

# Tuarascáil an Rúnaí 2022

## (Tipperary County Secretary's Annual Report)



TIM FLOYD County Secretary

### Tosnú

Seo mo chúntas don chómhgháil mar rúnaí ar Choiste Chontae Thiobraid Árann don séú huair déag agus don uair deireanach. Mar sin, tá sé daite le an-chuid athchluimhní, soirbhíochas, buanna agus díomuanna chomh maith le luchtáir agus roinnt bróin. Táim ámhach go raibh mé in oifig le linn tréimhse rathúil i saol GLG Thiobraid Árann agus trófaí de shaghas éigin á mbuachaint i bpeil nó san iomaint beagnach gach bliain - is amhlaidh gurb é 2021 an t-aon bhliain amháin go raibh an cornchláir nocht. Tá na mílte cairde déanta agam sa chontae agus trasna na tíre i rith mo thréimhse mar rúnaí, ach faraor, chaill mé roinnt cairde dílse a mbeidh tagairt agam orthu níos déanaí sa chúntas.

Tá léirmheas mionsonraithe ar 2022 sa tuarascáil seo chomh maith le mo fhís do thodhchaí Chumann Lúthchleas Gael i dThiobraid Árann agus cúpla spleáchadh siar ar an sé bhliain déag atá imithe. Tá súil agam go nglacfaidh tú am chun é a léamh agus taitneamh a bhaint as.

### Introduction

The Tipperary Minor hurlers lit up 2022 for supporters with displays of courage and character in the Munster Final and All Ireland Semi Final culminating in a drama filled last few minutes in the All-Ireland final over Offaly on Sun July 3<sup>rd</sup> in Nowlan Park. One month later a dark cloud descended over the GAA world as Tipperary and Clonoulty-Rossmore mourned the loss of one of our young prospects, Dillon Quirke who was taken from us before our very eyes in FBD Semple Stadium on Friday August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Tipperary Senior hurling experienced three managers in the space of twelve months with Liam Sheedy's departure in August 2021, followed by the appointment of Colm Bonnar weeks later until his replacement Liam Cahill in August 2022. Colm's removal was unfortunate after a year that saw Tipperary lose to Kerry in the Munster Hurling League, failure to qualify in the Allianz Hurling league and lose all our four games in the Munster Championship.

Tipperary senior footballers came with a late surge to gain promotion to Division 3 but failed to sparkle in the championship losing out to Limerick in the Munster Semi Final and Carlow in the Tailteann Cup.

Our Minor footballers gave us hope winning The Daryl Darcy trophy whilst our U20 hurlers also showed us green shoots reaching the Munster final with victories over Kerry, Waterford and Cork before falling to Limerick in the decider. Kilruane MacDonaghs rose from the ashes winning the county SH title and brought the Dan Breen Cup back to the parish after 35 years. Clonmel Commercials returned to the winner's enclosure regaining the Co SF title again and topping it off with an impressive victory over Nemo Rangers in the Munster Club quarter final.

We had minimum changes in the boardroom with Eleanor Lahart taking over as Assistant Treasurer one year ahead of Michael Powers departure from the Cisteoir's role at the end of 2022. I'm delighted to report that our Dr Morris Park dressing room extension is underway as Cooldine Construction moved on site in October and expect to handover completion of Phase 1 in Feb 2023. This will see four extended dressing rooms with new showers and toilets plus a new multipurpose room which initially can be used as a gym and later a dining room. Phase 2 & 3 will be lodged for planning permission in December with an anticipated start date in April 2023. Phase 2 includes a large meeting room plus dining area and Phase 3 will be a second Tier over phase 2 which will see a full-size gym in place.

The TUS/LIT all weather pitch project on the Thurles Campus is still alive and design work is now complete and ready to be lodged for planning before the year end of 2022. Tipperary Co Board are committed to be partners in this project along with TUS, Tipperary Co Council and Tennis Ireland/Thurles.

The FBD Semple Stadium Kinane Stand project is currently in cold storage until large scale infrastructural funding becomes available from our own Central Council and Government departments.

2022 saw Tipperary Co Board return to the Galway Races where €30k was raised. The Tipperary GAA Clubs Draw continues to be attractive as membership was retained at close to 17,000 for the first draw in September 2022, with prize bonds taking over from a racehorse as the incentive to join. Both fundraising bodies, Tipperary Supporters Club and Friends of Football ran very successful Golf classics to boost their funds as they provided vital back up especially for our new partnership in 2022 with strength and conditioning experts Setanta. New sponsors "FISERV" came on board taking over from TENEO as the name on the Tipperary Jersey. As we welcome our new technology friends who have a base on the Limerick Road in Nenagh we say thanks to Declan Kelly and TENEO for their very generous support for Tipperary GAA from 2019-2021. Semple Stadium also took on a new partner as FBD extended their sponsorship of the Tipperary Co Championships and Leagues to now be known as FBD Semple Stadium. We thank Michael Berkery and the staff in FBD Thurles, Clonmel and Nenagh for all their support.

Streaming continues to attract support as Tipperary Co Board streamed 28 games in 2022 whilst RTE and TG4 transmitted a

further four games which is now a lucrative source of income for the Board.

Dillon Quirke's untimely passing in 2022 will always be remembered and we cannot forget other great Tipperary legends who went to their eternal reward like Liam Quinn (Holycross).

Over the next few pages, I will recall the events of 2022 and as this is my final report to Convention, I will also take you on a nostalgic road over my 16 years as Co Secretary. I was fortunate to work alongside my predecessor Michael O'Brien during his seven-year term from 2000-2006 as County Chairman at the time, Con Hogan gave me a commercial and marketing role in 2000 which saw the opening of the Tipperary GAA Shop in Lar Na Pairce. In 2019 the franchise for this shop was transferred to Elverys and is now located in Thurles Shopping Centre. This role also brought me into contact with former sponsors like Finches, ENFER Skoda, Elverys, TENEO and now FISERV. In my role as Tipperary Draw Co-Ordinator from 1987-2006, I worked alongside former legendary Runaí Tomás O'Baroid so my arrival as Co Secretary in 2007 was no surprise as I had built up a mountain of experience along the way apart from my familiarity with all 72 clubs in the county. It's been an honour and privilege to serve as Runaí of Choiste Chontae Thiobraid Árann and over the next few pages, I hope you enjoy my trip down memory lane. Lets start with a round-up of the activities during 2022.

### Senior Hurling 2022

#### Munster Hurling League

<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>					<i>Referee</i>
8/01/22	Austin Stack	Kerry	<b>0.17</b>	Tipperary	<b>0.14</b>	Ciaran O'Regan

#### Allianz Hurling League

<b>R1</b> 5/02/22	O'Moore Park	Tipperary	<b>0.21</b>	Laois	<b>1.14</b>	Sean Cleere
<b>R2</b> 13/02/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Tipperary	<b>1.19</b>	Kilkenny	<b>1.18</b>	Liam Gordon
<b>R3</b> 26/02/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Dublin	<b>2.16</b>	Tipperary	<b>0.21</b>	Johnny Murphy
<b>R4</b> 06/03/22	Walsh Park	Waterford	<b>1.28</b>	Tipperary	<b>0.21</b>	Colm Lyons
<b>R5</b> 20/03/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Tipperary	<b>7.29</b>	Antrim	<b>1.17</b>	Rory McGrath

#### Munster Championship

<b>R1</b> 17/04/22	Walsh Park	Waterford	<b>2.24</b>	Tipperary	<b>2.20</b>	Johnny Murphy
<b>R2</b> 24/04/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Clare	<b>3.21</b>	Tipperary	<b>2.16</b>	James Owens
<b>R3</b> 08/05/22	TUS Gaelic Grounds	Limerick	<b>3.21</b>	Tipperary	<b>0.23</b>	Liam Gordon
<b>R4</b> 22/05/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Cork	<b>3.30</b>	Tipperary	<b>1.24</b>	Sean Stack

Tipperary Senior Hurlers exited the 2021 Championships at the hands of Waterford in the All-Ireland Quarter Final in July following which manager Liam Sheedy stepped down. By Mid-September, Tipperary Co Board moved quickly and appointed Colm Bonnar as the new manager and he brought onboard Johnny Enright, Paul Curran and Tommy Dunne. The new management team resurrected the Millar Shield Tournament following an absence of 30 years and after a series of three rounds where each Division played each other it was the West division who came out on top winning all their games. Following this a panel was drawn up ahead of our Munster Hurling League first round fixture away to Kerry on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Colm Bonnar drew from an extended panel of 47 players for the trip to Austin Stack Park with Brendan Maher now retired and others like Bryan O'Mara and Niall O'Meara unavailable for 2022. With just 20 players, many whom were fringe panellists, Tipp started with only Barry Hogan and Dan McCormack from the 2021 championship team. Despite playing with the aid of a strong wind, Tipperary trailed by 0.9 to 0.6 at half time having hit ten first half wides. An improved second half where Tipperary ran at the Kerry defence was not enough as the Kingdom went on to achieve their first ever senior hurling victory over Tipperary. Adding to our woes was a serious ankle break to Willie Connors which deprived him of any further Inter County activity in 2022.

This defeat deprived Tipperary of any further competitive games going into our opening Allianz League opening round versus Laois on Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. Victory in a challenge game against Wexford in Carrick Swans pitch lifted the squad which was now down to 34. This was reduced to 33 when the shock news of Padraic Mahers retirement on medical grounds following a neck injury shocked the county and beyond. Our opening League game versus Laois was played on a wet miserable evening under floodlights in Moore Park, Portlaoise. Tipp opted to play against the wind and showed a much-improved performance from the Kerry game to lead at half time by 0.11 to 0.7. Despite wind advantage we were wasteful in the second half with eleven wides and we also conceded a soft goal but managed to hold out for a much-needed victory 0.21 to 1.14. The welcome return of experienced players like Cathal Barrett, Seamus Kennedy, Barry Heffernan, Michael Breen, Jason Forde and Jake Morris steadied the ship and gave supporters a boost going into our second round which was a home game to Kilkenny. Colm Bonnar rewarded the players by putting out the same starting fifteen in front of the home supporters in FBD Semple Stadium. The team responded and led 1.11 to 0.8 at half time with the goal coming from Jake Morris following a pass from Denis Maher. Kilkenny drew level fifteen minutes into the second half, and it took an injury time long range free by Jason Forde to secure victory for Tipp under new captain Ronan Maher who came on during the second half.

Tipperary were now topping the Division 1B League table and after a free Sunday faced Dublin in FBD Semple Stadium on Sat Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. Tipp were dominant in the first half but a Rian McBride Dublin goal in the 25<sup>th</sup> minute gave Dublin a one-point

half time lead 1.8 to 0.10. The second half was similar as just when Tipp seemed to be in control with points, Dublin struck for their second goal on 50 minutes by Ronan Hayes. Tipp added Noel & John McGrath plus Conor Bowe to the attack in the last quarter but “the Dubs” held out for a one-point victory despite Tipp missing a gilt-edged goal opportunity by Jason Forde in injury time. So far Colm Bonnar had given chances to 29 players in our first three league games, so all was still very much at the experimental stage. The following Sunday in Walsh Park Colm got a serious reality check from Liam Cahills Waterford. Despite a great start as Tipp led 0.9 to 0.3 after 20 mins a Stephen Bennett goal in the 21<sup>st</sup> minute rocked the Premier side and we trailed at half time by 1.13 to 0.14. For 15 minutes after half time Waterford toyed with Tipp before turning the screw in the last quarter scoring ten unanswered points to record 1.28 to 0.21 victory which left Tipperary on the ropes. This defeat was a serious wake up call for Tipp as we faced the same Waterford six weeks later in Munster competition with a lot of ground to make up to match their power and pace. Two weeks later Tipp rounded off our league campaign with a facile 7.29 to 1.17 victory over Antrim in FBD Semple Stadium but this was not enough to qualify for the play-offs. The league still served its purpose as management saw 31 of their panel of 34 in action.

Waterford went on to win the Allianz Hurling League Final with a 19-point victory over Wexford in the Semi Final and scored 4.20 in a six-point victory over Cork in the final. Based on both these impressive performances, Waterford were now serious All Ireland contenders whereas expectation levels were very low amongst Tipperary supporters leading to Walsh Park on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Despite starting slowly, a Mark Kehoe goal in the seventh minute ignited Tipp as we outscored Waterford eight points to three over the next twenty minutes. The home team regained their composure before half time and were happy enough going in at the break just four points down at 1.12 to 0.11. Tipp were hit by a whirlwind at the start of the second half as the introduction of Austin Gleeson and Jamie Barron inspired Waterford. Within 10 minutes Tipp went from four points up to five points down following goals by Mikey Kiely and Dessie Hutchinson. Tipperary regained composure and stuck with Waterford, aided by a second Mark Kehoe goal. Trailing by just one point going into the final minutes it was Waterford who finished strongest with three points to give them a flattering four-point victory over a gallant Tipp team who never gave up.

Tipperary went into round two, boosted by that spirited first round display, against a Clare team without a game in the opening round. Tipperary were still an experienced side fielding ten of the 2019 All Ireland winning side so we were not a team in transition despite fielding young hopefuls in Craig Morgan, James Quigley, Dillon Quirke and Mark Kehoe.

This Clare game proved to be about goals but unfortunately, we missed at least four chances. Whilst Tipp were denied goal opportunities the Banner took full advantage as both Ian Glavin and Peter Duggan were in the right place to finish off rebounds from goalkeeper Brian Hogan saves. A third goal from a Tony Kelly penalty gave Clare a 3.11 to 0.7 lead at half time and a mountain to climb for Tipp. Despite an early second half goal from substitute Ger Browne Tipperary failed to kick on and missed a lot of scoring opportunities to eat into the Clare lead. A lucky goal in the 50<sup>th</sup> minute when the Clare keeper dropped a Barry Heffernan long delivery reduced the Clare lead to nine points but Tipperary appeared beaten and did not have the necessary work rate to fight back. An eight-point loss was difficult for Tipp supporters to digest but the manner of defeat was hard to accept following a fully charged display against Waterford. Facing into All Ireland champions Limerick on their own home turf at the Gaelic Grounds was now an even more daunting task. Tipperary’s dedicated few supporters travelled to Ennis Rd hoping to see a performance from the Premier County and they were not let down as they got a very much improved



*Respective managers Liam Cahill and Colm Bonnar shakes hands at the final whistle at a league match in April.*

spirited display that one expects from our proud county. Despite and Aaron Gilane goal early on Tipp battled bravely and led at half time by 0.14 to 1.9. We carried this momentum into the second half and still carried a one-point lead on the 60<sup>th</sup> minute. Limerick's strong finish floored Tipp as goals from Conor Boylan and Aaron Gillane added to the string of points in the closing minutes. A somewhat moral victory which illustrated the potential of this Tipp Team as we faced the Rebels in our final game who still were in contention to qualify. We still had a slim chance of qualifying as the third team, but the odds were stacked in favour of Cork or Waterford to advance.

Tipperary got the perfect start in FBD Semple Stadium on Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> with a Jason Forde goal inside the first minute and by the 5<sup>th</sup> minute we led 1.3 to 0.0. the game turned on its head in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute when a Noel McGrath struck penalty came of the post which Cork cleared up field for Alan Connolly to goal. This six-point swing inspired the Rebels to run riot and build up a half time lead of 2.14 to 1.9. A fragile Tipp were on the ropes in the second half as players like Conor Lehane and Shane Kingston opened up our own defence to run out easy winners 3.30 to 1.24 despite Tipperary players Noel McGrath contributing 0.12 from frees and Jason Forde 0.5 from play. Devastation for the Premier supporters as this twelve-point defeat not alone saw our exit from the championship but a possible relegation battle with Kerry a few weeks later if they defeated Antrim. Following an anxious wait and a dramatic Joe McDonagh Cup final, Antrim survived a nine-goal thriller where they led by ten points at half time only to see Kerry stage a second half comeback to fall short by one point. So, Tipp retained their Liam McCarthy status, but weeks of discontent followed and after much deliberation, Colm Bonnar was replaced by Liam Cahill who had just stepped down as Waterford Manager. Liam brought with him Mikey Bevans as coach plus Paudie Maher, Declan Laffan and TJ Ryan.

**Tipperary SH team v Cork in final game 22/5/22:** Barry Hogan(Kildangan), Cathal Barrett(Holycross Ballycahill), Ronan Maher (Thurles Sarsfields) Craig Morgan (Kilruane MacDonaghs), Dillon Quirke (Clonoulty/Rossmore), Seamus Kennedy(St Marys), Barry Heffernan (Nenagh Eire Og), Conor Stakelum (Thurles Sarsfields), Dan McCormack (Borrisoleigh), Ger Browne(Cashel King Cormacs), Noel McGrath (Loughmore Castleiney), Michael Breen (Ballina), Jason Forde (Silvermines), Mark Kehoe (Kilsheelan Kilcash), Jake Morris(Nenagh Eire Og), Alan Flynn (Kildangan), Patrick Maher (Lorrha), James Quigley (Kildangan), Conor Bowe(Moyne Templetuohy), Gearoid O'Connor (Moyne Templetuohy) Brian Hogan (Lorrha), Paddy Cadell (JK Brackens) Paul Flynn (Kildangan), Enda Heffernan (Clonoulty-Rossmore), Denis Maher (Thurles Sarsfields), Brian McGrath (Loughmore Castleiney).

*Also, on 2022 Panel:* Seamus Callanan (Drom&Inch), Dylan Walsh (Ballingarry), John McGrath (Loughmore), Conor Whelan (Mullinahone), Cian Darcy (Kilruane), John Meagher (Loughmore) Robert Byrne (Portroe)

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## U20 Hurling 2022

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### Munster Championship

06/04/22 Austin Stack Tralee	Tipperary	<b>3.15</b>	Kerry	<b>0.13</b>	Nicholas O'Toole
13/04/22FBD Semple Stadium	Tipperary	<b>2.21</b>	Waterford	<b>1.20</b>	Niall Malone

### Munster Final

27/04/22FBD Semple Stadium	Tipperary	<b>2.20</b>	Cork	<b>1.21</b>	Niall Malone
04/05/22TUS Gaelic Grounds	Limerick	<b>1.25</b>	Tipperary	<b>2.18</b>	Niall Malone

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Brendan Cummins was appointed U20H Manager towards the end of 2021 after John Devane stepped down at the end of his two-year term. Working with him were Fintan O Connor (Coach) plus Martin Maher (Borrisoleigh) and Shane Stapleton (Golden-Kilfeacle) as selectors. This backroom team hit the ground running and put almost 50 players on strength and conditioning programmes over the winter months. Numerous trials were held once the New Year opened which reduced the panel to 36.

