

ROWER INISTIOGE

1968 SENIOR HURLING

CHAMPIONS

REMEMBERED



SOUVENIR BOOKLET

**RECALLING ROWER INISTIOGE'S 1965 COUNTY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY
ON THE OCCASION OF THE TEAM'S RECEPTION BY COISTE CO CHILL CHAINNIGH
AT THE 2015 COUNTY SH FINAL.**

KILKENNY COUNTY SENIOR HURLING FINAL, NOWLAN PARK, 25th OCTOBER 2015

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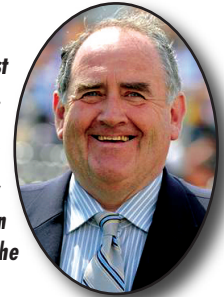
The chairman and members of the Kilkenny GAA County Board would like to express their thanks and appreciation to the Springhill Court Hotel for their generous sponsorship of this event.





Fáilte

Since 1989 our County Senior Hurling Final day has been chosen by Kilkenny County Board as the most appropriate occasion to honour and acknowledge the surviving members of winning teams from the past. Today we are honouring the Rower/Inistiöge team that won the club's first and, to date, only Senior County Title by defeating Bennettsbridge in the final of the 1968 championship which was delayed until 1969 due to the fallout from the ill-tempered '68 National Hurling League final between Kilkenny and Tipperary after which a player from both sides received a six month suspension. This suspension resulted in Kilkenny County Board deciding to postpone that year's Senior championship until the Kilkenny player involved was eligible to play again.



In their first round game the Rower/Inistiöge had a huge thirty nine point win over Eire Og. After the long delay already mentioned they were drawn to play neighbours Thomastown in the next round and duly defeated them on a score line of 3-11 to 1-5. Their semi final game against St Lachtain's (Freshford) was a much closer affair and in the end just one point separated the teams with the Rower/Inistiöge emerging victorious on a scoreline of 2-8 to 1-11 thus qualifying to face the mighty Bennettsbridge in the County Final.

The final itself was an emotional day for all attached to the Rower/Inistiöge club. Great saves and great scores were a feature of the game and in the end the men from the Rower/Inistiöge captured that elusive and historic first ever County Senior Title on 3-9 to 3-7 scoreline.

That victory gave the great Eddie Keher the honour of captaining Kilkenny, and, accompanied by fellow club men Billy Murphy, his brother Fr Tommy Murphy and Pat Kavanagh, he led them to victory over Cork in the All Ireland Final of that year.

As well as honouring the surviving members of the victorious team we also remember today the great men who played their part in bringing the much coveted first championship title to the club and who have since gone to their eternal reward, namely, team captain Michael Walsh, Tom Waters, Danny White, Eamon Flood, Michael Murphy, Pudsy Murphy, John Walsh, Martin Freeman.

After today's games the team members and their partners will be guests of honour at a special dinner in the Springhill Court Hotel at which the players will be presented with a special memento of the occasion.

On behalf of Kilkenny County Board I extend sincere thanks to the Management of the Springhill Court Hotel for their generous sponsorship of this event.

Congratulations again to the great Rower/Inistiöge team, winners of the 1968 Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship. Molaim sibh go leir.

*Eamon O Coinn,
Cathaoirleach Coisde Contae Cill Chainnigh*

As a keen follower of all sport and a passionate hurling fan, it is a great pleasure again to be representing the Springhill Court Hotel in sponsoring the Rower Inistiöge Senior County Champions of 1968.

The Springhill Court Hotel has long been working with Kilkenny GAA and honoured many famous teams over the past 22 years.

I would like to congratulate the Rower Inistiöge senior hurling team of 1968 and hope they have an enjoyable reunion day and I'm sure many stories will be shared again of that famous day 47 years ago. I would like to wish the four clubs represented in the minor and senior finals the very best of luck. I wish their supporters and our many customers in attendance at today games our very best wishes and I look forward to seeing two fantastic games of hurling.



*Seamus O'Carroll
General Manager*

Acknowledgement.

The programme committee wish to thank the following for their help and co-operation in compiling this souvenir programme:-
Tom Brett, Damien Brett (Kilkenny Library), Kilkenny People, Pat Dunphy, James Murphy, Fr. Tommy Murphy,
Rita Neary, Pat Henderson, Mary O'Neill.

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ROWER INISTIOGE COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1968

COUNTY SH CHAMPIONSHIP 1968

KILKENNY SENIOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP 1968

1st Round

James Stephens	2-11	Tullogher	0-4
St. Lachtain's	1-10	Tullaroan	0-3
Thomastown	5-7	Young Irelands	3-6
Rower Inistioge	8-21	Éire Og	1-3
Mooncoin	4-7	St. Senan's	0-11
Lisdowney	4-6	Erin's Own	3-9
Lisdowney	4-11	Erin's Own	2-12
Galmoy	3-10	Coon	2-9
Bennettsbridge	Bye		

2nd Round

St. Lachtain's	1-7	James Stephens	0-6
Rower Inistioge	3-11	Thomastown	1-5
Bennettsbridge	3-11	Galmoy	2-7
Mooncoin	5-11	Lisdowney	2-3

Semi-Finals

Rower Inistioge	2-8	St. Lachtain's	1-10
Bennettsbridge	4-8	Mooncoin	2-4

Final

Rower Inistioge	3-9	Bennettsbridge	3-7
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ROUND 1

JAMES STEPHENS OVER FIRST ROUND

James Stephens 2-11 Tullogher 0-5

The Village team had a decisive win in their first round senior hurling championship game with Tullogher, in Thomastown on Sunday.

The grim weather made the pitch like a skating rink and the display was a great credit to both teams.

The Village got off to a dream start with a goal from Sean Brennan in the 4th minute. They were a better balanced team all round and they were faster to pull and more accurate in their shooting.

The first period produced some very good hurling. The Village playing against a fairly stiff breeze kept in will in touch with the losers and the teams were level at half time. Donal Flynn was Tullogher's chief scorer in his

half and he proved always to be a dangerous threat to the James Stephens defence. The scores at half time were:

James Stephens 1-1 Tullogher 0-4

Just after the interval James Stephens missed two good scoring chances, one of them a sitter in front of the goal. Again Sean Brennan was the first to score with a point from a "70." James Stephens overpowered Tullogher completely in this half and Tullogher could only add a single point to their half time total.

Although the Village were on the attack for most of this half, Mick Rellis the Tullogher goalie conceded only one goal and he made spectacular saves and certainly



saved his side from a much heavier defeat.

The Village had some very good players and they have bright hopes for the future.

Mick Moore in goal had an outstanding hour and never put a foot wrong. The backs with four Larkins, Niall Morrissey and Mick Leahy proved very sound and special mention must be given to Michael (Muggers) Larkin who is slightly smaller than the rest but played like a terrier and got some very good clearances.

Liam Tyrrell and John Keogh eventually got the better of the midfield exchanges. All the forwards tried hard but Sean Brennan on the ball was my man of the match and Micky Dunne was outstanding.

Tullogher had a very reliable goalkeeper in Mick Rellis and he could not be blamed for the shots that beat him. Paddy Grennan and John Joe Barron were the mainstays on defence and Donal Flynn played his heart out at midfield.

The forwards certainly had a tough job on hands, Billy Nolan, Tommy Doolan and Pat Ryan tried hardest.

Scorers for the Village: S.Brennan (1-3), M.Taylor (1-2), M.Dunne (0-4), N.Morrissey and L.Tyrrell (0-1 each) while Donal Flynn (0-3) Billy Nolan and Tommy Doolan (0-1 each) replied for the losers.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

James Stephens attacked for the first few minutes and their efforts were rewarded with a 21 yard free after four minutes. The shot for goal was blocked down but Sean Brennan made no mistake with the rebound and shot to the net for the first goal of the game. A minute later, after a good attacking move, The Village were narrowly wide.

Half forward Billy Nolan opened Tullogher's account with a well taken point in the 8th minute. Five minutes later Donal Flynn had further points for Tullogher in the 23rd minute (from a free) and in the 25th minute to leave the sides level at half time on the scores

James Stephens 1-1 Tullogher 0-4

Barely two minutes into the second half and the village missed two scoring chances. One of them right in front of the goalmouth. After three minutes Sean Brennan gave The Village the lead with a very nice point from a '70'. A minute later Tullogher forward Tommy Doolan sent over a point to level the scores.



**Sean Brennan
(James Stephens)**

The Village boys then made a string of scores, Sean Brennan, Niall Morrissey and Mick Taylor had points in the 7th, 8th and 9th minutes. Taylor again pointed in the 10th and Mick Dunne contributed a minor score in the 12th minute.

Two minutes later Mickey Dunne sent a lovely ball soaring across the Tullogher square. MI Taylor placed the ball into the net for a beautiful goal.

Now it seemed all over but the Village were not finished. They had further points from Sean Brennan, Liam Tyrrell and two from Mickey Dunne to leave them comfortable winners by 12 points.

James Stephens – M. Moore, P. Larkin, Fan Larkin, P. Larkin, M. Larkin, N. Morrissey, Mick Leahy, L. Tyrrell, J. Keogh, E. Morrissey, M. Taylor, S. Brennan, P. Brennan, P. Dowling, M. Dunne.

