task confronting them. Eddie Tucker and John Kennedy led by example and Tucker was winning the medal which eluded his father John in the unfinished final of '82. Donie O'Brien's father Billy was captain of the 1957 Eire Óg winning team.

The half time predictions that Lorrha were in trouble trailing by two points proved all too true. They never reached the standard one associated with Lorrha in their mighty saga with Toomevara but John McIntyre, Declan O'Meara, Donal O'Donoghue, Cathal McIntyre and Aidan Maher never gave up trying. John Madden promised a good deal in the first half but his striking was never on par with his performance the previous week. Ken Hogan was again superb in the Lorrha goal and his mighty clearances were often a worry to the Nenagh defence. The old Lorrha weakness of lack of penetration among the forwards was all too evident and cost them dearly in the heat of a North final.

Scorers: Nenagh Eire Óg, M Cleary 0-8, J Kennedy 1-3, E Tucker 0-3, R Burns 0-2, R Tomlinson & P Dolan 0-1 each. Lorrha K Hough 0-3, C McIntyre 0-2, J McIntyre, D O'Meara M Young 0-1 each.

Nenagh Eire Óg: C McLoughlin, D O'Brien, C O'Donovan, N Coffey, J Heffernan, F Moran, P Kennedy (capt), P Kennedy, M Cleary, R Burns, P Dolan, R Tomlinson, J Kennedy, N Corbett, E Tucker.

Lorrha: K Hogan, D O'Donoghue, M Brophy, A Maher, D O'Meara, J McIntyre, C McIntyre, T Madden, J Madden (capt), G Sullivan, J Sullivan, M Young, A McIntyre, P Kennedy, K Hough Subs B Mannion for J Sullivan, D Harding for A McIntyre, T Guinan for Kennedy

Referee Michael Lenihan (Ballinahinch)

**CLICK LINK TO WATCH MATCH VIDEO**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4IFHCG3LpY>





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### C'MON EIRE OG AND BRING YOUR MOTHERS! LONG WAIT IS OVER- NENAGH HURLING WALKS TALL AGAIN

#### C'MON EIRE OG AND BRING YOUR MOTHERS LONG WAIT IS OVER- NENAGH HURLING WALKS TALL AGAIN

BY GERRY SLEVIN

Just before 2.30 p.m. on Sunday a group of young men with a spring in their step emerged from the precincts of JKC's in Pearse Street. With heavy traffic wending its way through the street, en route to Cloughjordan, they side-stepped their way across the street to cars awaiting them on the other side.

In, slammed doors and off. The first leg of a journey which at 4.50 p.m. would see them crowned North Tipperary senior hurling champions for the first time in twenty eight years.

At Lisboney a sign proclaimed '*Up Eire Óg and bring your mother!*'. An exhortation that was indeed heeded, because mothers, sisters, aunts, wives, the lot, seemed to have joined the men folk in Cloughjordan immaculately manicured MacDonagh Park. There was a great sense of occasion about the day. The minors of Ballina and Newport set the scene with their minor 'B' final, a unique pairing for the Nealon Cup, and one which prompted Board chairman, Billy Ryan when presenting the trophy to the winning captain to express the hope that it wouldn't be too long before these teams would make it to a North senior final.

A DAMPER

The threatening clouds eventually decided to place a damper on proceedings when between games, they opened up, causing the Sean Treacy pipe band to scurry for their wet-gear before moving into action with their musical contribution, and of course the parade of the teams. Multi coloured umbrellas were hoisted, but, thankfully, not for too long and when Michael Lenihan officially set the game in motion, Board President John Joe Maher, having moved out to greet the teams and

officials, we sat back in anticipation of a great struggle. As a game, the '92 final will hardly go down in the annals as a good one, not even a mediocre one. From the outset it was clear that Lorrha hadn't the wherewithal to counter the utterly reliable Nenagh backs and even Ken Hogan's mighty pucks right into Eire Óg territory, couldn't inspire the forwards to build up a score, they so badly needed, when wind assisted.

Nenagh's 0-7 to 0-5 interval lead told its own story. Cool heads, accurate shooting and the Frank McGrath Cup would be back in town. And so it was. Nenagh turned on the gas in the second half, inspired by a brilliant Michael Cleary from the middle of the field. Points flashed over with almost monotonous regularity and Lorrha's cause was well and truly lost long before the final blast. Indeed such was the picture that when 'presented with a close in free shortly before the end, Ken Hogan declined to make the long journey up and try for a goal. It wouldn't mean anything even if he struck home.