The Munster U20H Championship took on a new format in 2022 with two groups of three teams. In Tipperary's group were Kerry and Waterford with an away trip to Austin Stack Park Tralee first up. This was familiar ground for both Brendan and Fintan O Connor who both gave five years as part of Kerry Senior Hurling backroom teams, so they were still aware of the banana skins which already caught the Tipp Senior Team in the Munster League. Once again, the rule forbidding senior players from playing under 20 was in force although this had no direct effect on the Tipperary panel. On Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup> Tipp headed for Tralee and met stubborn resistance from a game Kerry side. Playing with wind advantage the Kingdom led 0.7 to 0.2 after 13 minutes and were deprived of a goal by our keeper Jason O Dwyer. Tipp rallied in the second quarter and helped by an Ed Connolly goal held a narrow lead at half time 1.7 to 0.9. Kerry's resistance continued into the second half and the teams were level going into the final quarter. Two goals by Paddy Creedon and Peter McGarry sealed it for Tipp in the closing stages to give us a flattering victory by eleven points.

Seven days later a Waterford team full of confidence came to FBD Semple Stadium to complete the round robin in our group. The first half was very even as both sides exchanged points with Tipp edging head to a slender one-point lead at half time 0.12 to 0.11. Immediately on the restart Kyle Shelly tapped home a Tipp goal but Waterford responded with a green flag from Paddy Fitzgerald. The Deices were now playing a high tempo game similar to their seniors and took the lead in the 52<sup>nd</sup>

minute. The introduction of fresh legs plus a Peter McGarry goal in the 55<sup>th</sup> minute put Tipp back in the driving seat as we dominated the final minutes to run out deserving four-point winners 2-21 to 1.20.

Limerick topped the other group defeating Cork to take top place which set up Tipp for a Semi Final clash with the rebels in FBD Semple Stadium as we topped our group. Tipp had suffered defeat to Cork in the previous two years as they went on to win back-to-back All Irelands. Tipperary supporters, disillusioned with the poor performance of the senior team versus Clare were now looking to the Minors and under 20's for green shoots and hope for the future. They got this from the under 20's with a full-blooded spirited performance against a star-studded Cork side. A goal from Peter McGarry in the 6<sup>th</sup> minute set the tone while captain John Campion led from mid-field with a second goal in the opening half to give Tipp an interval lead of 2.12 to 0.9. Cork rallied in the second half, but Tipp kept them at a distance despite an injury time goal to reduce the winning margin to two points. A win over the Rebels was a massive boost as they had been our big obstacle in recent years as these players came up through the grades.

One week later we headed for the Gaelic Grounds to face new hurling giants Limerick in the Munster Final on their own turf. The Treaty side raced into an early lead with an Adam English goal laying down a marker of what might be ahead. But Tipp stuck to their task and a Kyle Shelly goal in the 17<sup>th</sup> minute kept us in the game. Limerick's senior panelists, Colin Coughlan and Adam English were to the fore as along with Aidan O Connor they took control to give them a 1.13 to 1.6 commanding lead at the interval. But Tipp refused to lie down in the second half as substitute Colm Fogarty cut through the Limerick defense before laying off to Jack Leamy who finished to the net. Another substitute Sean Kenneally also made a big impact as Tipp fought bravely but could not breach that two-point gap. Limerick stood firm as the Premier side threw everything at them and they held on for a four-point victory. Despite defeat Tipperary can be proud of their 2022 campaign as no stone was left unturned. Brendan Cummins and his backroom will continue this process into 2023 as we have eight of the first fifteen and twenty four of the thirty six man panel still underage. This group has shown that Tipperary hurling has a bright future consolidated by our All Ireland Minor victory in 2022.

**Tipperary U20H v Limerick on 4/5/22:** Páidí Williams (Kilruane MacDonaghs), Conor O'Dwyer (Cashel King Cormacs), Liam Shanahan (Upperchurch Drombane), Cathal Quinn (Cashel King Cormacs), James Armstrong (Thurles Sarsfields), Michael Corcoran (Silvermines), Darragh Stakelum (Thurles Sarsfields), Johnny Campion (Drom & Inch), James Kellar (Nenagh Eire Og), Peter McGarry (St Marys), Eddie Ryan (Borrisoleigh), Kyle Shelly (Moycarkey Borris), Jack Leamy (Golden Kilfeacle), Paddy Creedon (Thurles Sarsfields) **Subs:** Colm Fogarty (Lorrha), Sean Kenneally (Moneygall), Conor McKelvey (Silvermines), Conor Ryan (Borrisokane) Jason O Dwyer (Clonoulty Rossmore, Tony Cahill (Drom & Inch) James Morris (St Mary's), Conor O'Brien (Mullinahone)

**Also on Panel:** Martin Paul O Dwyer (Boherlahan Dualla) Ciaran McCormack (Loughmore Castleiney), Stephen Ferncombe (Clonoulty Rossmore), Henry Fogarty (Thurles Sarsfields), Jack Fogarty (Thurles Sarsfields), Paul Bradshaw (Eire Og Anacarty) Ben Currivan (Golden Kilfeacle), Jamie Duncan (Knockavilla Kickhams) Joe Caesar (Holycross-Ballycahill) Ciaran Lloyd (Moyne -empletuohy), Paul Nolan (Sean Treacys) Shane Gleeson (Kildangan)



Brendan Cummins - U20 manager.

### Minor Hurling

#### Munster Championship

<b>Rd 1-</b> 05/4/22	Dungarvan	Tipperary	<b>1.21</b>	Waterford	<b>0.23</b>	Ciaran O'Regan
<b>Rd 2-</b> 12/4/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Tipperary	<b>2.13</b>	Clare	<b>0.13</b>	Nicky Barry
<b>Semi Final-</b> 3/5/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Tipperary	<b>3.27</b>	Waterford	<b>0.15</b>	Jarlath Donnellan
<b>Mun Final-</b> 11/5/22	Gaelic Grounds	Tipperary	<b>1.22</b>	Clare	<b>0.25</b>	Nicky Barry

**AET (Tipp won 3-0 on penalties)**

#### All Ireland Championship

<b>Semi Final-</b> 19/6/22	TUS Gaelic Grounds	Tipperary	<b>3.24</b>	Galway	<b>3.20</b>	AK Murphy
<b>Final-</b> 03/7/22	UPMC Nowlan Pk	Tipperary	<b>1.17</b>	Offaly	<b>1.16</b>	Shane Hynes

James Woodlock, Conor O'Brien, Brendan Ferris, Cormac McGrath, Damien Ryan and Ray Doyle were on year two of their three-year term following a disappointing first year ending with a heavy defeat by Waterford in the Munster Semi Final. Fourteen of the 2021 panel were still eligible and formed part of a 34-man panel that followed an intense strength and conditioning programme over the winter months under the watchful eye of Angelo Walsh. The 2021 campaign was a knockout system due to Covid but this year the Munster Championship consisted of two groups of three with the Premier County in a group with Waterford and Clare. A trip to Dungarvan was first up and the home side stormed into the game and were 0.6 to 0.1 up after ten minutes. A Damien Corbett goal in the 11<sup>th</sup> minute ignited Tipp and we stayed in touch to trail by 0.14 to 1.8 at the break. With the aid of a stiff coastal breeze Tipp took control in the second half with Ciaran Foley, Tom Delaney and Paddy McCormack all to the fore scoring points to give the visitors a narrow one-point victory and a reversal of the same sides 2021 result. Round 2 was a home game versus Clare and once again despite a good start scoring three points without reply Tipp were sluggish and were fortunate to be level at 0.8 each at the break. Clare scored quick points on the resumption but two quick fire goals by Paddy McCormack and Tom Delaney mid-way through the half gave Tipp a six-point lead which they held to the finish. Topping the group this guaranteed us a Semi Final spot along with Cork in our respective groups whilst the second and third played off in the quarter finals. Ironically it was two team from our group, Clare and Waterford, who came through the quarters as Waterford came to FBD Semple Stadium full of confidence. Tipperary weren't idle either in the interim and won a lively challenge against Galway in FBD Semple Stadium following the Tipp v Clare AHL game. The Tipp v Waterford Minor Semi Final in 2022 will be remembered as the Tom Delaney show as the full forward went on to score 1.12 from play over the hour. With Tadhg Sheehan dominating at No 6 Tipp led by 1.14 to 0.8 at the interval and sealed the issue at the close of the second half with two goals by substitutes Jack Hayes and Darragh McCarthy. The other semi-final provided a big upset as Clare knocked out Cork by a goal in Páirc Uí Rinn which set up the Banner against the Premier County in a repeat of their April 12<sup>th</sup> fixture but this time in the TUS Gaelic Grounds. Buoyed by their victory over Cork, Clare hit the ground running in the Gaelic Grounds and went toe to toe with Tipp. The first half was evenly matched with both teams exchanging points as Tipp edged ahead with a Ciaran Foley point just as the interval 0.10 to 0.9. Clare dominated the third quarter taking a three-point lead as Tipp were reduced to 14 men following a second yellow for captain Sam O'Farrell. Tipperary subs made a big impact as Sam Rowan goaled in the 53<sup>rd</sup> minute and points by Darragh McCarthy and Cathal English had us in the driving seat going into the final minutes with a two-point lead. Clare responded in added time with two points, the equalizer coming from Dylan Keane Hayes five minutes after the official sixty. Extra time was required, and the teams were still deadlocked after ten minutes with both sides scoring two points each.

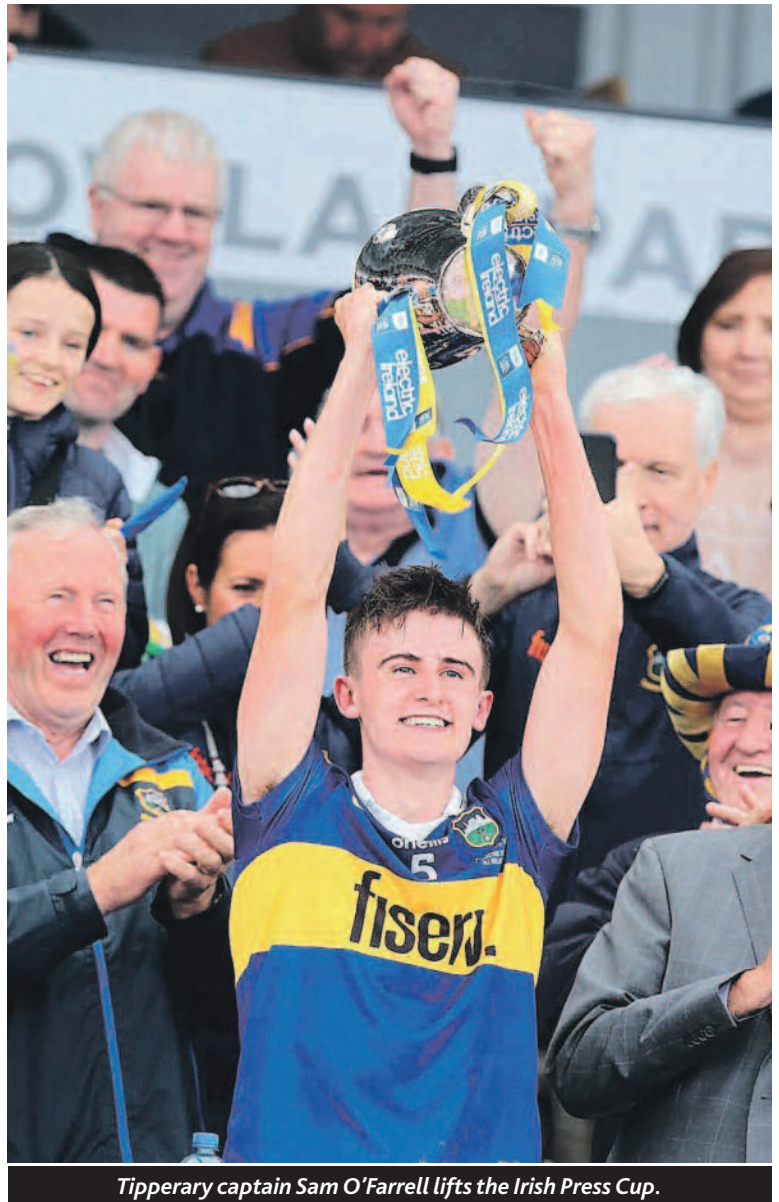
The second period was similar, and it took a Paddy McCormack free from 55 yards to save Tipperary skins and take the game to a dramatic finale on penalties. Eoin Horgan and Paddy McCormack converted Tipps first two successfully as Horgan saved both Clare's attempts. Clare's third was wide and Tipp's Adam Daly clinched it for Tipp with a clinical finish to the net. This victory was a massive boost to Tipperary hurling and set us up for an All-Ireland Semi Final five weeks later. Galway came through their own Round Robin with victory over Clare and Laois who were Provincial Runners Up.

The Semi Final was fixed for the TUS Gaelic Grounds on Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup>. Galway were managed by Fergal Healy, and they matched Tipp right up to the final whistle. Tipp opened with four quick points, but the Tribesmen responded and were level by the eight minute. Galway rocked Tipp with quick fire goals in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute (the first goals conceded in the championship) but an Adam Daly green kept Tipp in touch to only trail by one point at the break 2.11 to 1.13. On resumption it was Tipperary who dominated as Tom Delaney and Paddy McCormack tapped on the points before a goal by Joe Egan in the 43<sup>rd</sup> minute put us in the driving seat at six points up. However, Galway dominated the last quarter and an Aaron Niland goal in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute drew them level followed by a Rory Burke point in added time and it looked like being their day. Amazingly in a ninety second space in that injury time the game was turned on its head with points from Adam Daly and Joe Egan to take the lead. A goal by Tipp's Senan Butler sealed it for Tipperary and a place in the All-Ireland Final on Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Minor Final is no longer a curtain raiser to the Senior Final in Croke Park so the fixture was down as a stand-alone game in UPMC Nowlan Park. The build-up was almost equal to a senior final with the clamour for tickets in a venue limited to 20,000 approx. Free entry for juveniles incentivised clubs to run buses for groups, so the Kilkenny venue was packed to capacity which led to a marvellous final day atmosphere. Offaly were the surprise winners in an unusual Leinster Final pairing overpowering Laois by eight points. They also beat a fancied Dublin side in the Leinster Semi Final by nine points and saw off Clare in the All

Ireland Semi Final by four points to merit their place in this 2022 All Ireland Final. From the throw-in they looked like they were not going to let up as they went toe to toe with Tipperary in the first twenty minutes as the teams were level six times. The Faithful County pulled away in those final minutes and a Leigh Kavanagh goal on the stroke of half time gave them a well-deserved 1.10 to 0.7 lead at the break. Offaly continued to dominate the second half and any threats of a Tipp goal were denied by superb saves from Offaly keeper Liam Hoare. As Offaly's star continued to rise all over the field the writing looked to be on the wall for Tipp especially when reduced to fourteen men in the 52<sup>nd</sup> minute following Damien Corbett's dismissal for throwing his hurley. His dismissal was the turning point of the game on many counts. Apart from preventing Offaly sub, Cathal Robinson from scoring a goal, it also led them into a defensive mode dropping an extra man back allowing Tipp to build up from their own backline where captain Sam O Farrell was inspirational. Ciaran Foley, Jack O Callaghan and Aaron O'Halloran all tapped over crucial points to bring us within two points of Offaly as the game entered the fourth and final minute of added time.

Tipp were awarded a free 30 yards out and up stepped substitute Paddy Phelan who had just arrived on the pitch. He floated a measured lob to the edge of the small square where it was met at its highest point by a measured flick from Paddy McCormack which guided the sliotar to the back of the Offaly net. Misery for Offaly as the final whistle blew and Tipp celebrated a dramatic victory to claim our 21<sup>st</sup> All Ireland Minor Hurling title. Captain Sam O Farrell lifted the Irish Press Cup in Nowlan Park and brought it across the border through Fennor Hill in customary fashion, before being officially welcomed at the traditional homecoming on the steps of Thurles Cathedral. This Minor team of 2022 will be remembered for their character and courage in the jaws of defeat in the Munster Final draw plus the penalty shoot-out v Clare, the injury time winning scores v Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final and that last gasp goal to win the All Ireland. Full credit to a top-class management team who never lost faith.

Angelo Walsh (S&C Coach) has moved up to the seniors for 2023 and his replacement Diarmuid Carr has all the experience to ensure continuity with eleven of the panel still underage.



*Tipperary captain Sam O'Farrell lifts the Irish Press Cup.*

**Tipperary's MH All Ireland Final Team V Offaly:** Eoin Horgan (Knockavilla Kickhams), Jack Quinlan (Fethard), Aaron O Halloran (Carrick Swans), Chris O Donnell (Ballylooby Castlegrace) Sam O'Farrell (Nenagh Eire Og), Tadhg Sheehan (St Marys), Jack O Callaghan (Portroe), Ciaran Foley (Borrisokane), Adam Daly (Knockavilla Kickhams), Joe Egan (Moycarkey Borris), Conor Martin (Cappawhite), Cathal English (Fr Sheehys), Damien Corbett (Gortnahoe Glengoole), Tom Delaney (Cahir), Paddy McCormack (Borrisoleigh).