Tullogher – M. Rellis, J. Cummins, P. Grennan, N. Whelan, B. Gorey, JJ Barron, J. Hamilton, J. Grennan, D. Flynn, B. Nolan, P. Murphy, P. Gaule, T. Doolan, P. Ryan, B. Conway.

ST LACHTAIN'S ON TOP IN TOUGH GAME

St Lachtain's 1-10, Tullaroan 0-3.

St Lachtain's (Freshford) overcame Tullaroan in a rough, hard-tackling first round championship game at Nowlan Park on Sunday 1-10 to 0-3.

St Lachtain's attacked from the beginning and within ten minutes Sean Buckley had pointed three frees, Paddy Butler had a point and Thomas Dwan had a very well taken goal.

The Tullaroan defence was constantly under pressure in this period and but for some great covering off by their full back, Jim Hennessy, Tullaroan, would have been in a disastrous position.

Tom Butler and Sean Buckley had further points for St

Lachtain's before the interval, while in the last five minutes of this half, Tullaroan had two points, from Bill Fitzgerald and one from Phil Doheny to leave them 1-6 to 0-3 in arrears at the interval.

The second half was only a few minutes old when tempers frayed and there was some indiscriminate pulling with hurleys, and a player from each side was sent to the line. Most of the 30 players became involved in a "free for all" and to make it worse spectators swarmed onto the pitch.

The game cooled off at this stage and Freshford who had introduced schemer Alfie Hickey had the first point



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from him.

Tullaroan besieged the Freshford goal and goalkeeper Donal Heaphy got plenty of chances to prove his worth. Before full time St Lachtain's had two further points from Sean Buckley and one from Jimmy Cullinane.

NOT A SCORE

In this half Tullaroan failed to register even a single point and Freshford could only get four.

Freshford were best served by Donal Heaphy, Pa Dillon, John and Ritchie Teehan in defence. Sean Buckley and John Minogue were on top at midfield while T and Paddy Butler and Tommy Dwan starred in the attack.

Tullaroan had good triers in Jim Hennessy who played a great game in full back, Jim Hogan and Billy

Hennessy in the defence while Willie Maher, Ned and P Doheny were the pick of the forwards.

Scorers for the winners were S. Buckley (0-7) Tom Dwan (1-0) P. Butler, Tom Butler and Jimmy Cullinane (0-1) while Billy Fitzgerald (0-2) and Phil Doheny (0-1) scored for Tullaroan.

St Lachtain's: D. Heaphy, Sean Flynn Pa Dillon, J. Dooley, M. Dalton, J. Teehan, R. Teehan, J. Minogue, S. Buckley, T. Butler, N. O'Connor, T. Dwan, P. Butler, J. Walsh, J. Cullinane. Sub Alfie Hickey.

Tullaroan: E. Champion, M. Kennedy, J. Hennessy, J. Hogan, B. Fitzgerald, B. Hennessy, C. Butler, J. Hennessy, J. Young, B. Maher, B. Maher, N. Doheny, N. Maher, J. Sullivan, J. Marshall, P. Doheny.

Referee – Mr. Paddy Buggy, Slieverue.

EASY WIN FOR THOMASTOWN

Thomastown 5-7, Gowran 3-6

Thomastown had a convincing win (5-7 to 3-6) over Gowran in a first round senior hurling championship game at Nowlan Park on Sunday after they had recovered from an early setback. It was an entertaining if uneventful display with some nice hurling.

Playing without star defender Pat Drennan who did not play because of examinations, Gowran, who almost created a major sensation against the county champions, Bennettsbridge, last year, were noticeably weak in attack.

Gowran were well within striking distance for three quarters of the hour until Seamus Kearney shot 2 goals and a point, the goals coming within a minute which gave Thomastown an 8 points lead and this was stretched to 9 points following a B. O'Sullivan point from a free with 5 minutes remaining.

With Pat Drennan off, Gowran played Andy Comerford at centre half back and while the former inter county senior man did a tremendous amount of work it paid little dividends as the Gowran forwards never looked like breaking through the sound Thomastown defence. Thomastown played an attractive type of hurling though reports indicate that they did not take their training as seriously as they might and the victory could inspire them to better things.

PHELAN'S GOOD WORK

Even allowing for Pat Drennan's absence Gowran did not live up to last year's standard and even Brendan Phelan's conspicuous service in the second half failed to rally the side. After a comparatively quiet first half Phelan took over control at centrefield in the second and he made raid after raid deep into Thomastown territory but there were no tangible results.

Though they took quite a while to find their feet the

Thomastown forwards were the more dangerous and apart from S. Kearney's goals which put Gowran out of it they were quicker to grasp their opportunities even though their shooting left room for improvement.

Ollie Walsh made some splendid saves in the Thomastown goal. Jim Gibbons, Cha Whelan and Billy Grace in the full back line were very sound.

Sean Challoner, Paddy Cullen and Seamus Kearney, while he played there, kept a tight hold on matters and until Brendan Phelan struck top form in the second half. Ted Hoyne and John Kelly had the better of matters at centrefield.

Apart from Seamus Kearney, Vincent Kirby was in fine form in the Thomastown attack. Brendan O'Sullivan has had many better days and even when he moved to the half line he was not at his best. Johnny Murphy, Martin and Dick Walsh and J. Blanchfield tried hard.

COMERFORD IN FORM

Liam Dwyer had a good game in the Gowran goal and Tommy Murphy, Andy Dreehan and John Greene were sound in the full back line. Andy Comerford dominated at centre half and got good support from Pat Roche and Seamus Kelly. John Brophy did a lot of useful work at centrefield while Mick Dwyer, who had several near



Brendan O'Sullivan
(Thomastown)



misses in the opening stages was the best of the forwards. Jim Carty, and Paddy Comerford also showed up well but the Gowran attack, generally, was poor.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

Jim Carty opened the scoring with a Gowran point in the 3rd minutes and within a minute V. Kirby levelled. James Byrne had a goal for Gowran and Kirby pointed from a free. Seamus Kearney centred from a Thomastown free and Jim Blanchfield finished for a point to leave Gowran ahead by a point (1-1 to 0-3) in the 16th minute.

Mick Dwyer after several near misses found the target when he sent a nice shot over the bar to stretch Gowran's lead but Thomastown got into the lead for the first time when a long drive by Vin Kirby was finished to the net by Martin Walsh. V. Kirby then took a Thomastown '70' and the ball dropped into the net to put the winners in front by 5 points after 26 minutes.

Thomastown continued to exert pressure and Kirby put over a point from a free in the 29th minute. Immediately before half time Ted Hoyne raced in to connect with a cross from the stand sideline and shoot to the net to leave the half time scores

Thomastown 3-4, Gowran 1-2

Seamus Kelly gave Gowran a good second half start with a goal in the first minute and John Brophy had a point a minute later to reduce arrears to four points. Andy Comerford, from a free, sent over the bar to narrow the gap to a goal in the 5th minute.

Vin Kirby pointed a Thomastown free in the 10th minute but Gowran broke through for a goal which they

did not get as the whistle had gone for a free. A. Comerford shot low from the free and when the shot was blocked down his brother Paddy was on hand to blaze to the net. This left Gowran only a point behind after 11 minutes.

It was at this stage that Thomastown took over and Seamus Kearney dealt several deadly blows which left Gowran without a hope of recovery. Kearney had a point in the 16th minute and shot 2 goals in the 19th and 20th minutes. Brendan O'Sullivan had a point from a free in the 25th minute.

Pat Roche had a point for Gowran and when Ollie Walsh conceded a '70' when making a wonderful save Roche pointed from the placed ball.

Thomastown – O. Walsh, J. Gibbons, C. Whelan, W. Grace, S. Challoner, P. Cullen, S. Kearney, T. Hoyne, J. Kelly, V. Kirby, J. Murphy, B. O'Sullivan, M. Walsh, R. Walsh and J. Blanchfield.

Gowran – L. Dwyer, T. Murphy, A. Dreelan, J. Greene, S. Kelly, A. Comerford, P. Roche, J. Brophy, B. Phelan, M. Dwyer, T. Carroll. W. Kennedy, J. Carty, P. Comerford, J. Byrne.

Mr. Tom Ryall refereed.

NO JERSEY - NO GOAL!

A very interesting incident occurred during this game. Brendan O'Sullivan was called to the line by the Thomastown selectors to be replaced! He had already removed his jersey to give to his replacement, when he noticed the ball coming in his direction. In his eagerness, he raced back onto the field, minus his jersey, got possession and buried the ball in the back of the net. But the referee disallowed the goal because O'Sullivan was deemed to have left the field of play and was not eligible to return!

ROWER INISTIÖGE OVERWHELM ÉIRE ÓG

Rower Inistiöge 8-21 Éire Óg 1-3

EIRE OG	1	3
ROWER	8	21

It seems more like a cricket score but no this was supposed to be a hurling match. Certainly there were 30 men on the pitch but only the Rower-Inistiöge boys showed any hurling ability. This was the first round championship game between The Rower Inistiöge and Éire Óg at Thomastown on Sunday.

The issue was in doubt for only four minutes when Éire Óg led by 1-1 to 0-2 and the handful of City followers who had waited on for the game hoped that the impossible might happen.

But although they scored 1-1 in four minutes, they could only scrape two points from the other 56 minutes



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of the game.

The Rower were on top in every sector and even against such weak opposition they looked like a force to be reckoned with in the Championship.

