

# **YEARS TO REMEMBER**



**AN OUTLINE OF THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE G.A.A. IN THE PARISH OF CAPPAGH  
1904 - 1979**

*By* **BRENDAN HARKIN**

# YEARS TO REMEMBER

“Deeds of dead men that have bequeathed a trust to us living men. And we are young. And God has given us strength and courage. To play is to win, we have kept faith with the past, and handed a tradition to the future.”

With apologies to Padraig H. Pearse.

AN OUTLINE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE G.A.A. IN THE PARISH  
OF CAPPAGH WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO  
KILLYCLOGHER ST. MARY'S 1965-79.

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# INTRODUCTION

Those of us who are members of the G.A.A. have two things in common. One, we have a love for an organisation that is actively doing something about maintaining the Gaelicness of our pastimes and, two, we have probably inherited that love from our families or, at least, have had it developed for us by our friends and neighbours from an earlier generation.

In my own case I can, without any doubt, attribute my interest in the G.A.A. to my family and to the neighbourhood I spent my early boyhood in. Gaelic games were a way of life. We talked about them, read about them, tried to play them and, equally as important, heard about them. Stories of epic games in Donnelly's Field, the Forge Field and Gubbins' Field were such that those games took on the proportions of All Ireland Finals. If I were to say that it was like a religion with us then I could go on to say that Nugent's house in Castle-rodody was the place of worship where we listened to the Gospel according to Michael O Heithir. Sunday after Sunday we avidly read the G.A.A. pages of the Sunday papers and then joined the gathering of neighbours in Nugent's, presided over by the late Tommy Nugent. During the Provincial Championships the numbers were fairly small but had increased to a full house for the All Ireland Semi Finals and Final, both hurling and football. It was the same for the concluding stages of the National Leagues. Needless to say each game was "replayed" several times. It was an education too, to listen to those men analysing a game which they had only seen through the eyes of Michael O hEithir. The football stars of Tyrone, Galway, Cork, Louth, Derry, Kerry and Dublin and the

great hurling men of Wexford, Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny and Waterford quite literally became household names. The summer holidays were mainly spent playing football and, in the evenings, when the "big fellows" played in McSwiggan's, McCrory's or Monaghan's fields the small boys always turned up, hoping to be asked to play "to even out" the teams! Interest was further heightened by the success of the Down men in 1960 and 1961 and there were many evenings spent playing football in O'Doherty's field.

Although this early indoctrination in the G.A.A. failed to make me any more than an average club player, however it gave me such an interest in the Association that I became involved both as a player and an official with Killyclogher St. Mary's at its foundation in 1965. I am happy to say that I have maintained my links with the Club since that time. During this period I have been privileged to be associated with some of the finest men, men who have given their all in a voluntary capacity both as players and organisers. I think that we have contributed something to the life of the community.

To all who have played, promoted and supported Gaelic Games in our parish I dedicate these next pages, which, unfortunately, due to my own shortcomings and in some instances to a lack of information, do little justice to their great work. I must also give special mention to the womenfolk—the wives, mothers, sisters and girl friends who have had to suffer a G.A.A. enthusiast in the house, and these men certainly were enthusiasts. I hope that the young boys who are presently doing our parish proud both at football and hurling will carry their interest through to manhood and hand it on to the next generation.

## FOREWORD

THE histories of most clubs are to be found in some well-thumbed minute books; their traditions are established in the store house which is the memory of the senior citizens of the community; their accomplishments are richly embellished and greatly revitalised in the endless recounting of former days of glory. These are the yardsticks by which present day achievements are measured and which act as incentives to spur on the teams of the present to comparable greatness. Together with present day accomplishments they form an ever widening circle about which revolves the life and the very destiny of the club.

In the Parish of Cappagh there is a long, if at times broken, line of tradition of support for the G.A.A. since its foundation in 1884. The efforts of past generations have kept the interest in Gaelic Games alive. Those efforts are worthy of our admiration and should be recorded. The playing of Gaelic Games on an organised basis in our parish today is in itself a tribute to those men of earlier generations who gave support to the aims of the G.A.A.

The life of Killyclogher St. Mary's G.A.C. only dates back to 1965 while the present G.A.C. in Mountfield was formed as recently as 1974. So it is that the history of Killyclogher St. Mary's is still in the making; its traditions are still being laid down. Yet in so far as yesterday's events are today's memories and today's aspirations are tomorrow's realities so we can indulge in recounting the history of Killyclogher St. Mary's G.A.C. to date.

Such an account must begin with the early years . . .

## THE EARLY YEARS

“You are all earnestly requested to attend a meeting which will be held in Thurles on November 1, (1884), to take steps for the formation of a Gaelic Association for the preservation and cultivation of our national pastimes and for providing a national amusement for the Irish people during their leisure hours”. This was the invitation issued by Maurice Davin and Michael Cusack which launched the G.A.A. Maurice Davin was elected president and Michael Cusack, John McKay and John Wyse-Power elected as joint secretaries. His Grace, the Archbishop of Cashel, Most Reverend Dr. Croke, Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Davitt were invited to become patrons of the Association. All three accepted the invitation and through their public statements and writings did much to make the G.A.A. “acceptable”.

The new Association promoted Gaelic Games and Athletics. The Club was the basic unit and the aim was to have clubs organised on a county basis. Strong opposition came from an athletic organisation which was set up specifically to thwart the G.A.A. The G.A.A. met the challenge and came out on top with sports meetings being organised all over the country. Gaelic football and hurling flourished with the introduction of the now famous All Irelands. The extensive tour of America in 1888 and the trip to London in 1896 established the Association as a strong body. 1886 saw the first appearance of the Artane Boys Band at a Gaelic game. Minor and junior competitions were introduced and a drive to have

Gaelic games in our schools and colleges began at the turn of the century. It is interesting to note that a Strabane man, Dr. George Sigerson, presented a cup for competition among the Universities in 1911. This is not to say that it was all plain sailing for the new Association. Indeed internal differences which saw the end of both Michael Cusack and Maurice Davin as officials almost brought to a premature end the new Association. The differences were sorted out, the big national split over the Parnell affair was bridged and the administration was further strengthened by the setting up of the Provincial Councils in 1900. The Ulster Council was formed in 1903.

Gate receipts for the Kerry v. Louth replay of the final of the Dr. Croke Memorial Competition passed the £1,000 and the G.A.A. took advantage of its new financial position to buy the City and Suburban Grounds, Jones' Road, Dublin at a cost of just over £3,500. So Croke Park came into being in 1913. The 1916 Rising is remembered in Croke Park by Hill 16, which was formed by the rubble of the buildings which were shelled in Dublin. Gaelic Sunday, August 4th, 1918 showed the strength of the G.A.A. when games were organised all over Ireland to show the ineffectiveness of a Government ban. Bloody Sunday, November 21, 1921, marked one of the atrocities of the War of Independence when the British forces turned their guns on a crowd of spectators gathered

in Croke Park for a Dublin v. Tipperary Gaelic football game. Michael Hogan, a Tipperary footballer, was among the dead and the Hogan Stand is so named in his honour. The G.A.A. played a very important part in healing the split among Irish men following the Civil War. The Tailteann Games of 1924 brought together Irishmen from all over the world for a spectacular gathering in Croke Park for athletics,

hurling and football. The Games were repeated in 1928 and 1932.

These are but some of the highlights of the first 50 years of the G.A.A. Through television, radio and the papers we are all aware of the strength of the Association as it approaches its centenary year. The question is what effect did that historic meeting in Thurles in 1884 have on the parish of Cappagh?

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# A Double Contribution

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The spectacular growth of the G.A.A. in its first years began to wane in the 1890's. Connacht and Ulster had always been weak but now even the strong provinces of Munster and Leinster began to show signs of loosing ground. The decision of the Congress of 1900 to set up Provincial Councils could be said to have a twofold purpose—to consolidate the position in the stronger provinces and to try to develop and promote the games in the weaker provinces.

Tyrone ranked among the weak counties and even during the early years of the Association had never more than a few affiliated clubs and by the turn of the century had possibly only one, Stewartstown. The weakness of Ulster as a whole can possibly be gauged from the fact that the Ulster Council was not set up until 1903. When it was finally set up a Tyrone man, Mr. M. V. O'Nolan from Strabane, filled the position of Vice President and later became President.

The promotional role of the Ulster Council is evidenced by the visit of the President, Mr. Martin (Antrim) and the Secretary Mr. O'Kane (Derry) to a meeting in Dungannon to form Dungannon Emmetts Club and to promote the games in that area. Their visit bore results because, not only did the Emmetts become involved, but early in 1904 Coalisland Fianna and Donaghmore Eire Og became active. The Brian Og Club in Cookstown was also in existence at this time. In Clonoe there was the Fir an Cnuic Club and in Galbally the Irish Rapparees while in the north there were two clubs in Strabane, Lamh Dearg and Fag an Bealach.

In our own parish there was the St. Patrick's Club and in Omagh, Sarsfields (1905). All these clubs were active in the 1904-06 period and took part in the Tyrone Championships. My information leads me to believe that the first Champions were Coalisland Fianna at Senior level and a second Coalisland team, Eoghain Ruaidh, Junior Champions. The 1905 Championship was completed at Easter 1906 and the winners were Fag an Bealach, Strabane who defeated Eire Og Donaghmore at Omagh in a replay. The other teams in that year's Senior Championship were Fianna,



MR. V. O'NOLAN



Coalisland; Dungannon Emmetts; Strabane Lamh Dearg and our own St. Patrick's who fell to the eventual beaten finalists, Eire Og. In the Junior Championship Brian Og, Cookstown, Fir an Cnuic, Clonoe, Raparees Galbally; Sarsfields Omagh and second teams from Dungannon, Coalisland, Donaghmore and Killyclogher took part.

It is difficult to be dogmatic about this early period in Tyrone's G.A.A. history as with the passing of time friendly games and championship games often become confused. It is more the purpose of this article to examine the role played by our own parish and establish the claim made in the title of a double contribution.

First of all Tyrone's Chairman Mr. M. V. O'Nolan. His father was a music teacher in Omagh Model School and his mother was one of the Mellons of Eskeradoey in the Knockmoyle end of the parish (cf. "Oige an Dearthair" by C. O Nualáin). Michael Vincent O'Nolan was born in Mullaghmore and went to school in Killyclogher. Later the family moved to Belfast and Michael attended St. Malachy's School. When he graduated with a B.A. Degree he entered the Civil Service. To bring the story quickly up to the relevant date for us he eventually came to Strabane to work in the Customs and Excise Department. His great love for, and mastery of the Irish Language, was strengthened by visits to the Gaeltacht area of Donegal and he became a very active member of the Gaelic League, teaching a number of Irish classes and organising a Feis Mhór in Strabane in 1903. It was this same Gaelic enthusiast who helped to promote the G.A.A. both in Tyrone and in Ulster. He fired all he met with an enthusiasm for the Gaelic way of life and it is no coincidence that not only did the Gaelic League flourish in Strabane but so did the G.A.A. with great popular support for the two G.A.A. Clubs, Lamh Dearg and Fag an Bealach.

This parish can justifiably lay claim to this great gael, both because of his mother and because of his early childhood and education, and can justifiably feel proud of that claim.

To turn to the St. Patrick's Club. 1906

was a very successful year for this club, which drew its members from the Killyclogher-Mountfield areas. The following clubs took part in a Mid Tyrone Competition—Wolfe Tones (Beragh and Sixmilecross), United Gaels Leteree (Dromore area) Young Irelanders Aughtnamoe (Dromore area) Sarsfields (Omagh) and St. Patrick's (Killyclogher-Mountfield).

St. Patrick's defeated Leteree and then met Wolfe Tones. In the first meeting Wolfe Tones came out on top but a protest by St. Patrick's was upheld and the game refixed. This time St. Patrick's were victorious but Wolfe Tones objected and the game was again refixed. The problem was that by this time a date had been fixed for the final and Sarsfields were waiting for their opponents. The Committee decided that Wolfe Tones and St. Patrick's should replay and the winners play Sarsfields on the same day. So St. Patrick's took the field for the third time with Wolfe Tones and again won by a narrow margin. An hour later St. Patrick's faced Sarsfields and had a second victory on the same day to become Mid Tyrone Champions.

1906 was made even more memorable when the County Hurling Title was won. St. Patrick's had a great tussle with Aodh Rua Tummery and scored a narrow 0-11 to 0-9 victory but following a protest the game was refixed. St. Patrick's won the replay 4-3 to 2-6 and faced Lamh Dearg Strabane in the finals at Omagh. By all accounts it was a fast exciting final with St. Patrick's emerging victorious 0-7 to 0-4 to bring the first County Title to the parish. St. Patrick's remained a strong football and hurling force up to about 1909. The growth and improvement of hurling in the parish can be gauged by a look at the Tyrone Hurling Team of 1905 which lost to Donegal in the Ulster Championship. The team was mainly made up of Strabane Lamh Dearg players with a few from Sarsfields and Emmetts while St. Patrick's had just one representative one of the Angham brothers (Kerry men who were working in the Mountfield area. When Tyrone defeated Fermanagh in 1906 T. Angham, P. Angham, M. McGrath,

B. McGinn, C. Campbell and J. McCrory from the St. Patrick's Club were wearing the Tyrone jersey.

The success of the Mid Tyrone Competition led the County Board to set up a North League based in Strabane; a Mid League based in Omagh and an East-South League based in Dungannon. Although new Clubs like Carrickmore, Newtownstewart, Lisdhu, Pomeroy, Fintona, Craobh Rua Dungannon and Shamrocks Aughnacloy emerged between 1906 and 1909 the fortunes of the G.A.A. in Tyrone faltered to such an extent that from 1910 to 1915 it was practically non-existent. When an effort was made to revive the G.A.A. and set up a strong County Board about this time our parish was again represented by Killyclogher.

East and West Leagues were set up by the new Board and the following were affiliated—East: Dungannon, Coalisland, Stewartstown, Moy, Pomeroy, Cookstown, Mullinahoe, Killybearn, Ballinderry, Donaghmore, Clonoe. West: Killyclogher, Carrickmore, Sixmilecross, Fintona Davitts, Fintona Pearses, Killskeery, Augher, Ballygawley.

When the history of the G.A.A. in Tyrone is being written the name of St. Patrick's must figure highly. This Club brought

honour and glory to our parish also and the names of those involved should be recorded. Officials of the Club seem to have been Master McCullagh, H. McGartland, M. Gubbins, N. Devlin, J. McSorley and M. Gorman and the following players contributed to the success of the Club both on the hurling and football fields: James McGinn, Barney McGinn, Thomas Angham, Patrick Angham, John Doherty, John Curran, Paddy McCaffrey, Mark McGrath, Hugh McGartland, Andy McCarroll, John McCrory, Joseph McCrory, Patrick McCrory, John Donnelly, John Daly, Charles McCrea, P. McCann, J. Deary, Tom Brown, Barney Donaghey, J. Rodgers.

Fund raising functions were organised in Killyclogher, Mountain View School, Mountfield and Recarson School and games were played both in Killyclogher and in Mountfield.

An interesting sequel is that the McGinn Family was represented in the St. Mary's team of the mid to late thirties and also in the St. Mary's team which won promotion to senior grade in 1979. The fame of the O'Nolan family took on a national and even international importance through the literary works of Brian O'Nolan (Myles na Gopaleen), a son of Michael, the Tyrone Chairman.



**THE EARLY ST. PATRICKS**

Mid Tyrone Football Champions, County Hurling Champions, and McAnespey Cup Winners.

# *The Twenties*

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## ARVALEE AND BELTONY

The early 20s saw Arvalee Emmetts as parish representatives and games with Ballygawley, Eskra, Trillick, Fintona and Mullaghslin are recalled as men like Bobby Maguire, John McBride, Bobby Brannigan, Michael McCollum, John McCollum, Mickey McDermott, Barney McAleer, Paddy Gormley, John Thomas McGuigan battled for honours in McAleer's field or McBride's field. It is also worth recording that Gaelic football was also played in Knockmoyle and in Donnelly's field in Castleroddy but this was on an area basis only and they did not become affiliated Clubs. Players like Barney McGrath, Jack McGrath, Jimmy Doak, Jimmy O'Donnell, Tommy Thompson, Paddy Coyle and Master Gallagher helped Knockmoyle while Eddie O'Hagan, Patrick O'Hagan, Dan O'Lone, John Kelly, Bobby Craig and Paddy Taggart were prominent for Castleroddy. One area team that did take the step of becoming a fully affiliated club was Beltony Sarsfields. This club was based in Beltony, where the Knockmoyle end of the Parish of Cappagh borders on Newtownstewart and Dregish. Like most good rural clubs a few families were very prominent in the affairs of the club. In the case of Beltony the Cannings, Connollys and McMackins played leading roles. The games were played in a field of Connolly's near the Half Way House and funds were raised through Sports Meetings and Concerts in Beltony School. James Connolly recalls that they first kicked a leather cover filled with grass and then purchased a fine hand-sewn ball in McGread's the saddlers in John Street,

Omagh. They then became possessors of a nice set of yellow jerseys. Charlie Canning, later Fr. Canning, did most of the secretarial work. Players to the fore for Beltony included Willie Canning, Charlie Canning, James Connolly, John Connolly, Victor McMackin, Gabriel McMackin, Charlie McMackin, Johnny Maguire, Eddie McCullagh, John McAleer, Hughie Harkin, Barney Molloy, Jim McCrea, Cormac O'Neill, Eddie O'Neill.