A REALITY

Michael Lenihan's long whistle saw what most people throughout the second half envisaged, become a reality. Nenagh had done it. The long wait was over. They had fought the good fight to get their hands on the cup but such was their elation and that of their supporters that several calls had to be made over the public address system for the Eire Óg captain Paul Kennedy to come along and collect that precious piece of silver. So ecstatic were they in their hour of glory, that the object of it all was temporarily forgotten about! By any standards, twenty eight years is a long wait for a title and for a club that has done so well in under age competition over the years, it had become somewhat difficult to believe that the Frank McGrath trophy should have eluded them for so long.

Sunday September 27th 1964 was the last occasion that Eire Óg had the

opportunity to celebrate a senior victory. Their only win prior to that was in '57, when Billy O'Brien captained the side. How appropriate that Billy's son Donie should have been such a staunch defender in Sunday's success and of course Ronan Burns at wing forward on Sunday, is son of Mick, who led the 1964 side to its title. Other links with that win included Conor O'Donovan, nephew of Terry Maloney, Tony Tierney a player in '64 is now a selector, Philip Hennessy and Declan O'Meara (subs), sons of Phil and Eamonn.

3,800 people attended the '64 final to which admission was 2/- (10p) with side line 2/- extra. As with last Sunday's final, a Ballinahinch man had charge of the whistle, Michael Carey. Roscrea were the favourites but lost 2-8 to 5-12 and that night the Swing College played in the Ormond and there was a Jackpot of £50 on offer in the CBS Bingo session in the Scouts Hall. The Rialto Cinema was open then and 'Saturday Island' starring Linda Darnell and Tab Hunter was the featured film on that Sunday night.

CELEBRATIONS

So the rounds of celebrations are under way, but not for too long, however. Now that the North title has been regained, sights are firmly set on that elusive county title and there's a quarter final game against the South runners-up, Killenaule on Sunday week. Whatever the immediate future holds for Nenagh, the fact that they have come in from the cold and won the North championship breaks a hoodoo that has beset them over the years. A year ago, they lost out to Toome in a replayed decider. Defeat was again their lot in Centenary year, '84 to their victims of last Sunday, Lorrha. While in '82 they drew with Roscrea in the final and the replay didn't take place.

That's all behind them now. Paul Kennedy's men are savouring the delights of a senior championship win. Nenagh hurling walks tall again.





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### UNDER-13 NORTH HURLING PLATE WINNERS



**VICTORIOUS CAPTAIN, CONOR HENNESSY IS PRESENTED WITH THE WINNERS TROPHY.**



### UNDER- 8 HURLERS ON THEIR RECENT TRIP TO KILMACUD



### WELL DONE TO OUR UNDER-13 HURLERS WHO CAPTURED THE NORTH U13 PLATE TITLE

when they defeated Borrisoleigh on Sunday October 18th on a scoreline of 5-07 to 1-06. Despite playing against a stiff breeze in the first half, Eire Óg opened the scoring when Conor Robinson pounced for a goal from a breaking ball. Cian Griffin added a second midway through the first half, to leave the half-time score, Eire Óg 2-02 to 0-01. 2nd half goals from Barry Coffey, Cian O'Farrell and Conor Malone secured the victory for The Blues. This concludes the hurling activity for the year for the boys. A big thanks to all the players for their commitment during the year and very well done to the management team of John Phelan, Conor O Donovan, Phil Hennessy and Michael McNamara.





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### THANK YOU TO JUVENILE SPONSORS - A SPORTSMAN'S DREAM



Many thanks to A Sportsman's Dream for their continued support of Nenagh Éire Óg juvenile club and all of our juvenile teams. On their behalf, Deirdre Hughes recently presented our under-10 hurlers with a new set of jerseys which the boys (above, left) wore proudly at their recent blitz.