Scorers for Inistioge were – E.Keher (2-10) M.Kavanagh (2-3) P.Murphy (2-4) J.Murphy (1-2) and P.Kavanagh (1-2). While J.O’Leary (1-1), Richie Grace and T.Dowlin (0-1 each) scored for the losers.

Mr Tom Hogan, Tullaroan, refereed.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

Eddie Keher opened the scoring with a well taken point for the Rower- Inistioge in the first minute. A minute later Jimmy O’Leary had a point for Éire Óg. Almost immediately Pat Murphy replied for Inistioge. Éire Óg went ahead again in the 5th minute with a goal by J.O’Leary.

From the 4th to the 27th minutes never more than 1 and a half minutes and usually less elapsed without a score from The Rower Inistioge. All their forwards took part

in the scoring and it looked as easy as throwing nuts to a monkey.

Half time score: Rower Inistioge 5-16, Éire Óg 1-1

The pattern in the second half was much the same with the Rower Inistioge getting scores as they liked. Éire Óg succeeded in getting two points in this half, one from a free by T. Dowling and the other by Richie Grace.

The Rower Inistioge – M. Bolger, M. Croke, J Walsh, Martin Walsh, Donal Kavanagh, M. Walsh, Eamon Flood, D. White, Bill Murphy, Pat Kavanagh, E. Keher, D. Kavanagh, P. Murphy, M. Kavanagh, Jim Murphy.

Éire Óg – M. Hanlon, E. Dooley, J. McCullagh, P. Johnson, M. Burke, J. Brophy, R. Grace, M. Long, T. Dowling, E. Doyle, T. O’Connell, J. O’Leary, E. Keane, T. Walsh, J. Dillon.

NB: This was the last outing of the once great Éire Óg team which disbanded shortly after.

MOONCOIN WIN IN SECOND HALF

Mooncoin 4-7, Kilmacow 0-11

Mooncoin had little difficulty in advancing to the second round of the county senior hurling championship when they defeated Kilmacow in Piltown on Sunday.

Kilmacow did well in the first half but did not maintain the effort after the restart when the Mooncoin men dominated the game.

For the first 20 minutes Kilmacow playing with the advantage of a strong breeze were well in command of the game and were picking off points with ease.

At the same time their defence were in complete control and the Mooncoin attack were making little impression.

Then Mooncoin moved out county player Jim Lynch from full back to centre back and things began to happen.

The incursions into Mooncoin’s territory became less frequent, and at the other end the forwards met with more success.

Two quick goals put Mooncoin ahead by a point at half time and took the sting from Kilmacow’s game.

Although Kilmacow levelled the scoring after the restart, they had little of the drive which carried them so well in the first half and as Mooncoin piled on the scores there was little doubt about who would advance to the next round.

Claus Dunne was not up to his usual form in the

Mooncoin attack, but he did make a handsome contribution to the scoring.

Others to impress were Billy O’Keeffe and Joe Dunphy. Best in Defence were Jim Lynch and Dick Dunphy.

The Kilmacow defence in general, particularly the full back line figured in the first half but lost their power in the second half.

Senan Cooke and Christy Knox came out best at centre field while the star of the forwards was Tommy Forristal.

Mooncoin Scorers: C. Dunne 1-3, B. O’Keeffe 2-0, J. Dunphy 1-1, J. Walsh 0-1, T. Ryan 0-1, N. Doyle 0-1.

Kilmacow Scorers: S. Cooke 0-3, P. Sweeney 0-2, T. Gaule 0-2, T. Hogan 0-1, C. Knox, J. Gaule 0-1, B. Donavan 0-1.

Mooncoin: D. Dunphy, J. J. Kinsella, J. Lynch, N. Connolly, T. Walsh, J. Howley, M. Conway, T. Grant, J. Dunphy, C. Dunne, N. Doyle, T. Ryan, B. O’Keeffe.

Sub. John Walsh.

Kilmacow: J. Walsh, L. Kent, P. Whitty, T. Kent, C. Forristal, P. Flynn., N. Fleming, S. Cooke, M. Sweeney, P. Forristal, B. Donavan, C. Knox, T. Gaule, T. Hogan, P. Sweeney, F. Walsh. S. Sutton.

Referee Jim Murphy (Glenmore)



LISDOWNEY HOLD ERIN'S OWN TO A DRAW

Erin's Own 3-9, Lisdowney 4-6

Erin's Own, Castlecomer had an uphill fight to force a draw against Lisdowney in a senior hurling championship first round tie at Ballyragget on Sunday and were lucky enough to get the levelling point just in time.

Main cause for Castlecomer's tough task, it is fair to say, was due to the fact that Martin Coogan was rendered useless, for all practical purposes, with a leg injury, immediately after the start of the second half.

There is little doubt that Coogan would have revelled in the centre field exchanges when Castlecomer got the strong wind behind them in the second half and with ordinary luck would have set Castlecomer minds at rest well before the end.

As it was Lisdowney had plenty of opportunities to have won and it seemed a pity that a great effort by Ted Carroll which brought a goal in the 28th minute to level did not earn them the spoils.

With Coogan immobilised – he took up a position in the full forward line for most of the second half – Lisdowney took over control of centrefield where Martin Meally after a great first half, did not find things going too smoothly in the second. Mick Fogarty was the dominant figure in the centrefield in the second half and had a great game.

UNLUCKY

Castlecomer were unlucky to lose Jimmy Byrne in the second half but his replacement, Willie Brennan, played a significant part in the game, and contributed a goal and a point, the goal marking the turning point in the game.

The standard of hurling was fair and there were some very fine, individual performances, Martin Brennan was in powerful form in the Castlecomer goal and Tom Shalloe and Paddy Dowling win the honours in a defence which withstood severe pressure in the last quarter when Lisdowney made an all-out bid.

Martin Meally and Martin Coogan did great work at centrefield in the first half while Tom Brennan, sub Willie Brennan and Seamus Coogan were best in an attack that needs to be improved. Jimmy Byrne, Mick Brennan and Kieran and Tommy Meally tried hard.

FOGARTY IN FORM

Mick Bowe was sound in the Lisdowney goal while Ber Drennan, Mick Phelan and Dermot Farrel gave good help to Ted Carroll who had an outstanding game at centre field. Mick Fogarty was in brilliant form at centre field, while in addition to Dick Blanchfield, Mick Carroll and Mick Mackey were best of an attack that was all the time trying.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

Dick Blanchfield shot a good goal in the first minute and Mick Mackey added a point before Martin Coogan with a long range point opened Castlecomer's account in the 7th minute. A fine drive from an askward angle by Dick Blanchfield ended up in the net and Lisdowney were seven points in front when Martin Coogan sent a side cut Mick Carroll sent over the bar into the Lisdowney goalmouth and Tom Brennan finished to the net. Michael Brennan had a Castlecomer point in the 20th minute but Lisdowney went ahead again with points by Dick Blanchfield and Mick Carroll. Mick Fogarty increased Lisdowney's lead when he sent a long drive over the bar and after Tom Meally in the Castlecomer attack had struck the upright and the ball was cleared Seamus Coogan sent over the bar. Dick Blanchfield shot to the net from a free and the half time scores:

Lisdowney 3-5 Castlecomer 1-3

Seamus Coogan narrowed the gap with an early second half point and Tom Brennan followed with another. Jimmy Byrne (Erins Own) was replaced by Willie Brennan and Seamus Coogan (from a free) put on points for Castlecomer and Willie Brennan finished a Castlecomer attack for a goal to narrow the gap to a point (3-6 to 2-8.) Castlecomer went ahead in the 19th minute and a point by Seamus Coogan put them three points ahead.

A Lisdowney attack was finished for a goal by Ted Carroll but Ger Bryan had a Castlecomer point in the 29th minute.

Erin's Own: M. Brennan, G. Bryan, O. Doyle, J. O'Shea, T. Meally, T. Shalloe, P. Dowling, M. Meally, M. Coogan, M. Brennan, J. Byrne, S. Coogan, K. Meally, T. Brennan, M. Meally. Sub – W. Brennan for J. Byrne

Lisdowney: M. Bowe, M. Phelan, B. Drennan, M. Blanchfield, P. Dunphy, T. Carroll, D. Farrell, M. Fogarty, J. Fogarty, M. Fogarty, M. Houlihan.

Mr R. Behan, Urlingford was referee.



Jimmy Byrne
(Erin's Own)



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LISDOWNEY COME FROM BEHIND TO WIN REPLAY

Lisdowney 4-11, Erins Own 2-12

A spectacular rally 10 minutes from the end helped Lisdowney to a 5 point win over Erins Own in this replay of the first round of the Kilkenny senior hurling championship played in Nowlan Park on Sunday and their 4-11 to 2-12 victory was well earned.

Erins Own basking in what looked like a safe lead may have become complacent but they were unable to stop the Lisdowney avalanche which brought about complete upset.

Lisdowney may have been slightly flattered by the five points margin but they well deserved the victory. They fought back with great courage at a time when Erins Own seemed to have put the issue beyond doubt.

Erins Own were seriously handicapped by the loss of Martin Coogan who sustained a knee injury in the drawn game and is still on the injured list, while Jimmy Byrne who was also injured in that game played in goal realising Martin Brennan for a role in the attack.

Lisdowney's Mick Fogarty was also unable to take his place because of injury.