Arvalee Emmetts disbanded mainly due to lack of young players and also because of a dispute over a drawn game, but some of the players continued with other clubs. Mick and John McCollum played for Beltony Sarsfields. 1928 and 1929 saw the following clubs affiliated in Tyrone: Beltony, Trillick, Fintona and Omagh; Ballygawley, Sixmilecross, Coalisland, Donaghmore and Dungannon; Ballymurphy, Stewartstown, Moortown, Clonoe and Cookstown playing in divisions of the Senior League. Beragh, the Academy, Moy, Coalisland, St. Patrick's Dungannon, Craobh Rua Dungannon and Rossa Donaghmore; Moortown, Ardboe, Mountjoy and Cookstown formed divisions of the Junior League.

Omagh seemed to have come in and out of the League during the latter part of the 20s as did Eskra. Travel problems and the lack of fixtures were a big problem in this period. Indeed an effort was made in mid-1929 to have a special league for Beltony, Omagh, Beragh and Fintona. In this decade the Hurling flag was carried by Arvalee and Killyclogher.

# The Thirties

## KILLYCLOGHER AND MOUNTFIELD

The previous two decades had been marked with events of both national and international importance. Home Rule agitation, the First World War 1914-18; the 1916 Rising; the Sinn Fein success in the 1918 General Election; the War of Independence, the Treaty and Partition, followed by the Civil War which ended in 1923. With families split by internment, men "on the run" and a period of General economic depression it is hardly surprising that the G.A.A. was faltering in this part of Ireland.

In the early thirties there was a big drive to promote the G.A.A. throughout the Six Counties. Cardinal McRory made an impassioned appeal for support in 1931 and public meetings were organised. At

a meeting in Beragh in September 1931 Fintona, Augher, Eskra and Beragh decided to form a league. There then followed a big meeting in Eskra at the end of October attended by Mr. B. Fay, the Ulster Council Secretary, and Mr. Tohill, the Tyrone County Secretary, with the aim of developing the G.A.A. in West Tyrone. The G.A.A. was of course still very much alive in Tyrone but was getting support mainly from the eastern part of the county.

The result of the meeting was that the West Tyrone Board came into being with Chairman: J. Higgins, Ballygawley; Vice-Chairmen: P. Donnelly, Fintona and P. McEtee, Eskra; Secretary F. J. McGurn, Beragh and Treasurer F. Kerr, Beragh. The following Clubs were affiliated to the



**A LEAGUE TEAM OF THE EARLY THIRTIES**

Back Row. L. to R. E. Kelly, J. O'Lone, E. Quinn, E. McMullin, G. Harkin, L. McKinney, P. McSwiggan, F. McGowan.  
Front Row. L. to R. H. Tierney, J. Maguire, J. Kelly, M. McCrory, T. Kerr, J. O'Reilly, J. Carmichael.

new board: Fintona Pearses, Augher Young Irishers, Beragh Sons of the Gael (formerly Shamrocks), Eskra Emmets, Altamuskin St. Patrick's and Dregish Harps. Part of the affiliation fee was to go to the County Board to ensure its jurisdiction over the new board. Fee: 12 shillings (60p) and 2 shillings (10p) of this to go to the County Board. However as it was so late in the year it was decided to set a fee of 2 shillings and 6 pence (12½p) with 1 shilling (5p) of this to go to the County Board. It was also decided that the Ballygawley Club which was already in existence and was in that year's County Final would not suffer any loss in personnel.

A successful league was then got under way.

The West Tyrone Convention was held in January 1932 in Eskra with the Ulster Council Secretary again in attendance and the office bearers were unanimously re-elected.

Fr. M. Collins called a meeting to set up a club in Killyclogher in January 1932 and following a successful discussion the

following office bearers and committee were elected: Fr. Collins, James McGinn, Charles McCrory, Secretary and Thomas Byrne, Treasurer. Members of Committee: H. McGartland, M. McGinn, J. McCrory, B. McLvor, P. McGale, J. McGeery and J. McMackin.

Challenge games were arranged with Altamuskin and Dregish and the following were among the first to wear the colours of the new Killyclogher St. Mary's: H. McEnhill, P. Daly, M. McCollum, L. McKinnev, P. McSwiggan, T. Kerr, J. Maguire, P. McEnhill, E. Kelly, G. Harkin, M. McCrory, H. Tierney, J. Carmichael, J. McCrory, J. Kelly, J. Reilly, E. Quinn, J. Donnelly. The first league game resulted in defeat at the hands of Fintona in March 1932 on a score of 2.2 to 1.3. As the league progressed Killyclogher drew on a wider panel of players and soon had a well balanced team. During that year Mr. H. K. McAleer, M.P. presented a Cup for a knock out competition and Killyclogher's good form coincided with the beginning of this competition, the McAleer Cup. By October

#### McALEER CUP WINNERS 1932



Back Row. L to R. G. McDonald, J. Kelly, J. Tracey, M. McCrory, E. Kelly, P. McSwiggan, L. McKinney, T. Duggan.

Front Row. L to R. T. Kerr, J. McGuire, H. Tierney, Rev. Fr. Collins, J. Reilly, F. McGowan, J. Carmichael. Some players were missing when photograph was taken. See above for full list of players.

the semi final stage was reached and Killyclogher played Omagh, with Newtownstewart and Fintona in opposition. Newtownstewart defeated Fintona but Killyclogher and Omagh played an exciting draw 2.3 to 1.6. Killyclogher had to make up a 7 point deficit at half time to earn the draw. In a hard struggle at Newtownstewart Killyclogher won the replay by a single point 1.2 to 1.1. Killyclogher then went on to defeat Newtownstewart in the Final 3.4 to 1.6. The players who figured in the semi final and final were: G. Harkin, J. Maguire, J. Kelly, F. McGowan, L. McKinney, P. McSwiggan, P. McCollum, T. Kerr, J. Reilly, W. Carmichael, E. Kelly, M. McCrory, J. Tracey and H. Tierney, the captain. The team was trained by James McDaid. Attendance at the final was in excess of 1,000 people and both teams were treated to tea by the Killyclogher ladies. There was also a presentation Ceili in Killyclogher that night. A high point of the game was the parade led by Killyclogher Band.

The G.A.A. appeal certainly did not fall on deaf ears in West Tyrone as a look at the number of Clubs in 1932 will show: Senior: Augher, Aghafad, Altamuskin, Beragh, Carnalea, Carrickmore, Dregish, Eskra, Fintona, Killyclogher, Newtownstewart, Omagh, Tattysallagh. Junior: Beragh II, Carrickmore II, Castlederg, Clady, Drumquin, Fintona II, Greencastle, Gortin, Killyclogher II, Newtownstewart II, Omagh II, Plumbridge and Sion Mills. A tremendous increase from 1931 and one which was inspired by the office bearers of the West Tyrone Board, named earlier, as well as by the great "Recruiting" priests Fr. M. Collins, Fr. T. Bradley and Fr. J. McGilligan.

Further high points in 1932 were the playing of an East v. West challenge game and a Tyrone v. Fermanagh Challenge. Both games were played in Killyclogher's new field kindly made available to the club by the Gubbins family and attracted crowds of over 2,000 people. That same year saw the visit of Kerry and Wexford to Coalisland for an exhibition game which was widely supported.

In November 1932 Fr. Collins presided over a meeting in Mountfield and a new club was formed which became affiliated to the West Tyrone Board and played the first league game in February 1933. Those who helped with the formation of the Mountfield Club were: Peter McKeegan, Peter McAnena, Treasurer; J. Reardon, Secretary and Committee members: Pat Daly, Patrick Gorman, James McDermott, and John McGlinchey. The new team played Killyclogher II in a friendly in December. The following were among the players who played for Mountfield over the next few years: P. Daly, J. Gorman, N. Gorman, D. Gorman, P. Gorman, P. Floyd, W. Floyd, J. McDermott, D. McGrath, F. McKenna, M. Coyle, B. McVeigh, J. McGlinchey, J. Campbell, P. Campbell, W. Duggan, J. Duggan, J. Donaghey, J. Gallagher, J. McPike, W. Davey, H. O'Brien, W. Carmichael, H. McCrystal, J. Carlin, J. McAleer, Peter McAnena and Peter McKeegan were the driving power behind the Club.

In 1933 Killyclogher, Omagh, Dromore, Fintona, Beragh, Carrickmore, Trillick, Eskra and Altamuskin formed the Senior League. The Junior League was made up of Mountfield, Killyclogher II, Fivemiletown, Sixmilecross, Tattysallagh, Omagh II, Tattyreagh, Augher, Greencastle, Fintona II and Dromore II. A new North Tyrone League was formed by Dregish, Newtownstewart, Clady, Plumbridge, Cranagh, Sion Mills, Melmount, Drumquin and Gortin.

Killyclogher, the holders, defeated Dromore in the Semi Final of the McAleer Cup, 1933 while old rivals Omagh beat Trillick in the other semi final. In the final, played in St. Patrick's Park, Omagh had revenge for the 1932 semi final defeat. The following played for Killyclogher in the semi final and final: G. Harkin, J. O'Lone, J. Kelly, P. McSwiggan, J. Maguire, J. Reilly, E. McMullin, E. Kelly, L. McKinney, M. McCrory, P. Murray, J. Tracey, E. McGowan, J. Carmichael, E. Quinn and H. Tierney. There was also a District Summer League that year made up

of Beragh, Cranny, Killyclogher, Omagh, Tattyreagh and Newtownstewart.

The growth of the G.A.A. continued in 1934 and the following office bearers and committee members ensured the success of Killyclogher: Fr. Collins, J. Slevin, H. Tierney, P. Fullerton, J. McGowan, F. Burns, J. McKinney, L. McKinney, J. Kelly, C. McCrory, J. Duggan and H. McGartland. That year too saw a Camogie Club formed (see separate section on camogie) and Irish Language classes flourished in Knockmoyle and Killyclogher. Ceilís were regularly organised and plays and concerts with local talent were put on. "Tactis" and "The Down Express" were two of the productions about this time. In Mountfield the Club continued to flourish and Mountfield competed in the Junior League up until 1936.

The Dregish Club disbanded during 1934 and some Dregish players declared for Killyclogher. By 1936 these men were important members of the team as some of the '32-'33 McAleer Cup team had retired or were no longer available. In 1936 the McAleer Cup was played on an all-county basis and Killyclogher won the West section defeating Beragh in the final. In the Final they faced Ardboe and ran out

convincing winners. Those who played in the West Final and Final proper were: H. McGrath, P. Rodgers, R. O'Kane, E. Quinn, E. McMullin, P. Friel, E. McGowan, F. McKenna, H. Begley, P. Quinn, B. Rafferty, D. McCrossan, M. McCrory, H. Tierney, T. O'Kane.

This year too saw some interesting hurling clashes with Glassmullagh, Enniskillen and Coa and the hurling stars were: B. McCaul, P. Brett, H. Flannagan, F. McGale, P. McGinn, J. Tracey, A. Kerr, B. Kerr, J. Gubbins, J. Donaghey, J. Devine, J. Gunn, W. Flannagan, J. McGinn, F. Curry, H. McGrath, J. McCaul.

The Junior football team, which contained a good number of those who also played in the Senior team and helped to win the McAleer Cup, also performed well and reached both the Semi Final of the Herald Cup and the Junior Final. Players involved in these two games included: M. McCollum, P. McGinn, P. McSwiggan, J. Carmichael, P. Rodgers, E. Kelly, T. Kerr, M. Coyle, H. Begley, Leo Kelly, Lawrence Kelly, B. Rafferty, H. Tierney, G. McKinney, J. Garety, C. Doherty, P. Cunningham, J. Reilly, J. McCollum and J. Conway.

Officers of the Killyclogher Club were:

#### THE "THIRTIES" PLAYERS AT A CELEBRATION NIGHT ON 17th MARCH, 1978



Back Row. L to R. P. Friel, P. Quinn, D. McCrossan, J. McGuire, E. Quinn.  
Front Row. L to R. G. McDonald, B. Rafferty, E. McMullin, J. Reilly, M. McCrory.

Chairman: F. Burns, V. Chairman: A. Kerr, Secretary: J. McGowan and Treasurer H. Tierney. Killyclogher, Omagh, Beragh, Fintona, Augher, Dromore, Carrickmore and Aghnacloy formed the Senior League. Trillick came in during the year and Aghnacloy went out. The Junior League was made up of: Mountfield, Killyclogher II, Greencastle, Omagh II and Gortin. With Castlederg, Plumbridge, Cranagh and later Gortin in another section. Mountfield and Omagh II withdrew during the year. Brackey on the borders of our parish, came into existence with Owens, Ward, Daly, Maguire, McCullagh, Begley and Kerr to the fore.

High point of the 1937 season was reaching the final of the McAleer Cup where Omagh provided the opposition. Killyclogher the holders, lost on a score of 2.5 to 2.1 but following a protest the game was refixed. In the refixed final in August 1937 Omagh again came out on top 2.9 to 1.7. The Killyclogher panel of players: M. McCollum, P. McGinn, P. McSwiggan, H. McGarvey, R. O'Kane, E. McGowan, D. McCrossan, B. Rafferty, C. Doherty, J. Tracey, M. McCrory, Leo Kelly, Lawrence Kelly, P. McGread, P. Quinn, N. Gorman, P. Teague, J. McCann, K. Quigley, F. McKenna, P. Daly, H. Kelly, H. McGrath and E. McMullin.

The coming to an end of the thirties brought an end to Killyclogher's period as a senior force in West Tyrone. The effort of the early and mid thirties had begun to falter and by 1940 had almost petered out. The outbreak of World War II and the accompanying rationing and restrictions were factors in the decline from 1939 onwards. In spite of Killyclogher's efforts to promote youth football there was very little competition in West Tyrone and it was very difficult to find replacements for the older players. Before leaving the thirties we must record the performance of Knockmoyle Erin's Hopes in winning a district competition which included teams from Tattysallagh, Tattysreagh, Drumquin, Omagh and Mullaghmore. The Erin's Hope team was a combination of Knockmoyle and those Dregish players referred to earlier who had contributed much to the success of Killyclogher St. Mary's. The panel of players included: D. McCrossan, R. O'Kane, C. Rodgers, H. McGarvey, J. G. Maguire, J. O'Lone, C. Maguire, W. Barr, J. McDaid, Fr. J. J. McGrath, Fr. J. Moss, G. Rodgers, T. Monaghan, J. McGuigan, H. Gormley, W. Devlin. Barney McGrath and Jack McGrath gave the team good support as did Jimmy Doak. The first games were played in Wilson's field and then the team moved to Forge Field in Ergenagh.

**KNOCKMOYLE CAPPAGH ERIN'S HOPE—Winners of Omagh and District Summer Competition**



Back Row. L to R. Hugh McGarvey, John O'Lone, Hugh Gormley, Charlie Rodgers, John O'Connor, Roddy O'Kane, Fr. J. J. McGrath, Jimmy Doak.  
 Front Row. L to R. Gerry Rodgers, Willie Barr, Charlie Maguire, Dan McCrossan, John McDaid, Tommy Monaghan. (For full panel of players see above article).



## The Winning of the Cup

The sixteenth of September, a date to recall,  
When the Cup it was won by our team from  
Knockmoyle.

This team when in form I can actually swear  
Brian Ogs or the Pearses, there's none  
to compare,

With their swift moving actions, and skill  
of the game,

When they beat Brian Ogs, they  
arose up to fame,

Now as they lined out for this last final  
stroke,

Mullaghmore Kevin Barrys against  
Erin's Hope.

The whistle it sounded the ball  
thrown in,

Amidst much excitement, the game did  
begin,

Mullaghmore gained possession, towards  
our goals they were going

But their pass was intercepted by big  
Ginger O'Lone.

Two Mullaghmore forwards he somehow  
did evade

Then sent a beautiful pass over to  
J. J. McDaid.

Now McDaid knew his job, he wasn't so  
slow,

Sending a perfect cross over to "Blondie"  
John Joe,

The quick-thinking John Joe, one must  
admire,

With that flick of a pass to young  
Charlie Maguire.

This nippy wee forward our favourite  
Star

With his "kittry" left soon tipped  
over the bar.

Kevin Barry's kick out, it wasn't too far,  
Landed right in the arms of young  
Willie Barr,

From Barr to McGarvey, oh boy, what  
a game,

From McGarvey to Hugh Gormley on to  
Roddy O'Kane,

O'Kane on to Gerry Rodgers, who stood  
there all set,

With that stinging pile driver, to the  
back of the net,

The cheers of the fans, I hear them yet  
still.