**Subs:** Darragh McCarthy (Toomevara), Senan Butler (Kilsheelan Kilcash), Sam Rowan (Mullinahone), Jamie Ormond (JK Brackens) Paddy Phelan (Upperchurch Drombane), James Dwyer (Holycross-Ballycahill), Evan Morris (Holycross Ballycahill), Pdraig O Dwyer (Killenaule) Robbie Ryan (Holycross-Ballycahill)

**Also on the panel:** David McGrath (Cashel King Cormacs), Oisín O'Donoghue (Cashel King Cormacs), Simon Blackmore (Ballingarry), Shane Buckley (Knockavilla Kickhams), Bill Flanagan (Moycarkey Borris), Kieran Grace (Burgess), Jack Hayes (Moycarkey-Borris), Jimmie Lahart ( Holycross-Ballycahill) Keith Loughnane (Durlas Og), Darragh Linnane (Mullinahone), Harry Loughnane (Roscrea)

## Senior Football 2022

## McGrath Cup

9/1/22	Rathkeale	Tipperary	1.12	Limerick	0.14	Chris Maguire
12/1/22	Templetuohy	Kerry	1.23	Tipperary	0.05	Jonathan Hayes

## Allianz League

Rd 1- 30/1/22	Fraher Field Dungarvan	Tipperary	0.10	Waterford	0.10	David Murnane
Rd 2- 06/2/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Leitrim	2.16	Tipperary	2.08	Jonathan Hayes
Rd 3- 26/2/22	Wexford Park	Tipperary	v	Wexford	Called Off	John Hickey
Rd 4- 25/2/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Tipperary	1.13	Sligo	1.09	Brendan Griffin
Rd 3- 06/3/22	Wexford Park	Tipperary	4.04	Wexford	0.15	John Hickey
Rd 5- 13/3/22	Kingspan Breffni Pk	Tipperary	1.11	Cavan	1.07	Kieran Eannetta
Rd 6- 20/3/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Tipperary	2.16	Carlow	0.11	David Murnane
Rd 7- 26/3/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Tipperary	1.14	London	0.12	David Hickey
Final- 02/4/22	Croke Park	Cavan	2.10	Tipperary	0.15	John Hickey

## Munster Championship

Qtr Final- 30/4/22	Dungarvan	Tipperary	2.13	Waterford	1.08	Maurice Deegan
Semi Final 14/5/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Limerick	2.10	Tipperary	0.10	Paddy Neilan

## Tailteann Cup

Rd 1- 29/5/22	Dr Cullen Park	Carlow	1.12	Tipperary	1.10	Cormac Reilly
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Tipperary SF ended 2021 disappointingly with a fourteen-point defeat at the hands of Kerry in the Munster Semi Final but even more frustrating being relegated to Division four following defeat to Longford in a Relegation play off. David Power remained at the helm along with Paddy Christie, Charlie McGeever and Tommy Toomey. A new goalkeeping coach Elaine Harte was later added to the backroom team. Brian Fox retired after fourteen years wearing the blue and gold plus work and travel commitments saw key players like Michael Quinlivan and Emmett Moloney take time out in 2022. Tipperary's opening game was a McGrath Cup fixture versus Limerick in Rathkeale where two late Jack Kennedy (JK Brackens) points snatched victory for Tipperary by a single point in added time. Three days later a powerful Kerry team came to Templetuohy and handed Tipp a twenty-one-point defeat which ended our McGrath Cup interest. Fielding six League debutants, we opened our Allianz League campaign with a share of the points in Fraher field versus Waterford. A Conor Sweeney injury point free looked like victory for Tipperary, but Waterford equalized from a free in the seventh minute of added time to share the spoils. Next up was Leitrim in FBD Semple Stadium on the back of their first-round defeat to Cavan at home. Tipp opened well and playing against the wind were only 0.8 to 0.5 down at the break. But it was Leitrim who controlled the game in the second half and ran out easy winners by eight points. Any hopes of promotion were dependant on at least winning our home games, so this was a big disappointment as we now had dropped three out of four points in our opening two games. Two weeks later Tipperary made the long trip to Wexford Park only to see the game called off minutes before the scheduled throw-in due to stormy rain and impossible pitch conditions. The following Saturday in a double bill at FBD Semple Stadium. Tipperary got back on track with victory over Sligo and an impressive four-point margin. The team showed nine changes from the Leitrim defeat, and it paid off as we attacked with pace and showed the flair that won us the Munster Final in 2020. Back to Wexford Park for the re-fixture eight days later.

Tipp playing against the wind scored three goals in the first half to trail by one point 0.11 to 3.1 at the interval. Teddy Doyle scored two and Conor Sweeney punched home in the early stages. Despite losing Teddy Doyle to two yellow cards and Mark Russell black carded late in the second half. Tipp held out for a valuable one-point victory boosted by a Mikey O Shea goal just two minutes into the half. Our positive improvement continued the following Sunday in Breffni Park where a Conor Sweeney goal mid-way through the first half gave us a one-point half time lead. Cavan attacked in the second half and twice struck the crossbar, but Tipp held out for a valuable four point away victory against all the odds. So after a poor start to the League, we now had three wins on the trot with two of these away from home. Back in FBD Semple Stadium the following Sunday in a double bill with the senior hurlers v Antrim, Tipperary made it four wins with victory over Carlow. Goals by Mikey O Shea and Kevin Fahey in the second half sealed it which put Tipp in line for promotion. Our final game in round 7 brought London to FBD Semple Stadium and Tipperary kept their composure cushioned by a first half Mark Russell goal and done the necessary to gain victory and promotion to Division 3 in 2023. This win also qualified us for a Division 4 League final the following Sunday versus table toppers Cavan and little time to celebrate. Playing in Croke Park is everyone's dream and Mark Russell relished the moment scoring four excellent points. A goal by Cavan in both halves sealed victory for the Breffni side as Tipperary rued a few vital turnovers in the last quarter with one giving away the crucial winning goal in the 62<sup>nd</sup> minute. Disappointing not to win a trophy but promotion to Division 3 was mission accomplished after a slow start to the league followed by five wins on the trot.

A four week lead into our Munster Championship fixture with Waterford on April 30<sup>th</sup> was now in focus. The Decies ended up bottom of Division 4 but were competitive in all games so were still a potential banana skin. Tipp were boosted by the



return of Steven O'Brien to training plus Liam McGrath back from Australia but weakened by injuries to Mark Russell and Stephen Quirke. Tipp got a quick wakeup call when Waterford goaled from a penalty within five minutes but replied with our own penalty goal from Conor Sweeney in the 26<sup>th</sup> minute. Leading 1.8 to 1.2 at half time Tipp were in the driving seat and a goal by Steven O'Brien who came as a sub for his first appearance in 2022 was enough to seal a good eight-point victory. The win set up a Munster Semi Final against Limerick who defeated Clare on penalty kicks after their quarter Final ended level after extra time. The prize for the winners was a Munster Final v Kerry plus a place in the All-Ireland series proper thus avoiding the inaugural Tailteann Cup. Tipp were minus the injured trio of Bill Maher, Kevin Fahey and Robbie Kiely but the return of Steven O'Brien and Mark Russell was a boost although their fitness level was under question. Limerick played very defensively in the opening half which frustrated Tipperary, but the tactic worked as the sides were level at half time 0.6 to 1.3, the Limerick goal coming from a rebound in the 12<sup>th</sup> minute. A more physical and powerful Limerick took over in the second half and ran out comfortable winners by two goals as Tipperary were consigned to the Tailteann Cup which threw up a trip to Dr Cullen Park and a dual with Carlow. This competition was designed for Division 3 & 4 league teams that didn't reach a Provincial Final.

Tipp regrouped and were first to score in Netwatch Cullen Park with a goal from Martin Kehoe in the 10<sup>th</sup> minute and went in at half time with a one-point lead helped by nine first half wides from Carlow. The home side gradually took control of the game and dominated the second half as Tipp's challenge wilted. Once they took the lead mid-way through the half they were not going to be caught and Carlow went on to clutch victory by two points. This was a big turnaround from Tipp's eleven-point victory over the same opposition in the Allianz League on March 20<sup>th</sup> in FBD Semple Stadium.

So, a disappointing year for Tipp's Senior footballers whose form went downhill after gaining promotion to Division 3. Losing to Cavan in that league final was a blow we never recovered from despite a first-round victory over Waterford. Injuries dogged our season and Brian Fox's work rate was sadly missed. Unfortunately, continuity is inconsistent in Tipperary Football and player turnover has been massive since our Munster Final victory in November 2021. The loss of key players has had a serious impact on team performance and to gain promotion from Division 4 under the circumstances has been an incredible achievement.

Looking ahead to 2023, David Power will try and put the pieces back together. Paddy Christie has moved on to be Longford manager whilst a new coach Sean Maher from Meath has been appointed with Charlie McGeever, Tommy Toomey and Elaine Harte continuing as selectors.

**Tipperary SF Team V Carlow 29/5/22:** Michael O'Reilly (Clonmel Commercials), Shane O'Connell (Golden Kilfeacle), Jimmy Feehan (Killenaule), Willie Eviston (Loughmore Castleiney), Kevin Fahey (Clonmel Commercials), Colm O'Shaughnessy (Ardfinnan), Sean O'Connell (Loughmore Castleiney) Conal Kennedy (Clonmel Commercials), Mark Russell (Aherlow), Teddy Doyle (Ballina), Jack Kennedy (Clonmel Commercials), Martin Kehoe (Mullinahone), Mikey O'Shea (Mullinahone), Conor Sweeney (Ballyporeen), Sean O'Connor (Clonmel Commercials)

**Subs:** Stephen Quirke (Moyle Rovers), Liam McGrath (Loughmore Castleiney), Jason Lonergan (Clonmel Commercials), Jack Harney (Moyle Rovers), Stephen O'Brien (Ballina), Kuba Beben (JK Brackens), Ciaran Cannon (Clonmel Commercials), Billy Hewitt (Ardfinnan), Tommy Maher (Loughmore Castleiney), Eanna McBride (JK Brackens),



David Power and Paddy Christie, Tipperary senior and under 20 football managers.

## Under 20 Football 2022

### Munster Championship

#### Quarter Final

11/4/22- Miltown/Malbay	Clare	<b>3-15</b>	Tipperary	<b>2-5</b>	Jonathan Hayes
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2021 was Tipperary's best year at U20/21 level in five years since our 2015 Munster Final victory. In the interim years we had failed to win a championship game so victories over Limerick and Clare were a welcome boost. The ten-point defeat to Cork in the 2021 Munster Final was a stark warning of the standards that need to be reached at this level. Manager Paddy Christie was aware of the task ahead as he entered his second year in charge at this level. Once again, he was joined in the backroom by Kevin Mulryan, Paddy O Gorman and Paddy O Flaherty with David Power from the senior set up keeping a watchful eye. Tipperary had ten of the 2021 panel still underage with six from the starting team in the Munster Final. Paddy Christie realistically saw this under 20 team as a lead into the Tipperary Senior Football team.

A 35-man panel was selected following a series of trials as we faced Clare down in Miltown Malbay on Monday April 11<sup>th</sup>. This is a game Tipperary will want to forget as the Banner took us apart from the throw-in. Despite a counterattack goal by Jamie Holloway in the tenth minute we were totally outclassed by a very slick Clare outfit. It was damage limitation all through and an excellent Cathal Deely goal in the final minutes did little to dress up the reality.

For 2023 Paddy Christie has been replaced by Niall Fitzgerald as manager who served at this level with Tom McGlynychy in 2020. Niall will keep the same backroom team as Christie but the link with seniors will no longer exist.

**Tipperary Team V Clare on April 11th 2022:** Shane Ryan (Clonmel Commercials), Emmet Butler (Kilsheelan Kilcash), Tadhg Condon (Clonmel Commercials), Sean O Meara (Grangemockler), Leon Kennedy (Grangemockler) Ed Meagher (Loughmore Castleiney), Sean Daly (Grangemockler), Ben Comerford (Grangemockler), Eoin Murnane (Golden Kilfeacle), Eoin Craddock (Holycross Ballycahill), Cathal Deely (St Marys), Jamie Holloway (Carrick Swan), Cian Smyth (Clonmel Commercials), Ryan Walsh (Fethard), Darragh Brennan (Kilsheelan Kilcash)

**Subs:** Darragh Vickers (Clonmel Óg), Diarmuid O Riordan (Newport), Matthew Power (Ballina), Donagh Hickey (Arravale Rovers), James Corcoran (JK Brackens)

**Also on Panel:** Jack Buckley (Cahir), Kevin Cleary (Rockwell Rovers), Michael Cleary (Arravale Rovers), Jack Collins (Ballina), Diarmuid Delaney (JK Brackens), James Griffin (Upperchurch Drombane), Orin Jones (Knockavilla Kickhams), Jack Lillis (Drom & Inch), Paddy Moloney (JK Brackens), Jack Nevin (JK Brackens), Mark O Connor (Clonmel Commercials), Cathal O Mahony (Fethard), Jack O Neill (Ardfinnan), Tom Tobin (Rockwell Rovers), Eoin Wyse (Cahir)

## Minor Football

### Munster Championship Phase 1

14/4/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Tipperary	<b>1.15</b>	Limerick	<b>1.8</b>	Eoin Morrissey
21/4/22	Leamybrien	Tipperary	<b>3.20</b>	Waterford	<b>2.3</b>	Niall O Driscoll
28/4/22	Wolfe Tones Shannon	Tipperary	<b>3.12</b>	Clare	<b>1.8</b>	Eoghan Moriarty

### Daryl Darcy Cup Final

5/5/22	Mallow	Tipperary	<b>1.14</b>	Limerick	<b>1.4</b>	Alan Long
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### Munster Semi Final

19/5/22	FBD Semple Stadium	Cork	<b>3.20</b>	Tipperary	<b>1.13</b>	Niall Quinn
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John McNamara took over the reins from Johnny Nevin towards the end of 2021 and his management team included Tommy Morrissey (Clonmel Commercials) Shane Hennessy (Loughmore Castleiney), James Farrelly (JK Brackens), Damien McCormack (Portroe) and Mike Donnellan (Portroe). Following months of trials, a 36-man panel was assembled which included six of the 2020 panel including captain Charlie King. The Munster Championship went back to the old format where Tipp, Clare, Limerick and Waterford played off a round robin competition for the Daryl Darcy Cup with the winner progressing to the Munster Semi Final playing the loser of Kerry V Cork. Tipp's first game was a home fixture in FBD Semple Stadium on April 14<sup>th</sup> versus 2021 Munster finalists Limerick. Tipp led at half time 0.8 to 0.5 but the Treaty side drew level Mid way through the second half. Tipperary sub Fionn Fitzgerald goaled in the final minutes to seal the deal for the home side. One week later a very impressive Premier side brushed Waterford aside with goals from Conal Grogan, Daithi Hogan and Patrick O Keeffe to record our first back-to-back victories since 2015. Our final game in the Round Robin series took us to Wolfe Tones GAA Club in Shannon where we maintained our unbeaten record with a ten-point victory over Clare. Goals from Fionn Fitzgerald, Daithi Hogan and Ben Carey crowned a most impressive performance against a county that had beaten us by twenty points in Dec 2020. This win qualified Tipp for the Phase 1 final and another duel with Limerick in Mallow. Limerick started the game attacking aggressively but were met by a resilient Tipp defence marshalled by Charlie King at number 6 plus



**John McNamara**  
- minor football manager.

Jamie Bergin and Thomas Charles. Tipp led 0.5 to 0.2 at the break and a goal by Fionn Fitzgerald five minutes into the second half put us on the road to a ten-point victory. Captain Charlie King from Ballina raised the Daryl Darcy Cup as Tipp advanced to play Cork in the Munster Semi Final. The Rebels lost the opening game to Kerry by 1.16 to 0.5 in Tralee and Tipp went into the semifinal with four games under their belt and undefeated. Cork attacked from the throw-in and were 0.7 to nil up after eleven minutes. Just as Tipp started to get into the game, we were hit by a two-goal blitz in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute. That left us trailing 2.9 to 0.1. and a brave fight back before half time yielded five points and a Daithi Hogan goal on the resumption gave Tipp supporters hopes of a revival. But it was Cork who gained back the initiative with their own goal almost immediately after. Tipp fought bravely to the end but had to take second place to an excellent Rebel side who went to reverse their earlier fourteen-point defeat by the Kingdom to win the Munster Final against Kerry 3.11 to 0.9. Tipperary Minor footballers can be proud of their year winning four games before bowing out to Cork. We look forward to the progress of these players over the coming years and hopefully bring success at U20 and senior level.

**Tipperary Minor Football Panel V Cork on 19/5/22:** Robbie McGrath (Galtee Rovers), Alex McSherry (Clonmel Commercials), Ciaran Byrne (Golden Kilfeacle), Jamie Bergin (JK Brackens), Eoin O Connell (Loughmore Castleiney), Charlie King (Capt), (Ballina), Thomas Charles (Clonmel Commercials), Joe Higgins (Clonmel Commercials), Paddy O’Keeffe (Moyle Rovers), Charlie English (Ballyporeen), Tommy O Connor (Kilsheelan Kilcash), Ben Carey (Ballylooby Castlegrace), Conal Grogan (Galtee Rovers), Daithi Hogan (St Patricks), Fionn Fitzgerald (Killenaule)

**Subs:** Darragh Landers (Clonmel Commercials), Alex Greed (Clonmel Commercials), Eanna Ormond (Golden Kilfeacle), Dylan Fogarty (Boherlahan Dualla), Oisín Shelly (Killenaule), Oisín O’Donoghue (Kilsheelan Kilcash), Charlie Grace (Ballina), Danny Moore (Moyné Templetuohy)

**Also on panel:** Peter Boland (Moyle Rovers), Liam Freaney (Kilsheelan), Cillian McNamara (Clonmel Commercials), Michael O Reilly (Moyle Rovers), Finn Nolan (Killenaule), Cillian Ryan (Ballina), Oisín Ryan (Fr Sheehys), Billy Tierney (Clonmel Commercials), Jake Forristal (Moyle Rovers), Mark Corcoran (Clonmel Commercials), Alex Moloney (Roscrea), Michael Cahill (JK Brackens).