For the most part there was little between the teams and except for 2 incidents in one of which the referee Paddy Johnson sent a player from each side to the line and the other occurred at the opposite end to where the play was and escaped his notice, the teams showed a fine sporting spirit.

Erins Own were slow to settle down and Lisdowney had the better of the opening exchanges But Erins Own then got going and gradually moved up. They were still a point behind 1-8 to 1-7 at half time but took over control in the second half until the Lisdowney rally began. Erins Own led by 2-12 to 1-10 at the end of the third quarter but they got no further score and Lisdowney were complete masters from that to the end.

Ted Carroll who scored a spectacular goal late in the drawn game was again in great form and in the closing quarter particularly he inspired the defence.

Tom Bowe had a splendid game in the Lisdowney goal while other defenders who contributed significantly to the success were Mick Blanchfield, Mick Phelan, And Dermot Farrell.

Jim Fogarty' also a hero of the drawn game was outstanding at centrefield, Dick Blanchfield was the best of the forwards and was ably supported by Mick



Ted Carroll (Lisdowney)

Carroll, Con Fogarty, Paddy Grace and Jimmy Skehan who came on as a sub.

Jimmy Byrne in his new role as goalie played quite well, while Oliver Doyle, Tom Shalloe, and Tom Meally were sound defenders. Martin Meally and Seamus Coogan did well at centrefield but in the attack which made little impression on a sound Lisdowney defence, only Martin Brennan, Kieran Meally, And Tom Brennan played up to expectations.

Lisdowney Scorers: D. Blanchfield 0-8, J. Dowling 2-0, M. Holohan 1-0, C. Fogarty 1-0, M. Carroll 0-1, J. Skehan 0-1, T. Fogarty 0-1.

Erin's Own Scorers: S. Coogan 0-9, T. Brennan 1-0, M. Brennan 1-0, K. Meally 0-2, M. Boran 0-1.

Lisdowney: T. Bowe, M. Phelan, B. Brennan, M. Blanchfield, M. Bowden, T. Carroll, D. Farrell, P. Murphy, J. Dowling, R. Blanchfield, J. Fogarty, J. Murphy, M. Carroll, M. Holohan, C. Fogarty. Subs P. Grace, J. Skehan..

Erin's Own: J. Byrne, P. Dowling, O. Doyle, J. O'Shea, T. Meally, T. Shalloe, B. O'Brien, M. Meally, S. Coogan, P. Boran, M. Brennan, K. Meally, T. Brennan, M. Boran,

Referee Paddy Johnston (Éire Óg)



GALMOY ADVANCE TO SECOND ROUND

Galmoy 3-10 Coon 2-9

After being on top for most of the way Galmoy had to struggle hard to overcome a late Coon rally and in the end had only fourpoints to spare in the first round of the senior hurling championship tie in Nowlan Park on Sunday.

Even though they scored only 6 points in the second half Galmoy's victory was in some measure due to the master stroke which brought veteran Bobby Delaney from left corner forward to the half line where he curbed to an extent the big influence which Ned Coogan had exercised up to then.

Willie Harte who shot scores with great fluency in the first half laid the foundation for Galmoy's success. He scored 1-5 and he was never off the target from frees from any angle.

Though Ned Coogan was in brilliant form at centre half back and did a lot of work to keep the Galmoy score within reasonable limits it was Mick Lalor who was largely responsible for the rally and Galmoy's task would have been more difficult if the Coon forwards had been able to make better use of their chances.

It is fair to say however that Galmoy fully deserved to win this hard hitting but sporting encounter . They looked the better side in the early stages, but Coon struck in style and did very well to haul down a half time lead of 10points to 30points with only sixminutes left to play. Having missed a great opportunity for a goal Coon faltered and the winners were on top in the closing minutes.

Lotty Harte in a new role was a sound Galmoy goalie and Tom Phelan, Murt Ryan, and L. Hanrahan offered stubborn resistance in the fullback line . Sean Doherty, Francie Harte, and C. Doherty did splendid work on the half line.

Joe Doherty was slow to settle down at centrefield and even though he rendered stirling service in the second half he never showed his true form. Charlie Delaney did good work as his partner.

The Galmoy forwards were more effective than the Coon forwards and in addition to Willie Harte who spreadeagled the Coon defence in the first half, had active workers in Bobby Delaney, Paddy Phelan, Willo Phelan, Phil Bowe, and Charlie Brennan.

John Nolan did little wrong in the Coon goal and Ned Coogan at centre back was one of the best players on the pitch .Mick Somers Brendan Morrissey and John Ryan also figured. Mick Lalor who got good support from Nicky Morrissey was outstanding at centrefield and made a gallant effort to rally his side in the second half.



Willie Harte
(Galmoy)

Coon's main failure was in attack and apart from Murty Coonan who was very accurate from frees, they had no one to press home the attacks mounted by Coogan and Lalor except perhaps Martin Morrissey, but even he was given very limited scope.



Mick Lalor
(Coon)

The score at half time was:-

Galmoy 3-5, Coon 1-4

Galmoy's Scorers: W. Harte 1-6, B. Delaney 1-0, P. Bowe 1-0, W. Phelan 0-2, P. Phelan 0-2

Coon Scorers: N. Morrissey 2-0, M. Lalor 0-4, M. Coonan 0-4, J. Nolan 0-1

Galmoy Team: L. Harte, M Ryan, T. Phelan, L. Hanrahan, S. Doherty, F. Harte. C. Doherty, J. Doherty, C. Delaney, W. Harte, P. Phelan, V. Phelan, C. Brennan, P. Bowe, R. Delaney.

Coon Team: J. Nolan, T. Dooley, J. Ryan, M. Somers, J. Kelly, E. Coogan, B. Morrissey, N. Morrissey, M. Lalor, J. Nolan, B. Somers, M. Coogan, M. Morrissey, J. Coogan, W. Lalor.

Referee: Paddy Johnston (Éire Óg)



ROUND 2

ST LACHTAINS WIN TAME GAME

St Lachtain's 1-7 James Stephens 0-6

St Lachtain's Freshford overcame James Stephens (Kilkenny) in a rather tame second round senior hurling championship tie at Ballyragget on Sunday

The game never really got 'off the ground' and only the proximity of the scoring kept interest alive for the good crowd.

The first half of the game was fairly evenly contested with both sets of backs doing some good work. Both forward lines were fairly subdued but the halftime score (St Lachtain's 1-5 James Stephens 0-3) would have been much closer but for some very erratic shooting by the "Village" boys.

James Stephens got off very good start in the second half with points from Patsy Dowling and Sean Brennan within eight minutes.

St. Lachtain's 1 -7, James Stephens 0 -6

Both teams added points from 21 yard frees and going into the third quarter there was only a goal between them and the stage was set for a storming finish.

But it never happened though it could have. Within 10 minutes James Stephens got enough chances to win comfortably but all of them were squandered and Sean Leahy was very unlucky to miss a "sitter" at a vital stage of the game.

It was all over when Sean Buckley pointed two minutes from the end to leave St. Lachtain's four points clear at the final whistle.

Donal Heaphy in the goal for St. Lachtain's played brilliantly and brought off some very good saves. Pa Dillon and John and Richie Teehan excelled in a very sound defence.

Sean Buckley and Dan Butler although not, getting things, all their own way at midfield gave a fair supply of the ball to the forwards. Tom Butler and Jim Cullinane played well in attack.

Goalkeeper Mick Moore certainly cannot be blamed for the Village defeat. The Larkin clan of Pat, Fan and Phil in the full back line was very sound. Niall Morrissey was sound at centre half back.

Liam Tyrell and Michael Taylor, before going off injured played well at midfield. Eamonn Morrissey, Patsy Dowling and to a lesser extent Mickey Dunne did well in attack.

Scorers for St. Lachtain's were Dan Butler (1-1), Sean Buckley 0-3), Eamonn Morrissey (0-1), Tommy Dwan (0-1), while Sean Brennan (0-3), Eamonn Morrissey, Mickey Dunne and Patsy Dowling (0-1) each replied for the losers.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

In the first minute game, the Freshford goalkeeper Donal Heaphy, brought off a fine save. Two minutes

later Dan Butler opened the Freshford account with a very well taken goal from a ground shot.

After 5 minutes Scan Brennan had the first point of the game for James Stephen's, but almost immediately Tom Dwan had similar score for St Lachtain's.

In The 9th minute Eamonn Morrissey tacked on a further point for the Village.

In The 14th and 15th minutes Tom Butler and Mickey Dunne swapped points. Freshford led by 1-2 to 0-3 at the end of the first quarter.

Freshford had three more points before the interval from, Tom and Dan Butler and Sean Buckley without reply from the Village, to leave the half time scores

St. Lachtains 1-5, James Stephens 0-3

James Stephens started the second half well with a point from Patsy Dowling in the fifth minute and Sean Brennan sent over a 21 three minutes later. A minute later Sean Buckley repeated Sean Brennans performance with a point from a 21 yard free for Freshford.

Seven minutes later Sean Brennan sent over another free to leave only a goal between them with 14 minutes remaining

Sean Brennan looked like narrowing the gap further from a free but his shot went badly wide. After this the village had several chances of scoring but all were squandered. It was Sean Buckley who got the last word with a point in the 28th minute to leave St Lachtain's in a comfortable position.