Erin's Hope now one-one; Kevin Barrys  
had nil.

But Kevin Barrys they rallied, the score  
seven - nine

When the whistle it sounded for the  
first half of the time.

When the second half started it was plain to  
be seen,

That Ginger McCrory was still on the  
scene,

For now Kevin Barrys had took on a new  
look,

Urged on by this warrior who had every  
trick in the book,

Kevin Barrys now had took on a new life  
And before many minutes had found the  
net twice,

For poor Jamie Rodgers who stood there  
in the goal,

From all angles bombarded, how his eyes  
they did roll,

With my pal Mick Maguire this so injured  
our pride

Wandered off through the crowd, ourselves  
for to hide.

Now when we came back it was hard for  
to heed,  
Erin Hope once again had gone into the  
Lead,  
Tommy Monaghan, from Reaghan, some  
he did scare,  
Broke up a passing movement and  
passed on to Barr,  
Barr to G. Rodgers, no we were not  
yet beat,  
Lefty Maguire, he stuck her in the net,  
In the last dying seconds lo and behold,  
It was Lefty again with a well taken goal,  
What tremendous applause, on those green  
grassy slopes,  
When the cup was handed over to our  
own Erin's Hopes.

That night to the village, from far and  
near they all came,  
To a spot that's well known as "the head  
of the lane",  
A big bonfire was lighted how the flames  
they did shine,  
On the Cup which now glittered and filled  
up with wine,  
Three cheers for our heroes, three cheers  
for you all,  
To our own Erin's Hopes who brought the  
cup to Knockmoyle.

By the late Jimmy O'Neill,  
Knockmoyle

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# The Forties and Fifties

## KILLYCLOGHER AND CAPPAGH (Knockmoyle)

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In 1944 Killyclogher fielded for a time in a section of the Senior League containing the following teams: Killyclogher, Omagh, Fintona, Dromore and Trillick. Another section was made up of: Carrickmore, Clogher, Ballygawley and Altamuskin. The following players assisted Killyclogher in this period: M. McCrory, F. McGowan, P. Quinn, H. Kerr, L. McEnhill, P. McBride, J. McKenna, C. Doherty, E. Quinn, M. Cunningham, P. McGirr, E. McGrath, B. McGale, P. Sharkey, C. Kerr, P. McGinn, P. Daly, J. Hynes, J. McAleer, J. McEnhill, V. Pritchard, J. McTaggart, F. Kelly, R. O'Kane.

In 1945 Mullaghmore fielded in the West Tyrone Junior League but, like the Killyclogher team which followed in the late forties, the best efforts of J. McTaggart, E. McCaffrey, B. McCalk, E. Quinn, E. McBride, E. Daly, S. Maguire, J. Maguire, J. Gormley, E. McCrory, J. McAleer, E. Gillen, J. McEnhill, M. Gillen, A. Kerr and C. Doherty were in vain and the team withdrew from the competition.

An effort was made to revive the Killyclogher Club in the late forties and home games were played in Mullaghmore. Men like Eddie McMullin, Kevin Mullan, Jack McEnhill and Frank McQuaid tried to promote the new club but as Junior Competition was poor in West Tyrone, due to the few teams taking part, the Club only survived a couple of years in spite of the best efforts of the following players: F. McQuaid, E. McMullin, K. Mullan, D. Mullan, J. McEnhill, P. J.

Gormley, M. McAleer, M. Hunter, V. McGaughey, F. Lilley, M. Kirke, B. Kirke, J. McGaughey, N. McGaughey, M. McCrory, T. McGartland, G. Traynor, W. Judge, M. Nugent, J. Maguire, S. Maguire, M. McGrath, E. McCrory, T. McCrory.

The forties were marked by a great Gaelic revival in the Knockmoyle area, and outstanding successes were recorded at Feiseanna in both dancing and language. A Hurling Club was also formed with the first games being played at Castleroddy in Donnelly's Field and then at the Forge Field in Ergenagh. Father McLaughlin gave good encouragement to the hurling revival and Michael Cunningham provided much of the driving force behind the Club. Early success in the shape of County Title in 1947 ensured the rapid development of the Club. Office bearers of Cappagh Hurling Club for 1948: Chairman: Patrick Cunningham, Vice Chairman: Michael Donnelly, Treasurer: Patrick O'Hagan, Secretary: Michael Cunningham. Early playing members included T. McCrory, B. McCaul, P. O'Lone, M. O'Lone, J. Gallagher, E. McCrory, D. Flannagan, M. Nugent, J. McGeoghan, D. McGrath, M. Cunningham, C. Cunningham, S. Maguire, J. Maguire, W. Judge, P. Nugent, B. Sharkey, G. Traynor. As can easily be seen from a check with the Killyclogher panel of '48 and '49 a number of these players were also playing football for Killyclogher. So when the Killyclogher Club disbanded it was a natural step for the Cappagh Club to become a dual club, competing in the Junior Football

League and Championship as well as in Hurling Competitions at both adult and youth level. A good Hurling League made up of: Cappagh, Omagh, Tummery, Sion Mills, Ballyfatton, Leckpatrick and Strabane as well as teams in Dungannon, Moortown and Clonoe ensured the success of the hurling revival (see separate section on hurling for fuller details).

In their first year in Junior Football 1950, Cappagh lost in the County Final to Moortown. The following year, 1951 saw Cappagh win the Davis Cup and victory over Newtownstewart at Pomeroy meant that the Cup was retained in 1952. The Club existed between 1950-54 but lack of competition was a big drawback as was the clash of fixtures with the hurling team. There were some interesting clashes, notably with teams like Newtownstewart, Aughabrack, Cranagh, Greencastle and Urney as well as opponents from the eastern part of the county like Moortown and the Moy in county finals. The following players played a big part in the success of the Cappagh Football team: D. Rodgers, B. Sharkey, J. Maguire, S. Maguire, S. McGrath, M. McGrath, P. McGrath, E. McCrory, P. McCrory, T. McCrory, W. Moore, D. McGrath, P.

McCullagh, M. Nugent, M. Cunningham, F. Sharkey, C. Mulcahey, W. Judge, F. Devlin, J. O'Lone and P. O'Lone.

The break up of this club marked the end of organised hurling and football in the parish until the present Killyclogher St. Mary's was founded in 1965. Teams from the Killyclogher and Knockmoyle areas did participate for a few years in area competitions, organised by Omagh St. Enda's at both adult and youth level in the intervening period.

Many of those who helped to promote the G.A.A. in our parish have gone to their eternal reward and I am sure they are happy because they were good men who were prepared to make personal sacrifices to organise and play Gaelic games and to enrich the life of the community. To all those who helped to promote, play and support our games in the past we owe a great debt. Here I especially include those whose names have been inadvertently omitted from the previous pages. Without their efforts in the past it is doubtful if we would have a Club at the present...

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# THE REVIVAL

On Sunday 28th February, 1965, a meeting was held in Killyclogher School to establish a Gaelic Club in the Parish. Attendance at the meeting was good and it was decided to apply to the County Board for registration of a club and admittance of a team to official competitions. Some local clubs felt that any new team would deprive them of present members and there was also some opposition at board level as it was felt there were sufficient clubs in the area. It was also pointed out that the parish name, Cappagh, would cause confusion as there was a Cappagh team in the Pomeroy area in the late fifties. The name was changed to Killyclogher and the application persevered with until the new club was officially accepted on the 5th April, 1965.

The first Junior League game resulted in defeat at the hands of Gortin on 11th April and the first league point was gained by virtue of a draw with Ballygawley II on 25th April at Cloughfin on a score of 0.4 to 1.1 and two further points were picked up on the 2nd May when Ballygawley II were defeated in McCrossan's Field, Killyclogher 2.7 to 1.6.

In that year's Championship, Killyclogher fell to Strabane, although in the league Killyclogher defeated them and went on to finish in the runners-up position to League Champions, Gortin. The team that carried Killyclogher's hopes on the playing field in 1965 was comprised of experience and youth in a mixture, which with the passing of time, was to mellow into a winning blend.

In goals was Eamon Burns, a newcomer to competitive football, who was also a hard

working member of the committee. The defence was built around the experienced Peter Quinn, a princely full back, who was an inspiration to the rest of the team. He was usually flanked by two stalwart and reliable members of the Club, Hugh McAleer and Johnny Haughey. The defence was completed by three more newcomers to this sort of football—Kevin McGrath, Pat O'Donnell and Eugene McCallion. At midfield the craft and ability of Basil Neville and Dan McSwiggan gave Killyclogher more than an even break in this sector. The attack usually featured some combination of industrious Eugene Quinn, experienced Ciaran Murphy and Thady McAleer and four juveniles—Brendan Harkin and Pat McBride, who were both on the committee, Eamon Meenan, later to become the first member of the new club to play for Tyrone, and Eugene Taggart who was equally at home in the defence. Dessie Brannigan turned in some great performances early in the year while Brendan McSorley, a star of Killyclogher's later success, made his appearance in the middle of the season. Paddy Quinn, who was to do so much for Killyclogher both on and off the field, also came on to the team during the year as did Seamus Harkin who later worked for the club both as an official and a manager. The panel was further supplemented by players like Gregory McAleer, Tom McMullan, Eamon McGirr, Pat Stankard, Ted McMenamin, Henry O'Connor and Ignatius McCollum, a hard working member of later Killyclogher committees. These players were again to prove their worth to the club when they had

a part in helping Killyclogher to field two teams from 1969.

For all who played for Killyclogher in 1965, the common denominator was a pride in wearing the Killyclogher jersey: the underlying principle was a determination to succeed. Their achievements on the field have long since been surpassed by other Killyclogher teams but by their spirit and determination they set a precedent and raised a standard against which the performances of all subsequent Killyclogher teams should be gauged.

After some initial changing, the officers and committee which steered Killyclogher through 1965 read:

Chairman: Mick McCrory,  
Vice-Chairman: Joe O'Connor,  
Secretary: Brendan Harkin,  
Treasurer: Pat McBride.

Committee: Frank McGuire, Eamon Burns and Packie McGinn. Here there was some connection with the past for Packie McGinn, Joe O'Connor and Mick McCrory had associations with past teams. Mick McCrory was a member of "the thirties" team and Packie McGinn had also played towards the end of that era. Joe O'Connor had kept football alive in Killyclogher both as a player and later as an official of the youth teams which took part in the Omagh District Leagues of the fifties.

With the new club he was to prove himself to be a dedicated worker and served teams as Chairman and Treasurer as well as Manager. Michael Coyle and John Bradley, who had done so much on his own initiative for youth football in the Mountfield area, also gave encouragement to the new Killyclogher St. Mary's G.A.C. which was representative of the whole parish of Cappagh both in its playing personnel and in its committee. Rev. Fr. McGinn was honorary president and also a hard working member of the committee.

For 1966 the committee was strengthened by the election on the 16th January of men like Basil Neville, Dan McSwiggan, Hugh McAleer, Thady McAleer, Paddy Quinn, Eddie McMullan (R.I.P.) and Raymond Livingstone. The playing strength was

greatly increased by the addition of Mickey McGrath, Sean O'Kane, John McKinney, Nicholas Walsh, Richard Herbert, Gerry McGirr, Sean Meenan, later selected for Tyrone, and Kieran McCrory, who was to go on to play a big part in the committee work of the club. For the second successive year, Killyclogher finished in second place in the West Tyrone Junior League, won by Newtown Stewart. However, it was in this year too, that the first real crisis came. It came on Sunday 10th July, 1966 in the shape of defeat in the Championship by Omagh II at Cloughfin on a score of 0.6 to 2.6 and it was the result, not so much as the defeat itself, as of the way the team was defeated. For the first time spirit and determination were lacking and there was even a poor turn out of players. A general air of despondency ensued which was further exasperated by the non-fulfilment of league fixtures by other teams. However, due mainly to the efforts of Paddy Quinn and Joe O'Connor the committee convened for a special meeting. This meeting was held in Paddy Quinn's house on Tuesday, 6th September, 1966. It is worth recording the members present as the decisions taken that night had a great bearing on the future of the club. Present were: Rev. Fr. McGinn, Joe O'Connor, Paddy Quinn, Hugh McAleer, Basil Neville, Thady McAleer, Dan McSwiggan, Eamon Burns and Brendan Harkin.

The meeting was lengthy and at times heated but always constructive in that each person aired his views without reservation. The outcome of it all was the decision to hold a one-day Tournament as it was felt that this would revive the flagging spirit. Sunday September 18th was the date set and in addition to the tournament featuring Ballygawley II, Beragh II, Newtown Stewart and Killyclogher it was agreed that Children's Sports should also be organised. The day's proceedings were to get under way with a camogie match between Ballygawley and newly formed Killyclogher team. When the decision was reached Fr. McGinn, who of all present had possibly said the least in the course of the lengthy discussion, gave his whole hearted

approval. It was obvious that he had favoured such a decision all along the line but had not wanted to influence the committee in arriving at it. This was typical of the way in which he gave a lead as it were from the back not only at this but at other club meetings. He always wanted the committee to be self sufficient and encouraged it to make practical decisions.

At this juncture, it would be opportune to pay tribute to the assistance given to the club by Fr. McGinn and by all the priests of the Parish. Through the co-operation of Fr. Kelly the expenses for the first year were met by Ceilis in Knockmoyle Hall. The Presentation Ceili following the Tournament was also held there. The Parish Priest, Fr. Dolan, R.I.P. always gave the club his full support and played an important role in helping to establish the Social Centre. His successor, Fr. Chapman, also took an interest in the affairs of the Club and gave the committee a free hand to organise functions. The present Parish Priest, Fr. Murray and the curates, Fr. Doherty, Fr.

Farrell and Fr. Canning, in spite of a huge financial commitment at Parochial level, always encourage and help the Club in every way.

To return to 1966, the players responded to the efforts of the committee by turning out in full for a challenge game on Sunday, 11th September and assisted greatly in the organising of the Tournament and sports the following Sunday. It was this tournament and the effort put into it which changed Killyclogher from a team into a club—with all the sense of responsibility: belonging to; being a member of, entailed by the concept of club. The transformation was completed by a good performance in that year's McIllduff Cup.

In 1967 new players had emerged in Eugene Maguire, R. J. Catterson and Jim Bannon, who also took a great interest in the general organisation of the club. That year, 1967, saw the West Tyrone Junior League played in two sections. Killyclogher were winners of their section with full points from twelve games, while Tattyreagh won the other section. So Killyclogher and

#### 1966 TOURNAMENT TEAM



Back Row. L to R. Joe O'Connor, Brendan McSorley, Dan McSwiggan, Hugh McAleer, Eamon Burns, Eugene Taggart, Sean O'Kane, Brendan Harkin, Raymond Livingstone.  
Front Row. L to R. Nicholas Walsh, Paddy Quinn, Richard Herbert, Basil Neville, Johnny Haughey, Kieran Murphy, Pat O'Donnell.

A few players who played in the final against Newtownstewart were missing when the photograph was taken

Tattyreagh met in a play off to determine the league winners and these same two teams contested the semi-final of the West Tyrone Junior Championship. Tattyreagh were victorious in the Championship on 27th August on a score of 1.4 to 0.3 and also won the League Final on an almost similar score of 0.7 to 0.3. These two games were hard fought but clean and sporting and not only attracted record attendances but forged a good relationship between the two Clubs. Killyclogher subsequently had revenge in the 1968 McIlduff Cup Final when Tattyreagh again scored 1.4, but this time Killyclogher registered 2.3.

In 1967 Killyclogher also had a good run in the McIlduff Cup reaching the sectional final where they were beaten by Pomeroy.

The way in which Killyclogher fell in the championship of the previous year, 1966, gave rise to despondency but in 1967 the

wheel of fortune had turned a full circle and the way in which Killyclogher suffered defeat gave rise to the hope of better things to come in 1968.

Killyclogher's challenge for honours in 1968 was strengthened by the addition of players like former county star, Anthony Connolly, Aidan and Sean McMullin who had moved up from the youth ranks and Peter Haughey, as reliable and steadfast as Johnny, had joined the club. The attacking power was increased by the arrival of Peter Fox and by the return to his best form of Sean Meenan following a serious accident to his hand in the winter of 1966. With many of the '65, '66 and '67 players still available a big panel of players was now training regularly twice a week in McCrossan's Field under the watchful eyes of Joe O'Connor, Eddie Strain and Seamus Harkin.

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#### BEATEN COUNTY FINALISTS 1968



Back Row. L to R. Eddie Strain, Brendan Harkin, Pat McBride, Aidan McMullin, Gerry McGirr, Sean Meenan, Eamon Burns, Dan McSwiggan, Eugene Maguire, Peter Haughey, Brendan McSorley, Pat O'Donnell,

Seamus Harkin.

Front Row. L to R. Anthony Connolly, Kieran McCrory, Kieran Murphy, Hugh McAleer, Peter Fox, Thady McAleer, Johnny Haughey, Basil Neville, Jim Bannon, Sean McMullin, Paddy Quinn, Eamon Meenan.