**WE WOULD ASK ALL PARENTS AND PLAYERS TO SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS WHENEVER POSSIBLE.**

**10% OFF NON-SALE  
ITEMS ON PRODUCTION  
OF YOUR ÉIRE ÓG  
JUVENILE MEMBERSHIP  
CARD**

\*Terms and conditions apply





# NENAGH ÉIRE ÓG

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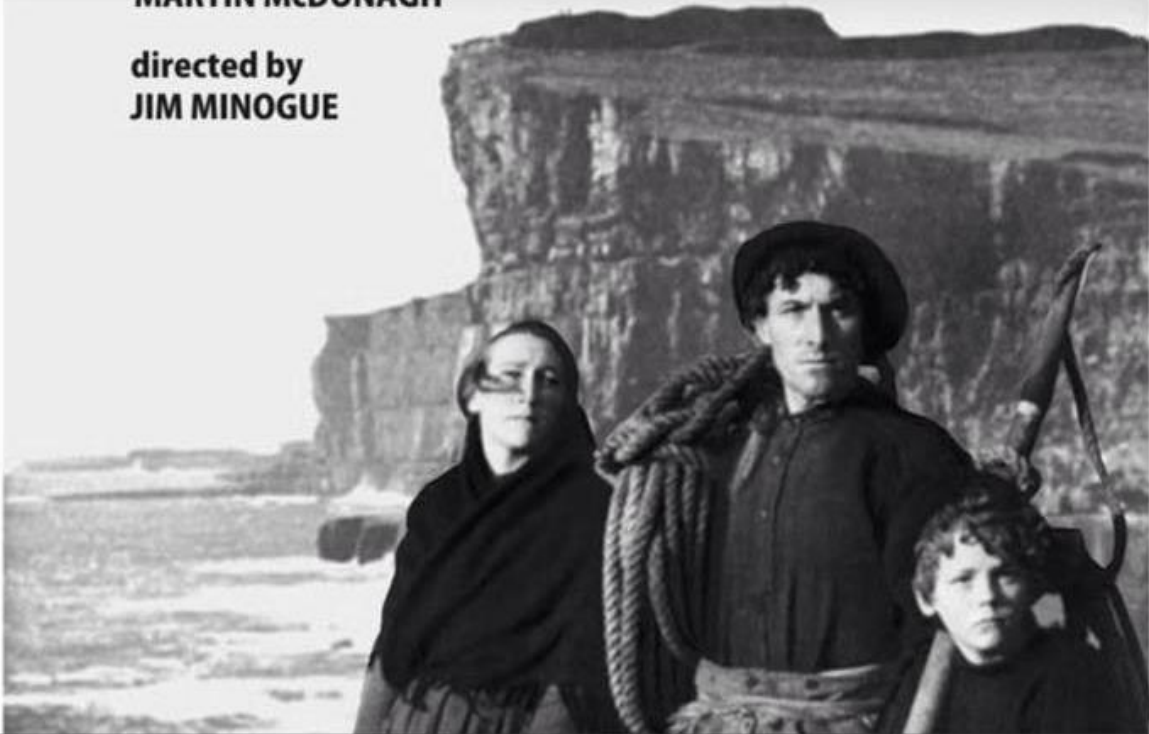
KEVIN WHELAN IS TAKING A BREAK FROM WRITING HIS NENAGH HISTORY STORIES FOR US TO STAR AS JOHNNYPATEENMIKE, THE TOWN GOSSIP IN NENAGH PLAYERS PRODUCTION OF THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN THIS MONTH. YOU CAN BOOK YOUR TICKETS FROM DK TRAVEL - PHONE 067 37964 OR BY CALLING 089-4994661

NENAGH PLAYERS  
present

# The CRIPPLE of INISHMAAN

by  
MARTIN McDONAGH

directed by  
JIM MINOGUE



**NENAGH ARTS CENTRE**  
Tues 4th - Sat 8th November 2014  
8.30 p.m.





## A MAN OF GREAT TASTE! MEET JAMIE THOMPSON-TIPP'S ADOPTED SON! (YOU'LL MEET HIM EVERYWHERE NOW!)

Tipperary is one of the best supported counties in the GAA with over one thousand season ticket holders annually subscribing. Many of those supporters are what is best described as "die hard" fans turning up at challenges in January, Waterford Crystal games in February, the league throughout the Spring and championship come the Summer. From attending so many games acquaintances and friendships have developed among them. One particular passionate supporter among these has regularly turned many heads with his cries of "Hon Tipp", "a boy Lar boy" and "ah Jaysus ref". What singles his shouts out from all the rest is his distinctive British accent. Jamie Thompson, or Jersey Jamie as he is affectionately known as by the Tipp support, was born and bred in the Channel Islands and grew up knowing little or nothing about Ireland and its culture. Today, he is one of Tipperary's best known and loved fans. Here he tells his story.



still picture it all so clearly in my mind like it was earlier today.