St. Lachtain's: D Heaphy, J Dunne, P. Dillon, P. Brennan, P. Butler, J. Teehan, N. Teehan, S. Buckley, D. Butler, T. Butler, J. Minogue, M. Dawson, T. Dwan, A. Hickey, J. Cullinane. Subs: M. Dalton for Dawson; Dawson for Cullinane; S. Crosby for Dawson.

James Stephens: M. Moore, P. Larkin, F. Larkin, Phil Larkin, M. Larkin, N. Morrissey, M. Leahy, L. Tyrell, M. Taylor, E. Morrissey, S. Brennan, P. Dowling, P. Brennan, F. McCarthy, M. Dunne.

Subs: S. Leahy for F. McCarthy; J. Ayres for M. Taylor; J. O'Neill for M. Larkin.

Referee: Tom Ryall, Graigue.



Alfie Hickey
(St Lachtain's)



ROWER INISTIOGE QUALIFY FOR SEMI-FINALS

Rower Inistioge 3-11 Thomastown 1-5

Ollie Walsh was given a big ovation when he came on to the pitch at Nowlan park after an absence of over nine months. He bowed out rather ingloriously however as his team went down 3-11 to 1-5 to The Rower Inistioge in the senior championship.

Thomastown adopted what appears to be a couldn't care less approach and Ollie Walsh, who showed touches of his impeccable style was one of the few to show real fighting spirit. It might have been Thomastown's way of showing their disapproval of the treatment meted out to the greatest goalie of all time.

Whatever about Thomastown's approach the winners shaped like a really good team and though they have little to learn from this game a further improvement could make them a formidable force. From the time that Michael Walsh doubled on a sky ball to score a great goal there was virtually only one team in the game and this score came in the 10th minute.

PLAYED TO FORM

Brendan O'Sullivan, outfield, was the only Thomastown man that played to form but the best that he could do had little influence on a game which went in favour of the Rower Inistioge all the way.

The game hardly came to life and a Thomastown goal by Tom McMahon, a newcomer to the side, just at the interval still left the losers eight points in arrears (3-6 to 1-4) when facing the wind in the second half.

Inistioge put on five points in the the second half while all that Thomastown had to offer was a single point. Interest had gone out of the game long before the end. Michael Roche was sound Rower Inistioge goal and the full back line of Donal Kavanagh, Fintan Munphy and Martin Walsh had the Thomastown full-forward line under control while Johnny Walsh, Willie Mulrphy and Eamonn Flood were in great form on the half line.

Put Kavanagh had a great game at centrefield where he helped to give the winners the advantage getting good help from Dunphy.

WHITE SHINES

All the Rower Inistioge forwards played to form. Danny White was in spanking mood and good work by him, Eddie Keher, Martin Kavanagh and Michael Walsh had Thomastown defence on their toes. Tom Munphy also showed good form while Tom and Paddy Murphy also played their parts,

Ollie Walsh made some splendid saves in the

Thomastown goal while Billy Grace, Cha Whelan and Johnny Murphy showed up well in the full back line. The Thomastown half line, S. Challoner, Paddy Cullen and Seamus Kearney never reached top gear. Ted Hoyne tried hard at centre field but apart from B. O'Sullivan none of the forwards looked dangerous.

There were three Kavanagh brothers, four Murphy brothers and two Walsh brothers on the Rower Inistioge team.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

The game was less than a minute started when Brendan O'Sullivan pointed a free for Thomastown and he added another point two minutes later. Eddie Kener pointed from a free and Seamus Kearney sent all the way for a Thomastown point from a '70 but the Rower Inistioge started their scoring spree when M Walsh had a great goal when he doubled on a sky ball.

Danny White raced through the the Thomastown defence for an good goal and Pat Kavanagh, receiving from White sent over the bar. Ted Hoyne had a point for Thomastown but the winners came back again for points by Danny White and Eddie Keher (from a free) and Danny White again, this time with a nice cut off the ground.

Eddie Keher placed Tom Murphy for a goal and Tom McMahon finished a Thomastown raid to the net to leave the half time scores:

Rower Inistioge 3-6 Thomastown 1-4

Dick Walsh came on for Thomastown in the second half but the winners dictated the play and Danny White had raised a white flag in less than a minute. Pat Kavanagh followed with another point and then a fine movement by White, Eddie Keher and Tom Murphy resulted in another point by White.

Eddie Keher pointed from a free and there was an exchange of points between Danny White and Seamus Kearney before the end.

Rower Inistioge: M. Roche D. Kavanagh, F. Murphy, M. Walsh, J. Walsh, J. Murphy, E. Flood. P. Kavanagh, J. Dunphy, D. White, M. Kavanagh, E. Keher, P. Murphy, M. Walsh, T. Murphy.

Thomastown: O. Walsh, W. Grace, C. Whelan, J. Murphy, S. Challoner, P. Cullen, S. Kearney, T. Hoyne, V. Kirby, T. Mc Mahon, S. Coone, B. O'Sullivan, J. Kelly, P. Fennelly, J. Fennell,
Mr Paddy Buggy refereeed.



ROWER INISTIOIGE COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1968

BENNETTSBRIDGE HAVE CLOSE SHAVE

Bennettsbridge 3-11, Galmoy 2-7

Galmoy almost became the giant killers on Sunday when they gave champions Bennettsbridge a huge fright in the first round of the senior hurling championship.

Seven points divided the sides at the end, but it was only in the last two minutes of the game that Bennettsbridge scored two of their three goals.

For the other 58 minutes the game was very exciting affair with rank underdogs Galmoy not only trading blow for blow with the champions but dictating the play on many occasions.

The scores were level on quite a few occasions and the lead changed hands often, but neither let the other get very far before catching up again.

Bennettsbridge started strong favourites and were expected to win comfortably without extending themselves. The result was the opposite.

From the very start Galmoy offered dour resistance in defence while their attack fought determinedly and often successfully for every ball.

After the first 20 minutes the 'Bridge went into a four point lead and looked like taking control, but back stormed Galmoy for a goal to cut the arrears to a point (0-6 to 1-2) at half time.

The general feeling at half time was that Galmoy had run themselves out in the first half and would be unable to maintain the pace in the second half, but they proved this wrong as well and if at all, hurled even better in the second half.

The entire second half was hectic and with little more than 10 minutes to go Galmoy led by a goal but the 'Bridge finished the stronger to win by 3-11 to 2-7.

This was undoubtedly one of the most exciting games of the championship and it also produced some first class hurling. The only sad thing about it was that some side had to lose.

Noel Skehan in the 'Bridge goal had some very competent saves to his credit Seamus Cleere had his usual sound game and Johnny McGovern showed all the skill and style which made him one of the all time

greats. Jim Treacy was also prominent in a sound defence.

Paddy Moran was one of Bennettsbridge's most important players, as well as giving a terrific service at centrefield he was the side's chief marksman with a personal tally of 2-7.

Michael McCarthy also did very well.

Like their opponents Galmoy had a very strong defence and their man of the match

was undoubtedly Joe Doherty, whose powerhouse performance must have been one of the best of the day. Francis Harte and Tommy Phelan were also prominent. In the backs, Paddy Phelan put in a very fine hour at centrefield while by far the most impressive of the attack was the very determined Billy Harte.

Bennettsbridge Scorers: P. Moran 2-7, M. McCarthy 0-2, P. Treacy 0-1, J. Bennett 0-1

Galmoy Scorers: L. Harte 2-0, W. Phelan 0-2, J. Phelan, L. Hanrahan. W. Whelan. B. Harte, D. Daly, 0-1 each.

Bennettsbridge: N. Skehan, M. Treacy, L. Cleere, J. Treacy, C. O' Brien, S. Cleere, J. McGovern, P. Moran, P. Kealy, J. Bennett, M. McCarthy, P. Lalor, N. Ryan,

Liam Cleere, P. Treacy.

Galmoy: B. Costigan, M. Ryan, T. Phelan, B. Delaney, S. Doherty, J. Doherty, F. Harte, S. Delaney, P. Phelan, B. Harte, P. Bowe, W. Phelan, J. Phelan, L. Hanrahan, L. Harte. Sub. D. Daly.

Referee James Murphy (Tullagher).



Paddy Moran
(Bennettsbridge)

MOONCOIN WERE COMPLETE MASTERS

Mooncoin 5-11, Lisdowney 2-3

The scoreline of this senior hurling championship tie between Mooncoin and Lisdowney in Nowlan Park on Sunday tells the full story of the game.

It was a thoroughly one sided affair, and perhaps even more so than the scoreline indicate for it was only in the last minute of play that

Lisdowney scored their two goals.

Mooncoin were always in control and as they notched up score after score with virtually no replay from Lisdowney, all that remained in doubt was the extent of the dividing margin at the end of the game.

Lisdowney were hopelessly outclassed in nearly every sections of the field and had it not been for the good



**Noel Doyle
(Mooncoin)**

goalkeeping of Tom Bowe and the brilliant defence work of county player Ted Carroll the dividing margin at the end would have been greater.

Mooncoin had a rock like defence which frustrated the best efforts of the Lisdowney attack, and from early on it was obvious that Lisdowney scores would not come easily.

At the same time the Lisdowney defence was very suspect and at times it was almost a case of Ted Carroll versus the rest, as the county man roamed the back line trying to halt the constant Mooncoin incursions.