*Tipperary Minor Football management with the Darrel Darcy Cup. Standing: Aidan Bradshaw (physio), Paddy Lowry (S&C), Victor Dieren (kitman), Mike Donnellan (selector), John McNamara (manager), Shane Hennessy (coach), John O’Connell (medic), James Farrelly (selector). Kneeling: Darren McCormack (S&C) and Tommy Morrissey (selector).*

November 2021Monthly Summary

- The November Tipperary GAA Clubs Draw was held in Stapleton's Bar Borrisoleigh where Maura Ryan Upperchurch was presented with €30,000 plus a racehorse called "Sean Hogan" for 12 months, which she won as star prize in the Oct 2021 Draw. In the November Draw the star prize of a Citroen car was won by Brian Beary, Ballylooby-Castlegrace GAA whilst the €5k second prize went to PJ Condon Kilsheelan.
- Scór Sinsear returned after Covid with the Munster Final in Hall na Feile Cashel where Tipperary captured four titles. Newcastle figure dancers, Siobhain Egan (Newport) solo singing, Noel Joyce (JK Brackens) recitation, Newport's novelty act and Moyne Templetuohy quiz team also qualified as a runner up for the All-Ireland Final. The all-Ireland Senior Scor Final was held two weeks later in the Connacht Air Dome in Ballyhaunis and Tipperary brought home three All Ireland titles with the Newcastle figure dancers, Newport novelty act and Noel Joyce recitation all winning the day.
- **County Champions**  
Loughmore Castleiney won the Co SH title following a replay with Thurles Sarsfields and repeated their 2013 double by winning both hurling and football county titles. In the drawn games on Nov 14<sup>th</sup> in FBD Semple Stadium the score line was 0.23 to 2.17.  
Templederry Kenyons won the Seamus O Riain Cup with a 1.25 to 1.15 score line over Killenaule.  
Skeheenarinky beat Holycross Ballycahill by 0.19 to 0.12 to win the Co JH" A" title in Golden.  
Moyne Templetuohy captured the Co IH title with a 2-18 to 1-20 victory over Kilsheelan Kilcash played in Littleton.  
Clonoulty Rossmore won the County Junior "B" hurling title defeating Kildangan 3.15 to 1.12 played in Newport.  
Loughmore Castleiney scored a late goal to capture the Co SF title defeating Clonmel Commercials 1.13 to 1.11 in FBD Semple Stadium.  
Drom-Inch won the Co I.F title in Semple Stadium with a 2.11 to 0.9 victory over Grangemockler.  
Ballina captured the Co JF" A" title with a 3.11 to 1.2 win over Knockavilla Kickhams in Kilcommon.  
Rockwell Rovers beat Aherlow 1.7 to 0.9 to win the Tom Cusack Cup played in Sean Treacy Pk  
Cappawhite Gaels won the U19" B" Football with a 4-3 penalty kick victory over Upperchurch Drombane following a 1-8 apiece draw in Dundrum.  
Ballina also won the U19" A" Football title with a 0.7 to 0.6 victory over Clonmel Commercials in the Ragg.  
The Co JF" B" title was won by Nenagh Eire Óg who defeated Aherlow 0.11 to 0.6 played in Borrisoleigh.
- Skeheenarinky travelled to Tralee and defeated Tralee Parnell's 1.22 to 0.8 to qualify for the Munster Semi Final.  
Moyne Templetuohy Intermediate Hurlers fell to a strong Kilmoyley Kerry team 4.12 to 0.14 played in Templetuohy.
- Jason Forde won the Tipperary Hurler of the year 2021 as chosen by the Tipperary Supporters Club. It was Jason's second time winning this award having also won it in 2018.
- Brian Fox announced his retirement from playing Inter County Football with Tipperary since 2009. He played Minor Football with Tipperary in 2006.

Monthly CommentReferee Abuse.....It's time for Zero Tolerance

We are very fortunate in Tipperary GAA to have a very well organized and dedicated referees group. When I started as county Secretary the late Willie Robinson Kilsheelan organized the referees for all our county championship games. Willie was followed by committee match officials like John Lonergan, Paul Stapleton, Jim O Shea plus representation from the four divisions. Currently our referees Co Committee is chaired by John Bob Ryan, Secretary Philip Kelly with the divisions represented by Ciaran Timmons (North), Nicholas Moroney (South), Martin Bourke (Mid) and Franny Quinn (West). Whilst we constantly send out alarm signals about the shortage of referees, I am always impressed with the commitment of those we have as they are endlessly covering matches around the clock. Some are on the road most evenings of the week during the summer months whilst others make themselves available when the call from Tom Maher comes to cover school matches during weekdays. That is why I hang my head in shame when I listen to the abuse, I hear from sidelines, stands, banks and even players on the field. When players and mentors make mistakes, they get away lightly in comparison to the abuse levelled at match officials. We have twelve clubs in Tipperary who provide no referee currently and these clubs are not helping the situation. On big match days our referees pull out all the stops to have well-presented umpires and linesmen which really add to the occasion. Every effort is being made to raise the standards and all our match officials are keen to upskill and avail of the toolkits and resources provided. During the year we have experienced unacceptable behavior towards our match officials, and this can no longer be tolerated. It's time for zero tolerance similar to what we see in rugby where the authority of the referee is never questioned. Sideline mentors need to be immediately silenced by referees and removed where necessary. Players when they make mistakes themselves and play poorly they are taken off by the mentors. Regarding supporters hurling abuse, we all need to take a stand and ask them to cease which is not always the popular thing to do. It's time for a major sea change in all our attitudes to match officials and treat them with the respect they deserve. Give respect: Get respect.

**December 2021****Monthly Summary****Munster Club Championships**

Ballina Junior "A" Football team travelled to Mount Collins and defeated the Limerick Champions 3.12 to 0.3.

Drom & Inch Intermediate Football Team got their Munster campaign off to a winning start with a 1.8 to 0.6 victory over Portlaw in Templetuohy.

Loughmore Castleiney Senior Football team went to extra time in Cusack Park Ennis v Eire Og Ennis before going down 2.11 to 0.12. One week later the Loughmore Castleiney Senior Hurlers fell to Ballygunner in Fraher Park Dungarvan.

Skeheenarinky Junior "A" Hurling Champions played their Munster Semi Final in Ogonnelloe Co Clare and emerged victorious in extra time over the home side 2.16 to 1.16.

- The December Tipperary GAA Draw was held in Lar Na Pairce live on Tipp FM and the €15k Star Prize was won by Mark King, Moyne Templetuohy. The €5k second prize went to Willie Jones Moneygall GAA Club.
- The Millar Shield was resurrected after 30 years by SH team manager Colm Bonnar and after a round robin competition between the four Divisions, The West Division came out on top. The biggest winner was the named charity from the proceeds, Scoil Chormac Cashel who received €6,000 from the generous contribution of spectators.
- Pat Hennessy, Toomevara was honored with a Federation of Irish Sports Award for his 40 years of volunteer work with Toomevara GAA Club.
- County Convention 2021 was held in the Dome and in the only Election on the night Eleanor Lahart was elected Assistant Treasurer succeeding John O'Donovan.

**Monthly Comment****County Convention Dec 2021**

County Convention on Mon Dec 13<sup>th</sup> 2021, was attended by 186 delegates in the Dome FBD Semple Stadium.

**Finances**

Treasurer Michael Power returned a healthy surplus of €303,145 which was a welcome increase on the €30,178 profit in 2020. The support received from the Government and Croke Park via the Covid Resilience Fund and Wages Subsidy Schemes was invaluable in keeping the operation viable throughout the Pandemic. Royalties of €392K from O'Neills and Elverys were boosted by sales of the Green & White commemorative Bloody Sunday jersey. The Split Season was also credited for reducing team costs to less than €1m for the year. TENEON honoured their commitment to the team sponsorship by paying the full €215k in 2021 despite restrictions in the playing season.

**Elections**

All the outgoing officers were returned unopposed except for Assistant Treasurer where Eleanor Lahart (Killenaule) put down a future marker by defeating the outgoing candidate John Donovan by 103 to 83.

**Grants**

No grants were paid out for the second year in a row due to the Covid Pandemic with little or no income to Munster Council from gates. Cathaoirleach, Comhairle na Mumhan addressed Convention and promised that grants will be restored, and jobs completed during Covid years will be recognized.

**Chairperson-Seosamh Ó Cinneide** in his address announced a new partnership with Setanta to deliver all our Strength and Conditioning from the academies up to our adult teams.. He praised the achievements of Loughmore Castleiney who won the hurling and football county titles for the second time. He spoke about planning for the future and with this in mind a new Strategic Plan will be initiated in 2022.

**Motions**

- Co Bye Law Amendments saw a tightening up of our internal transfers with a focus on permanent residence and proof of residence.
- Amendments were also made to facilitate the splitting of the role of Co-Development Officer to Planning & Training Officer and Co Safety & Facilities Officer as approved at Congress 2021.
- A motion from Thurles Gaels disallowing clubs involved in group teams from entering second teams was lost after Thurles Sarsfields and Durlas Og said it was against the ethos and spirit of the GAA.
- Four clubs submitted motions relating to playing U21 grade and Cathaoirleach advised that this was dealt with at our November 2021 meeting but he agreed to meet the four clubs with a view to the running of an Under 21 grade without hindering the Minor,U19 or senior.
- Two motions from Carrick Swans were passed for Congress. The first sought for voting on championship formats to be by a show of hands and not a secret vote. This was later returned by Croke Park to be dealt with in our own Bye Laws. A special Convention was held before a county board meeting on 27/6/22 and following a vote the motion was lost 59 to 35. The second Carrick Swans motion sought to revoke Rule 6.21 (2) which capped the number of teams in an adult championship at 16, did not make the Congress clár as Rules Advisory ruled it out of order.

**Secretary's Review of 2021**

Tadhg De Flóid detailed the progress of our six Inter-County teams in 2021 which saw no trophy lifted and relegation for our senior footballers to Division 4. The passing of hurling greats Theo English and Tom McLoughney were profiled along with the achievement of Loughmore Castleiney in winning the double in hurling and football county senior titles for the second time. The report featured commentaries on the success of streaming, the new partnership with Setanta, a new 3-year plan for the Primary Schools Coaching Scheme and the success of the current county championship structures. The Runaí expressed confidence in our future prospects and anticipated major sponsorship announcements over the following weeks.

## January 2022

### Monthly Summary

- Ballina's Munster Junior Football journey came to an end in Mallow as a very strong Gneeveguille Kerry side put in a storming second half performance to win by 4.18 to 1.6.
- The Inter County Scene returned with the Munster Leagues and Tipperary senior footballers were the first team to the field in the McGrath Cup and recorded a 1-12 to 0-14 victory over Limerick in Rathkeale with two late points from Jack Kennedy (JK Brackens). The following Wednesday Tipperary fell to a very strong Kerry side by 1.23 to 0.5 in Templetuohy.
- Tipperary Senior hurlers under new Manager Colm Bonnar travelled to Austin Stack Park Tralee to play Kerry in the Munster hurling league. Playing under challenging wind and rain, the Premier side lost to the Kingdom 0.17 to 0.14 giving Kerry their first ever victory over Tipperary in a competitive hurling game. More concerning for Tipperary was a serious ankle injury to Willie Connors.
- The 2021 Co U21H "A" Final was won by Moycarkey Borris who defeated Mullinahone by 0.14 to 0.11 played in Golden Jan 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Skeheenarinky also played their Munster Junior Hurling final in Mallow against Cork neighbours Ballygiblin and before a massive crowd they had to give second best to the Rebels side 2.14 to 1.9.
- FBD were announced as the new naming partner for Semple Stadium which will now be known as FBD Semple Stadium.
- Aisling Murphy's tragic death rocked the country as she was a loyal member of the Kilcormac Killoughy GAA club in Offaly.
- The January GAA draw took place in Lar Na Pairce on Jan 7<sup>th</sup> and the star prize of €15,000 was won by Moycarkey Borris's Willie & Trisha Power. While JK Bracken's PJ and Margaret Meade won the €5,000 second prize.
- Fiserv were announced as the new Tipperary Jersey Sponsor at a press event in FBD Semple Stadium. The new jersey saw a return to the more traditional Tipperary style jersey which also featured an image of Michael Hogan on the sleeve.
- Ger Ryan (Templederry Kenyons) was elected Chairman of Munster Council at the Province's annual Convention held in the Dome, FBD Semple Stadium, becoming Tipperary's first Munster Chairman since Sean Fogarty. Ger will serve in that role for three years until the end of 2024.
- Thurles C.B.S bowed out of the Harty Cup in the Semi Final to Ard Scoil Ris with the score 4.18 to 1.12.
- The Allianz Football League got under way the end of January and Tipperary SF team travelled to Fraher Park Dungarvan and came away with a share of points with Waterford on the score line 0.10 each.
- Padraic Maher's retirement from sport following medical advice came as a big a shock to the county and beyond. From the day he captained Tipp U21 hurlers to victory in 2010 Padraic has been a central figure in Tipperary Senior hurling for 11 years.

### Monthly Comment

#### Two major Sponsorship Announcements

January 2022 saw the announcement of two major sponsorships by Tipperary GAA. Following the departure of TENE0 at the end of their three-year term, the arrival of another Tipperary based international company was welcome news. Whilst original negotiations were with their American and Dublin offices, our contacts are now with their local office at Limerick Road in Nenagh. FISERV took the partnership so serious that they appointed a specific Project Manager in Brian Fogarty from Golden to look after their interest. Brian has been hands on with all our intercounty teams and his physical presence at every game is very encouraging. along with their new employee and inter-county player Conor Bowe. They have a monthly focus which included the Cul Camps in July/Aug, the Semple Hospice Day in September and currently Brian is actively coordinating the new Strategic Plan. Fiserv are a leading global provider of payments and financial services technology solutions with more than 44,000 employees serving clients in over 100 countries worldwide. Their Nenagh base has over 200 employees with a further 400 in Dublin and they have ambitious plans to add a further 300 employees across Nenagh and Dublin as the company drives digital innovation for its clients and consumers. In Ireland they operate a joint venture with AIB Merchant Services, one of Ireland's largest payment solutions providers and one of Europe's largest E-Commerce acquires.

Also, in Jan 2023 FBD and Tipperary GAA announced a five-year deal securing the naming rights to Semple Stadium, to be known as "FBD Semple Stadium". Tipperary County Board and FBD have developed very strong links in recent years mainly through the strong influence of Toomevara native Michael Berkery who is Chairman of FBD Trust. FBD Insurance are already sponsoring the Tipperary club championships and leagues as well as the county camogie championship and have a strong presence in the county with offices in Clonmel, Thurles and Nenagh. The support of this home-grown company is a tremendous boost to the Stadium as we have ambitious plans to enhance and develop the very popular facility at County, Provincial and National level.



*At the announcement of the Fiserv Tipperary GAA sponsorship, from left: Fergal Hynes (Site Lead Nenagh, Clover Network Fiserv), Jonathan Cullen (PRO, Tipperary GAA), Tim Floyd (Secretary, Tipperary GAA), Paul Deegan (Director Human Resources Ireland, Fiserv), Joe Kennedy (Chairperson, Tipperary GAA), Michael Power (Treasurer, Tipperary GAA) and Alan Burton (Vice President and General Manager, Fiserv).*

## February 2022

### Monthly Summary

- Tipperary SH got their Allianz League campaign off to a successful start with a 0.21 to 1.14 win over Laois in a wet and windy Portlaoise. One week later our winning run continued with a 1.19 to 1.18 victory over Kilkenny in Semple Stadium following a man of the match performance from Jason Forde. As part of a double bill with the SF, the following Sunday the hurlers fell to Dublin in FBD Semple Stadium by 2.16 to 0.21.
- Tipperary SF went down to Leitrim at home in Semple Stadium by 2.16 to 2.8. The following Sunday Tipperary travelled to Wexford Park but monsoon like weather conditions caused the game to be cancelled. One week later the tide turned in our favor with a 1.13 to 1.9 victory over Sligo in FBD Semple Stadium.
- Ronan Maher was announced as Tipperary SH captain for 2022.
- Kevin Halley was appointed as the new Co Tipperary Games Manager succeeding Dinny Maher who retired at the end of 2021.
- Michael Power was elected President of Munster Council for a 3-year term.
- Johnny Ryan (Boherlahan Dualla) was appointed secretary of the Munster Referees Committee.
- Fethard Town Park All weather pitch was opened and announced as a Regional Centre of Excellence for Tipperary Football.
- The Fitzgibbon Cup was won by UL and the team included captain Bryan O'Meara (Holycross- Ballycahill), Ciaran Connolly (Loughmore Castleiney) and Gearoid O'Connor (Moyne Templetuohy)
- Paudie Butler (Drom & Inch) was awarded a "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 2022 GAA Conference for his outstanding work in Coaching and Player Development.

### Monthly Comment

#### Congress 2022 in the Connacht GAA Dome 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022

Congress 2022 will be remembered for bringing in the Tailteann Cup following a compromise motion passed which retained the Provincial Football Championships plus the National Leagues and All Ireland qualifiers. Motions on the changing of minor age grades back to 18 were withdrawn after the Uachtaráin promised to review and come back with alternative proposals following a consultation process. Also the standardization of the sliotar leading to the "smart sliotar" was approved as was the prioritizing of integration with the LFGA and the Camogie Association. Uachtaráin Larry McCarthy paid tribute to everyone who led us through the two years of Covid and lauded the success of the Split Season. He called for respect for our Referees and asked delegates to stop challenging the decision of our disciplinary committees and added "If you do the crime, you do the time". The financial position of the GAA saw recovery after Covid showing a €1.9m surplus following a €27m deficit in 2020. Gate Receipts were up from €3.6m in 2020 to €117.7 in 2021 while sponsorship and media were up from €9m to €27m.



March 2022Monthly Summary

- Tipperary SH suffered a heavy defeat in Walsh Park losing to Waterford 1.28 to 0.21, and this ended any hopes of qualifying for the knockout stages. Our final game against Antrim in FBD Semple Stadium resulted in a 7.29 to 1.17 victory for the Premier side which at least ended our League Campaign on a high note.
- Tipperary SF returned to Wexford Park for their re-fixtured and came away winning on the unusual score of 4.4 to 0.15 and still with a chance of qualifying for promotion and the Division 4 Final. The Premier County headed for Kingspan Breffni Park the following Sunday and playing with a renewed confidence came away victorious on the score line 1.11 to 1.7. At home to Carlow the following week as part of a double bill with the hurlers Tipperary continued their winning streak with a 2.16 to 0.11 victory. In the final game promotion was secured with a 1.14 to 0.12 victory over London in FBD Semple Stadium. Unfortunately, we lost the Division 4 final in Croke Park to Cavan 2.10 to 0.15.
- In the March Tipperary Clubs Draw held in Quinlan's Bar Moyne the star €15,000 prize was won by Tess Moten Roscrea. The €5,000 second prize went to Pat Kelly with the Kiladangan GAA Club.
- Cumann na mBunscoil Tiobraid Arann elected their first ever female secretary at their 2022 AGM held in Hayes Hotel on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Siobhain Condon Thomastown N.S succeeded Michael Delaney St Josephs Templemore who stepped down after three years in the role.
- The Higher Education GAA Rising Stars Hurling Team of the year featured three Tipperary players who were all part of the U.L Fitzgibbon Cup winning team. Bryan O Mara (capt) , Ciaran Connolly and Gearoid O Connor were all well deserving award winners.
- Ronan Stanley RIP (Gortnahoe Glengoole)...his death shocked the county as he was well known and very popular in his coaching and administration roles. Winning the 2020 Co Intermediate title with his native Gortnahoe Glengoole was one of his proudest days.