# Action Replay

**Killiclogher defender Gerry McGirr making his way out from the goalmouth melee.**



**Midfielder Eamon Meenan scores Killiclogher's second point despite careful attention from the Fintona opposition in the League Final.**

The team lived up to all that was expected of it and reached the finals of the West Tyrone League and Championship. Fintona, a club with a great tradition, provided the opposition in both finals. The Championship Final ended in a draw but Killyclogher won the replay in St. Patrick's Park on a score of 2.8 to 2.6. In the County Final played in O'Neill Park, Dungannon, Killyclogher got off to a great start against Killyman but lost out in the end on a score of 1.4 to 2.6. It looked as if Killyclogher's run had come to an end but with great resoluteness, Killyclogher set about proving the doubters wrong. The League Final in October resulted in a draw at Pomeroy and in the replay Fintona ran up a seven point lead at half time in Dunmoyle on a score of 1.6 to Killyclogher 0.2. In the second half Killyclogher refused to accept the defeat which seemed inevitable and relentlessly pressurised the Fintona defence. The lead was slowly whittled away and in a pulsating finish, Killyclogher grabbed the winning point in dramatic fashion, straight from a "fifty" from the accur-

ate boot of Anthony Connolly. Fintona got a last minute free but it only resulted in a wide so Killyclogher had won the West Tyrone League title and with it promotion to the Intermediate grade on a score of 1.7 to 1.6.

The titanic struggle for supremacy between these two evenly balanced sides was marked by the large attendance at the games and by the sporting exchanges which equalled the fine example set by Tattyreagh and Killyclogher the previous year.

Killyclogher then set about the task of winning the McIlduff Cup which had always been monopolised by intermediate teams. Victories over Carrickmore II, Mountfield, Pomeroy and Beragh saw Killyclogher through to a semi-final clash with Aghyaran at Newtownstewart. The strength of former senior ranked Aghyaran made them favourites but Killyclogher's spirit and determination came out on top on a score of 3.9 to 2.8. This was a great team victory as the whole team led by Basil Neville, played its part but in terms of scores it was a personal triumph for

#### 1968 LEAGUE AND McILDUFF CUP WINNERS



Back Row. L to R. Eddie Strain, Jim Bannon, Brendan Harkin, Pat O'Donnell, Eamon Burns, Sean Meenan, Hugh McAleer, Anthony Connolly, Eamon Meenan, Peter Haughey, Seamus Harkin, Joe O'Connor.  
Front Row. L to R. Gerry McGirr, Aiden McMullin, Kieran McCrory, Basil Neville, Thady McAleer, Johnny Haughey, Pat McBride, Peter Fox, Sean McMullin, Paddy Quinn.

Sean Meenan who scored 3 goals and 7 points. Another young player who was to go on to make a name for himself, Martin McCrory, also got his name on the score sheet. In the final played at Beragh, old rivals Tattyreagh, who were about to move into senior ranks for 1969, provided the opposition but this time it was Killyclogher who came away victorious by a two point margin, 2.3 to 1.4.

The success of 1968 was due in large measure to spirit and determination and the sense of club loyalty engendered by the good relationship among the players. Although there were some who did not play in many games all were part of the victory. The subs. on the sideline displayed the same spirit as the men on the field and epitomised all that is fine in clubmanship. This was the panel of players that made the triple success possible.

Eamon Burns, Hugh McAleer, Anthony Connolly, Johnny Haughey, Peter Haughey, Paddy Quinn, Eugene Maguire, Pat O'Donnell, Gerry McGirr, Kevin McGrath, Basil Neville, Eamonn Meenan, Sean Meenan, Brendan McSorley, Peter Fox, Brendan Harkin, Kieran McCrory, Thady McAleer, Dan McSwiggan, Kieran Murphy, Jim Bannon, Aidan McMullin, Sean McMullin, Pat McBride, Peter Quinn, Eamon McGirr. Two very young players Martin McCrory and Peter Toal played in the dramatic McElduff Cup Semi-Final win over Aghyaran.

Regular meetings of all players helped greatly in the selection of the team and Joe O'Connor, Eddie Strain and Seamus Harkin put in a lot of work to the training and selection. Eddie had only become involved at the beginning of the year, but did a lot to ensure the success of the team.

#### 1969 - 1974

A new era began for Killyclogher in 1969 when the team fielded teams in both the Intermediate and Junior grades. This was made possible by the fact that so many players had contributed to the success of 1968. Another very important contributory factor was that in 1969 Killyclogher won the County Juvenile Title and reached the

County Minor Semi-Final in 1970 and 1971 (see Section on Youth). Youth players like M. McCrory, P. Toal, J. Toal, G. Kirk, S. Brogan, E. Bradley, F. McAleer, M. Devlin, M. Sweeney, F. Sweeney, S. McKnight, A. Meenan, D. McFadden, T. Keyes, J. McGinn, G. McGovern, G. McKnight, D. Bradley, M. Carlin, S. Donaghey and E. Taggart were promoted to the adult teams over the next few years. New players emerged in B. Trainor, J. Sharkey, J. Brogan, P. Kelly, F. Mellon, C. Quinn, Barney McGillion, D. Murray, D. McLernon, Brian McGillion, E. Fox, J. Donaghey, B. Gormley, G. Raflewski, B. Devlin, M. Campbell and men like P. Stankard, T. McMullin and G. McAleer, who had helped to launch the club in 1965 again made a contribution to the success of the club on the field. So from 1969-74 Killyclogher enjoyed the status of an Intermediate Club and at times during this period seemed almost certain to make the breakthrough to Senior ranks as their record shows:

1969 2nd to Aghyaran, 1970 2nd to Eoghain Ruaidh, 1971 2nd to Ballygawley, 1972 2nd to Red Knights and 1973 4th to Urney but in that year, 1973, Killyclogher reached the Semi Final of the Championship only to fall to Moortown on a score of 1.9 to 1.6. In this period also Killyclogher had a good run in the McElduff Cup: 1969 beaten in the semi final by Aghyaran 3.10 to 3.6; incidentally Aghyaran also defeated Killyclogher in 2nd round of the championship that year; 1970 Killyclogher again fell in the McElduff Cup Semi-Final, while in 1971 and 1972 Killyclogher went all the way to the final but lost to Ballygawley and Red Knights respectively.

Highlight of 1973, in addition to reaching the Semi-Final of the Championship, was a great performance in the St. Enda Cup when Senior Team, Augher, just managed to beat Killyclogher 0.9 to 0.8. By now there was a big change in personnel from the 1968 team as some of this team had retired. However, some still remained and all retained their loyalty to Killyclogher supporting the new team in every way. The panel of players which took Killyclogher to the 1972 McElduff Cup Final played in St.

Enda's Park in March 1973 when Red Knights were victorious 2.7 to 0.5 was:

K. McCrory, G. Kirk, E. Fox, E. Meenan, B. Harkin, M. Carlin, E. Bradley, S. Meenan, S. Brogan, J. Bannon, B. McGillion, P. Fox, M. McCrory, S. McMullan, A. Meenan, M. Devlin, J. Toal, A. McMullin, F. McAleer, P. Toal, T. McMullin.

In 1973 E. Meenan, A. Meenan and S. Donaghey returned to America, this was a big blow to title hopes. The triple success of Tyrone at Senior, U.21 and Minor levels resulted in the postponement of a number of fixtures. Indeed the 1973 League programme was not completed until the beginning of 1974. In 1973 ten teams made up the West Tyrone Intermediate League and Killyclogher finished in 4th position to winners, Urney. Frustration at the failure to make senior grade in the previous years 1969 - 72 had a big effect on morale and at times in 1973 it was difficult to field a full team. As the 1973 League drew to its conclusion early in 1974, plans were being made to form a new club in Mountfield, and Killyclogher faced the new season unsure

of just who would be playing for Killyclogher in '74. This was also the last year of the Divisional Boards in Tyrone as the Tyrone Commission Report which had been adopted at Convention recommended that an All-County League Board came into being catering for Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Killyclogher had been a Parish Team since its foundation in 1965 although there was a team in Mountfield in the Junior League of 1968 which was mainly made up of a very strong Minor team, which had reached the final of the West Tyrone Minor Championship in 1966. So when Mountfield again made application in 1974 Killyclogher offered no objection to the County Board as players from the Mountfield area still had the choice of playing for Killyclogher or joining the new Mountfield Club. Mountfield entered a team in the Junior League and at the monthly meeting of the Board just a week before the new league was about to start, nine players were transferred from Killyclogher to Mountfield; two players were transferred to another new club in Creggan and with three players still in America the playing strength of Killyclogher was drastically reduced. There

#### BEATEN McILDUFF CUP FINALISTS 1972



Back Row. L to R. Gerry Kirk, Ed. Fox, Eamon Meenan, Brendan Harkin, Martin Carlin, Eugene Bradley, Sean Meenan, Seamus Brogan, Jim Bannon, Brian McGillion.  
Front Row. L to R. Peter Fox, Martin McCrory, Sean McMullin, Aiden Meenan, Michael Devlin, John Toal, Aiden McMullin, Kieran McCrory, Felix McAleer, Peter Toal.

was no row with any of the players who left and they attended a meeting in Killyclogher at which it was made clear that there would be no ill feelings and that they would be welcome back to play for Killyclogher at any time. The Mountfield Club has continued to exist since then and in 1976 had one of their best seasons with a good run in the Junior Championship and had the honour of having Peter Bradley selected on the Tyrone Minor team in 1977.

To return to 1974, Killyclogher had Dromore, the eventual winners as the first league opponents. The new look Killyclogher put up a great display before losing to the better balanced Dromore team. At times in 1974, Killyclogher showed good potential and ability with wins over good teams like Red Knights, Strabane, and Pomeroy but the lack lustre displays in mid season resulted in Killyclogher finishing 3rd from the bottom of the table. Safe from relegation in a "normal" year but remember this was not a normal year in Tyrone as new divisions had to be drawn up for 1975. When the five divisions were made Killyclogher was in Division Five and back in Junior football.

### 1975 - 1977

Killyclogher faced new opposition in 1975 but found that it was very difficult to get promotion. Competition for the top league spot was keen and one point defeats at the hands of Dregish and Fintona put Killyclogher out of the running. In the Junior Championship Killyclogher fell to Dregish and so faced another year in Division 5. In 1976 the team started well with good performances and a big turn out of players for pre-season friendly games. In the League and Championship there was still something missing in their play and defeat in the championship came at the hands of Kileeshil, following a draw in their first encounter. In the League the vital games proved to be with Gortin. The first one early in the year Gortin won easily but in the return fixture Killyclogher only lost by the narrowest of margins, 1 point. Another year in Division 5! But somehow things were different and the players realised that only a big effort would take them up to higher grade football. A new spirit of determination pervaded the club. The Division 5 'A' title was won without defeat and Killyclogher also proved victorious

### DOUBLE CHAMPIONS AND UNDEFEATED IN 1977



Back Row (left to right) A. Connolly (Manager), P. Toal, B. Harkin, J. Donaghey, J. Moohan, M. Bradley, B. McCullagh, A. Meenan, E. Meenan, S. Meenan, F. McAleer, S. McMullan. Front Row (left to right) P. Fox, M. McCrory, D. Sweeney, A. McMullan, E. Bradley, J. Toal, N. McGinn, P. McDermott, D. McAleer. Missing from photo is G. Kirk. F. Sweeney and S. Sweeney were also members of the panel.

in the 1977 County Junior Championship. The year was completed with a victory over Division 5 'B' league winners Galbally. The players who along with manager Anthony Connolly, made it all possible were: S. McMullan, G. Kirk, J. Donaghey, N. McGinn, A. McMullan, B. McCullagh, F. McAleer, D. McAleer, J. Toal, E. Meenan, S. Meenan, P. Toal, J. Moohan, E. Bradley, M. Bradley, M. McCrory, B. Harkin, P. Fox, P. McDermott, F. Sweeney, S. Sweeney, J. Bradley, G. Bradley.

To win Division 5 'A' Killyclogher defeated Drumquin, Tattyreagh, Castle-derg, Newtownstewart, Mountfield and Greencastle and in the League Final defeated Galbally. Only one point was dropped in a draw with Newtownstewart.

In the Championship victories were recorded over Killeeshil, Galbally, Cookstown and Greencastle.

### 1978

The success of 1977 ensured Killyclogher a place in the Intermediate grade in 1978. The Club fielded two adult teams in Division 4 and took part in the Intermediate Championship and in the Reserve Knock Out. The Division 4 League Title was won with an unbeaten run and maximum 28

points from 14 games. Home and away victories were recorded over Dungannon, Galbally, Aghaloo, Urney, Dregish, Clogher and Loughmacrory. In the Intermediate Championship Killyclogher defeated Aghaloo, Stewartstown and Pomeroy but fell heavily in the final to Fintona. Most of the successful 1977 panel of players were still on duty but new young minor stars Peter Bradley and Plunkett McDermott strengthened the panel as did the signing of Michael Kerlin and the return after a long absence, of Eugene McCallion.

Anthony Connolly continued in his role of manager/trainer. The Reserve Team of 1978, ably managed by Basil Neville, provided football for many of the young players as well as a necessary back up to the first team. Clonoe Reserves defeated Killyclogher Reserves in the knock Out Competition.

### 1979

The season 1979 started off somewhat uncertainly for Killyclogher. Following the defeat in the 1978 Intermediate Final the team had responded to the call to win the '78 League and indeed went on to do just that with full points. Yet some of the drive had

#### DIV. 4 LEAGUE WINNERS AND BEATEN COUNTY INTERMEDIATE FINALISTS



Back Row. L to R. Eamon Meenan, Eugene McCallion, Brendan Harkin, John Donaghey, Jimmy Moohan, Plunkett McDermott, Peter Toal, Michael Bradley, Peter Bradley, Sean Meenan, Aiden McMullin, Eugene Bradley. Front Row. L to R. Anthony Connolly, Felix McAleer, Dougie McAleer, Pat McDermott, Noel McGinn, John Toal, Peter Fox, Martin McCrory, John McCullagh, Aiden Meenan, Michael Kerlin.

gone and this was noticeable in early challenge games with Ballygawley and Kildress in 1979. Shortly after the start of the new league Killyclogher lost the services of Peter Bradley and Anthony Donaghey who both emigrated. Anthony had only just joined the Club. Further set backs were suffered when Noel McGinn had his jaw broken while playing for Tyrone Minors and Michael Kerlin had to withdraw from playing because of a back injury. Nevertheless at times Killyclogher looked potential winners and always kept in touch with the league leaders. In the Championship hopes were raised with two clear cut wins over Urney and Beragh Red Knights. Tournament successes about this time also kept spirits high, Then came defeat at the hands of Eoghain Ruaidh in the Semi Final of the Championship. Spirit and enthusiasm were at a low ebb but there was still a spark of life left. A few good tournament games revived the flagging spirit and then with six league games to play Killyclogher began to show the old determination and will to win. Those last six games resulted as follows: Dregish, Brocagh, Beragh 3 wins; Cookstown a draw; Pomeroy and Clonoe

2 wins. Those last two points for the victory over Clonoe O Rathallaighs in St. Patrick's Park on a score of 2.9 to 1.7 on the 21st October 1979 gave Killyclogher the League title and promotion to Senior football. Killyclogher with 25 points had just got there ahead of Beragh, Cookstown and Eoghain Ruadh all on 24 points.

The League in Tyrone in 1979 was played for the first time on a single round basis. There were three divisions with the old (1978) division 1 and 2 making up a new division 1, 16 teams; divisions 3 and 4 making up a new division 2, 16 teams; and divisions 5 and 6 making up a new division 3, 17 teams. Division 1 teams competed for the Senior Championship; division 2 for the Intermediate Championship and division 3 for the Junior Championship. Killyclogher competing in League Division 2, recorded wins over Dungannon, Aghaloo, Edendork, Killyman, Urney, Galbally, Dregish, Brocagh, Beragh, Pomeroy and Clonoe; drew with Stewartstown, Drumragh and Cookstown and lost to Eoghain Ruaidh (League Table 1979).

#### 1979 DIV. 2 LEAGUE WINNERS AND INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE WINNERS



Back Row. L to R. Peter Toal, Brendan Harkin, Eddie Duffy, Michael Bradley, Jimmy Moohan, Eugene McCallion, Sean Meenan, John Donaghey, Aiden McMullin, John Toal.  
 Front Row. L to R. Felix McAleer, Eugene Bradley, Aiden Meenan, Jimmy McGinn, Mark Haran, Noel McGinn, Eamon Meenan, Dougie McAleer, Martin McCrory.  
 A few players are missing from photograph.

**EARLY '79**



The team which beat Urney in the 1st round of the Intermediate Championship.

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**EARLY '77**



The team which beat Kileeshil in the 1st round of the Junior Championship.