As already mentioned Mooncoin had a very solid defence in which all played their part, but particularly prominent were Jim Walsh, Jim Lynch, and John Walsh.

Mike Conway and Martin Howley did well at

centrefield while best of the attack were Claus Dunne with a personal tally of 2-5, Tom Ryan, and Noel Doyle.

Lisdowney goalkeeper Tom Bowe could not be held responsible for the shots that beat him, and in fact he had many good saves.

Ted Carroll played his heart out all through but he was almost a man alone. Jim Fogarty showed some nice touches at centrefield and hardest trier of the forwards was Dick Blanchfield.

Mooncoin Scorers: C. Dunne 2-5, N. Doyle 1-2.

T. Ryan 1-1, D. Holden 1-0, T. Grant

0-2, M. Conway 0-1.

Lisdowney Scorers: D. Blanchfield 1-1, J. Dowling 1-0, J. Fogarty 0-2.

Mooncoin Team: D. Dunphy, J. Kinsella, J. Walsh, T. Walsh, J. Howley, J. Lynch, J. Walsh, M. Howley, M. Conway, T. Grant, C. Dunne, N. Doyle, D. Holden, T. Ryan, P. O' Keeffe.

Lisdowney Team: T. Bowe, M. Phelan, M. Blanchfield, C. Fogarty, P. Dunphy, T. Carroll, D. Blanchfield, J. Dowling, C. Farrell, J. Fogarty, M. Murphy, P. Skehan, M. Carroll, M. Holohan, P. Grace.

Referee Paddy Johnston (Éire Óg)

SEMI-FINALS

ROWER INISTIOGE QUALIFY FOR FINAL

Rower Inistioge 2-8 St. Lachtain's 1-10

The Rower Inistioge qualified for the final of the senior hurling championship when they defeated St. Lachtain's by 2-8 to 1-10 in a very entertaining semi-final in Nowlan Park on Sunday. Both teams were evenly matched and served up some very good hurling without a single incident in the entire game.

The teams were neck in neck in the first half with the St. Lachtain's forwards getting a little better supply of the ball from the hard working midfielder Sean Buckley and led at half time by 1-5 to 1-3.

The Rower Inistioge were on level terms within three minutes of the second half. They were now hammering at the St. Lachtain's goal and after 7 minutes they led by 2-7 to 1-5

With 15 minutes to go St. Lachtain's came more into the game and bombarded the Rower Inistioge with points

from Buckley. Dwan, and Teehan to leave them only a point behind with eight minutes to go.

Martin Kavanagh increased the winner's lead with a point but Tom Dwan narrowed the gap with a great point but try as they might they were unable to get the equaliser and Rower Inistioge qualified for their first ever county senior hurling final in which they will play holders Bennettsbridge.

Donal Kavanagh brought off many fine saves in the winners goal. The Murphy brothers Fintan and Willie and Eamonn Flood were outstanding in a strong defence.

Dermot and Pat Kavanagh held their own at centre field while Eddie Keher, Danny White and Michael Walsh were best in the attack.

Donal Heaphy was outstanding in goal for St. Lachtain's and got great cover from Pa Dillon, Jim



ROWER INISTIOGE COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1968

Dooley, and Alfie Hickey

Paddy Butler at right half back who had the hard task of marking Eddie Keher came out with flying colours and he never let the ace marksman out of his sight.

Sean Buckley showed some of his old sparkle at centrefield and scored 0-5 .

Tom Dwan and Tommy Butler were the pick of the forwards.

Rower Inistioge Scorers; D. White 2-0, E. Keher 0-3, M. Kavanagh 0-2, D. Kavanagh 0-1, T. Murphy 0-1, P. Kavanagh 0-1.

St. Lachtain's: S. Buckley 0-5, J. Cullinane 1-0,

T. Dwan 0-1, M. Dawson 0-1, J. Teehan 0-1.

Rower Inistioge: D. Kavanagh, J. Murphy, F. Murphy, M. Walsh, J. Walsh, W. Murphy, E. Flood, D. Kavanagh, P. Kavanagh, D. White, M. Kavanagh, E. Keher, P. Murphy, M. Walsh, T. Murphy.

St. Lachtain's: DHeaphy, J. Dooley, P. Dillon, S. Flynn, P. Butler, A. Hickey, R. Teehan, D. Butler, S. Buckley, T. Butler, J. Teehan, T. Dwan, J. Cullinane, N. O'Connor, J.J. Prim. Subs. M. Dawson, M. Dalton.

Referee Tom Ryall (Graigue)

'BRIDGE ADVANCE TO FINAL Bennettsbridge 4-8 Mooncoin 2-4

Bennettsbridge the holders, warded off a strong challenge from Mooncoin to win a senior hurling championship semi final before a large crowd in Nowlan Park on Sunday.

The game was very keenly contested but there was far too much wild swinging of hurleys and rough tactics throughout.

The 'Bridge got off to a dream start when Seamus Cleere dropped a '70' into the Mooncoin goalmouth which Paddy Treacy sent to the net. Mooncoin came back just as quickly and got even.

After six minutes Claus Dunne went down injured but resumed minutes later with a bandaged head. After this he was never the sharpshooter we know.

There was some very good hurling in the first period with scores very scarce. Both goalkeepers made some excellent saves.

After 20 minutes however there was more brawling and Bennettsbridge left full back Jim Treacy went off injured and was replaced by Conor O'Brien.

The winners began to get on top at this stage and tacked on a few points to lead by 1-4 to 1-3 at the interval.

Jim Treacy resumed for the 'Bridge after the interval. Kinsella had two 'Bridge wides which could have been scores, one shot striking the crossbar.

A minute later a shot from Paddy Moran hit the crossbar and was deflected out for a '70' which S. Cleere sent wide. Mick McCarthy broke the spell when he pointed for the 'Bridge in the 7th minute. After this the 'Bridge never looked back.

Seamus Cleere (injured) was replaced by Conor O'Brien after 14 minutes but resumed minutes later.

Just going into the last quarter of the game Bennettsbridge made fairly sure of victory with goals from Paddy Moran (free) and M. McCarthy within 1 ½ minutes.

This really broke the back of the Mooncoin side and they never looked a real threat to the 'Bridge after this.

Mooncoin did get another goal but the 'Bridge had further points to win by double scores.

HOW THEY PLAYED

Noel Skehan played a sound game in the 'Bridge goal. The defence was very sound especially the half backs, Kiely, Cleere and John McGovern. Moran and Lawlor did good work for the 'Bridge at midfield and Mick McCarthy, Paddy Treacy and John Kinsella did well in attack. Sam Carroll, Jim Bennett and Noel Ryan were marked very closely.

Dick Dunphy in the Mooncoin goal could not be blamed for the shots that beat him. Jim Walsh, John Howley and Jim Lynch worked hard in defence.

Mick Conway played his heart out at midfield and was the star of the side. Noel Doyle and Denis Kinsella did well in attack. Claus Dunne was very quiet after he was injured in the first quarter.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

Bennettsbridge got off to a good start when Paddy Moran dropped a seventy into the Mooncoin goalmouth in the first minute and Paddy Treacy sent to the net.

Two minutes later Clause Dunne sent a '21 yard free to the net for Mooncoin.

After four and a half minutes Paddy Moran pointed for the 'Bridge from 30 yards. A minute later Noel Skehan in the Bennettsbridge goal made a great save. In the 10th minute C. Dunne missed a free but tapped to Joe Dunphy who pointed.

Four minutes later Noel Doyle had another Mooncoin point. After 20 minutes Paddy Moran pointed from a free. Two minutes later Mick McCarthy had a Bennettsbridge point.

In the 24th minute John Kinsella tacked on another and just before the half time whistle Claus Dunne had a Mooncoin point from a free. The 'Bridge led by 1-4 to 1-3 at the interval.

SECOND HALF

The winners had several wides on the resumption



before Mick McCarthy pointed in the 7th minute. The decisive scores of the game came in the 15th and 16th minutes. Paddy Moran goaled from a 21 yard free in the 15th minute and a minute later Mick McCarthy repeated the feat.

Mick Conway reduced the lead with a Mooncoin point. Noel Ryan and Sam Carroll tacked on further 'Bridge points and Noel Ryan sent to the net but the whistle had gone for a "21" yard free which Paddy Moran sent to the net.

In the 22nd minute Denis Kinsella had a goal for Mooncoin but Sam Carroll had the last word with a point for the 'Bridge in the dying minutes of the game.

Scorers – Bennettsbridge – P. Moran(2-2 all from frees), Mick McCarthy (1-2), P. Treacy (1-0), S. Carroll (0-2), N. Ryan and Pat Lawler (0-1 each).

Mooncoin: C. Dunne (1-1), D. Kinsella (1-0), J. Dunphy, N. Doyle and M. Conway (0-1 each).

Bennettsbridge: N. Skehan, M. Treacy, L. Cleere, J. Treacy, P. Kiely, S. Cleere. J. McGovern, P. Moran, P. Lawler, J. Kinsella, J. Bennett, S. Carroll, N. Ryan, P. Treacy, M. McCarthy.

Mooncoin: D. Dunphy, J.J. Kinsella, John Walsh, T. Walsh, J. Howley, J. Lynch, J. Walsh, M. Howley, M. Conway, C. Dunne, J. Dunphy, N. Doyle, B. O'Keeffe, Denis Kinsella and Tom Ryan.