Monthly CommentGrants incentive for clubs

A historic amendment to the GAA's rule 42 in 2005 paved the way for Croke Park to host the Irish International soccer and Rugby teams during the redevelopment of Lansdowne Road into the Aviva stadium. From the Revenue generated through rent, Central Council opened infrastructural funding for clubs and county boards in 2008. From this fund Tipperary Co Board received €1m towards the purchase of the third field in Dr Morris Park which is a sand-based pitch used mainly by our senior hurlers. A further €250k was allocated to the county to be awarded to ten club related projects. Tipperary Co Board decided at the time to give €25k each to 10 clubs who would install a medical room and turnstiles or a digital score board. This was a massive incentive to clubs at that time and was tangible evidence of the benefits of opening up Croke Park. Fifteen years on, I think we need to devise a similar incentive in association with Munster Council. Now that our club games are cashless entry, we need to install many more turnstiles to give better and easier control. In my own Division club grounds like Dolla, McDonagh Park Nenagh are a joy to operate where they have turnstiles and I believe we can advance this in key grounds across the county where our club championship games are played. This would also benefit Munster Council when it comes to venues for Munster Club and Harty Cup fixtures etc. As part of this incentive, we could also include the erection of fences to enclose pitches and covered stands for the comfort of spectators during the Winter months when Munster require club pitches. I'm sure our own Divisional and county Treasurers would welcome such a move as would our dedicated bunch of gate checkers and stiles people.



*Willie Hayden (Gate Checker) and County Board Secretary Timmy Floyd ensure at Covid 19 protocols are in place at Templederry*



## April 2022

### Monthly Summary

- Tipperary SH travelled to Walsh Park and showed great determination despite losing to Waterford in Round 1 of the Munster Championship by 2.24 to 2.20. One week later in FBD Semple Stadium we suffered a heavy defeat to Clare by 3.21 to 2.16.
- Tipperary SF got their Munster Campaigns off to a great start in Fraher Park with a 2.13 to 1.8 victory over Waterford in the Quarter Final.
- Tipperary MF team opened their Munster Campaign with a 1.15 to 1.8 victory over Limerick in FBD Semple Stadium. They followed this up with a comprehensive 3.20 to 2.3 victory over Waterford in Lemybrien and concluded their round Robin games with a 3.12 to 1.8 victory over Clare in Shannon.
- Tipperary U20H travelled to Tralee on April 6<sup>th</sup> and recorded a first-round victory over Kerry 3.15 to 0.13 one week later in FBD Semple Stadium we looked very impressive in our 2.21 to 1.20 victory over Waterford. In the semi-final this was followed up with a great victory over Cork in FBD Semple Stadium by 2.20 to 1.21 to qualify for the Munster Final v Limerick.
- Tipperary MH opened their 2022 Munster campaign with victory over Waterford in Fraher Park by 1.22 to 0.23. We followed this up one week later with another win in FBD Semple Stadium over Clare 2.13 to 0.13.
- The April Tipperary GAA Clubs Draw was held in Phelan's Bar, Roscrea and the star €15,000 prize was won by the local club for the second month in a row with former inter county hurler, Michael Scully the lucky winner. Sean Hennessy Gortnahoe won the €5,000 second prize.
- The Tipperary Supporters Club held their 2022 AGM in the Anner Hotel in April, and all of the top table were returned unopposed. Chairman Terry O'Neill, Secretary Billy Coman, Ass Treasurer, Bryan Maher, PRO John Coman
- Tipperary Coaching & Games launched their Summer Academy Program in the Dome with over 400 parents, players and invited guests in attendance. Des Ryan and Maggie O'Grady from Setanta both gave valuable insights into results from the winter programme testing.
- Mattie Maher Rosegreen & London RIP was a leading GAA match official in London and collapsed during a game over there in April. He was a native of Rosegreen.

### Monthly Comment

#### Semple Stadium

For many years the GAA promoted the development of major stadia without having a long-term strategic plan. In Munster alone we have four GAA Stadium with approved safe capacities of 25,000 plus. FBD Semple Stadium (45,690), Pairc Ui Caoimh (45,000), TUS Gaelic Grounds (44,023) and Fitzgerald Stadium Killarney (38,000). Then there's Cusack Park with 19,000, Walsh Park 11,000, Pairc Ui Rinn with 16,440 and Austin Stack Park Tralee 12,000. How many occasions during the year are these stadiums anywhere near the full capacity. The nearest Semple Stadium got to full capacity this year was the Munster SH final (45,158) with the All-Ireland quarter finals next at (32,640). For ten months from January to October Semple Stadium hosted 60 games and twenty of these had attendances less than 2,000. The average attendance at the round robin Munster Senior Hurling Championship home games in Semple Stadium is 20-25,000 so one could argue that this is the target average for a GAA stadium in most counties. Carrying a stadium with up to 50,000 capacity needs constant maintenance and even during the Covid years these costs were still there even with no rental income. The FBD name sponsorship has been a major boost in this area, and this is really appreciated.

We constantly hear complaints from patrons about the P.A system, the scoreboard, disabled facilities, the condition of the seats and terraces, but these are issues related to an ageing stadium. Plans for a €10m investment in the stadium have been shelved as FBD Semple Stadium is not on Central Councils priority list and without their backing we cannot progress. Currently the only Munster Stadium on their radar is Walsh Park so the rest of us must join the queue. With so many major stadia in the province the demand for FBD Semple Stadium will continue to decrease. Presently in our home and away agreements with Cork we owe two trips to Pairc Ui Caoimh arising from their own construction years when they had to travel to Thurles. These can only be Munster Finals as the Round Robin games are not part of the agreement.

Likewise, Cork have a similar agreement with Limerick so little chance of seeing them play in Thurles for a long time in a Munster Final. We struck it lucky in 2022 with a classic Limerick v Clare Munster Final in FBD Semple Stadium but no guarantee of these finals in future years. Still, it is our "Field of Legends" which we are all very proud of and thanks to the watchful eyes of people like Stadium Chairman Con Hogan, Stadium Director David Morgan, his son Toby, Stadium Secretary Tom Maher, Head Groundsman Padhraic Green and all the other staff it will always be the "jewel" in the crown for Tipperary GAA people.

May 2022Monthly Summary

- Tipperary SH put up a spirited performance before going down to Limerick at the TUS Gaelic Grounds by 3.21 to 0.23. In our final group game, we finished the year disappointingly with defeat to Cork in FBD Semple Stadium by 3.30 to 1.24.
- Tipperary SF underperformed when going down to Limerick 2.10 to 0.10 played in FBD Semple Stadium on May 14<sup>th</sup>. This defeat consigned the Premier County to the new Tailteann Cup where we drew Carlow which was played in Netwatch Cullen Park. Once again defeat was our lot 1.12 to 1.10 which ended the campaign for our Senior Footballers 2022.
- Tipperary MH were crowned 2022 Munster Champions following a 1.22 to 0.25 victory over Clare at the TUS Gaelic Grounds. It took extra time and penalties to separate the teams which kept the 4,000 spectators on the edge of their seats right to the end.
- Tipperary MF captured the Daryl Darcy Cup with victory over Limerick in the Phase One Final in Mallow with the score Tipperary 1.14 Limerick 1.13. In the Munster Semi Final, we lost to a very skilful Cork team 3.20 to 1.14 played in FBD Semple Stadium.
- Tipperary U20 Hurling team lost the Munster Final to Limerick in the TUS Gaelic Grounds by 1.25 to 2.18 but can be proud they contributed to a most entertaining and skilful game.
- The Michael Hogan U11 Football Tournament was staged throughout the county with over 50 teams participating. A feature of this tournament was all new young referees and young whistlers who took charge of the games.
- The May Tipperary GAA Draw was held in Hogan's Bar Ballysloe and the Star Prize of a Skoda Fabia was won by James Kelly Kiladangan. The €5,000 second prize was won by Liam & Mary Hogan Shannon Rovers.
- Newcastle Scor Na nOg figure dancers followed in the footsteps of their senior team winning the All Ireland Scór final in the INEC Killarney. Newport Trath Na gCeist team finished fourth in the Table Quiz.
- Tipperary U14 Ladies Footballers beat Meath in the All Ireland Semi Final 3.12 to 2.11. Two weeks later they faced Kildare in the All-Ireland Final at Crettyard Laois but unfortunately lost 2.9 to 0.7.

Monthly CommentSplit Season Success

One of the most positive changes I have seen during my term as secretary has been the introduction of the Split Season along with the restructuring of our own county championships. It's impossible to please everybody but the response from our club and inter-county players says it all. 100% of our players are club players while approximately 2% of those are inter-county. To have a schedule that clearly defines when your matches are, from start to finish is a massive step forward as I was always envious of other sports who could present that to their players before the commencement of the season.

It galls me to hear TV pundits and sports journalists criticize the current system as giving away our best promotion months of August and September. Yes, we are giving it over, but to our clubs who are now enjoying playing our games on the best surfaces in the best weather conditions. The GAA is primarily our national sport, and our target audience is mainly on this island with an extended audience of Irish diaspora worldwide.

Our club games from July to December are as good a promotional tool when you consider the number of games being played every weekend. I sat in the middle of Cork's Iniscarra supporters in FBD Semple Stadium's Kinane Stand recently when they played Roscrea in the Munster Club championship and their passion and enthusiasm in the middle of a cold November Saturday afternoon was a joy to see despite ending in defeat on the day. Being involved with my own club team this year I saw firsthand the value of knowing your games schedule from start to finish. We started training on the field on March 1<sup>st</sup> for the Co League which commenced on St Patrick's weekend two weeks later. We had five county league games every second week up to mid-May and had we qualified it would have taken us into June.

Our focus in June was the Divisional Championship which led into the County Championship starting the end of July. Three group games concluded on Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> which led most teams into qualification stages or relegation up to October. In all we played 5 Co League games, 5 championship and 14 challenge games which is 24 games from March 1<sup>st</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>. In between we held over 50 training sessions which gave our players an intensive year despite having no silverware to show. This is what our players want and is replicated in GAA clubs right throughout the country. Once upon a time I thought this was impossible but now we have the ideal system with the "Split Season".

## June 2022

### Monthly Summary

- The 2022 Munster SH Final was played in FBD Semple Stadium on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> with 45,000 spectators present. Limerick were once again victorious over Clare 1.29 to 0.29.
- The 2022 All Ireland Championship was launched in the Loughmore Castleiney's GAA facility on Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup> with players from some of the participating counties, excluding Tipperary unfortunately, all in attendance.
- Tipperary won the Celtic Challenge for U17H defeating Galway in the final in Abbotstown by 3.17 to 0.9.
- The All-Ireland SH Quarter Finals were played in FBD Semple Stadium on Sat June 18<sup>th</sup> where Hollywood actor Bill Murray was a supporter. For the record Clare beat Wexford 1.24 to 3.14 and Galway were victorious over Cork 2.19 to 1.21.
- Tipperary MH overcame the challenge of Galway in the All Ireland Semi Final at TUS Gaelic Grounds by 3.24 to 3.20 and qualified to meet Offaly on Sunday July 3<sup>rd</sup> at UPMC Nowlan Park.
- Tipperary Association Dublin presented their annual award in the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The person of the Year was awarded to Jockey Champion Rachel Blackmore from Killenaule. The Hall of Fame was presented to joint winner Len Gaynor and award winning journalist/historian Peg Rossiter Clonmel.
- FBD Co Hurling League Finals were played in June resulting in the following;
  - Division 1-Drom & Inch beat Clonoulty Rossmore 2.20 to 1.10
  - Division 2- Moycarkey Borris beat Eire Og Anacarty
  - Division 3- Burgess beat Ballina 2.12 to 1.14
  - Division 4-Borrisokane beat Moyle Rovers 2.17 to 2.16
  - Division 5-Clonoulty Rossmore beat Upperchurch 1.21 to 1.16
  - Division 6- Knockshegowna beat Thurles Gaels 1.14 to 0.10
- In the FBD Football League Finals;
  - Division 1- Clonmel Commercial 1.13, JK Brackens 2.8 (AET)
  - Division 2- Galtee Rovers 1.8, Golden Kilfeacle 1.7
  - Division 3- Killenaule 3.13, Fethard 0.11

### Monthly Comment

#### Ticketing and Cashless Gates

Covid 19 forced us away from handling cash at gates and despite reservations from some patrons its now the way forward into the future. Many of the reasons dictating this policy during Covid still apply and we must always seek better and more efficient ways of carrying out our business. The following are some of the reasons for justifying the change to cashless gates:

#### **1. Security/Safety:**

For many years gate checkers, treasurers and voluntary people carried large sums of cash in their cars or kept it in their homes before lodging it in a bank or handing it over to someone else. We now live in an age where such people are targeted even for the smallest sums of cash, and we cannot justify putting our workers at risk.

#### **2. Hygiene:**

We were led to believe during Covid 19 that this highly contagious disease was transferred from person to person through handshaking plus the passing of cash amongst many other ways. The same still applies for all contagious diseases even though Covid might be curtailed. I still see some patrons coming to gates with unwashed hands and habits too rude to mention, putting their hands in their pocket and then handing cash to someone at a stile or gate. I'm sure that many of those who object to cashless gates might have a different outlook if they observed the same. One of the dislikes I've had to endure in my time was counting cash after a fundraiser or match. Crunched up and torn notes as well as soiled coins must be counted and put in order before any bank will accept them. Counting cash is very time consuming especially for voluntary people and can be avoided now with new methods. Obtaining large cash floats from banks is getting more and more difficult as banks are themselves steering away from cash transactions at the counter apart from charging large fees for handling cash lodgments.

#### **3. Control:**

It's getting more and more difficult to secure personnel to control our gates and the handling of large sums of cash is partly responsible. This has led to the GAA seeking alternative systems. Tipperary Co Board in 2022 provided two options at most gates with a scanner for checking the barcode on tickets purchased in advanced online or a "tap and go" terminal to allow payment at the gate with a bank card. Both these systems give instant results for monitoring attendance and crowd control for health and safety at restricted venues. We take a lot of criticism for not accepting cash at our gates but the reasons I have outlined outweigh the justification for returning to cash. Everyone now has a bank account and access to a card for tap and go was never as easy. It reduces the necessity for patrons to carry cash which is safer and less likely to be a victim of theft. We are also told our policy is discriminating against the older generation but surely encouraging a safer system is to their advantage and once they are shown how to obtain a bank card and use it once, they rarely need to carry cash again. We also get criticism for removing the OAP concession price. When deciding our gate prices for 2022 we took into account all those hard-pressed earners, and this included low income parents and all sectors suffering from the current rising prices. We decided to keep our admission prices low across the board without applying any price increase. The student concession was retained as it was felt this sector was being financed by hard pressed parents. We also offered an annual match pass for €150 plus a selection of weekend package prices right through the year. We appeal to all patrons to embrace the policy of cashless gates and consider the safety, security and health issues for those at the receiving end. It's a simple process to secure and learn how to use a bank card or purchase a ticket in advance or even show to older generation and those less familiar.

July 2022Monthly Summary

- All Ireland MH Champions Tipperary celebrated capturing the Irish Press Cup and winning our 22<sup>nd</sup> title with a last gasp victory over Offaly in Nowlan Park. Capt. Sam O'Farrell raised the trophy in front of a happy and relieved sea of Tipperary supporters for the first time since 2016.
- Divisional Finals were played over week-ending July 7<sup>th</sup> as follows;
  - North**  
Prem IH Final-Portroe 2.24, Roscrea 2.23  
SH Final- Nenagh Eire Og 2.20, Kiladangan 2.18  
IH Final-Lorrha 2.24, Shannon Rovers 3.11
  - South**  
SH Final-Carrick Swans 1.21, Mullinahone 1.17  
IH Final-Kilsheelan beat Ballingarry
  - Mid**  
Prem IH Final-Clonakenny 5.20, Moyne Templetuohy 0.21  
SH Final-JK Brackens beat Drom & Inch  
IH Final-Boherlahan 3.16, Drom & Inch 1.15
  - West**  
IF Final-Golden Kilfeacle 3.19, Galtee Rovers 2-18  
IH Final-Knockavilla Kickhams 1.25, Arravale Rovers 2.17  
Prem IH-Cashel King Cormacs 1.25, Sean Treacys 1.20  
SH-Clonoulty Rossmore 1.20, Eire Óg Anacarty 0.19
- Coiste na nÓg Co Finals played in July. Co U15 "A" F Final-Durlas Óg 7.7, Arravale Rovers 2.7
- The FBD Co Championships swung into action with 24 hurling games on w/ending July 24<sup>th</sup> and a further 15 football games w/ending July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The July Tipperary GAA Clubs Draw took place in the Dome FBD Semple Stadium and the star prize of €15k was won by John Patrick Ryan (Clonakenny) while the €5k second prize went to Maurice Caplice (Fr Sheehys). This concluded the 21/22 Draw Scheme, and the new draw was due to commence in Sept.
- The Tipperary GAA "Race Day" was held at the Galway race festival on Monday July 25<sup>th</sup> and proved a very enjoyable and successful day once again with Paul Collins acting as M.C and Auctioneer.
- Bernard "Pinky O'Neill" RIP (Carrick Swans) was a loyal servant of the Swans club for many years as club Physio and Board Delegate.