## KILLYCLOGHER RESERVE TEAMS 1978-79

Following promotion to Intermediate grade in 1978 Killyclogher fielded a reserve team managed by Basil Neville. In 1979 a reserve team again represented Killyclogher and this time the manager was Sean McMullin. The purpose of fielding a reserve team is at least triple fold: to introduce young players to adult football; to provide football for those not getting places on the first team and to serve as a very useful backup to the first team. Many of those who played reserve football in 1978 and 1979 were called on to play for the first team and some of them became regular first team players. In 1978 the Reserves lost to Clonoe in the Knock Out Competition and also had a number of League games while in 1979 they fell to Fintona in the Knock Out and also participated in the Reserve League.

The following players have represented Killyclogher in this grade in 1978-79: Leo McGovern, Brian McGlone, Jimmy McGinn, Noel McGinn, Lawrence McGinn, Kieran Downey, Shay Sweeney, Frank Sweeney, Danny Sweeney, John Bradley, Gerald Bradley, John McCullagh, Brian McCullagh, Mark Haron, Eddie Duffy, James McCrory, Thomas Nugent, Dougie McAleer, Gerry Kirk, Patrick McAleer, Stephen Owens, Pat McDermott, Gerard McLaughlin, Brendan Blaney, Kieran McCrory, Sean McMullin, Paul Hannigan, Eamon McGrath, Eugene Judge, Brendan Judge, Brian Donnelly, Eugene McCallion, Brendan Monaghan, Johnny McCann, Terence McCann, Denis Martin, Martin Hegarty and Michael Kerlin.

## HANDBALL

Handball has found little support in our parish down through the years but there are reports of it being played in Mountfield and in Campsie which would probably indicate the influence of the R.I.C. in the pre 1920 era. There are also other areas throughout the parish where it was played but never on an organised basis. The affiliated Handball Club in Brackey would have catered for part of our parish area and this is a tradition which the recently reformed Brackey Club has maintained. The members of the present Brackey Club are to be congratulated on their efforts and, indeed, their achievements of the past few years. Basil Neville and the McAleers, who have been involved with Killyclogher St. Mary's G.A.C. since it was formed in 1965, have done much with the other members of Brackey to promote handball.

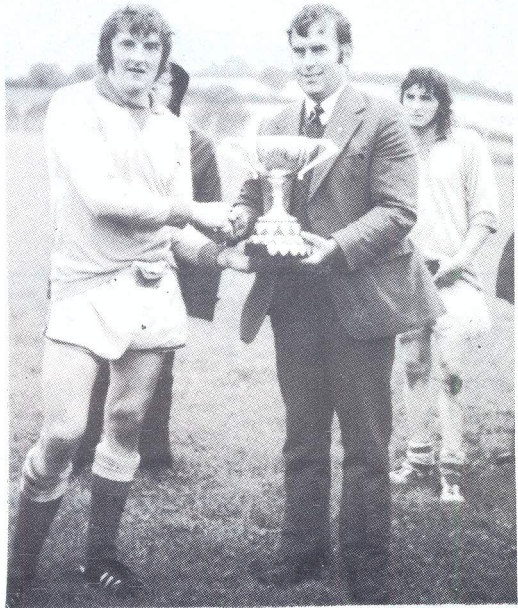
In 1973 John Hutchinson, Gerry Donnelly, John O'Donnell, Harry Mullan and Danny McCusker formed a Club in Killyclogher but as there were no facilities in Killyclogher they had to travel to the Upper Cloughfin Alley (Sixmilecross). It is to their credit that they were able to organise a league over the next two years in spite of the travel involved and had as many as twenty playing regularly.

The efforts of these enthusiasts plus the present involvement in Brackey would indicate that Handball would flourish in Killyclogher if the facilities were provided. It is hoped that this need can be catered for in the Development at the New Park in Ballinamullan.

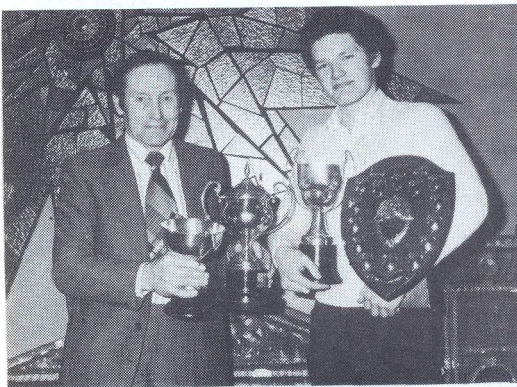
# Presentations



Rev. Fr. Murray, P.P., presenting the 1979 Division 2 League Trophy to Aiden Meenan.



Mr. P. McCartan presenting the County Junior Championship Cup to Eugene Bradley. The player in the background, Felix McAleer, will captain the team in 1980.



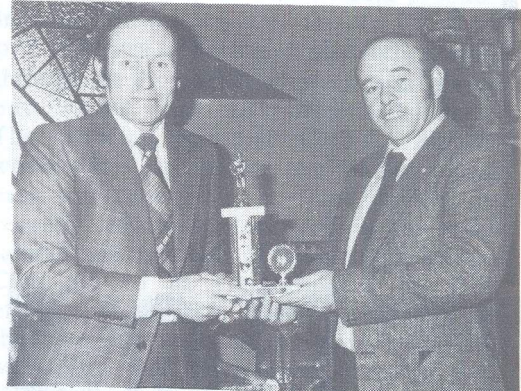
Mr. J. Bradley presenting the 1979 Juvenile Trophies to Eddie Duffy.



The Quinn Brothers with the Boyle Shield (Primary School Football) Under 12 Football and Juvenile Hurling Trophies.



Mr. J. Tracey presenting the 1978 League Medals to John Toal.



Mr. J. Bradley presenting a trophy to the manager Anthony Connolly, 1979.

At the Club Dinner 1980 with trophies won in 1979



# THE '79 LEAGUE TABLE ... PROMOTION

## DIVISION 2

|              | p  | w  | d | l  | pts |
|--------------|----|----|---|----|-----|
| KILLYCLOGHER | 15 | 11 | 3 | 1  | 25  |
| COOKSTOWN    | 15 | 10 | 4 | 1  | 24  |
| OWEN ROES    | 15 | 11 | 2 | 2  | 24  |
| BERAGH       | 15 | 12 | 0 | 1  | 24  |
| DREGISH      | 15 | 10 | 0 | 5  | 20  |
| KILLYMAN     | 15 | 8  | 1 | 5  | 17  |
| DUNGANNON    | 15 | 7  | 2 | 6  | 16  |
| DRUMRAGH     | 15 | 6  | 4 | 5  | 16  |
| CLONOE       | 15 | 7  | 0 | 8  | 14  |
| STEWARTSTOWN | 15 | 5  | 4 | 6  | 14  |
| POMEROY      | 15 | 5  | 1 | 9  | 11  |
| EDENDORK     | 15 | 4  | 2 | 9  | 10  |
| GALBALLY     | 15 | 4  | 2 | 9  | 10  |
| BROCKAGH     | 15 | 4  | 0 | 11 | 8   |
| AGHALOO      | 15 | 3  | 0 | 12 | 6   |
| URNEY        | 15 | 1  | 0 | 14 | 2   |

## THE SPOILS OF VICTORY!



## LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP 1965-1979

### JUNIOR

| <b>Year</b> | <b>League Position</b>          | <b>Championship*</b>                |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1965        | 2nd to Gortin                   | Lost to Strabane                    |
| 1966        | 2nd to Newtownstewart           | Lost to Omagh II                    |
| 1967        | Lost League Final to Tattyreagh | Lost to Tattyreagh                  |
| 1968        | Beat Fintona in League Final    | Lost to Killyman in<br>County Final |

### INTERMEDIATE

|      |                       |                                       |
|------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1969 | 2nd to Aghyaran       | Lost to Aghyaran                      |
| 1970 | 2nd to Eoghain Ruaidh | Lost to Eoghain Ruaidh                |
| 1971 | 2nd to Ballygawley    | Lost to Wolfe Tones                   |
| 1972 | 2nd to Red Knights    | Lost to Pomeroy                       |
| 1973 | 4th to Urney          | Lost to Moortown<br>in Co. Semi Final |
| 1974 | 7th to Dromore        | Lost to Strabane                      |

### JUNIOR

|      |                               |                                  |
|------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1975 | 3rd to Fintona                | Lost to Dregish                  |
| 1976 | 2nd to Gortin                 | Lost to Kileeshil                |
| 1977 | Beat Galbally in League Final | Beat Greencastle<br>in Co. Final |

### INTERMEDIATE

|      |                |   |
|------|----------------|---|
| 1978 | Won Division 4 | Lost to Fintona in Co. Final                |
| 1979 | Won Division 2 | Lost to Eoghain Ruaidh in<br>Co. Semi Final |

\*Defeated in 1st or 2nd Round unless otherwise stated.

From 1969-'72 and in 1978 and 1979 Killyclogher also fielded reserve teams.

# TOURNAMENTS

Tournament football provides an interesting change for a team as the pressure of winning vital league points or of making progress in the Championship is missing. Tournaments also bring together teams of different status and throw up exciting and lively clashes.

Killyclogher has been fortunate to have been invited to a number of tournaments over the years and to have been successful in some of them.

Successes have been recorded at the following Tournaments:

| Year | Venue                        | Teams Beaten                                |
|------|------------------------------|---|
| 1969 | Urney                        | Drumquin, Leckpatrick, Castlefin            |
| 1969 | Killyclogher                 | Beragh, Fintona, Tattyreagh                 |
| 1975 | St. Patrick's Park (One Day) | Drumragh, Omagh                             |
| 1976 | Urney                        | Drumquin, Newtownstewart, Castlefin         |
| 1977 | Carrickmore                  | Pomeroy, Red Knights, Drumragh              |
| 1977 | Drumquin                     | Castlederg, Mountfield, Gortin              |
| 1978 | Augher                       | Fintona, Red Knights, Gortin                |
| 1978 | Drumquin                     | Gortin, Augher, Dromore                     |
| 1979 | Aughabrack                   | Gortin, Lavey, Eoghain Ruaidh<br>(9-a-side) |
| 1979 | Castlederg                   | Dromore, Aughabrack, Aghyaran<br>(9-a-side) |
| 1979 | Creggan                      | Carrickmore II, Kildress<br>(9-a-side)      |

At Eoghain Ruaidh's Tournament in 1976 Killyclogher reached the final. In 1979 the runners up position was also filled at Augher with victories over Truagh and Clogher and defeat at the hands of Fintona. Also in 1979 at the Drumragh Tournament Killyclogher defeated Letterkenny, and Ballygawley but fell to Trillick in the final. An exciting 9-a-side One Day Tournament in 1979 saw Killyclogher reach the final of a Tournament which brought teams from Tyrone, Down, Antrim, Fermanagh, Donegal and Mayo into

opposition. Another 9-a-side in Castlederg resulted in a tremendous final with **Trillick just pipping Killyclogher**. The 1979 Tournament circuit was completed with victory in a One Day Tournament at Tattyreagh.

Thanks is due to the organisers of the Tournaments who were kind enough to invite Killyclogher to take part. As well as the tournaments listed above Killyclogher also had good games which did much to help Club spirit at venues like Beragh, Kildress, Cookstown.

**OFFICERS OF KILLYCLOGHER ST. MARY'S 1965-1979**

Chairman:

(1965) Mick McCrory, Joe O'Connor, Brendan Harkin, Paddy Quinn,  
Seamus Harkin, John Bradley (1979)

Vice Chairman:

(1966) Joe O'Connor, Basil Neville, Martin Carlin, Anthony Connolly,  
Seamus Harkin, Felix McAleer(S), Ignatius McCollum (1979)

Secretary:

(1965) Brendan Harkin, Seamus Harkin, Brendan Harkin (1979)

Asst. Secretary:

(1966) Frank Maguire, Paddy Quinn, Felix McAleer (I), Seamus Brogan,  
John Toal, Anthony Maguire, John Toal (1979).

Treasurer:

(1965) Pat McBride, Dan McSwiggan, Jim Bannon, Joe O'Connor,  
Paddy Quinn (1979).

Assistant Treasurer:

(1968) Jim Bannon, Dan McSwiggan, Peter Toal, Anthony Maguire,  
Jimmy Moohan (1979).

Ciste Gael Coordinator:

(1974) Paddy Quinn, Jimmy Moohan (1979)

# MOUNTFIELD G.F.C.

There has been a long tradition of support for the G.A.A. in the Mountfield area. The St. Patrick's Club of the early 1900's played some of its games in Mountfield and was a Killyclogher-Mountfield selection. This club won the Mid Tyrone Championship and the McAnespey Cup in Football as well as a Tyrone Hurling Title in 1906 (see "An Early Double").

The oral tradition is still rich with the tales of the exploits of the Mountfield Gaelic footballers of the 20's. In the section "The Thirties" the Mountfield Club of the 1932-36 period has been covered. So in this section of the book it is proposed to come up closer to the present time and deal with the Mountfield Club which participated in the West Tyrone Junior League and Championship 1967-1968 and the present Club 1974-'79.

In the mid 1960's Mountfield competed in the West Tyrone Juvenile and Minor Competitions with some success. John Bradley and Peter Tracey were doing great work for the youth of the area at this time. In 1966 the Minor team had a very good year in both the League and Championship. The Championship was marked with victories over teams like Pomeroy and Dromore. The 2-11 to 1-5 victory over Dromore at Cloughfin was a noteworthy occasion. In the final played at Dunmoyle, Mountfield played Beragh and lost on a score of 3-4 to 3-1. In the final the following players represented Mountfield: S. McDermott, P. McElhatton, S. Teague, T. Carlin, B. Morris, F. Treacy, D. McCullagh, J. McCrory, E. Meenan, B. Harkin, S. Meenan P. Bradley, A. Keenan, P. McCrory and J. Tracey.

## MOUNTFIELD WEST-TYRONE MINOR FINALISTS 1966



Back Row. L to R. P. McCrory, P. J. Devlin, Francis Keenan, Frank Tracey, Dominic McCullagh, Sean McDermott, Peter Bradley, Brendan Harkin, John Tracey, Jim McCrory, John Bradley.  
Front Row. L to R. Francis Keenan, Eamon Meenan, Sean Teague, Anthony Keenan, Tony Carlin, Pat McElhatton, Brendan Morris, Sean Clarke.



Eamon Meenan, Sean Meenan and Brendan Harkin were members of Killyclogher St. Marys.

It was a case of so near and yet so far and must have been a bitter disappointment not only for the players but also for the manager, John Bradley. Nevertheless it was decided to enter a team in the West Tyrone Junior League and Championship in 1967 with many of these young players from the Mountfield-Greencastle area getting their first taste of adult football. There were also some more experienced players to call on notably Peter Tracey, formerly with Gortin, and now elected captain of the new Mountfield team. The following were elected officers of the Mountfield Club: John Bradley Chairman; Michael Mullan Secretary and Kevin Morris Treasurer. There was a doubt of their being accepted as an affiliated club because Killyclogher St. Mary's was already in existence (1965) in the parish. As Killyclogher offered no objection Mountfield was duly registered and competed in West Tyrone competitions. Eamon and Sean Meenan continued to play with Killyclogher as did Brendan Harkin; the rest of the successful Minor team made the progress to the Mountfield Junior team. In 1968 Mountfield again took part in West Tyrone Junior competitions. In addition to the officers mentioned above the following served on the committee 1967-68: M. McAleer, B. Morris, J. Coyle, M. Coyle, M. Gallagher, J. Meenagh, S. Teague, J. McCrory, M. Bradley, P. J. McDermott, P. Keenan, S. Clarke, P. Tracey.

When the Mountfield club disbanded some of these helped to found a new club in Greencastle.

Another group of young players came to the fore in Mountfield in 1969 and helped Killyclogher, which was again representative of the whole parish, to the County Juvenile Title. By now Killyclogher had reached Intermediate status and played in the West Tyrone Intermediate League and Championship as well as fielding a second team in the Junior League and

Championship. Young Mountfield players involved with both teams included Sean McKnight, Gerry McKnight, Sean Donaghey, Martin Carlin, Des McFadden, Michael Devlin, Aiden Devlin, Dermot Bradley, Pat McElhatton, Eugene Bradley and the Meenans. When it was decided to form a club in Mountfield in 1974 these players, with the exception of the Meenans and E. Bradley who continued to play for Killyclogher St. Mary's, formed the nucleus of the new team which took part in that year's West Tyrone Junior League and Championship.

Main office bearers of the new Club were: Frank Donaghey, Chairman; Brian McIvor Secretary; Bernard McDermott Treasurer. In the new All County League system introduced in 1975 Mountfield found themselves in Division 5 'B' and with some new opposition. Figures for the 1975 League: Played 10, won 6, drew 1, lost 3. Points 13 and 2nd place to winners Cookstown, with Killeeshil, Derrytresk, Greencastle and Creggan behind Mountfield.

In 1976 Mountfield had another good year:—League: played 12, won 7, drew 1, lost 4; points 15 to finish in 3rd place behind Killeeshil and Brackaville on 20 and 19 points and ahead of Greencastle, Gallbally, Derrytresk and Creggan. In the Championship Mountfield suffered defeat at the hands of Killeeshil in the County Semi Final. Under the changed League system of 1979 Mountfield, as a Junior Club, played in the League Division 3 and the Junior Championship. In the last few years young Mountfield players have contributed to the success of Parish Youth teams at both Minor and Juvenile level (see section on Youth).