Referee – Jim Murphy, Tullogher.

KILKENNY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS 1968

Senior Hurling	Rower Inistioge 3-9	Bennettsbridge 3-7
Junior Hurling	Fenians 5-8	Glenmore 3-4
Under 21 Hurling	Clara 2-13	Mooncoin 2-4
Minor Hurling	Jas Stephens 4-8	John Lockes 1-3
Under 16 Hurling	St. Patrick's 5-4	Dunnamaggin 4-3
Senior Football	Muckalee 1-9	The Village 1-3
Junior Football	Bigwood 0-9	Barrowmount 0-2
Minor Football	The Village 1-7	Coolagh 0-2
Under 16 Football	St. Patrick's 3-6	Graignamanagh 1-2

NATIONAL RESULTS 1965

All-Ireland SH Final	Wexford 5-8	Tipperary 3-11
All-Ireland IH Final	London 4-15	Dublin 0-3
All-Ireland JH Final	Warwickshire 1-14	Kerry 1-9
All-Ireland U21H Final	Cork 2-18	Kilkenny 3-9
All-Ireland MH Final	Wexford 2-13	Cork 3-7
National Hurling League Final	Tipperary 3-9	Kilkenny 1-13
Oireachtas Hurling Final	Tipperary 1-9	Cork 1-6
Walsh Cup Final	Wexford 3-15	Kilkenny 0-5
Railway Cup Hurling Final	Munster 0-14	Leinster 0-10
All-Ireland SF Final	Down 2-12	Kerry 1-13
All-Ireland JF Final	Tyrone 3-8	London 0-7
All-Ireland U21F Final	Derry 3-9	Offaly 1-9
All-Ireland MF Final	Cork 3-5	Sligo 1-10
National Football League Final	Down 2-14	Kildare 2-11
Railway Cup Football Final	Ulster 1-10	Leinster 0-8



ROWER INISTIOGE COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1968

COUNTY SENIOR

Óroichead Bineid



Noel Skehan



Martin Treacy



Larry Cleere



Jim Treacy



Paddy Kealy



Seamus Cleere



John McGovern



Paddy Moran



Conor O'Brien



Pat Lalor



John Kinsella



Sam Carroll



Noel Ryan



Jim Bennett *(Capt)*



Paddy Treacy

FIR IONAID:
Liam Cleere, Michael McCarthy, Ned Ryan, William Kennedy, Liam Bookle, Christy Hayes.





HURLING FINAL 1968



Róðhar Instióg



Donal Kavanagh



Jim Murphy



Fintan Murphy



Martin Walsh



John Walsh



Billy Murphy



Eamonn Flood



Dermot Kavanagh



Pat Kavanagh



Eddie Keher



Michael Walsh (Capt)



Danny White



Pudsy Murphy



Martin Kavanagh



Tommy Murphy

FIR IONAIÐ:

Jim Morrissey, Martin Freeman, Pat Galavan. Johnnie Cottrell, Michael Murphy, Liam Cassin, John Mahon, Jim Dunphy, Tom Waters.



ROWER INISTIOGE COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1968

COUNTY FINAL

THE ROWER-INISTIOGE WIN THRILL PACKED FINAL

Rower Inistioge 3-9 Bennettsbridge 3-7

Sunday April 27th 1969

The Rower-Inistioge are the 1968 county senior hurling champions. They took the title from the holders Bennettsbridge, at Nowlan Park on Sunday after one of the most memorial finals for 30 years.

The game had everything, clean, fast hurling uncompromising exchanges, without an ugly incident, and individual performances to set the hearts of the Rower-Inistioge followers a glow.

Not since the herculean days of Éire Óg and Carrickshock has there been a county final with so much spectacle, thrills and heartthrobs, as the winners dominated for 40 minutes and then found themselves on the defence and perilously close to defeat.

The game provided a standard to satisfy the most exacting tastes from the very start the winners played with a skill and purpose that knocked the title holders off their game.

There were many factors in the Rower -Inistioge approach but the most important was their determination.

Giant Killers.

Setting themselves the role of giant killers they showed amazing courage and the vigour with which they contested every second was an indication that they had come to Nowlan Park with a clear intention of winning. They played with a supreme confidence.

But in spite of dictation the play and getting the better of the exchanges generally for most of the hour we also saw a sample of the greatness that has made Bennettsbridge such a wonderful combination, though we had to wait until the closing stages to see it.

The Rower-Inistioge were winning their first senior hurling title and the celebrations will go on for a very long time. While every man on the winning side played his part in this great victory goalie Donal Kavanagh carved a niche of his own and is likely to earn the most encomiums from the club's supporters. He certainly won the admiration of neutrals at Nowlan Park. Some of his saves were amazing.

The backs also rose to the occasion in great style Jim Murphy, Fintan Murphy, and Martin Walsh had

C.L.G.	G.A.A.
KIKENNY SENIOR AND JUNIOR FINALS	
At Nowlan Park	
SUNDAY NEXT, APRIL 27	
JUNIOR FINAL:	
GLENMORE	
THE FENIANS (JOHNSTOWN)	
At 2 p.m.	
SENIOR:	
BENNETTSBRIDGE	
THE ROWER-INISTIOGE	
At 3.30	
ADMISSION — — — 2/6. Sideline 2/- Extra	
Direct to Stand, 5/-	

their lines completely sealed and their clearances were well directed John Walsh had a splendid game at right half with Billy Murphy and Eamonn Flood also leaving an imprint on the game.

In spite of Paddy Moran's hard work, the winners had slightly the edge at centrefield where Dermot and Pat Kavanagh played delightful hurling. Dermot was particularly brilliant all through with Pat coming more into the picture in the second half, The Rower Inistioge attack played to a plan and it worked pivoting around Eddie Keher and Tommy Murphy, they used the wings effectively and those well worked early scores laid the foundation for victory. Their attacking movements were skilfully executed and paid dividends against defenders of the calibre of Jim Treacy and Seamus Cleere.

But Eddie Keher and Tommy Murphy were not alone in shaping this success. Danny White was another star and Pudsy Murphy fought every ball with a relentless intensity.

Michael Walsh and Martin Kavanagh teamed up splendidly in a purposeful combination.

Whether it was the fury of the early avalanche that took them by surprise or a slight degree of over confidence, Bennettsbridge never measured up to



Rower Inistioge - 1968 County SH Champions
Back : John Kehoe, Michael Murphy, Martin Walsh, Fintan Murphy, Pat Murphy, Tom Murphy, Tom Waters, Eddie Keher, Jim Dunphy, Martin Kavanagh, Dermot Kavanagh, Pat Kavanagh, Johnnie Cottrell. Front : L. Cassin, P. Galavan, "Shorn" Morrissey, Martin Freeman, "Gee" Murphy, Michael Walsh (Capt.), John Walsh, Eamonn Flood, Billy Murphy, Donal Kavanagh, Danny White



ROWER INISTIOGE COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1968

the expected standard and it was sheer determination alone that brought them back into the game in the closing stages.

Noel Skehan had many great saves to his credit and it would be hard for him to stop any of the goals. Jim Treacy was in brilliant form in the fullback line despite some clever hurling by Tommy Murphy, and Martin Treacy and Larry Cleere did quite well under periods of sustained pressure.

Seamus Cleere was obviously in need of the game after his long lay off but showed touches of his former greatness and John McGovern often got the better of Eddie Keher.

Paddy Kealy was off form at right half back and was replaced in the second half.

Paddy Moran as usual was in fine form at centrefield but he did not get sufficient support for his work to have a more telling effect. Conor O'Brien and later Pat Lalor helped him at centrefield

John Kinsella was best in the Bennettsbridge attack and might have got better returns if he had been given the necessary help. Sam Carroll for once was off form and Jim Bennett made a difference when he moved out to the half line. Noel Ryan made a big impact on the game in the closing stages but Paddy Treacy got little scope from Jim Murphy

Rower Inistioge: Donal Kavanagh, Jim Murphy, Fintan Murphy, Martin Walsh, John Walsh, Billy Murphy, Eamonn Flood, Dermot Kavanagh, Pat Kavanagh, Eddie Keher, Mick Walsh, Danny White, Pudsy Murphy, Martin Kavanagh, Tommy Murphy.

Bennettsbridge: Noel Skehan, Martin Treacy, Larry Cleere, Jim Treacy, Paddy Kealy, Seamus Cleere, Johnny McGovern, Paddy Moran, Conor O'Brien, Pat Lalor, John Kinsella, Sam Carroll, Noel Ryan, Jim Bennett, Paddy Treacy. Sub. Liam Cleere

Referee James Murphy (Tullogher)

SCORES BY THE CLOCK			
TIME	TEAM	SCORE	SCORER
FIRST HALF			
3 min.	Rower Inistioge	Goal	Danny White
7 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	John Kinsella
8 min.	Rower Inistioge	Goal	Eddie Keher
10 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Dermot Kavanagh
13 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Eddie Keher
15 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	Paddy Moran
16 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Tommy Murphy
18 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Dermot Kavanagh
21 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	John Kinsella
24 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Eddie Keher
25 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Eddie Keher
26 min.	Bennettsbridge	Goal	Paddy Moran
28 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	John Kinsella
HALF TIME SCORE: ROWER INISTIOGE 2-6 BENNETTSBRIDGE 1-4			
SECOND HALF			
12 min.	Rower Inistioge	Goal	Tommy Murphy
14 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Eddie Keher
16 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Eddie Keher
20 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	Seamus Cleere
21 min.	Bennettsbridge	Goal	Noel Ryan
23 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	Noel Ryan
28 min.	Bennettsbridge	Goal	Jim Bennett
29 min.	Rower Inistioge	Point	Danny White
30 min.	Bennettsbridge	Point	Paddy Moran
FULL TIME SCORE: ROWER INISTIOGE 3-9 BENNETTSBRIDGE 3-7			



KILKENNY CHAMPIONS CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Bonfires Blazed Welcome For Senior Hurlers

Bonfires blazed in the Rower on Sunday evening and festivities continued into the early hours of the morning in celebration of the Rower Inistioge's victory in the 1968 Kilkenny senior hurling championship final in Nowlan Park early in the day.