Monthly CommentIntegration with Camogie & LGFA

Motion 33 at Congress 2022 came from the G.P.A and it proposed the following: "That the GAA will prioritize integration with the LGFA and Camogie Association in order to jointly ensure equal recognition, investment and opportunity for all genders to play all sports in the Gaelic Games family". This carefully worded motion received overwhelming support and gave the green light to commence the process of bringing the associations together in a more practical and meaningful way. Indeed, the Uachtarán Larry McCarthy showed that this motion was not just a token gesture by appointing former President Mary McAleese as the independent chairperson of the integration process and the first meeting was held on October 19<sup>th</sup> 2022. Following this meeting an official statement was released stating that the future integrated structure will be based on one association for all the Gaelic Games and built on the principle of equality. It was also agreed that a significant listening process is required to assist the development of the integrated structure and this process should be one where all voices are given an opportunity to contribute. Starting this Dec 2022 this Steering group in integration (S.G.I) plan to hold a series of one day forums on the "How" of integration to which representatives of clubs, one clubs, camogie, LGFA and GAA management, players, county committees, provincial councils and relevant others will be invited to take part. In Tipperary there's been a very healthy relationship amongst our clubs with the sharing of local GAA facilities. Difficulties have been overcome like accommodating cross parish interests where many camogie and LGFA clubs are made up of players from different parishes. Women's sport continues to take root and is growing in popularity across the country and the world. There are many challenges ahead in this integration process and all participants need to be patient and understanding of the complexities involved. Women sports know they are pushing an open door and the whole concept is based on co-operation in trying to achieve the most accommodating solutions. Over the past few years Tipperary Co Board has built up good relationships with both our sister organizations especially with the sharing of our county training facility at Dr Morris Park. As part of our Sports Capital Grant application all signed license agreements giving their Inter County squads agreed training slots over the coming years. Currently this facility is also being used by MIC college (St Patricks) in Thurles for training and games by their Camogie and Ladies Football teams. Despite having three floodlight pitches plus a double-sided Astro turf hurling wall in Dr Morris Park, this is putting a big strain on the facility as we already have our own six inter-county hurling and football teams plus numerous Academy and Development squads. The greatest pressure comes during the Winter months with the limited availability of floodlit facilities and overuse during this period can cause long term damage to the surface. In the early 90's Tipperary Co Board purchased the current camogie pitch at the Ragg for Tipperary Camogie Board, and this has become their home grounds as they continue to develop it to a high standard. As the integration process develops over the coming months and years, not only will the sharing of the facilities be on the agenda but also the sharing of financial resources. Naturally this will become a difficult issue unless the financial pot is increased accordingly and this needs to be addressed in advance. Currently Tipperary's returns from Gate Receipts in club and National League share out show approx. 80% from hurling and 20% football. Despite this our Inter-County hurlers and footballers are treated equally when it comes to meals, gear, expenses etc. without additional income it will be difficult to treat four groups equally as is envisaged but this is the challenge ahead. It is important that everyone has a clear understanding of the issues involved before diving in without knowing what the eventual outcome will be. I look forward to sensible debate on the whole integration process over the coming weeks and months and more important a positive strong Healthy GAA organization

August 2022Monthly Summary

- A new Tipperary SH Management Team was ratified by Co Board with Liam Cahill (Manager) Mikey Bevans (Coach), Paudie Maher, TJ Ryan and Declan Laffan all selectors.
- Dillon Quirke RIP (Clonoulty Rossmore): Friday August 5<sup>th</sup> will long be remembered as one of the saddest days in Tipperary GAA history with the passing of Dillon Quirke during a SH Co Championship between Kilruane McDonaghs and Clonoulty Rossmore in FBD Semple Stadium. At 24 years of age, he was in the prime of his life and hurling career and his loss will be sorely missed especially by his beloved family and Clonoulty Rossmore GAA Club.
- The 2022 Electric Ireland MH team of the year featured four Tipperary players with captain Sam O Farrell (No 5), Adam Daly (No 9), Paddy McCormack (No12) and Tom Delaney (No 14)
- The Jim Power U14 Football Tournament in Waterford proved a very successful event for Tipperary with both teams qualifying out of three groups to reach the quarter finals. In an all-Tipperary semi-final clash Tipperary Gold overcame Tipperary Blue and went on to win the final defeating Wexford claiming the Jim Power Trophy for 2022.
- Michael Lonergan (Ardfinnan) RIP affectionately known as “the Boxer” was a former chairman of Coiste na nÓg Tiobraid Arann from 2004 to 2006 and a well-known gate checker for many years.

Monthly CommentDillon Quirke RIP

GAA people everywhere were numbed by the death of Dillon Quirke on Friday Night August 5<sup>th</sup> after collapsing in FBD Semple Stadium during a Co SH championship game between his native Clonoulty Rossmore and Kilruane MacDonaghs. Dillon was in the prime of his career having won All Ireland Minor and U21 medals, County U21 and Senior Championships plus a Harty Cup with Thurles CBS. At 24 years of age, he was a key figure on Tipperary’s senior hurling team during the 2022 season under Colm Bonnar. He joined the senior panel in 2020 and his versatility saw him play in the forwards, mid field and backs before making the half back position his own this season. His loss to Tipperary and Clonoulty Rossmore GAA club is immense but nothing in comparison to the loss to his parents Dan & Hazel and sisters Kelly and Shannon. Solas Na bhFlaitheas dá anam dílis.



*Dillon Quirke - playing for Tipp against Cork.*

## September 2022

### Monthly Summary

- Tipperary and Roscrea heroes of 1971 were honoured in FBD Semple Stadium during the Preliminary Quarter Finals along with legendary players of the 50's & 60's.
- Semple Field Day in aid of the North and South Tipperary Hospice was held during September in FBD Semple Stadium and organised by Tipperary Co Board in association with our sponsors FISERV. Almost €40,000 was raised to be divided equally between both hospice movements.
- Tipperary's FBD Championships were played down to semi-finals during September with Kiladangan, Kilruane MacDonaghs, Drom & Inch and Upperchurch Drombane all qualifying for the Dan Breen Cup whilst Burgess, Roscrea, Gortnahoe Glengoole and St Marys came through for the Seamus O Riain Cup. In football Commercial, Moyle Rovers, Loughmore Castleiney and Upperchurch Drombane qualified for the semi-finals.
- The new Tipperary GAA club draw commenced with the Sept first draw taking place in the County Bar Thurles. The star prize of €25K & 1,000 prize bonds was won by Des Gaynor Kilruane McDonagh's as the draw membership held up at 16,700.
- The County Scór Sinsear Finals were held in Newport Community Hall on Friday Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and winners were selected to represent Tipperary in the Munster Final on Oct 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Monthly Comment

#### Dr Morris Park Development...Back on Track

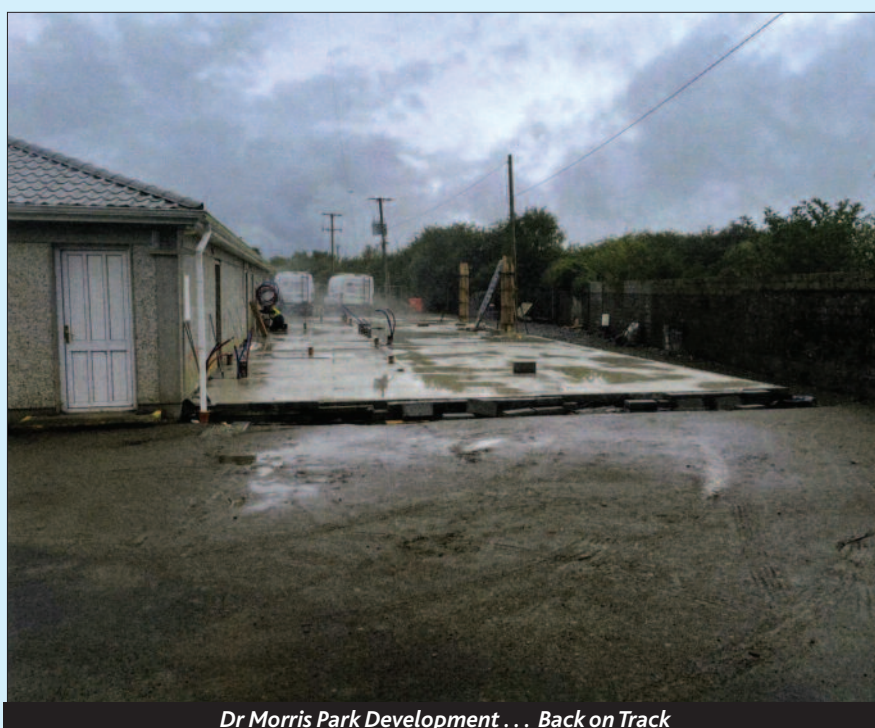
It's a relief to see development work commence at Dr Morris Park after a two-year delay due to Covid. Project costs have almost doubled in the meantime, but this blow is softened by the allocation of a €300K Sports Capital Grant plus a further €125k from our Central Council County Infrastructural Fund announced recently. The development will be in three stages as follows.

**Phase 1:** Extension to the four existing dressing rooms plus new showers/toilets and a new multi-purpose room which initially will be a small gym but eventually a dining room when Phase 2 & 3 are complete. Phase 1 will also include new storerooms for team equipment and product.

**Phase 2:** Will include a lobby leading into a meeting room plus dining room which can open into one large room to accommodate gatherings up to 200 plus. Adjacent to the lobby will be a shop/coffee area to facilitate parents and spectators.

**Phase 3:** Will be a large gym overhead the meeting/dining room overlooking the three pitches.

Phase one is on stream for completion and ready to use by Feb 2023. Planning permission will be lodged for Phase 2 and 3 before Dec 2022 with the hope of approval by March 2023 to allow continuity with the development through to completion by the end of 2023. The total cost of the three phases will be in the region of €2m.



*Dr Morris Park Development . . . Back on Track*

October 2002Monthly Summary

- Tipperary Co Council hosted a Civic Reception for Tipperary Minor Hurlers All Ireland Champions in the Dome FBD Semple Stadium on Sat October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Moyle Rovers Co SF Champions of 1995 were honoured as the Jubilee team at the Co Football Final whilst Nenagh Eire Og Co SH Champions 1995 were celebrated at the Co Hurling Final on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Clonmel Commercials claimed their 20<sup>th</sup> Co SF title with a 1.10 to 1.2 victory over Upperchurch Drombane whilst Ballina captured their second Co Football title in a row having being promoted from Junior “A” football in 2021. This year in the Intermediate Football final, Ballina defeated Mullinahone 1.13 to 1.4. On the same weekend Rockwell Rovers claimed the Tom Cusack Cup with a 2.14 to 0.6 victory over Killenaule.
- Kilruane MacDonaghs and Kildangan played out a draw on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Co SH Final and in the replay seven days later the MacDonaghs claimed back the Dan Breen Cup for the first time since 1985.
- The Tipperary minor football panel of 2022 were presented with their Daryl Darcy medals in the Horse & Jockey Hotel where Cork’s Keith Ricken was the special guest.
- October saw the passing of Mick Hogan Roscrea who was part of the Roscrea All Ireland Club Championship team in 1971.
- Murtagh Brennan, Loughmore Castleiney, was announced as the new Co Secretary/CEO of Tipperary GAA and will take up his new role from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.
- The October Tipperary GAA Clubs Draw was held in the Clough Inn Cloughjordan with Kilruane McDonagh GAA Club and the star prize of a Citroen C3 and 200 Prize bonds was won by John McGrath & Catherine Gooley of Rosegreen, Sinead Pearl Lattin Cullen was the €5,000 second prize.
- At the Munster Scór Sinsear Finals in Cappmore Tipperary won 4 events with the Newcastle Figure Dancers plus Noel Joyce in recitation and the Newport Balled Group and Novelty Act all qualifying for the All Ireland finals.
- Roscrea regained their Dan Breen status by winning the Premier Intermediate Final with a win over Gortnahoe Glengoole played in Semple Stadium on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Upperchurch Drombane won the Co JH “A” final with a 2.19 to 1.19 victory over Grangemockler Ballyneale in Golden.
- Lorrha regained their Premier Intermediate status by winning the Co Intermediate hurling final with victory over Moneygall in FBD Semple Stadium 4.15 to 3.12.
- Thurles Sarsfields won the Co Junior “A” Football Final defeating Sean Treacys 1-9 to 0-8 in Clonoulty.
- Galtee Rovers won the Co U19F “B” Co Final defeating Fethard 1-9 to 1-8 in Cahir.

Monthly Comment**Kilruane MacDonaghs.....Back in the winners enclosure**

Kilruane McDonagh’s return to the top table of Tipperary Hurling after 37 years was dramatic and surprising as very few would have predicted them winning their sixth County SH title without their marquee player Craig Morgan. Even after the drawn county final most felt that Kilruane had missed the boat and were lucky to draw level with Willie Cleary’s dramatic point from a free four minutes into injury time. The replay looked to be heading for an inevitable conclusion at half time as Kildangan led by five points and Kilruane bodies looked weary from the succession of hard battles. Their second half devastation of Kildangan scoring 2.13 to 0.7 was merciless and victory came amazingly easy in the end. Kilruane MacDonaghs relegation to intermediate ranks in the 90’s was a difficult era for the club having won three Co SH titles in a row in the 70’s (77,78,79) followed by All-Ireland club champions in 1986. Winning the Co Intermediate title in 2003 was the start of the resurgence in the club as massive work was being done at juvenile level which is now paying dividends. The work still goes on as Kilruane MacDonaghs also won the Co U13 A plus U13 D finals in 2022 so it looks like the supply line has opened again and Kilruane MacDonaghs will be a powerhouse in Tipperary hurling for a long time to come. Unfortunately, injuries and fatigue finally caught up in the Munster Club Quarter final as they fell to Ballygunner in Walsh Park.



*Jerome Cahill, Kilruane captain, accepts the Dan Breen cup from county chaimrnan Joe Kennedy.*

November 2022Monthly Summary

- Kilruane McDonagh's travelled to Walsh Park carrying many injuries after a tough county championship campaign including a replayed Co Final. They came up against a fresh Ballygunner side and lost heavily.
- Grangemockler were Tipperary's representatives in the Munster Club Junior "A" Hurling but fell to Ballygiblan of Cork in FBD Semple Stadium by 2.10 to 0.11.
- Roscrea began their Munster Intermediate Club journey with a 4.20 to 0.15 victory over Ballysaggart of Waterford played in FBD Semple Stadium. In the Semi Final again in FBD Semple Stadium they defeated Iniscarra of Cork 1.17 to 3.9 and qualified to play Monaleen in the Munster Intermediate Hurling final to be played in Pairc Ui Rinn on Sunday Dec 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Holycross Ballycahill won the U19" A" Co Final defeating St Marys in the final 1.21 to 0.16 played in Bansha.
- Thurles Sarsfields fourth team won the Co JH" B" final defeating Solohead in the final 3.15 to 1.16 played in Clonoulty.
- Clonmel Commercials won the U19" A" football final defeating Na Sairsealaigh Óg in Golden.
- Borrisoleigh won the Co U19"B Hurling title with victory over Cappawhite Gaels in Templederry by 2.17 to 1.12.

Monthly CommentClonmel Commercials....Reign supreme in Tipperary Football

Clonmel Commercials regained their place at the top of Tipperary Football with a comprehensive victory over newcomers Upperchurch Drombane who were looking for their first title. This 2022 victory was Commercials 20<sup>th</sup> title and their third in four years with Loughmore Castleiney spoiling the Party in 2022 with their historic double. Commercials are now just one away from equaling Fethard's 21 titles and its looking fairly obvious that this will be achieved in the very near future considering their success also in winning the U19"A" Co title in 2022. Clonmel Commercials have been a conveyer belt supplying Inter-County players for many years to all Tipperary teams. They had eight players on the 2020 panel that won the historic Munster Final over Cork. On that occasion Charlie McGeever was manager. This year they have former players Tommy Morrissey as manager and Philly Ryan as coach. As Champions of Tipperary, Clonmel Commercials went on to represent the county in the Munster Club Championship and played Nemo Rangers in Pairc Ui Caoimh. The highly fancied Cork champions were overwhelmed by a superb Commercials performance who ran out winners by 2.15 to 1.11. Unfortunately, back home in FBD Semple Stadium two weeks later, Commercials luck ran out in extra time versus Newcastle West losing the Munster Club semifinal 1.16 to 1.11.



*Clonmel Commercials captain Jamie Peters lift the cup.*



*Before I conclude this, my last report I think it's appropriate that I should reflect briefly on each of my 16 years in the role and focus on the highlights of each year from my own perspective.*

## Reeling Back My 16 Years as County Secretary.....Trip Down Memory Lane

### 2007-Back-to-back Minor Hurling titles

My first job as new Co Secretary installed at Convention in Dec 2006 was to organize the All-Ireland Medal Presentation for the 2006 winners in the Templemore Arms Hotel in late December. Ironically one of my final chores as Co Secretary 16 years later is to repeat this exercise in the same hotel following our dramatic Minor victory over Offaly. Liam Sheedy stepped down as Manager following Tipp's All Ireland Minor title in 2006 and Declan Ryan was handed the reins along with Tommy Dunne and Liam Cahill. Their team showed flashes of brilliance from an early stage with a six-goal victory over Limerick and in the Munster Final deprived Cork from winning their fourth in a row Provincial title. Kilkenny were brushed aside in the All Ireland Semi Final before facing the Rebels again in the All Ireland final. An outstanding display on the Croke Park stage saw Brendan Maher lift the Irish Press Cup as Tipperary won back-to-back minor finals with our 18<sup>th</sup> title at this grade. Apart from Brendan these two victories launched great senior careers for recent legends like Pauric Maher, Michael Cahill, Noel McGrath, Patrick "Bonnar" Maher etc. The second outstanding memory of 2007 was the Senior Hurling trilogy with Limerick under Babs Keating. Following extra time in a replay in Thurles, both teams returned to the Gaelic Grounds once week later where Limerick triumphed after four hours of hurling over the three days. Tipp regrouped and qualified for the All-Ireland Quarter Final v Wexford. Meanwhile Tipp selector John Leahy was suspended following reports of abuse to referee Brian Gavin in the final Limerick game. Much has been spoken and written about the 2007 All Ireland quarter final versus Wexford so sufficient for me to say it was a very low point in Tipperary GAA history when Wexford keeper Damien Fitzhenry blasted a free to the net in the final minutes to give the Model County a two-point victory. At the end of the day, it was still Kilkenny retained the All-Ireland SH title in 2007. Tipp football teams were all well beaten in 2007 and John Owens stepped down at the end of the season as John Evans was brought on board by football Chairman Pete Savage.