I knew even before I returned home that weekend that in my heart I had to do anything to return back. I would do anything to work and live in Ireland. So I applied for a pharmaceutical job in microbiology (as a chemist I wasn't going to get it, but I had to get a CV into a company somewhere). A few months later a recruitment agency phoned me up. "Do you want to do a six month contract preparing for the Irish Medicines Board audit/certification reviewing documentation and getting everything audit ready? "YES YES YES", I didn't need to think about it. Even though I was working in the UK in a big pharmaceutical company at the time and had no desire to leave I couldn't resist. After all, if I did six months and returned to the south coast in the UK I would have some more experience. On 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2004, I was dropped by my ex at Gatwick Airport with four large bags (now that would be a fierce fee for excess baggage but it was when BA / Aer Lingus were not

**Q:** *Growing up in Jersey did you have any awareness of Gaelic Games and what brought you to Ireland?*

**JT:** I knew nothing of GAA or Ireland until my first trip over here. I grew up in Jersey until I was eighteen and struggled to leave to go to 'College' to get my degree in the UK. I didn't want to leave the nine miles by five miles island. I studied then and worked between the UK and The Netherlands

A friend rang me one day and said do I want to go for a weekend to Ireland. I thought sure why not. It is only over the water. I knew nothing about Ireland or its rich history.

Within about five minutes of getting off the bus in town on my first trip to Ireland of a long weekend I fell in love with the country. Four of us stayed in a hostel in Dublin, did a city bus tour and went on a minibus tour of Wicklow Mountains and Glendalough. My friend has always been completely wired so from the word go it was always going to be a complete hoot. I can

obsessed with that sort of thing). I had my entire life in bags (well except the stuff that still blocks up most of my parents garage). In addition to the four bags, I had come over with nothing. I had 50 pounds worth of Euros and this included what I would have to pay a taxi driver to get me to Clondalkin. The Irish taxi driver did not know where I was going to and smart phones, apps and a well-known search engine did not exist and neither did the M7 or M8 motorway so my route to Tipp was not what it is now. I hadn't even dreamt of a place called Thurles, the home of hurling. At this stage in theory there was no chance





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of me becoming a hurling supporter, let alone an honorary Tipp man. The trip to Ireland was not the easiest way to start a new life. I had a one week holiday to try to gain my bearings around West Dublin and Grafton Street. Week two of my Irish life, I strolled into work and sat down opposite a Killenaule lad. Well it didn't take long before we were drinking buddies and the two of us hung around with the two girls in our team. I was taken under the wing of my Tipp mate. He had a car which was great.

We even managed a trip to Cork on the in-progress M8. My life in Dublin was starting to take shape. I visited Killenaule and was met with typical Irish hospitality. My mates sister was welcoming, "Well ..... would you like a cup of tea" (pause) "and how about dinner" I was hooked on the friendliness I hadn't experienced anywhere before. A few weeks later my mate and I had two hurleys between us a few sliotars. But it's fair to say I was never going to be the next Lar'.

**Q:** Can you remember your first hurling match? Who was playing and what were your initial thoughts about the game and occasion?

**JT:** On my first trip to Ireland I had been in the Guinness Storehouse and saw on the TV part of a hurling match between Cork and Kilkenny. It looked OK but I didn't understand it. 2005 came and I was never going to leave Ireland at this stage. I was hooked.

A premium ticket circulated at work. It went to one person (a Kilkenny supporter!). They were playing but he couldn't go. He said it would be worth it for the experience knowing I was the

tourist. I got the ticket. I ventured from Clondalkin into town on the 51B bus. I hadn't a clue. I got off where a few people wearing jerseys did. I followed them. I had been a Bath Rugby supporter from college days so I wanted a Gaelic jersey. I went into Clery's on O'Connell Street. What on earth do I do? I don't know what is what. Try to get an ignorant foreigner to pick a team, pick a jersey, and understand the Irish name on the sleeve to pick one out.

that someone would make a comment. I went in the Premium doors and was immediately impressed. It looked like a nice place. Looked huge. Escalators up to level five. I found the seat. Two people then said excuse me and commented on the jersey.