It was the Rower Inistioge's first appearance in the senior final, and victory was made all the more sweeter by reason of the fact that Bennettsbridge, the leading club side in Ireland for a number of years and the present holders of the Kilkenny title provided the opposition in what proved to be the one of the best and most exciting finals seen in the venue for a number of years.

Although the records will show that the new champions had only two points to spare at the finish, those lucky enough to see the game would be the first to admit that Bennettsbridge were flattered to finish so close to their young enthusiastic and skilful opponents. The winners in fact were nine points ahead with ten minutes remaining.

A typical Bennettsbridge rally cut arrears to an uncomfortable level for followers of both sides, but it is significant that the winners came back again to force the initiative at a time when their position was in danger.

The exciting finish helped to add to the enjoyment of the occasion and the trend of play towards the finish emphasised the superiority of the winners.

The success gave ample reward for all the fruitless endeavour over the years to the devoted men at the top who have continued to persevere.

It was a great Ross, who has been one of the guiding lights behind the scenes for a number of years.

It was a doubly happy occasions for Mr. Kavanagh to see the realisation of a life ambition and to see his four sons play important roles in the achievement of that ambition

A player to which this victory gave tremendous satisfaction was Fr. Tom Murphy, the former Kilkenny senior hurler who travelled over from Edinburgh to play in the three games.

1969 ALL IRELAND SH FINAL

As a result of the 1968 County Final win, Eddie Keher was Kilkenny Captain for their 1969 All Ireland victory, with Rower Inistioge colleagues, Billy Murphy, Tommy Murphy and Pat Kavanagh on the winning team.





ROWER INISTIOGE COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1968



**Rower Inistioge - Kilkenny Senior Hurling Champions 1968 with All-Ireland, Oireachtas, Leinster, Co Kilkenny and Fitzgibbon Cups.
Back row (l-r): Fr Hayne, Pudsey Murphy, Canon Flood, Fintan Murphy, John Walsh, Jim Dunphy, Fr Brennan, Danny White, Martin Freeman, Liam Cassin, Pat Galvan, Martin Walsh, Gee Murphy, Michael Roche, Michael Bolger, Tom Watters, Martin Kavanagh, Fr Noonan. Front row: Dermot Kavanagh, Tom Lyng (RIP), Billy Murphy, Fr Tom Murphy, Eddie Keher, Canon Loughrey (RIP), Toby Kavanagh (RIP), Pat Kavanagh, Donal Kavanagh.**



KILKENNY BOARD OFFICERS 1968

COUNTY BOARD

Chairman	Nicholas Purcell	(Graigue)
Secretary	Paddy Grace	(Dicksboro)
Trustee	T. J. Bergin	(Johnstown)
Trustee	Joe Walsh	(Thomastown)
Central Council	Nicholas Purcell	(Graigue)
Leinster Council	Paddy Buggy	(Slieverue)
Registrar	Liam Moore	(Kilkenny)

NORTHERN BOARD

Chairman	Edward Curran	(Urlingford)
Vice-Chairman	Liam Ryan	(Clara)
Secretary	Johnny Ivory	(Lisdowney)

SOUTHERN BOARD

Chairman	Michael O'Neill	(Kilmacow)
Vice-chairman	Joe Walsh	(Thomastown)
Secretary	Seamus McKenna	(Thomastown)

FOOTBALL BOARD

Chairman	Joe Walsh	(Railyard)
Secretary	Tommy O'Brien	(Kilkenny)

UNDER 16 BOARD

Chairman	Billy Leahy	(James Stephens)
Vice-Chairman	Tom Brennan	(Clara)
Secretary	Joe Walsh	(Thomastown)

ROWER INISTIOGE GAA CLUB OFFICERS 1968

President:	Fr Gabriel Loughrey P.P.
Chairman:	Toby Kavanagh
Secretary:	John Walsh
Treasurer:	Micheál Roche
SH Selectors:	Toby Kavanagh, Dick Bolger, Fr Peter Hoyne, Micheál Roche, John L Sullivan.



ROWER INISTIOGE COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1968

1968 THE ROWER V BENNETTSBRIDGE

**'Twas Sixty Eight I'll now relate we were in Kilkenny town
 To see our grand young hurlers contest the final crown
 Opponents were famed Bennettsbridge experienced and cool
 Against our team of youngsters like toddlers out from school
 Jamesie Murphy blew the whistle and sent them on their way
 To start the race of what would be a thrilling final day
 With hurling fast and furious a treat for all to see
 No one could say for certain what the final score would be**

**We had some mighty struggles mixed with smiles and mixed with tears
 And the "Press" and "Independent" cooed – 'twas the best for twenty years
 The reporter for the "People" said it was a super show
 With clean and great exchanges which set the heart aglow
 There were three minutes on the clock when the 'Bridge men got a fright
 To see their goal net bulging with a goal from Danny White
 Then Eddie Keher got on the act – he went on a scoring spree
 In the space of just four minutes he notched up a great one-three**

**Dermot Kavanagh and Tom Murphy now added to the score
 It seemed the hasp was bolting fast on the gold and green men's door
 But the 'Bridge boys are quite hardy men who've been in many a game
 And quickly they put through a goal to salvage their proud name
 When Murphy blew the whistle it was joy within the Rower
 The half time tally was revealed two-six to one goal-four
 Now the 'Bridge men it is certain no courage do they lack
 They'll do the trick in the closing half with the wind now at their back**

**But against all odds the Rower advanced to claim another goal
 From the stick of Father Tommy-may God bless his gentle soul
 Eddie Keher took up the running and filled our hearts with joy
 As over went the soaring points from that mighty hurling boy
 But the 'Bridge men again rallied like their great teams of yore
 And in the dying moments added eight points to their score
 Danny White was then action as we raced into attack
 And with a shot from out the wing he pulled a white flag back**



We now await the whistle sound upon the spring time air
 The 'Bridge have scored a point again-we still have two to spare
 As Murphy blows the siren, it's the last long final bell
 My heart is beating madly in the throes of victory swell
 We're Kilkenny's county champions for the year of Sixty-Eight
 In a powerful game of hurling described as being great
 Now its time to wield the pen and name the winning team
 Who in the Rower and Inistioge fulfilled a lifetime dream

Donal Kavanagh was the goalie and splendid skills did show
 He blocked them at the cross bar and again when they were low
 Martin Walsh and Fintan Murphy filled all our hearts with glee
 Along with the younger Murphy - the boy well known as "Gee"
 The halfback line was strong and fine – boy they were very good
 John Walsh and Billy Murphy and likewise brave Eamon Flood
 Two brothers then did dominate the whole centre of the field
 For Pat and Dermot Kavanagh to no 'Bridge man would they yield

Our forwards never wavered in this great sporting fight
 Mick Walsh played well throughout the hour-as did sparkling Danny White
 Eddie Keher that supreme artist sent high above the bar
 And crashed the low ones to the net – sure he is a shining star
 Martin Kavanagh, "Pudsy" Murphy, around the square they tore
 Creating widespread havoc like a flood going down the Nore
 At fifteen was Fr Tommy of the Murphy famous name
 He's starred in many a battle and likewise in this game

Well played you gallant hurlers from the church upon the hill
 That final day in Nowlan Park, I can picture it now still
 When ye captured our first title in one amazing game
 And stitched in gold for evermore your well won call to fame
 And further glory was to come when Eddie Keher did shine
 In our great All Ireland victory in Nineteen Sixty Nine
 He was the one who raised the cup on that proud day in September
 It was indeed without a doubt – a year Rower men remember

Written by Anon 1969
 (County Final of 1968 was not played until 1969)
 From *Black & Amber Glory* by James Murphy



ROWER INISTIOGE COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1968



Tommy Murphy, Noel Skehan, Eddie Keher and Martin Treacy. (Tom Brett)



From left: Jim Bennett, Eamonn Flood, Noel Ryan, James Murphy (Ref), Billy Murphy, Fintan Murphy, Martin Walsh.



ROWER INISTIOGE COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1968



Paddy Treacy, Gee Murphy. (Tom Brett)



Martin Kavanagh, Tommy Murphy, Larry Cleere. (Tom Brett)



ROWER INISTIOGE COUNTY SH CHAMPIONS 1968



*Eddie Keher goals for Rower Inistioge.
Also from left: Jim Treacy, Tommy Murphy, Martin Kavanagh, Noel Skehan. (Tom Brett)*



Pat Lalor, Eddie Keher (Tom Brett)





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