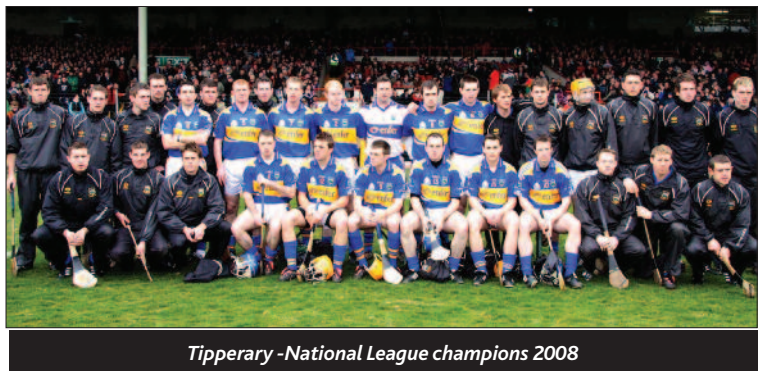


Loughmore Castleiney won the Co SH titles and went on to claim Provincial honours defeating Tulla in the final and Moyle Rovers were Co SF champions.

2007 saw the passing of former Tipperary GAA president (1967-70) Seamus Ó Riain, legendary Tipp hurlers Kieran Carey, Jimmy Kennedy, Liam Connolly, former Tipperary football Chairman Hugh Kennedy and a great friend Conor Kennedy of Moycarkey Borris.

### 2008-Only National Hurling League title in 21 years.

A new SH Management team under Liam Sheedy took over from Babs Keating and immediately made an impact winning Waterford Crystal, National League and Munster titles. Tipperary remained unbeaten until the All Ireland Semi Final defeat to Waterford in Croke Park which devastated all involved. Our Intermediate hurlers under Connie Maher beat Cork by 17 points in Pairc Ui Caoimh but later fell to Limerick in Semple Stadium. Tipp U21's won a controversial Munster final over Clare in Cusack Park with an injury time '65 scored by Pa Bourke following a puck-out infringement earlier. Unfortunately, we lost the All-Ireland Final to Kilkenny who went on to win a clean sweep of All Ireland hurling titles in 2008. Our minor hurlers were seeking their third title in a row but lost to Cork in the Munster Final by a point and to Kilkenny in the All Ireland Semi Final by nine points.



The arrival of John Evans had an immediate impact as Tipp won promotion from Division 4 but we made little progress in the championship.

Our Minor footballers took Kerry to a Munster Final replay before bowing out and the under 21's also fell to the Kingdom in the final by just two points. Munster Council forced a controversial decision on Tipp to abandon neutral venues in football and play home and away in the future. Another controversial decision by Tipperary Co Board was the voluntary elevation of

four intermediate hurling teams to senior which brought the total number SH teams to 30.

2008 saw the passing of the County Treasurer “Spike Nolan” who was a legendary administrator. A hurling legend also died with the passing of Tipp 1949 captain Pat Stakelum from the 49/50/51 three in a row All Ireland titles. Also former hurlers Mick Ryan of Roscrea and Terry Moloney went to their eternal reward. A young Tipp footballer Daryl Darcy from Shannon Rovers was tragically killed in a car accident and county Referees Co-Ordinator Willie Robinson was amongst the great Tipperary GAA personalities who died in 2008. At National level Paraic Duffy took over as Ard Stuirthoir and Christy Cooney was elected Uachtaráin.

### **2009-Floodlights switched on in Semple Stadium**

2009 was a busy year with a new Chairman Barry O'Brien and a new Treasurer in Eamon Buckley who took over officially from the late Michael “Spike” Nolan. Tipperary Co Board led the 125 anniversary celebrations with the 1884 origins in Hayes Hotel remembered appropriately. GAA Lá na gClub was marked throughout the country on May 10<sup>th</sup> and the new floodlights were switched on in Semple Stadium on Valentines Night for a National League game between Tipp and a second-string Cork team who were in crisis under manager Gerald McCarthy. A new supporter’s song “The Mighty Blue & Gold” was also launched following a song contest in the Premier Hall and a new archives website also came into existence.

On the field our senior hurlers contested four finals, losing the Waterford Crystal to Clare, the National League final to Kilkenny in extra time at Semple Stadium and the All-Ireland Final to the same opposition. Tipp captured back-to-back Munster titles defeating Waterford in Semple Stadium and followed this with a 24-point victory over Limerick in Croke Park. In the final Tipp led Kilkenny by three points with ten minutes remaining despite having Benny Dunne sent off. A controversial penalty decision followed by a Martin Comerford goal dashed Tipps hopes as Kilkenny celebrated their 4<sup>th</sup> in a row All Ireland titles.

Our U21 hurlers under Declan Carr lost to Waterford in the Munster Semi Final in Dungarvan whilst our minor hurlers also lost to Waterford in the Munster Final before bowing out in the All Ireland Semi Final to Kilkenny. Tipperary Senior footballers won promotion to Division 2 following a one-point victory over Down in the Division 3 final played in Longford. Unfortunately, we were brought down to earth quickly losing the Munster quarter final to Limerick and the All-Ireland Qualifier to Sligo. Cork broke our hearts in U21F with a goal two minutes into injury time in Semple Stadium whilst our Minor footballers fell to Kerry in the Munster Final at Pairc Ui Chaoimh and also lost to Mayo in the All-Ireland Quarters.

2009 saw the passing of Tipp’s famous masseur Ossie Bennett, also 1971 Tipp full forward Roger Ryan Roscrea & Toomevara) and Denis (Dinny) Ryan Roscrea from the famous 1949-51 three in a row teams.



### **2010-All Ireland Hurling Double**

A disappointing League followed by a disastrous Munster Quarter Final defeat to Cork by ten points did not look good in June 2010, but Tipp arrived in an All-Ireland SH final in September against all the odds. Once again Kilkenny were the opposition seeking their 5<sup>th</sup> in a row All Ireland titles. Tipp were in top form with Lar Corbett scoring a hat trick of goals as Premier fans celebrated with relief a historic 4.17 to 1.18 victory.

Ken Hogan took over as U21H Manager and took us all the way to a second All Ireland the following weekend with eight of the seniors involved. Facing a forward line that included Noel McGrath, Brian “Buggy” O Meara, Patrick “Bonnar” Maher and Bubbles O Dwyer and backs like Brendan Maher, MI Cahill, James Barry and Pauric Maher, Galway were overwhelmed as Tipp won by a massive 5.22 to 0.12.

Our minors managed by Mark O Leary exited the Munster Championship following defeats at the hands of Cork and Clare. The Intermediate hurlers fell at the first hurdle to Cork under manager Conor Gleeson.

Tipp senior footballers playing in Division 2 under John Evans experienced life in the fast lane with league games against counties like Kildare, Armagh, Donegal and Down. In the end we fell short by one point to avoid relegation. Defeat to Kerry in the Munster Championship saw us come up against Dublin in Croke Park and despite a brave effort we exited the championship.

Our minors were defeated by Kerry and Cork but an U17 victory winning The Daryl Darcy Cup paved the way for success the following year. Pride of place in football went to our U21 footballers who claimed our first ever Munster title with victory over Kerry in Austin Stack Park. Aherlow won the Tipp SF final and Thurles won the Co SH title. 2010 saw the passing of former county and Munster Chairman Mick Frawley and former Co Football Chairman Sean Mockler.



*Tipperary management with cup 2010*

### 2011-Minor Football All Ireland Champions

Our Minor footballers under David Power stole the show in 2011 with fully deserved victories over Kerry in the Munster Final and Dublin in the All-Ireland final in Croke Park. We will never forget Colman Kennedy's goal in the last five minutes against a Dubs side managed by Dessie Farrell that included Ciaran Kilkenny and Cormac Costelloe. But the Tipp side included Michael Quinlivan, Bill Maher, Stephen O'Brien, Ian Fahey etc. who were all outstanding as captain Liam McGrath brought home the only national title to the steps of Thurles Cathedral on Monday Night.

Hopes were high of more success in the hurling following the senior and U21 All Irelands in 2010 but the county were shocked when Liam Sheedy and his management team of Mick Ryan and Eamon O Shea stepped down. Up stepped Declan Ryan, Tommy Dunne and Michael (Glossy) Gleeson and guided the team to Munster Final success by seven goals over a Waterford team who were reigning Munster Champions. Lar Corbett and Eoin Kelly scored 6-10 between them as Tipp forwards led the Decie backs on a merry dance. Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final was a different story as Tipp were never allowed the same space as the "Cats" went on to win their 33<sup>rd</sup> All Ireland. Tipperary U21 hurlers under manager Ken Hogan lost the Munster Semi Final to Cork whilst Raymie Ryan replaced Mark O Leary as Minor Hurling Manager but lost the Munster Semi Final to Clare. Mick Ryan (Fethard) took over the Co Intermediate Hurling team but lost our first round to Cork. Tipp Senior footballers barely avoided relegation to Division 4 and lost to Kerry in the Munster Championship and Laois in the All Ireland qualifiers whilst the U21 footballers were dethroned as Munster Champions by a superior Cork side. The great legend John Doyle went to his eternal reward in 2011 along with other All Ireland medal holders Jimmy Butler Coffey, Billy Moloughney and Connie Keane.



*Tipperary Minor Team homecoming 2011, Tipperary manager David Power and team captain Liam McGrath at Thurles Cathedral with the Tom Markham Cup.*

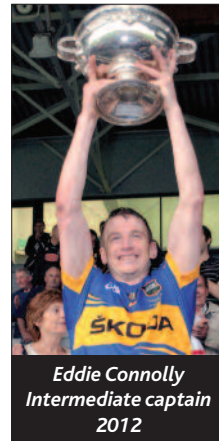
### 2012-Six Trophies won by Tipp

Despite winning back-to-back Munster Finals our senior hurlers of 2012 will be most remembered for losing the All-Ireland semifinal to Kilkenny by 18 points despite leading by one point at half time. Following the game Declan Ryan stepped down as manager and Eamon O Shea stepped into the breach for the following year. Both Tipperary Minor Hurling and football won Munster titles. The minor footballers beat both Kerry & Cork but lost to Mayo in the All-Ireland quarter. The minor hurlers beat Clare in the Munster Final, and it took a replay to overcome Dublin before captain Bill Maher collected The Irish Press Cup under manager William Maher. Our Intermediate hurlers completed the collection of silverware winning both Munster and All Ireland trophies under manager Mick Ryan (Fethard) and captained by the late Eddie Connolly.

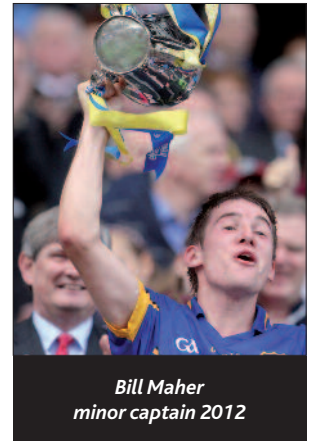
Our clubs also saw Provincial success as county senior hurling champions Thurles Sarsfields made club history beating De Le Salle in the Munster Final. Co Intermediate Champions Silvermines also captured the Munster Club title defeating Ballyduff in the final. Clonmel Commercials won the SF title defeating North combo Thomas MacDonaghs in the final.

The All Ireland hurling final was won by Kilkenny who defeated Galway in the final. In the boardroom Sean Nugent took over the chairman's reins from Barry O'Brien.

The county saw the passing of Harry Greensmith the last surviving member of the 1935 Tipp MF team who reached the All-Ireland Final. Also, Phil Shanahan and Donal O'Brien who were both All Ireland minor and senior hurling medal winners with Tipperary. During 2012, I also lost both my parents in the space of three months which was a very emotional period for my family. Ten years on their impact on our lives is still cherished. Soles na bhflaitheas dá n-anamacha dílse.



*Eddie Connolly  
Intermediate captain  
2012*



*Bill Maher  
minor captain 2012*

### 2013-Back to back All Ireland Intermediate Hurling titles

Expectations were high following six trophies coming to the county in 2012 but it fell to our Intermediate Hurlers to salvage the only Silverware in 2013 when Captain David Young raised both Munster and All Ireland trophies under manager Mick Ryan with a completely new team from 2012. Our senior hurlers now under new Manager Eamon O Shea were beaten in both Waterford Crystal and National League Finals. In the Munster Championship a late Limerick rally dashed our Provincial hopes which led us to an All-Ireland qualifier with Kilkenny in the intense cauldron of Nowlan Park where earlier in the year we lost the League final. The loss of Lar Corbett with a hamstring tear and the return of Henry Shefflin combined to knock Tipperary out of the championship in Mid-July leaving the county devastated. Clare under manager Davy Fitzgerald surprised everyone by winning the All Ireland following victory over Cork in a replay with an exceptionally youthful side. After winning both Minor Hurling and football Munster titles in 2012 Tipperary relinquished both despite contesting our third Munster MF final in a row. Defeat to Kerry by five points was followed by defeat to Monaghan in the All-Ireland Quarters.



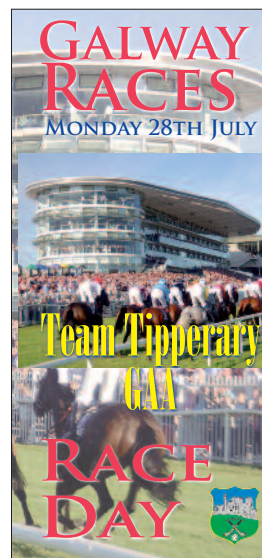
Our U21 footballers failed to build on our 2011 Minor All Ireland and lost to Cork in the Munster Semi Final. Our U21 hurlers played three games in Semple Stadium ending with a loss to Clare who were on a role winning both U21 and senior All Irelands. Loughmore Castleiney created history by winning the first ever double in the county capturing both hurling and football county senior titles.

2013 saw the passing of Fr Alec Reid a native of Nenagh who played a pivotal role in the Northern Ireland Peace Process. Also, Sam Melbourne, a native of Moycarkey Borris who carved out a special niche for himself in GAA History by his collection of GAA memorabilia now housed in the Lar Na Pairce Museum.

### 2014-Bubbles & "Hawkeye"

Tipperary senior footballers brought on our only trophy in 2014 winning the Division 4 League Final and gaining promotion to Division 3. In the championship our footballers lost narrowly to Cork in Pairc Uí Caoimh and later in the qualifiers Galway deprived us of a place in the All-Ireland Quarter Final.

Tipperary Senior Hurlers won the Waterford Crystal Trophy and lost the League final to Kilkenny in extra time at Semple Stadium. Despite losing to Limerick in the Munster Semi Final we advanced through the qualifiers to end up in the All-Ireland Final against Kilkenny. The teams were level going into injury time when Tipp got a free inside our own half. John "Bubbles" O Dwyer stepped up in front of 82,000 spectators plus millions of TV viewers and the famous "Hawkeye" judged he put it millimeters wide of the post. The replay was another grandstand finish but it was to be Kilkenny's day as they claimed their 35<sup>th</sup> title. Tipp received some consolation with seven All Star awards whilst Cathal Barrett captured the young hurler of the year award. Tipp U21 hurlers were also involved in an epic battle with Clare in the Munster Semi Final which went to extra time before the Banner survived to achieve a unique three in a row Munster & All Ireland title. 2014 will be unfortunately remembered for failing to have teams in three Munster Club Championships due to a backlog of club fixtures mainly caused by the All-Ireland SH replay. Due to this we did not compete at Provincial level in Senior Football, Intermediate football and Intermediate hurling.



Tipperary lost a great Gael with the passing of Tom Collum (JK Brackens) who despite being a Limerick native did trojan work for schools and coaching in the county and province. Michael Bourke took over as Chairman of Tipperary Co Board succeeding Sean Nugent.

In 2014 Tipperary opened the new Lisheen Mines Hurling Wall in Dr Morris Park while the County Board also benefited financially from successful new fundraising ventures at the Galway Races and London.

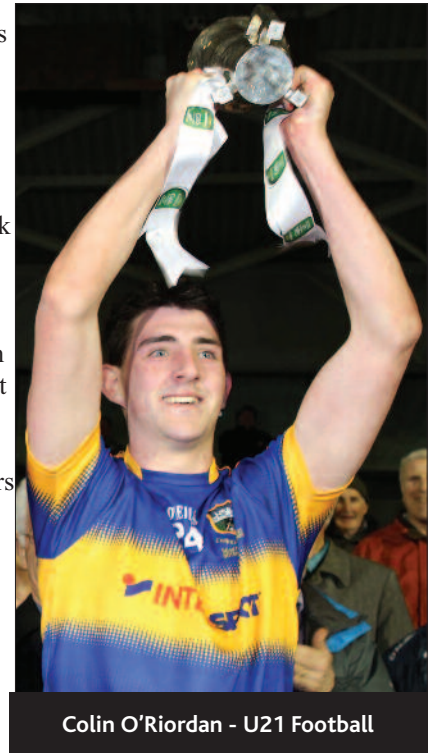
### 2015-Three Munster Titles

No All-Ireland titles but three Munster Trophies in SH, MH and U21F. Our senior hurlers recorded a now rare 16-point victory over Limerick in the Semi-final before defeating Waterford in the final. A one-point defeat to Galway in the All-Ireland semifinal ended Eamon O'Shea's three-year reign as manager.