At adult level Killyclogher and Mountfield have co-existed in the parish without any bitterness as is evidenced by the fact that they met in the McElduff Cup of 1974 and had home and away games in the Junior league of 1977. Apart from the expected banter and good natured "slagging" before and after, these games were completely incident free and played

in a good sporting manner and were a credit to the players involved.

The following players have represented Mountfield (1974-'79): Sean McKnight, Gerry McKnight, Kieran McKnight, Sean Donaghey, Frank Donaghey, Dermot Bradley, Gabriel Bradley, Martin Carlin, Des McFadden, Peter Bradley, Pat McElhatton, Sean Meenan, Michael Devlin, Gerry McDermott, Gus McDermott, Stephen Kelly, Murt Kelly, Benny Donaghey, Martin Moore, Kevin McLaughlin, Michael Meenagh, Eamon Meenagh, Paul Meenagh, John Tracey, Eugene Monaghan, Vincent Monaghan, Brian Duff, Stephen McGaughey, Paddy McCullagh, Declan McCullagh, John Gallagher, Patsy Barrett, Ian McIvor, Brendan Gallagher, Packie Gallagher, Pat Mullan, James Mimmagh.

### Officers of Mountfield G.F.C. 1974-1979

**Chairman:** Frank Donaghey (S), Martin Carlin, Michael Devlin, Sean McKnight, Joe McKnight.

**Vice Chairman:** Michael Devlin, Pat McElhatton, Martin Carlin, Pat McElhatton.

**Secretary:** Brian McIvor, Michael Meenagh, Gerry McKnight, Dermot Bradley, Bernard McDermott.

**Assistant-Secretary:** Brian McIvor, Dermot Bradley, Pat McElhatton, Michael Mullan (J).

**Treasurer:** Bernard McDermott, Des McFadden, Michael Devlin, Dermot Bradley.

**Assistant Treasurer:** Frank Donaghey (J), Des McFadden, Frank Donaghey (J), Michael Devlin.

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### MOUNTFIELD 1976

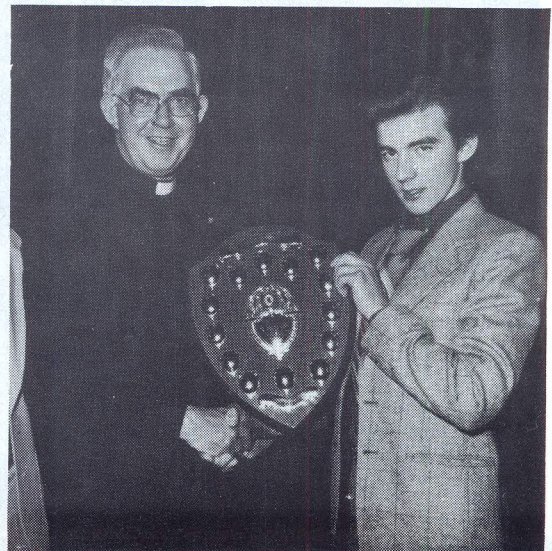


Back Row. L to R. K. McLaughlin, P. Bradley, P. Gallagher, S. McKnight, K. Kelly, M. Devlin, J. Tracey, S. Donaghey, J. Gallagher, M. Carlin, P. McElhatton.  
Front Row. L to R. S. Gallagher, D. McFadden, D. Bradley, K. McKnight, B. Donaghey, G. McKnight, J. Mimmagh, G. Bradley, M. Meenagh, F. Donaghey.

## MOUNTFIELD DINNER DANCE 1980



Members of Mountfield G.A.C. with trophies won by Parish Juvenile Team



Rev. Fr. Murray, P.P.  
presents Eugene Monaghan (vice captain  
of Parish Juveniles)  
with Co. Trophy

# youth

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JUVENILE and Minor teams are the backbone of every club; the young players of today are the senior stars of tomorrow. These are statements to be found in the annual address of most club chairmen. Yet their value is not decreased by repetition nor do they become trite through familiarity.

Killyclogher, always aware of the need to develop "under-age" teams, had participated in youth competitions from 1966 onwards thanks mainly to the efforts of Joe O'Connor. Success was slow in coming but by 1969 a fine group of juveniles had grown up and under the guidance of Seamus Harkin they went to the top. These juveniles gave promise of their potential when they defeated the leading juvenile teams of West Tyrone to win the Dromore Tournament. Then came success in the West Tyrone League and Championship and on November 2nd they overcame terrible weather conditions in Dungannon to defeat Augher 0-4 to 0-0. They thus captured the first county title for the club and compensated for the defeat of the junior team at the same venue a year earlier. The young lads who shared in this triumph were Declan Rodgers, Seamus Brogan, Gerry Kirk, Felix McAleer, Mickey Devlin, Sean McKnight, Frank Sweeney, Noel Toal, Martin McCrory, Paddy Kelly, Eunan Taggart, Terry Keyes, Gerry McGovern, Dessy McFadden, Aiden Meenan, Kevin Burns, Noel McCrory, Gerry McDermott, Jimmy McGinn, Gerry McKnight, Brian McDermott, Frank McAleer, Seamus Kelly. Anthony Quinn gave great assistance with this team.

These same players with the addition of Eugene Bradley, John Toal, Mickey

Sweeney, Aiden Devlin, Martin Carlin and Charlie O'Neill reached the semi-final of the County Minor Championship in 1970 and again in 1971. They compensated for their defeat in the minor championship by winning the Minor League of 1971, the final of which was played in February 1972 with Eoghain Ruaidh providing the opposition at Newtown Stewart. A high point of their minor performances was the defeat



Martin McCrory and Peter Toal with the 1969 County Juvenile Cup

of the Frank McGuigan-Sean Coyle inspired Ardboe in a great game at Galbally. The Club was honoured by the selection of three minors, S. McKnight, M. McCrory and P. Toal on the Tyrone team of 1971 which was narrowly defeated by Mayo in the All-Ireland Semi Final, following victories over Donegal, Derry and Fermanagh in the Ulster Championship. These same boys also won the Vocational Schools' medals with Tyrone. Following their minor success Killyclogher went on to reach the Under 21 final in 1973.

There followed a lean spell for Killyclogher at youth level and the next success at minor level was not until 1976 when against all expectations a parish minor team reached the County Final. From 1971 there was little success but the Club continued to field teams. The courage of

these players is to be commended and indeed in 1972 and 1973 they organised themselves for the Under 14 competition, led by Joe Quinn. The first glimmer of success came in 1974 when the Under 14 managed by Brendan Harkin, just failed to reach the knock out stages. This was followed in the autumn by a great run in the Under 12 when Killyclogher reached the final. It was these same young players who in 1976 assisted by Dregish reached the County Minor Final where they lost to Naomh Mhuire, Dungannon. That Minor panel read: N. McGinn, L. Strain, B. McCullagh, B. McGlone, J. McCullagh, D. McAleer, B. Blaney, S. Sweeney, S. Baxter, J. McAleer, K. Downey, D. Sweeney, E. Flood, M. Haran, M. Bradley, E. Duffy, A. Leonard, D. Breen, J. Haran, P. McEntaggart, J. McGinn, E. McGlone (Killyclogher); M. Meenagh, P. Bradley, G. McDermott (Mountfield); and J. O'Kane, D. O'Kane and M. Morris (Dregish). In 1977 they were back again but following a great victory over favourites Ballygawley in the Semi Final there was an unavoidable delay until the Final was played at the beginning of December. In the 1977 final they never showed their true worth and lost to DerryLaughlin. The Minor Semi Final was reached in both 1978 and 1979 with some of the '76 panel still on duty. New players like D. Ward, J. Rafferty, J. Wallace, J. McCrory, T. Nugent, M. Turbitt, G. Bradley, G. McDermott, E. Meenagh, S. Peters, L. McGinn, P. Hannigan, P. McAleer, M. Hegarty, E.

McGrath, P. Flanagan, T. McCann, M. McCann, D. Martin, S. Meenan, I. McIvor, E. Monaghan and B. Monaghan also played their parts in '78 and '79.

In the Under 14 Competition in 1978 Killyclogher reached the final and in 1979 the semi final while the Under 12s reached the final in 1978 and in 1977 Killyclogher reached the Ulster Final of the Community Games.

The County Juvenile Championship was won with a 2.7 to 1.4 victory over Naomh Mhuire. The West Tyrone League and Championship were also won with an unbeaten run with success against Omagh, Drumragh, Fintona, Trillick, and Dromore to win the league section and victories over Drumquin and Pomeroy to win the league title. In the Championship Aghaloo, Dromore, Trillick and Pomeroy were defeated and then the East winners, Naomh Mhuire in the County Final. The victorious Juvenile panel was: Dereck Lynn, Joe Ferguson, Stephen Meenan, Paul Meenagh, Eamon McGrath, Paddy McAleer, Martin Hegarty, Paul Hannigan, Eugene Monaghan, Charlie McGinn, Eddie Duffy, Terence McCann, Denis Martin, Brendan Monaghan, Eamon Quinn, Johnny McBride, Gabriel McGinn, Brian Leonard, Brian McGinn, Brendan O'Donnell, Pat Toal.

Since 1975 Brendan Harkin has been joined as Youth Manager by Seamus McDonald and they have had good assistance from Eugene Bradley, John Bradley, Felix McAleer, Ignatius McCollum, Paddy Quinn, Benny Monaghan and Anthony Maguire who have all helped at various times with transport and advice.

A big factor in youth football is the effort made at school level. In this respect Killyclogher is very fortunate in that gaelic football is strongly promoted in St. Patrick's Secondary School, Omagh and in Omagh C.B.S. which cater for the over 11 boys from this area. Donal McGee has also played a big role in developing an interest in football in Killyclogher P.S. and indeed the other schools, with much interest in our native games.

**BEATEN UNDER-12 FINALISTS 1978**



Back Row. L to R. P. Taggart, G. McGinn, J. Duncan, N. Sweeney, A. Knox, M. Flannagan, B. Bradley, P. McCallion, G. O'Kane, M. McCrory, M. Wallace, A. McGlone.  
Front Row. L to R. J. Devlin, L. Floyd, G. Burns, J. McCrossan, F. McCann, B. Burns, V. Colgan, C. Quinn, M. McGill, J. Sweeney, B. Knox, P. Quinn, G. Coulter.

**BOYLE SHIELD FINALISTS 1976**



Back Row. L to R. D. Martin, P. Hutchinson, J. McBride, M. Alexander, F. McCann, B. O'Donnell, M. McCrory, P. McGrath.  
Front Row. L to R. B. McGinn, P. Quinn, N. Quinn, T. McCann, A. McGlone, A. Daly, I. McClean, V. Colgan.

**MOUNTFIELD P.S. 1974**



Back Row. L. to R. S. Meenan, J. Gallagher, P. Meenagh, B. Gallagher, B. McElduff.  
Front Row. L. to R. S. McGaughey, S. Gallagher, M. Donaghey, E. Monaghan, M. Mullin.

# *Success at Youth Level 1960-1979*

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**Mr. E. McLaughlin, W. Tyrone Youth Board Secretary, presenting the Under-12 Shield to Colin Quinn, 1979.**

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**Mr. Frank Rodgers, Co. Youth Board Chairman presenting W. Tyrone Trophy to Eddie Duffy.**

**KILLYCLOGHER BOYLE SHIELD WINNERS 1979**



Back Row. L to R. Mr. P. Morris, E. McCarroll, T. Alexander, R. McAleer, B. Kennedy, N. Sweeney, A. Colgan, K. Judge, J. Quinn, Mr. D. Magee.  
 Front Row. L to R. B. McCaul, P. Quinn, P. O'Gara, V. Owens, M. Sheridan, P. Cunningham, R. Floyd, M. McGinn.

**ULSTER FINALISTS—TYRONE REPRESENTATIVES 1977**



Back Row (left to right): G. Burns, B. Gartnwaite, P. Quinn, G. McGinn, M. McCrory, C. Knox, P. Nugent, M. McCrory, V. Colgan, C. Quinn. Front Row (left to right) A. McGlone, B. McGinn, P. Logue, P. McGrath, T. McCann, A. McCrossan, D. Martin, E. McGrath, N. Quinn.



1979 JUVENILE HURLERS AND FOOTBALLERS



**Juvenile Success in 1969  
. . . and again in 1979**

THE KILLYCLOGHER JUVENILE PANEL 1969



**BEATEN COUNTY MINOR FINALISTS 1977**



Back Row. L to R. J. McCrory, B. McGlone, B. McCullagh, B. Blaney, E. Flood, M. Haran, L. Strain, M. Morris, M. Bradley, M. Meenagh.  
 Middle Row. L to R. R. Rafferty, D. McAleer, J. McCullagh, N. McGinn, A. Leonard, S. Owens, D. Sweeney, D. Breen, E. Duffy.  
 Front Row. L to R. D. Ward, P. Bradley, M. Hegarty, G. Bradley, D. O'Kane, L. McGinn.  
 Many of these were also members of the '76 beaten finalists

**MINOR LEAGUE FINALISTS AND COUNTY SEMI FINALISTS 1979**



Back Row. L to R. S. McDonald, G. Bradley, E. Duffy, B. McElduff, G. McDermott, J. Wallace, M. Turbitt, M. Bradley, J. McCrory, S. Meenan, P. Hannigan, B. Harkin.  
 Front Row. L to R. E. Meenagh, E. Monaghan, P. McAleer, N. McGinn, M. Haran, T. McCann, M. Hegarty, T. Nugent, E. McGrath, B. Monaghan, D. Ward.

# THE YOUNG STARS

Eighteen teams took part in the Under 12 Competition in 1979. There were three sections with six teams in each section. The Competition was on a single round league basis and thus each team played five games. Killyclogher found themselves in the same section as Omagh, Carrickmore, Fintona, Eskra and Drumragh. When the league was completed Killyclogher went through with Omagh to the play offs. In this knock out part of the competition Killyclogher defeated Castleberg and Dromore while Omagh defeated Bally-

gawley and Strabane. So the final saw old rivals Killyclogher and Omagh in opposition. In a very exciting game Killyclogher came out on top and made amends for the defeat in the '78 final. This victory rounded off a very successful year and hopes are high for the future.

In the 1980 season it is hoped that there will be one strong team representative of the whole parish in all youth competitions. The strength of the Juveniles and Minors showed the effectiveness of this policy in 1979.

## UNDER 12 CHAMPIONS 1979



Back Row. L to R. R. Blaney, B. McCallion, N. Sweeney, J. Quinn, L. Floyd, I. Bradley, R. McAleer, T. Alexander, E. McCarrol, J. Duncan, M. McGinn, A. Colgan.  
Middle Row. L to R. K. Judge, P. Taggart, B. McGlone, R. Floyd, J. McCrory, D. McAuley, P. Quinn, P. McGlone, B. McCaul, C. Burns, G. McGinn, E. O'Hagan, P. Hosey, P. McGrath, C. McCarrol.  
Front Row. L to R. A. Floyd, B. Knox, C. Quinn, V. Owens, J. McCrossan, P. McCallion, G. Burns, B. Burns, S. McCanny, P. Hunt.

# HURLING

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THERE is little recorded history of hurling in the parish but what little there is shows that hurling was played in Killyclogher in the early 1900s, again in the 1920s when it was played in both Killyclogher and Arvalee and in the 1930s at the annual Killyclogher sports there is a record of exhibition hurling games featuring teams from Strabane and Killyclogher. In 1936 there was a concerted effort to establish Hurling and games were played against teams like Glassmullagh, Enniskillen and Coa. (See earlier articles).

In the late 1940s Fr. McLaughlin, C.C., Knockmoyle put Hurling on a strong footing in that area of the parish; the County Title was won in 1947 (cf The Forties) and success was recorded at a 7-a-side tournament in '48 in D'gannon when Keady were defeated in the Final. In the 1949 Cappagh Cup competition Dromore (Tummery) defeated Cappagh 6-2 to 4-0 and also defeated Cappagh in the Championship 4-3 to 4-0. Cappagh lined out in the Championship with the following players on duty: C. McCay, D. McGrath, P. O'Lone, B. McCaul, M. Nugent, D. Flannagan, W. Judge, T. McCrory, E. McCrory, B. Cunane, M. Cunningham, J. Maguire, B. McCallion, S. Maguire and B. McElhinney.

Mick Cunningham was a great driving force behind the Hurling revival and organised a four team District League with teams from Knockmoyle, Killyclogher, and two from Omagh. This involved many new players and a good number of young players. Sunday 13th August, 1950 saw the results of this organisation when Cappagh scored a hurling double over Dromore in the Minor and Senior Hurling Finals in the Christian Brothers Park. The Minor title was won on a score of 5-1 to 1-3 and the team was: C. Devlin, M. McCallion, C. Cunningham, D. McGrath, C. McRory, D. McGrath, P. McGrath, B. Sharkey, H. Donnelly, S.