Neighbouring seats with a Galway guy and a Cork guy: This was going to be interesting. I didn't know about rivalry of neighbouring counties at this stage. Chatting away they also worked in the same place I did. Well Tipperary lost that

**2014 - Hurling**

		<p><b>1</b> Darren Gleeson Tipperary</p>
<p><b>2</b> Paul Murphy Kilkenny</p>	<p><b>3</b> JJ Delaney Kilkenny</p>	<p><b>4</b> Seamus Hickey Limerick</p>
<p><b>5</b> Brendan Maher Tipperary</p>	<p><b>6</b> Padraic Maher Tipperary</p>	<p><b>7</b> Cillian Buckley Kilkenny</p>
<p><b>8</b> Richie Hogan Kilkenny</p>		<p><b>9</b> Shane McGrath Tipperary</p>
<p><b>10</b> John O'Dwyer Tipperary</p>	<p><b>11</b> Patrick Maher Tipperary</p>	<p><b>12</b> TJ Reid Kilkenny</p>
<p><b>13</b> Colin Fennelly Kilkenny</p>	<p><b>14</b> Seamus Callanan Tipperary</p>	<p><b>15</b> Shane Dowling Limerick</p>

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The odds were completely against me. I looked at my ticket and I prayed like I never prayed before. No one come near me and ask me if I needed help. I was mortified already and I think my face went the colour of a Loughmore-Castleiney jersey (green from fear and red from pure embarrassment of frantically searching through ALL the jerseys on the rails). Limerick v Kilkenny and Tipp v Galway. 2005 Quarter Finals of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling. I still have that ticket stuck on the wall of my bedroom. I only had a very weak link but that was Tipperary of all four teams. The praying worked because I found a Tiobraid Árann jersey after what seemed like an age. I didn't know what Croke Park looked like and I certainly didn't know where to go (again technology in 2005 was still limited). I had to kind of stalk the general crowd. I followed a few people that luckily went straight to the match.

**Q:** Why did you decide to start supporting Tipperary?

**JT:** So the tenuous link had driven my jersey choice. For that day I was a Tipperary man to all who bothered to look at me. And I didn't say a word to anyone fearing that the secret would be out and





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### TIPP'S 2014 ALLSTARS

At a league match a few years back I commented one day on a performance of a player "Right please get the ball for once". It was an innocent comment and he is one of my favourite players so I wasn't giving out. The guy next to me nudged me and said "Don't say any more. His mother, aunt and sister are right behind you and they will not let you away with any

day, I got a slagging and I got a heap of beers with the two lads after. I felt that this was a sport to follow and I wasn't for changing. I was hooked. I started to go to the occasional game down the country on my own because I liked it. I travelled to Semple Stadium and Limerick. The network started growing. I bumped into another guy (this time of Loughmore / Thurles heritage) from work that I knew. Independently we both enrolled on the season tickets (well I got two in case I could drag along a friend) and that was it. I have 100% attendance most years including the league but would miss no more than one match a year. Two of us even travelled to the inter-county league matches that were snowed off a few years back!

**Q:** *Is it true that you own two season tickets? What do you do with the second one?*

**JT:** My mate and I have two season tickets each. I enrolled at the start with two season tickets. I always try to get my friends along with me. My friends who have come to matches vary: Fermanagh, Down, Galway, Kildare, Tipp, UK, France, etc. A Tipp match is usually a good match and I like to share the experience.

**Q:** *What was the experience of this year's two All Irelands like?*

**JT:** 2014 was a little different than normal. I felt an unusual calm

leading up to the final. I had been so busy with work. I had the championship breakfast sorted for my mates and I. We knew we were going to McGrath's for a pint of Bulmers beforehand. At this stage it is beyond a tradition. It is a ritual. I met more of a crowd I knew and we tottered off to the match. Fantastic match. I went from hope and belief to depression to biting all ten fingers. We were there.