Liam Cahill led our minor hurlers to a Munster title but lost out to Galway in the All Ireland final. Nine of the minor hurlers were also on the Tipperary Minor football team who later contested the All-Ireland minor football final but were outclassed by Kerry who repeated their Munster final victory over the Premier side. Tipperary U21 footballers also won the Provincial title for the second time in six years defeating a Cork side chasing their fifth Munster title in a row. This was followed up by a victory over Dublin in the Semi Final to qualify for the All-Ireland final versus Tyrone. The final in Parnell Park will be remembered for unfortunate delays due to illnesses amongst spectators, one of which resulted in the death of Tipperary supporter Dom Browne from Knockavilla. The game ended in controversy as Tyrone went on to win by the narrowest of margins. Following this game Tipperary captain Colin O Riordan departed for a new professional football career in Australia. Tipperary Senior Footballers played Kerry in the Munster Semi Final, and the magnetism of the Kingdom drew over 11,000 spectators to Semple Stadium. Despite a brave performance by Tipp Kerry came out on top by six points. Tipp went on to lose an unsavory All Ireland qualifier game against Tyrone played at Semple Stadium.

2015 saw the passing of three great senior hurling legends, Jimmy Doyle, Tony Reddin and Fr Ray Reidy. We also mourned the loss of Eddie Connolly who captained the All-Ireland winning Tipperary Intermediate hurling team in 2012. Long serving Tipperary secretary Tomas O Baroid also passed away at the age of 90.

New Sponsors Elverys Intersport came on board taking over from Skoda while Thurles Sarsfields retained the Dan Breen Cup and Clonmel Commercials made history as Co SF Champions by winning the first Munster Senior Club title for Tipperary



Colin O'Riordan - U21 Football

### 2016: Ireland Hurling Double as Senior Footballers reach All Ireland Semi Final

2016 will go down as the best of all for nothing surpasses winning two All-Ireland titles on the same day and at the same venue. The minors under Liam Cahill set the tone going undefeated from round one including a 17-point hammering to Limerick in the Munster final. A

five-goal defeat over Galway in the semifinal brought us to the final stage and a stiffer test from Limerick before capturing the Irish Press Cup. Our Senior hurlers now under manager Mick Ryan lost the league quarter final to Clare but grew in stature with a seven-goal victory in the Munster Final over Waterford at the Gaelic Grounds. In the All Ireland Semi Final Tipp reversed their 2015 defeat to Galway with a one-point victory over the tribesmen which will be remembered for Pauric Mahers crunching tackle on Joe Canning. In the final against Kilkenny, Tipp showed massive composure to deny our great rivals in the second half as captain Seamus Callanan lifted the McCarthy Cup to complete the double. Were it not for



Tipperary officers with cups.

the hurlers historic double, our senior footballers road to Croke Park would command pride of place. A two-point victory over Cork in the Munster Semi was followed by defeat to Kerry in the Munster SF final at Fitzgerald Stadium. This loss led us on a memorable journey in the qualifiers with victory over Derry in Breffini Park followed by a six-point win over Galway at headquarters. Back to Croke Park for the semifinal where Tipp Footballers played before 53,212 spectators. Tipp came within

two points of Mayo twenty minutes into the second when Bill Maher was harshly red carded, and the Connacht men ran out five point winners. Overall, this was Tipps best football year which made the prediction and vision of a major title by 2020 more realistic. Mayo later lost the final to Dublin who retained their first title since 1977.

Tipperary's year was rewarded with seven hurling All stars and a rare football All-Star for Michael Quinlivan. Thurles Sarsfields retained the Dan Breen Cup whilst Loughmore Castleiney won the Co SF title. Michael Power commenced his seven-year term as Co Board Treasurer and Joe Bracken was elected PRO. Matt Hassett was installed as the new Co Board President succeeding the late Tomas O Baroid. Great Tipperary men who went to their eternal reward in 2016 included Mikey "The Rattler" Byrne, Billy Quinn, Jimmy Hennessy (Knockavilla) and Paddy Verdon (Tipp Limerick Ass)

### 2017-Senior Footballers-Promoted to Division 2

Our Senior Footballers were our saving grace in 2017 winning Division 3 and promotion to Division 2 under manager Liam Kearns. Despite defeating Armagh in our final league group game on their home turf, Tipperary eventually lost to the same opposition at Semple Stadium in the All-Ireland championship. Still victory over Louth in the League final in Croke Park and an All-Ireland championship win over Cavan in Breffini Park are treasured memories. Reigning All Ireland champions Tipperary senior hurlers swept through the league before falling to Galway in the All Ireland Semi Final by one point in Croke Park. Galway senior hurlers went on to win their third trophy in 2017 culminating in the All-Ireland SH title. Thurles Sarsfields once again dominated Tipperary hurling winning their fourth Co SH title in a row whilst Clonmel Commercial continued as the Premier County's major football force winning the county SF title. Three household names in Tipperary hurling passed to their eternal reward with the passing of Mick Roche, Mick Maher and Liam Devaney.



### 2018-All Ireland U21H Champions

Pride of place in 2018 must go to our U21 hurling team who under manager Liam Cahill suffered a humiliating defeat to Cork in the Munster final by 13 points but rose from the ashes to defeat the same opposition in the All-Ireland Final. Our senior hurlers reached the League final but lost to Kilkenny in Nowlan Park. We failed to win any of our four round robin games in the Munster Championship having been held to a draw by Cork and Waterford. Our final game with Clare in Semple Stadium will be remembered for Jake Morris hitting the post which ended our championship hopes and also resulted in a cruciate knee ligament injury to Brendan Maher.

Our senior footballers missed out narrowly on promotion to Division 1 and ended the year before 11,000 spectators in Semple Stadium with defeat to Mayo in the All-Ireland qualifiers.

Our minor hurlers under Tommy Dunne won the inaugural U17 Munster title but lost the All-Ireland final to Kilkenny. Clonoulty-Rossmore defied all odds to win the county SH title while Moyle Rovers also returned to the winner's enclosure winning the Co SF title.



Tipperary All-Ireland winning U21 hurlers celebrate in the dressing room.

John Devane stepped into the County Chairman's role whilst Michael Bourke moved on to Central Council.

Household names passed to their eternal reward like hurling legends Mick Murphy and Tom Shanahan, Referee Gerry Long plus Carrick Swans former county minor selector and coach Noel Russell.

Limerick won their first All-Ireland SH title in 45 years whilst Dublin won the fourth in a row football title.

### 2019-Tipperary's 28<sup>th</sup> All Ireland SH Title

Tipperary Senior hurlers stole the show in 2019 after being well down the pecking order as Galway and Limerick won the previous two All-Ireland titles and either one looked like the most likely to dominate. After a slow start to the year including a heavy defeat to Limerick in the Munster Final the Premier County took National honours with a most impressive 14-point victory over old rivals Kilkenny. Six days later our under 20 hurlers crowned the celebrations similar to 2010 with an early goal rush against the Rebels to win the inaugural competition at this new grade. Our S.F had a disappointing year suffering relegation from Division 2 and exiting the Munster Championship to Limerick and the All-Ireland qualifiers to Down.

Borrisoleigh lit up our Co SH Championship winning their first Co SH title in 33 years and followed by capturing the Munster crown following victory over Ballygunnar.

Our sponsors TENE0 led major fundraisers in Dublin's Manson House in April and in the Harvard Club New York in November. Co Board also held their annual fund raiser at the Galway races in July and London in November. Dublin became the first team in history to win 5 in a row All Ireland SF titles.

The county lost great people like former hurling legend John Dillon (Roscrea), John Coffey (Boherlahan), Raymie Shanahan (Eire Og Anacarty), referee Michael Cahill (Kilruane MacDonaghs) and county football masseur Jim Cunningham (Inane Rovers).



Craig Morgan - U20 captain



Seamus Callanan - SH captain

### 2020-Covid Grips the Country

2020 will be remembered as the year of Covid when we entered lockdown in March leading to a restricted return to play with few spectators. The concept of streaming arose from this, allowing supporters to follow the fortunes of their teams and giving the old, sick and worldwide diasporas new opportunities.

Tipperary SH were slow to adapt to the late winter conditions and exited the championship to Galway in the All-Ireland quarters. We followed the fortunes of 2019 Co SH Champions Borrisoleigh to the All-Ireland club final in January before their final defeat to Ballyhale Shamrocks at headquarters. Kildangan captured the 2020 Co SH Final for their first time whilst Clonmel Commercials won the Co SF title once again.

Tipperary Senior footballers stole the show in 2020 and marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bloody Sunday in the most appropriate way possible. On November weekend wearing the same Green and White colors of Grangemockler we captured the Munster SF title in style. Following our exit from the All-Ireland Championship on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> at the hands of Mayo the Tipperary team took time out to lay a wreath on the Hill 16 end of Croke Park in remembrance of Michael Hogan who was shot dead on the same pitch 100 years ago on what became known as Bloody Sunday.

During 2020, Tipperary lost great personalities like Paddy Doyle, Tom Larkin and Pierce Duggan.



Tipperary senior footballers lay wreath commemorating Bloody Sunday in Croke Park.

### 2021- Loughmore Castleiney Double

Loughmore Castleiney repeated their historic 2013 senior double by once again winning the county hurling and football championships. Following County Convention in Dec 2020. Joe Kennedy (Moyne Templetuohy) commenced his first year as County Chairman with Jimmy Minogue as the new Vice Chairman, Jonathan Cullen the new PRO and John Donovan Ass Treasurer.

Liam Sheedy stepped down as Tipperary SH manager after three years in charge and Colm Bonnar took over the reins. Overall, 2021 brought in no silverware which was the only year during my 16 years as secretary that we failed to raise a trophy of some sort.

Despite this I think our first half display against Limerick in the Munster SH Championship in Pairc Ui Chaoimh was the best performance I have ever seen but unfortunately the All Ireland Champions reeled us in during the second half. Limerick went on to win back-to-back All Ireland SH titles defeating Cork in the final. Tipperary SF team were relegated from Division 3 to Division 4 following a reduced three team group geographically structured to avoid long journeys during Covid. Tipperary U20 footballers lifted the football gloom with victory over Limerick having gone five years without a win at this level. This was followed up with victory over Waterford before falling to Cork in the Munster Final. 2021 saw the passing of Tipperary's hurling legend Theo English and Tom McLoughney. The finances of Tipperary Co Board were in a healthy state with a €303k surplus mainly coming from commercial income and royalties following a very successful partnership with O'Neills and Elverys.



Loughmore/Castleiney - senior hurling and football champions.

### 2022- Tipp Minor Hurlers-All Ireland Champions

2022 be remembered for that dramatic last minute All Ireland Minor Hurling victory over Offaly in Nowlan Park. This minor team under manager James Woodlock showed outstanding resilience all year with a penalty shootout against Clare in the Munster Final and a late comeback against Galway in the All Ireland Semi Final. David Power's Senior Football squad gained promotion from Division 4 whilst our minor footballers won the Daryl Darcy Cup and qualified for the Munster Semi Final from the Phase 1 Round Robin and finally going down to Cork. Tipp Senior hurlers had a disappointing start to the year in the Munster league with a first ever defeat to Kerry in Tralee. Early league success over Laois and Kilkenny gave false hope as we lost all our remaining games and this trend continued into the championship where we lost our four games in the Munster Round Robin. After less than twelve months at the helm Manager Colm Bonnar was replaced by Liam Cahill as Limerick completed their 3 in a row-titles with victory over Kilkenny 1.31 to 3.26 in an outstanding All Ireland Final. Tipp's U20 hurlers reached the Munster Final following victories over Kerry, Waterford and Cork but lost an exciting final to Limerick.

FBD Semple Stadium hosted a dramatic Munster SH Final which saw 45,000 on their feet as Tony Kelly cut a sideline ball over the bar to force extra time which Limerick won. FBD Semple Stadium also hosted the All-Ireland Quarter finals where Clare defeated Wexford and Galway overcame Cork.

Dillon Quirke's unexpected passing after collapsing on the pitch in FBD Semple Stadium on Friday August 5<sup>th</sup> send shock waves through the entire GAA world.

FISERV replaced TENEO as the new Tipperary Jersey sponsor whilst naming rights on our field of legends was announced in January and now to be known as "FBD Semple Stadium".



Tipperary - All-Ireland minor hurling championship 2022.



## *Thanks for the Memories*

### **Buíochas**

Normally every year I would dedicate this section to those who helped me during the year but this year it's a thank you over the last sixteen years since I took the role of Secretary of Tipperary Co. Board. During that time, I've worked with six different County Chairmen and that doubles to twelve if I take in the 35 years since I started out as Draw Administrator in 1987, when Noel Morris was the man at the helm. John Costigan was Chairman when I became secretary, and he has been a steady hand mentoring me ever since. Over the sixteen years there has been many highs and lows but looking back it will be regarded as a very successful period for Tipperary GAA winning three senior hurling All Ireland titles, three U 20/21 and five minor hurling titles. In football the 2020 Munster Senior Football was special plus the two Munster under 21 football titles in 2010 and 2015 but the All-Ireland Minor Football victory in 2011 was the most precious of all especially beating Dublin in Croke Park. To all six chairmen to whom I celebrated or drowned sorrows with I say thanks for all the support and memories. I also worked with three co treasurers, the late Mick "Spike" Nolan, Eamon Buckley and the current cisteoir Michael Power who also steps down at this 2022 Convention having reached the end of his seven years tenure. Having a harmonious relationship between runáí and cisteoir is vital to keep the wheels turning and I was fortunate to have that with all three and I really appreciated their support and camaraderie over the years. I was privileged to work with top class PRO's in Ger Ryan, Ed Donnelly, Joe Bracken and now Jonathan Cullen. The public image of Tipperary GAA is most important and with people of this calibre the standard keeps rising in the Premier County. I cannot stress enough the importance of quality in the five people at the top table. In between Co Management and Co Committee meetings this "famous five" must meet on a regular basis and not leave the big day to day decisions to one or two.

During my term this has worked very well with everything out in the open between the five and meeting almost weekly. To all the "5's" and all the Co Management Committees I have worked with "Mile Buíochas". I have always enjoyed good relationships with our many Sub-Committees especially the Chairpersons of each and their reports in the County Convention books each year reflects the great work going on. Special mention to Semple Stadium Management which is a very special place for me. To Con, David, Padhraic, Toby, Tom Maher, Gerry, Ashling, Anna etc. who run a very smooth operation we should be very grateful to them for making us all so proud of our FBD Semple Stadium which despite trying times in recent years is still the "jewel" in the crown for Tipperary GAA. Dr Morris Park has been part of my life since the first pitches were purchased from Stevie Smee in the late 80's and I've been so much part of its progress and development over the past 30 years. The current building project in progress is the final piece of the jigsaw and when complete we will have everything, we need to prepare our inter-county teams to the highest standard. John Ryan (Holycross) has been part of that journey with me across all those years and we are so grateful for his commitment and loving care for the facility and like myself he will be so proud to see the finished product, hopefully at the end of 2023. Grounds men Pat O'Callaghan and Andy Fox daily keep Dr Morris Park looking splendid and we are very grateful for their dedication.

Finally, to my staff, colleagues in Lar Na Pairce who have shared the journey with me, not just for 16 years but some for 35 years since the outset of the County Draw. The first 17 years Martina Cleary was a key administrator figure in Tipperary Co Board, Semple Stadium and Tipperary GAA Draw and her warm and approachable personality made her very popular with all who dealt with her. Siobhain Barrett took over from Martina and has fitted seamlessly into that same administration role and has been a wonderful asset to Lar Na Pairce since her arrival 17 years ago. She has also decided to call it a day with the GAA and departs for a new career in the New Year and we wish her the very best of luck for her future journey. Karen and Maggie are the newest staff members and are both well capable of picking up where Siobhain left off. Karen runs the reception area and has grown in confidence in dealing with the public as well as dealing with match passes, programmes and supporting all her office colleagues in their respective roles. Maggie has embraced the IT brief courageously along with match ticket controls and will be a key figure in the future accounts administration in Lar Na Pairce.

Bernie's role in the administration of the payroll one day per week is critical as her knowledge of the system is invaluable especially during the summer when Cúl Camps involves the payment of an extra 100 staff (minimum). Marion is also part time and looks after the distribution of all team gear in her own inimitable way which is very much appreciated. Tom Maher's expertise on fixtures with club or Post Primary Schools ensures the smooth running of all our games and as event controller in FBD Semple Stadium his ever presence is a vital cog in the

efficient operation and the presentation of every game in the “Field of Legends”.

Our Coaching staff are a big part of our administration and their work with the Academy Squads, Schools and Juvenile club coaching has played a big part in recent successes. During the year we saw major changes with the retirement of Dinny Maher and the departure of Andy Ryan who both gave endless long hours to the Development of Coaching and games. We cannot thank them enough for their dedicated contribution and they have left their very positive stamp on Tipperary GAA. We also saw the departure of Mark Butler who was a new GDA for a few months in 2022 before he decided on a different career. We welcome on board new GDA's Denis O'Mahoney (Mid) and David Byrnes (West) and both have hit the ground running and working with Paudie Malone (North) and Tom Fitzgerald (South), led by County Games Manager Kevin Halley we have an excellent team in charge of Coaching and Games Development. Coaching officer Tom Dawson keeps a watchful eye on the whole operation, and we appreciate the impact he has had over the past five years.

### Crioch

Mar sin, tá sé in am dom bogadh ar aghaidh tar éis sé bhliain déag. Tréimhse fíor-gnóthach de mo shaol a bhí ann, nárbh fhéidir liom a shamhlú scór bliain ó shin. Éilíonn an ról mar rúnaí lán-aimseartha, fuinneamh, óigeantacht, scilleanna teichneolaíochta nua-aoiseach, cáilíochtaí atá cuí agus pearsantacht chun tuiscint a bheith ar na daoine deonacha sna clubanna agus na coistí go léir, gan tagairt ar éilimh na fóirne idir-chontae. Bhí aistear iontach agam ach tá sé in am an t-ualach a thíolacadh ar mo chomharba, Murtagh Ó'Braonáin, fear a bhfuil na riachtanais go léir aige an post a líonadh go héifeachtach agus CLG Thiobraid Árann a thabhairt ar aghaidh sa todhchaí. Guím gach rath air agus beidh mo thacaíocht iomlán ar fáil má tá sé ag teastáil uaidh.

Míle buíochas do gach éinne a chasadh orm le linn mo théarma agus a thug cabhair dom ar mo shlí. Ní bheidh mé mar strainséir agus táim ag tnúth le bualadh libh go hócáideach ag cluiche eigin nó ag imeachtaí ginearálta an lae.

*Go raibh míle, míle maith agaibh*



Incoming 2006 . . . . .15 years later Outgoing Secretary 2022