Devlin, P. McKenna, F. McSwiggan, S. McCallion, B. Monaghan, S. McGrath.

The double was completed when the Seniors took the Title on a score of 5-2 to 1-5. The line out was: N. Devlin, P. Cunnane, P. O'Lone, B. McCaul, E. McCrory, C. Mulcaughey, W. Judge, M. Cunningham, B. Goodfellow, T. McCrory, S. Cunningham, M. Nugent, J. Maguire, S. Maguire, C. Cunningham.

About this time Cappagh became a dual Club and took part in the West Tyrone Junior League and Championship in football. Thus many of these players were playing both football and hurling and in fact in 1950 Cappagh fell to Moortown in the Junior Football Final. Hurling continued on a strong basis until the mid '50s and the Senior Title was won again in 1953 when Clonoe were defeated in the County Final at Pomeroy, while the Moy defeated Cappagh in the football final.

It is interesting to note that the Clubs promoting Hurling in these years included Moortown, Tummery, Sion Mills, Ballyfatton, Leckpatrick, Strabane, Omagh, Cappagh, Dungannon and Clonoe.

Interest in Cappagh waned over the next decade and more and it wasn't until 1975 that the clash of the ash was again heard in the parish. In that year Killyclogher formed a senior team as well as an under 14 team. This young team made rapid progress and in 1976 the County Juvenile Title was won and then retained in 1977. Paddy Quinn and Brendan Harkin organised this juvenile team and got good assistance from Brother Canton-from Omagh C.B.S. The young players who achieved this double success were T. McGread, D. Breen, N. McGinn, M. Haran, S. Moan, S. O'Reilly, D. Sweeney, P. Smart, P. Taggart, M. Taggart, D. McCrory, E. McGrath, N. O'Brien, M. Hegarty, B. Hegarty, P. Hannigan, P. McGinn, S. McCrory.



**1950 MINOR CHAMPIONS**

The line out of the 1950 Minor Champions: C. Devlin, J. McCallion, C. Cunningham, D. McGrath, C. McCrory, D. McGrath, P. McGrath, B. Sharkey, H. Donnelly, S. Devlin, P. McKenna, F. McSwiggan, B. McCallin, B. Monaghan and S. McGrath.



**1976 HURLING TEAM**

Back Row. L to R. K. Sloey, M. McClements, B. Breen, G. Kirk, E. Bradley, Br. Canton, J. Toal, Br. O'Reilly, B. Taggart, D. McGale, P. Quinn.  
 Front Row. L to R. N. McGinn, T. McGread, S. O'Reilly, S. Moan, P. McGinn, P. Smart, D. Sweeney, D. Breen, B. Harkin, N. McClements.

The Senior team completed the double in 1977 when they defeated Carrickmore in the County Final at Pomeroy. The Senior hurlers: P. Quinn, G. McKnight, Br. O'Reilly, G. Kirk, D. McGale, E. Meenan, J. Toal, P. Morris, K. Sloey, M. McClements, E. McAllister, B. Harkin, N. McClements, E. Bradley, S. McGreer, Br. Canton, D. Breen, B. Breen, B. Taggart, N. McGinn, S. O'Reilly, P. McGinn, D. Sweeney, E. McGlone, T. McGread, S. Moan and P. Smart. These were the players who took part in the Senior Hurling League and Championships from 1975-77.

In '78 and '79 some of the original panel of players were no longer available but experienced players like B. Donnelly, P. O'Connell, M. Brennan ensured that Killyclogher remains a force in Tyrone Hurling. Clubs taking part in the 1979

Hurling League and Championship—Carrickmore, Dungannon, Eoghain Ruaidh, Dunamanagh, Kildress and Killyclogher.

Hopes for the future received a boost when the juveniles won the 1979 Juvenile title and it is hoped that these young players will ensure the growth and development of Hurling in the area. The 1979 Juvenile Champions: J. McCrory, J. Meyler, M. Hegarty, D. Martin, P. Quinn, T. McCann, G. McGinn, B. Hegarty, C. McGinn, E. Duffy, P. Hannigan, N. Knox, C. Knox, M. Alexander, A. McGlone, P. Hutchinson, C. Quinn, F. Quinn.

The tragic deaths of Noel McClements (1978) and Brendan Breen (1979) in road accidents cast a shadow over the club. These popular young players had come through the youth teams and were prominent in the promotion of hurling.

**TYRONE 1948**



Back Row. L to R. D. Gallagher, J. Quinn, J. Devlin,  
L. Gilmartin, J. Harte, P. O'Lone, J. McGeoghan,  
B. O'Donnell.

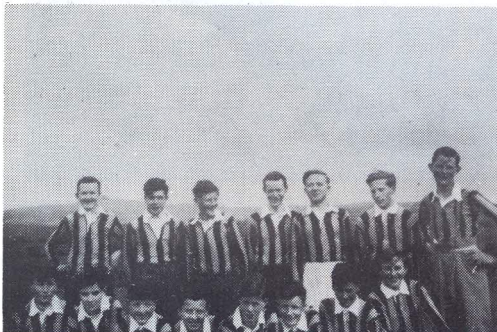
Front Row. L to R. M. Nugent, E. Meehan, J. Meehan,  
C. Mulcahey, M. Cunningham, B. Barrett, S. Rafferty,  
D. Torney

**1950 SENIOR CHAMPIONS**



Back Row. P. Cunnane, B. McCaul, J. Maguire,  
P. O'Lone, C. Cunningham, J. Devlin, S. Maguire,  
J. McGale, W. Judge.

Front Row. L to R. S. Cunningham, E. McCrory, M.  
Cunningham, C. Mulcahey, T. McCrory, M. Nugent.



# CAMOGIE

As part of the Gaelic revival of the thirties a Camogie Club was formed in Killyclogher at a meeting on April 9th, 1934, presided over by Fr. M. Collins. It was decided to enter a team in the league and the following officers were elected:

President: Miss K. O'Connor,  
Vice President: Miss S. McGowan,  
Secretary: Miss M. Kelly,  
Treasurer: Miss M. Quinn.

The Camogie team, trained by Master Eamon McPolin, former principal of Recarson School, and, with much of the organising drive coming from the McGowan household, soon became a force in Tyrone Camogie. Indeed in 1936 the Killyclogher Calinini played a team representing all of East Tyrone and in 1937 Killyclogher became champions. A number of Killyclogher girls played for Tyrone in this period and the following contributed to

## CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS



Back Row. L to R. C. McCaul, S. McCaul, E. Haddock, K. Flanagan, N. Gubbins, B. Ferris, S. Corry, J. McCrory, M. Kelly.  
Front Row. L to R. A. McCaul, P. Kenny, S. Gubbins, M. McGowan, M. Gubbins, M. McGinn.



Killiclogher's success: Maggie McGinn, Sarah Gubbins, Minnie Gubbins, Claire McCaul, Cissie McGowan, Agatha McCaul, Lizzie Haddock, Kathleen Flannagan, Molly Kelly, Mona McCaul, Peggy Kenny, Molly Kelly, Nan Gubbins, Bridie Ferris, Susan Curry, Margaret O'Reilly, Bridie McGlinchey.

In 1966 there was a Camogie revival in Killiclogher inspired by Fr. McGinn and

a number of games were played but the absence of teams in the area to provide opposition was a big obstacle to the progress of the Club.

At present Marietta Meenan, Angela Meenan, Mary Donaghey are playing with neighbouring Carrickmore but when the New Park is opened in Ballinamullan in 1980 it is hoped that a Camogie team can be formed in the parish.

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#### KILLYCLOGHER 1966 CAMOGIE TEAM



Anita Quigley, Jacinta Keenan, Frances McMullan, Anne Mary Kelly, Sally McGinn, Anne Kelly, Deirdre McAloon, Mary McAleer, Rosemary McElduff, Patricia O'Connor, Aileen McCrory, Sheila McCaul, Kathleen McGinn, Rose McAleer, Mary McLaughlin.

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**Back Row: Aiden Meenan and Sean Donaghy [2nd and 3rd from left]  
Front Row: Eamon Meenan [2nd from left].**

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# American Connection

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**Back Row: Plunkett McDermott (3rd from left). Front Row: Gerry McKnight (2nd from left), Peter Bradley (3rd from left) and Gabriel Bradley (4th from left).**



Back Row: Eamonn Meenan (1st left) and Sean Meenan (7th from left)



Back Row: Sean Donaghey (4th from left) and Sean Meenan (7th from left)

# COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

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The aim of every player is to win honours with his Club and to be selected to play for his county. Since 1965 many players, at different levels, have been fortunate to win Club competitions while the Club has been honoured by the selection of some of its members on county teams.

Senior: E. Meenan, E. Bradley, S. Meenan, M. Bradley.

Junior: S. Meenan, K. McCrory.

Under 21: A. McMullan, M. McCrory.

Minor: E. Meenan, S. McKnight, P. Toal, M. McCrory, P. Bradley, B. McCullagh. J. McCullagh, N. McGinn, M. Bradley, M. Haran, E. Duffy.

Vocational Schools: P. Toal, M. McCrory, S. McKnight, P. Bradley, M. Bradley, E. Duffy, J. McCrory, P. Hannigan.

Winners of Ulster and All Ireland Vocational School Medals: P. Toal, M. McCrory, S. McKnight.

Winners of Ulster Minor Medals: P. Toal, M. McCrory, S. McKnight, M. Bradley, N. McGinn, J. McCullagh.

Winner of Ulster Under 21 Medal: M. McCrory.

Winner of McKenna Cup Medal: E. Bradley.

The following Club members have worked at administrative level on various boards in Tyrone:

A. Connolly—Vice Chairman West Tyrone Board.

J. Bradley—Treasurer Referee's Board.

B. Harkin—Ulster Council Delegate; Chairman and Secretary West Tyrone Youth Board; Ass/Sec. of All County League; Tyrone Hurling Officer.

S. Harkin—Secretary of West Tyrone Youth Board.

P. Quinn—Secretary of Ulster Referee's Board; Secretary of Tyrone Referees' Board; Member of Tyrone Hurling Board.

## 1971 ULSTER MINOR CHAMPIONS



Back (left)—Brian McGinn, Dominic Daly, Hugh Crawford, Frank McGuigan, Liam Turbett, Olly Nugent, Pat Sharkey, Peter Toal, Malachy McAleer, Barry Lowry.

Middle (Left)—Oliver O'Neill, Kieran Hagan, Willie McKenna (capt.), Patsy Hetherington, Dessie McKenna, Pete McDermott, Martin McRory, Eugene O'Neill.

Front (Left)—Sean Coyle, Sean McKnight, Kieran Currie, Peter Brady, Dennis Rocks.



Tyrone v. Down 1970. Eamon Meenan back row 6th from left.



Vocational Schools 1979-80. Paul Hannigan and James McCrory, back row 1st and 6th from left.



Happy days — Tyrone in the mid seventies. E. Bradley extreme right back row

# 1978 ULSTER CHAMPIONS



L-R: Front row — Seán Mac Con Uladh (John McCullough, Killyclogher); Seán Mac Giolla Choinnigh (Sean McIlhinney, Fintona); Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh (Paddy Kelly, Dungannon); Cathal Mac An Fhíliú (Cathal Maneely, Brackaville); Pól Ó Madáin (Paul Madden, Dungannon); Gearalt Mag Fhinn (Gerry McGinn, Killyman); Eoghan O Maoláin (Eugene Mullan, Rock); Donn Ó Catháin (Don O'Kane, Dregish).  
 Middle row — Séan Ó Loinsigh (John Lynch, Castlederg); Cathal Ó Loinsigh (Charles Lynch, Castlederg); Míchéal Ó Broilacháin (Mickey Bradley, Killyclogher); Aodhán Mag Fhinn (Aidan McGinn, Fintona); Nuall Mag Fhinn (Noel McGinn, Killyclogher); Pádraig Mac Gaora (Pat McGearry, Dundalk); Damian Ó hÁgáin (Damien O'Hagan, Coalisland); Breandán Mac Éanna (Brendan McKenna, Augher).  
 Back row — Liam Mac Lochlainn (Liam McLoughlin, Drumquin); Réamonn Ó hArracháin (Raymond Hetherington, Donaghmore); Antoin Mac Suigín (Anthony McSwiggan, Cookstown); Aodhán O hÁgáin (Aidan O'Hagan, Derrylaughan); Brian Mac Roibín (Brian Robinson, Derrylaughan); Brian O Barcair (Brian Barker, Dungannon); Aindreas Ó Gallchoibhair (Andy Gallagher, Newtownstewart); Aodhán Ó Leogáin (Aidan Lagan, Omagh); Seán Ó Brógáin (Sean Brogan, Fintona); Diarmaid Ó Báin (Jerome Bayne, Coalisland).

**TYRONE IN CROKE PARK**

**GROUNDS TOURNAMENT WINNERS**



A. Connolly (front row 2nd from left).

**LEAGUE SEMI FINALISTS**



E. Bradley (back row extreme right)

THEY ALMOST MADE IT!



THE TYRONE TEAM THAT PLAYED CAVAN ON 29th APRIL, 1934 IN THE ULSTER CHAMPIONSHIP

Front Row: Tommy Cavanagh (Dungannon), Vincent Donnelly (Dungannon), Packey Madden (Carrickmore), J. H. Campbell (Coal-  
 island), Jim Hughes (Coalisland), Willie McElroy (Ardboe), Eugene Kelly (Killyclogher), Paddy Donaghey (Dungannon), Mickey  
 Donaghey (Carrickmore) mascot. Back Row: Billy McSorley, Joe Kilpatrick (Washingbay), Frank McGowan (Killyclogher), Peter  
 Mulgrew (Clonoe), Mick O'Neill (Clonoe), Seamus Bonner (Omagh), Dom. McCrossan (Omagh), Leo McMenamy (Dungannon),  
 Seamus Campbell (Coalisland), Loy Mathers, Jimmy McDaid (Trainer). (Courtesy Tyrone Games Annual 1974)

Other Killyclogher players of the Thirties represented Tyrone. In 1934 Tyrone won the Ulster Minor Title and  
 Killyclogher had H. McGrath, D. Kelly and W. Hamilton in the team.



# *Believe It or Not!!*

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## **Who's Who?**

The internationally famous Irish writer Myles na Gopalleen was a son of Michael V. O'Nolan, Tyrone's first chairman. Michael was born in Mullaghmore and went to school for a time in Killyclogher. Michael's mother was Mellon from Eskeradoey and her niece was Mrs. O'Hagan of Lisnahearney. Mrs. O'Hagan's grandson was a youthful member of the 1979 Under 12 champions!

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Charlie Sharkey of Killybrack was an enthusiastic spectator at the games involving the St. Patrick's team some 75 years ago and can thus claim to have seen every affiliated parish club in action to the present time. His grandson, Declan Rodgers, was goalkeeper on the team which won the County Juvenile Championship in 1969.

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Keeping it in the family. St. Patrick's 1904-09; St. Mary's 1932-41; St. Mary's 1965-79—three eras and three generations spanned by the McGinn family through grandfather, father and sons.

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Tactics. A certain team visiting Mountfield was reputed to have a few players who favoured playing in the bare feet or socks only and when the game was played would you believe that many small stones and even bits of whins had mysteriously appeared on the ground?

Where did you get that hat? Regular attenders at games involving the St. Mary's team of the thirties had only to look at Fr. Collin's hat to know how the game was going. The fortunes of St. Mary's were revealed by the angle!

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A clash of fixtures! On a fine summer Sunday in 1969 St. Mary's fulfilled 5 fixtures—Intermediate League, Junior League and Juvenile challenge in the afternoon and a Juvenile and Senior Tournament games in the evening.

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What a comeback! In 1932 St. Mary's trailed St. Enda's 0-2 to 1-6 at half-time and came back in the second half to snatch a draw and then go on to beat St. Enda's in the replay. In 1968 St. Mary's trailed Fintona 0-2 to 1-6 at half-time and came back in the second half to win the game and the West Tyrone League title by a point!

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The following players who helped to establish the present St. Mary's in the 1965-'68 period had sons or nephews on the team which won the 1979 Under 12 title—Eamon Burns, Paddy Quinn, Peter and Johnny Haughey, Peter and Eugene Quinn, Kevin and Mickey McGrath. Players of the St. Mary's teams of the thirties having sons or nephews on the St. Mary's teams 1965-'79: Mick McCrory, George Harkin, Eddie McMullin, Packie McGinn.

Fifteen County Men! Taking into account, Vocational Schools, Minor, Under-21 and Senior Representation the following present playing members of St. Mary's have county experience—Eugene Bradley, Michael Bradley, Peter Bradley, Eamon Meenan, Sean Meenan, Martin McCrory, Peter Toal, Aiden McMullin, Noel McGinn, Brian McCullagh, John McCullagh, Mark Harran, Eddie Duffy, James McCrory and Paul Hannigan.