The award of a free at the end was controversial (well if you are from Kilkenny) but Bubbles did a great job getting it to Hawkeye territory. The replay was not the same so let's leave it at that. I have such admiration of the team this year (like every other year). I cannot play and I don't always see everything or get all the minute details but when I tried the football in Dublin in 2011 I realised I was useless and this makes me admire the hurlers even more

**Q:** *Have you met any of the Tipp players? Any funny stories about meeting them?*

**JT:** My first time meeting a player was in Semple Stadium. I went onto the pitch after the whistle and went up to get a signature on my jersey. I knew who I was asking as Benny Dunne had been in the first match I ever went to in 2005. I am 6'4" and the only other people around me asking for signatures were not higher than three foot and a third of my age. I didn't care. I was getting that signature!!!

comments. They have a reputation for defending him if anyone comments about him". I didn't say another word!!! The Tipperary players are like heroes to me (and it seems weird as a grown man) but because I cannot play and never will I think I appreciate more how skilled and hardworking they are.

**Q:** *What do people back home in Jersey think when you tell them about hurling?*

**JT:** My friends always see my random comments like "Tiobraid Árann Abú" on my Facebook page but not many people over there have seen it. I went home last summer for holiday and took two hurls and some sliotars. I went down to the beach for a puck around. You could tell some people were looking at me in an intrigued way as to what the weird shaped stick was. Two middle aged couples separately came up for the chat. You can't go anywhere without bumping into the Irish and the Irish are always friendly and up for an auld chin-wag.

**Q:** *What are your views on the Sky Sports deal?*

**JT:** I am a stickler for tradition and I didn't like TV3 taking matches away from RTE and TG4. Now though I have no problem with Sky having matches but only as long as people don't miss out on anything like an All-Ireland final if they took matches away from RTE or TG4. Sky have good coverage and the stats are good. Not everyone has Sky or pay channels and I don't think it would be fair if they were to block the older





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generations from watching the national sport. In terms of newspaper coverage, I think the GAA is under represented.

**Q:** Who is your favourite hurler and why?

**JT:** Paudie Maher, Lar Corbett and Mikey Cahill would be my favourites. Great players of my era, who play for Tipp.

**Q:** What is your best memory of supporting Tipp and your worst?

**JT:** 2010 All-Ireland has to be the best. Close second best is any time Tipp beat Cork or Kilkenny. Worst have to be anytime in Pairc Ui Chaoimh (As I am quite tall the old stadium is an absolute nightmare for me. The person in front normally doesn't appreciate my knees in their back either) and anytime in Nowlan Park (It is the home of the enemy. I feel sick walking towards it, into it and sitting in it).

**Q:** Can you put your finger on what it is you love most about hurling?

**JT:** Part of it is the speed, skill, the community and the mixed seating. I am impressed that people play and support their county. It is an inbuilt sense of duty that is unrivalled. You don't see many people on the Island of Ireland choosing to support another county. It is a sign of

a truly patriotic cause. I don't see other sports having this same deep routed pride and tradition.

**Q:** Do you follow Gaelic football?

**JT:** I have also driven around the country to watch the Tipperary footballers and some other matches. I like the sport but for me hurling was my first experience. I think the footballers are good, but there is a tough challenge with the likes of Kerry and Cork in the

Munster championship that it is not easy getting over the first hurdle.

**Q:** Can you tell us any funny/interesting story regarding you and hurling?

**JT:** After 2010 in our victory year, I got to hold the Liam McCarthy Cup. I was so overjoyed. I was grinning like a little kid who had just got a huge ice cream on a summer's day down at the beach. I was delighted. Suffice to say if I tried to play hurling I reckon everyone would find it hilarious.

**Q:** Why did you decide to adopt Thurles Sarsfields as your club team?

**JT:** I spent so much time in Thurles and in Semple Stadium that it seemed natural that if I was going to adopt a

club that it would be Sars. I always said that I would love to buy a house down in Thurles. It feels like my spiritual home. Maybe I am a reincarnated Thurles person.

A few county matches before Sars last won the senior title, I went into the clubhouse before the match and asked behind the bar if I could buy a club jersey. The guy behind the bar said what do you want one for? I panicked and felt like an eejit (even though I would be shouting for the team through the match). I blurted out "It's for my godson. It is his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday next week and he's from up the road". Afterwards I couldn't put the logic together in my own head. Why would a twelve year old wear a large/extra-large adult jersey? Anyway I was out of there quick and just had to hope that they didn't analyse it. But I now had the jersey so I was happy. There is usually a joke at least in every other game from my mates asking have I brought the kit so that I can tog out in case. Even though I will never be a hurler, I get great enjoyment from the game.

**Q:** Do you enjoy the occasion of a major hurling game? The morning of the game, the walk to the stadium etc.





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**JT:** My passion to the game could be summed up with many tales. My 10+ GAA jerseys that I own (nine Tipp, one Thurles Sarsfields and two international rules) or that I drove my old banger from Dublin to Clonmel to pick up my 131 Skoda from the sponsor. I nearly cried when I tried to get TN plates on it only to be told that my Dublin address didn't qualify. In 2009 and 2010 I dragged a close friend of mine (a Dub with Clare ancestry) out of work and drove her down to Lar Na Pairce, Thurles on Tuesday before All-Ireland final day so that I could buy car flags, flags, etc. She bought me bunting which always has to go up in September. In 2011, because she is no longer with us, our modern day Trip To Tipp for those Tuesdays is indefinitely postponed.

Since 2010 her grandson has seen my obsession with Tipp and become influenced. Adam being a true Dub should be all into the football and Dublin blue, however he became a dab hand with my smart phone and pictures. It started to fall into place, he was 'brainwashed' with pictures of the Tipp lads and by two and a half he could name the majority of the senior team. A while later we went to the shops a few days before I was going to take him down to a club match. So I bought him the Tipp kit and I couldn't forget his roots so I got him a Dublin kit too. I got the shock of my life later that day. He put on his GAA kit and he chose the best one!

Someone bought me a Dublin training shirt when I left that pharmaceutical site in 2012. I am grateful for it, I like it, but it is not Tipp and therefore I cannot wear it! For match days I generally stress the whole week up to a match, I like to get there early and I NEVER leave before the final whistle even if it means a long wait in the traffic. I always wish for home games unless it is Dublin. I live in Drumcondra so an away match means that I can have a pint bottle or two of Bulmers if it is in Croke. October 2014, a tour of Croke Park stadium to mark 10 years in Ireland. Wearing the Tipperary jacket I got an apology from 2 officials, One for the All-Ireland result and the other for the video which was reflecting on the recent years



of Kilkenny success. I returned a "well they didn't get the drive for 5!!" and of course I could wear a cheeky grin to echo the Tipp colours on the jacket

**Q:** *How do hurling fans react when they hear your accent and passion for Tipp and the game? Are they surprised that you know so much about the game? Do they take you seriously?*

**JT:** I have the explanation primed now as everyone hears my British accent. My accent is now somewhere stuck in the Channel. I go home and everyone laughs along with me about my Irish twang, my key phrases. I do not remember scores, I don't always remember key facts but I love to hear them. True supporters will always tell me of tales past or explain that the person I just talked to was a famous player back in the day. In return they get a sense of how much I do know for a foreigner and can hear how much passion is in my voice that is unless they try to speak to me after.

Generally Monday to Wednesday after a match I lost the voice. I don't sit there quietly. What gets people most is usually how I would travel from Dublin, down to Tipperary just for a Tipp or Thurles Sarsfields match. I like to get to a few Sars matches each year but the distance

between house and Thurles and my life outside the GAA would make it difficult to get to them all.

2010 was a great year five years supporting Tipp and seeing an All-Ireland final victory. I showed my passion for GAA when realising that the match was on the same weekend as my Dad's (left) birthday told him I wasn't going to go home that weekend. He had to come to Ireland to see me. In fairness I did give him my second season ticket place, we were in Lower Cusack and he got to see the game of my lifetime. That day three of my jerseys, two flags, two hoodies, a jacket and my pair of Tipperary coloured shoes were in Croke. I was proud to be providing a lot of the blue and gold in the stands.

Work also takes lower priority than Tipp. I always take the day after the hurling final as a holiday and I know I will be in a heap of joy or despair.

My friends know who my county is and will be the people that wish me good luck for my team when there is a match on. They know how much it means to me and the distance I go to be a supporter and not just the person who wants a ticket in September. By All-Ireland Sunday I normally have an A4 list of people looking for tickets. This coming from people who forget that I have no actual club, I don't live in the county and I certainly don't have any diplomatic relations with anyone that I could be ringing and asking for tickets. That is part of the story and a measure of how people see me!

Those of us who have had the pleasure of sitting near Jamie at a game will never doubt his passion for the Premier County. Sitting in front of him at the drawn All Ireland it was plain to see what Tipperary meant to him. His passion that day left many other fans in the ha'penny place. Such is his passion for Ireland he has even changed his Facebook name to "Seamie MacThomás". If you are fortunate enough to see Jamie at a game, go over and say hello to our most passionate and dedicated supporter.





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### CAMÓGIE NEWS

#### DEPLETED BLUES LOSE OUT TO THURLES SARSFIELDS

October 27, 2014

The depleted Blues suffered an 11-point defeat to Thurles Sarsfields in the county minor A Camogie championship.

#### Minor A Camogie Championship Nenagh Éire Óg 2- 4 Thurles Sarsfields 2-15



county under-16 star split the posts. Nenagh's tails were up and Morris delivered a long, high and dangerous ball into the heart of the Thurles defence. Full-forward Sarah O'Connor unsettled both the full-back and goalkeeper and the ball ended up in the Thurles net.

Two minutes later Sarah Quigley made an excellent point-blank save, but the resultant '50 was pointed.

Who would have guessed that a heavy fog in Krakow, Poland would have any bearing on a minor championship game in Nenagh, but an effect it did have as a large number of our players, on a school trip to the former communist country, were unable to fly home in time for today's game and were left stranded in the Polish airport. Added to that a bug which affected a number of those players left at home meant we were under strength for today's encounter.

However, despite all of this our players fought to the end and deserve great credit for the battling qualities they displayed and the end result, while a deserved win for the Mid side, was not a true reflection on the Nenagh girls.

Thurles opened brightly and had three points on the board inside the first eleven minutes before Sarah Quigley was forced into making a great save, unfortunately the rebound fell nicely to the in-rushing Thurles forward who pulled and scored their opening goal. Thurles

added two more points to leave the score at Thurles 1-5 Nenagh 0-0 and it looked as if it was going to be a very long day for the home side.

Holly O'Brien settled things when she pointed a free out by the sideline after a foul on Elaine Slattery. This gave Nenagh a little boost and Hazel Coffey doubled Nenagh's tally with another point two minutes later.

The momentum had temporarily swung our way and both Holly O'Brien and Michelle Collins were unfortunate not to find the net after two great solo runs.

Thurles added another point to leave the half-time score: Nenagh Éire Óg 0-2 Thurles Sarsfields 1-6.

The half-time talk from the Nenagh management had the desired effect and the introduction of Maeve Coffey and the positional switch of Alanna Morris to the half-forward line instantly paid dividends.

After the resumption Morris found Coffey with an excellent pass and the

Nenagh were on fire at this stage and following a great run by Meave Coffey, Alanna Morris was unfortunate to see her shot ricochet back off the post. However, Hazel McAuliffe collected the clearance and she tore up the field before finding Morris who made no mistake this time round and scored a great goal. Thurles added two more points before Holly O'Brien pointed a free following a foul on Coffey.

This was to be Nenagh's last score as the exertions of making their way back into the game and the effects of the bug on some of our players began to tell. Thurles rattled off 1-7 without reply to leave the final score Thurles Sarsfields 2-15 Nenagh Éire Óg 2-4.

**Nenagh Éire Óg:** Sarah Quigley, Amy Heffernan, Emer Ryan, Kara Ryan Mulqueen, Rachel Spillane, Hazel McAuliffe, Alanna Morris, Zoey Gratton, Michelle Collins, Alicia Hallinan, Holly O'Brien, Elaine Slattery, Mairéad Sheridan, Sarah O'Connor, Hazel Coffey. Subs: Maeve Coffey & Eimear Dight.



### UNDER-12 A CAMOGIE SHIELD FINAL



The Nenagh Éire Óg under-12 camogie team put up a brave and determined display against a very strong Annacarty team in the County under-12 A Shield Final recently. The Nenagh girls struggled initially with the pace and strength of the Annacarty side but recovered well in the second quarter of the first half to score a goal and a point without reply and they finished the first half level on the score line of 1-01 to Annacarty 0-04.

Try hard as they did, they could not prevent the Annacarty girls from pulling away in the second half. Great credit must go to all these young girls and their coaches for the fantastic progress they have made this season, especially when you consider that half of the team that played will be underage again under-12 next year.

This young under-12 group of girls have also qualified for the semi-final of the under-12 league and we look forward to their progress in the competition.