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When Killyclogher played Dromore II's in a Junior League game the weather conditions were so that the Dromore players who were due to face the elements in the second half and were trailing 1-1 to 0-0 decided that enough was enough and gave the points to Killyclogher. (Keep it to yourself but not so long ago Killyclogher failed to score against Dromore Seniors in a tournament game)!

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The fourth generation of McCauls! When young Barry and Shane McCaul turned out for the 1979 Under 12 Competition they were following a great tradition established by their great grandfather in the early days of organised Gaelic Games in this parish and maintained by their grandfather, Brendan, a footballer and hurler of note right up to the successful Cappagh teams of the early fifties.

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The modest score of 1 goal 1 point was enough to win the first league point for the newly formed St. Mary's in 1965! When the Juvenile County Championship was won in 1969. A score total of 4 points was enough to bring victory over Augher.

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Sean Meenan notched 3 goals 7 points of Killyclogher's total of 3 goals 9 points in the McElduff Cup Semi Final win over Aghyaran in 1968.

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Close Rivals! When Killyclogher won the West Tyrone League and Championship in 1968 they had to overcome Fintona in both finals. Both finals required replays and the League Final was won by the narrowest of margins, a point scored by Anthony Connolly from a '50'.

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A Parish Meeting! When the Ulster Convention was held in Omagh St. Enda's Social Centre in 1979 the delegates and Council members were welcomed by Declan O'Neill who, as well as being a staunch Omagh G.A.A. man, does good work for the parish of his residence, Cappagh. The special Mass was celebrated by Fr. Farrell, C.C., Knockmoyle, while one of the Tyrone representatives on the Council was Brendan Harkin with John McGlinchey representing Derry. Both are from this parish of course.

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# SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

KILLYCLOGHER, a rapidly developing residential area on the fringe of Omagh is at the centre of the straggling, rural parish of Cappagh. With the influx of residents to the Killyclogher area it became an ideal centre for establishing the headquarters of the G.A.C. both because of its increased population and because of its geographical location. The G.A.C. was the organisation which claimed the greatest numerical allegiance in the parish and so the Club thought that it should be the hub around which the social activity of the community should revolve. The Club also believed that because of its very existence it had an obligation to the community to provide suitable recreational facilities. The provision of such facilities was regarded by the members of Killyclogher St. Mary's G.A.C. as a responsibility and not merely as a service.

In 1966 a plan for the provision of a social centre and the development of proper playing facilities was initiated. It was felt that the social centre was of immediate importance as through it a greater number would become interested in the Club and the needs of the youth, in particular, would be catered for.

Following the successful tournament in September a number of fund raising functions were organised for the winter of 1966 and the most rewarding of these was a Christmas Draw. The success of which was made possible by the effort of club members in selling tickets and by a few generous people donating prizes. Then came the opportunity of buying a sectional t & g impregnated weatherboard building in Enniskillen. This was successfully tendered for and, mainly through voluntary work, was dismantled over the Christmas holiday period and brought to Hugh McAleer's where it was stored.

Then came the troublesome problem of finding a suitable site and the even greater

problem of getting planning permission. The Club persevered and also continued with more fund raising functions to meet the cost of erection and for the provision of equipment and facilities. The search for a site finally ended in August 1969 when a site was obtained in the parochial car park through the effort and co-operation of the parish priest Father Dolan, R.I.P. and planning permission granted. This stroke of good fortune was followed almost immediately by another when the maple floor of the demolished Star Ballroom was purchased. Work began at once and continued right through the winter and thanks to voluntary labour with the help of subscriptions (notably the late Dr. B. Lagan and Knockmoyle Hall committee) as well as donations in the form of building requisites from well wishers the Social Centre was completed and officially opened on Tuesday, April 14th, 1970. The opening function took the form of a concert and dance with tea provided by a hard working group of ladies.

The next function was in conjunction with the 1970 Carnival and featured local talent in a music and drama show produced by Brendan Harkin. Those taking part included John Hutchinson, Teresa O'Donnell, Mickey McSwiggan, Artie Trainor, Mai Hutchinson, Patrick Kelly, Mary O'Donnell, Sean McMullan, Aiden McMullan, Seamus O'Donnell, Gina Trainor, Marian Trainor.

Then in the winter of 1971 Fr. McGinn organised a spectacularly successful theatrical event which ran for four nights in Killyclogher School and was also performed in Killyclogher Carnival Marquee and the Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital. It was Fr. McGinn who assembled the cast and it was Paddy Bagues, the country's leading amateur actor and producer, who welded the whole show together with his own inimitable touch and brought people from all over West Tyrone to see Theatre in the

Round. "Spreading the News", a one act comedy by Lady Gregory followed by a cabaret of Irish song, music and dance and the "Hills of Home" a poetic journey. This "enjoyable theatrical experiment" as the local press described it was put on in April-May 1972.

In the winter of 1973 Brian McGinn produced a one act play "Hyacinth Halvey" which was also well received.

In spring 1976 under the auspices of Killyclogher P.T.A.A. a very successful show of music, song and poetry was performed and it won its way to the Ulster Final in Cavan. These are only some of the highlights, as every winter the Social Centre provided a suitable venue for concerts, dances and the parish quiz (see section on Scor).

Of the people who have used the Social Centre there are many who have no interest in gaelic games but all respect the G.A.C. for the effort it made in providing the area with such a centre. **It is not necessary to list the names of those who put so much time and effort into building the Social Centre. Their satisfaction was in completing the Centre and their reward is seeing the**

**people of the area make the best possible use of it.**

Since 1970 the Centre has been used by the Parish Planned Giving Committee, Killyclogher P.T.A.A., C.C.E., Omagh and District Handicapped Association as well as by the Tyrone County Hospital, Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital and Beacon House for fund raising. The Youth Club has been the most consistent user of the premises and as membership of the Youth Club continued to increase it was decided in 1978 to give the Community Assoc. a 10-year lease so the building could be renovated and proper equipment obtained through the Western Education and Library Board facilities. A big face lift scheme was completed in the winter of 1978 and the new look centre opened on 25th March, 1979.

The Youth Club management will ensure that in addition to providing a full youth programme acceptable to the Youth Board the best possible use of the premises will be made by the whole community. The weekly Monday night Bingo is an example of providing a community service as well as raising much needed funds to pay for the renovation.



# SCÓR

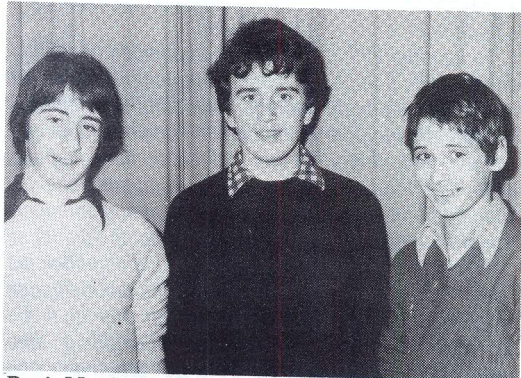
KILLYCLOGHER has taken part in the Scor Competition every year since 1972 and on a number of occasions has been the venue for area competitions. There has also been participation in Scor na nOg since its inception in Tyrone in 1974.

Taking part in Scor is the most important thing but, as in any event where there is competition, success is also important in that it provides an added impetus to the next year's competition. To date Killyclogher has scored success at County level and gone forward to the Ulster finals as Tyrone representatives in the following events:



**NOVELTY ACT FROM BRENDAN HARKIN AND JOHN HUTCHINSON.**

## ULSTER QUIZ FINALISTS 1979 AND 1980



**Denis Martin, Terence McCann, Michael McGlinchey**

Novelty Act Senior Scor 1973 & 1974  
 Novelty Act Scor na nOg 1976.  
 Question Time Scor na nOg 1976  
 and 1979.

The Novelty Act winners in 1973 and 1974 were John (photo) Hutchinson and Brendan Harkin while in 1976 Geraldine McGlone, Noel McGinn and John McCullagh were successful. The Question Time teams were: Brendan Blaney, Brian McCullagh and John Haran in 1976 and Denis Martin, Terence McCann and Michael McGlinchey in 1979.

From the Club point of view a very important spin off from Scor was the organisation of a Parish Quiz based on the Scor Question Time with an emphasis on Irish History, Geography, Sport and Literature as well as current affairs. The Parish Quiz is now in its seventh year and is maintaining its popularity.

### Past winners:

- Terraquin—John Toal Seamus Brogan Gerry Kirk.
- Cullion (twice)—Barney Ward, Tommy McCrory, Patrick McCrory.
- Arleston Road—Seamus Martin, Aidan McMullan, Sean McMullan.
- Stonebridge—Mat Ward, Vincent McCrory, Ann Burns.
- Arleston Road—Seamus Martin, Terence McCann, Denis Martin.

# COMHALTAS IN CAPPAGH

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THE parochial identity to which we belong is probably the most fundamental element of our overall national existence. Today, however, with modern standards of communication, travel and education it would appear that mankind is becoming more uniform, thus threatening the cultural structure of the world as we know it. In any culture the language must surely rank as the most important and fundamental element of one's nationality within the aforementioned cultural structure and of course other facets such as games, music, dances, tradition, customs all combine to constitute the national existence.

In Ireland we are fortunate that we have realised, hopefully before it is too late, that if we are to preserve our distinct Irish identity we must preserve and promote every facet of our culture and hence endeavour to incorporate it in everyday Irish life. We strive to achieve this through the various organisations such as G.A.A., Conradh na Gaelige, Gael Linn, and Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, each one although specialising in its own particular field co-operating fully with each other in furtherance of a common objective "An Eire Gaelach".

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann is an organisation which specialises in the promotion of traditional Irish music, song and dance but by using a platform of national entertainment Comhaltas members are encouraged to give succour to all aspects of Irish culture particularly the Irish language. The organisation also contributes towards the collection and compiling of local folklore in the form of customs, traditions, songs, stories, etc.

The Comhaltas Branch in our parish is based in the Social Centre in Killyclogher and its mere existence is proof of the co-operation which takes place between the



The late Charlie O'Reilly who was very active in forming the local branch of C.C.E.



C.C.E. CLASSES IN KILLYCLOGHER



various cultural bodies. It could be said that the Comhaltas in Cappagh was born out of the G.A.A.

In 1972 members of various local bodies including St. Mary's G.A.C. formed the West Tyrone Irish Culture Club, its objectives being the promotion of all aspects of Irish Culture in the parish. The club began a most successful series of Irish Language classes under the guidance of Brendan Harkin and this coupled with a historical session led by Mrs. Ann Quinn constituted a popular and enjoyable weekly gathering of cultural enthusiasts. As the activities increased music and dancing were introduced and people like Pat O'Loane, Art Quinn, Malachy McNamee, Jack Woods all came along to act as instructors at the various classes.

As interest in the music grew it was decided to form a branch of Comhaltas and

this was achieved at a special meeting in the Social Centre on December 11th, 1974.

The first committee was made up of the following:— Hugh Sweeney, Margaret McKenna, Harry Mullan, Ursula McCann, Joe McMenamin, Rosemary Flood, Brendan Harkin, Patsy McDonald and Charlie Ferris. The Branch immediately started a music class under the guidance of Joe McMenamin, Hugh Sweeney and the late Charlie O'Reilly. The success of this class was such that onetime pupils Thomas Blee and Peter Smith are now teachers in their own right, officially recognised by the Comhaltas organisation.

The local branch is now well established with a variety of activities, constituting a healthy yearly programme, including weekly music class, music sessions, concerts and ceilidhe.

My thanks to Harry Mullan for this article on C.C.E. in Cappagh.



Harry Mullan (centre of back row) has played a very big part in the success of the C.C.E. in Killyclogher



## FUND RAISING

KILLYCLOGHER'S first fund raising function was a Céilí in Knockmoyle Hall and indeed during the winters of 1965 and 1966 a number of Céilís were held there with music provided by either the Strule Céilí Band or Drumquin Céilí Band. In this way the first set of jerseys as well as insurance and registration fees were paid.

A one-day tournament and children's sports day in Charlie McCrossan's field on 16th September, 1966 raised the grand total of £40 7s 8d profit while a draw on Tuesday 14th December also showed a profit. The C.N.B. Pools were making about £1 per week. Even so when the sectional timber building, which was to become Killyclogher Social Centre, was bought for £125 on the 6th December and taken down over the Christmas and New Year holidays and brought to Hugh McAleer's for

storage the committee members had to make up some of the cost out of their own pockets!

A few big Céilís were organised in Knock na Moe featuring the Old Cross Céilí Band Show; the Northern Star, or the Green Cross. Profit was not always big, however, and indeed one of the scheduled Big Nights had to be called off due to an unscheduled heavy fall of snow.

Carnival mania hit Tyrone at this time but when Killyclogher organised a Carnival for 1969 it coincided with the outbreak of civil unrest in August, so the carnival was cancelled and the club faced a loss—posters, advertising and the hire of a marquee. The loss however was greatly cut by the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Waterson in giving the Royal Arms Ballroom free of charge for a céilí with the Northern Star which was well supported.



TOP RANK SUPER STARS WHO PLAYED AT FUND RAISING GAMES IN 1977 and 1978

A further carnival was arranged for 1970 and this time the marquee was burned in a malicious fire at a considerable financial loss to the club. Undaunted another marquee was hired and a successful carnival programme of dancing, bingo and a guest tea was held. Further carnivals were held in the years 1972-1976.

#### **Annual Dinner.**

The Club's first dinner was in January, 1969 (tickets £1!) and this has been held annually since. Although a non profit making function the dinner is a very important social event in the club year for both players and supporters. Attendance at the dinner reached an all time high of 347 in 1973.

#### **Social Centre**

When the Social Centre was opened in April 1970 there was still some debt in spite of voluntary work. A successful Bazaar that Christmas raised enough funds to offset running costs—heat, light, rates, etc. The Christmas Bazaar has continued to play an important part in the Club's fund raising.

#### **From Killyclogher to Dublin.**

On Monday 2nd August 1971 John Hutchinson and Brendan Harkin set out on a sponsored walk to Dublin. Business people from the parish and from Omagh sponsored the walkers and thus the outstanding debt on the erection of the Social Centre was paid off. On Sunday 8th August, 1971

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**TOP RANK SUPER STARS LADIES TEAM**



Tyrone played Mayo in the All Ireland Minor Semi Final and Killyclogher boys S. McKnight, M. McCrory and P. Toal were in action. This was an important factor in the raising of sponsorship.

### **Top Rank Super Stars.**

In 1977 and 1978 the Top Rank Superstars played exhibition games with Ulster All Star Selections and the games were followed by successful cabarets in the Royal Arms Hotel.

At this point it would be opportune to thank Tony Loughman and the Top Rank organisation and also local showband managers, Charlie McBrien and Seamus McCusker as well as singing stars Brian Coll and Shay Hutchinson and San Antones and Country Roads for help given over the years and a host of local artists who have performed at concerts.

### **Ten Week Draw**

The ten week draw from time to time has provided much needed funds.

Ciste Gael the official G.A.A. monthly draw is a regular source of income for the club.

The dedication of workers on an entirely voluntary basis and the good will and generosity of the people of the area in terms of attendance at the various functions as well as giving gifts and donations have been the main factors in all club fund raising.

The ladies of the area have also played a big part in organising Guest Teas and Buffets, as well as helping at Bazaars and making teas at Concerts and Dances. The players will always be indebted to the ladies who have washed the "strip" for the various teams over the year.

Many of the original committee members are still working for the Club. The successful youth teams of 1969-71 also provided some enthusiastic workers and in the '70s a number of good workers have been found and when it is considered these are non players then their work should be all the more appreciated.

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When the financial position of the Club is examined the importance of the cost of transport, or rather the lack of it is clearly evident. For the past fifteen years players and officials have provided free transport for all teams from the under 12s right up

to the two adult teams. Without the generosity of these men, who did so much at their own expense, the promotion and development of the game to its present standard would not have been possible.

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**AN ULSTER ALL STAR SELECTION WHICH PROVIDED THE OPPOSITION**



**CAPPAGH LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL**



Back row, 1 to r: Anne Sweeney, Veronica McKnight, Margaret Donaghey, Geraldine McGinn, Anne Meenagh. Front row 1 to r: Mary Donaghey, Patricia McGinn, Kathleen Moohan, Izzy Muldoon.

## From Field to Park

Throughout this parish and, indeed, throughout the whole country there are fields which traditionally were used for the playing of Gaelic games. Various farmers, often at great inconvenience to themselves, made fields available as a contribution to the promotion of the games and to the life of the community. Fully affiliated clubs as well as area or district teams took full advantage of this generosity. The importance of this gesture of goodwill is more fully realised when we consider the land question in Ireland at the time of the foundation of the G.A.A. in 1884.

Most of the land was in the hands of the landlords and the Irish farmers were in fact tenant farmers. The size of the farm was very small and as late as 1850 over a quarter of a million farms were under five acres. The famine of the mid and late 1840s ravaged the countryside and one million died through hunger or disease. Another million emigrated and many others were forced to give up their small farms to avail of the services of the workhouses.

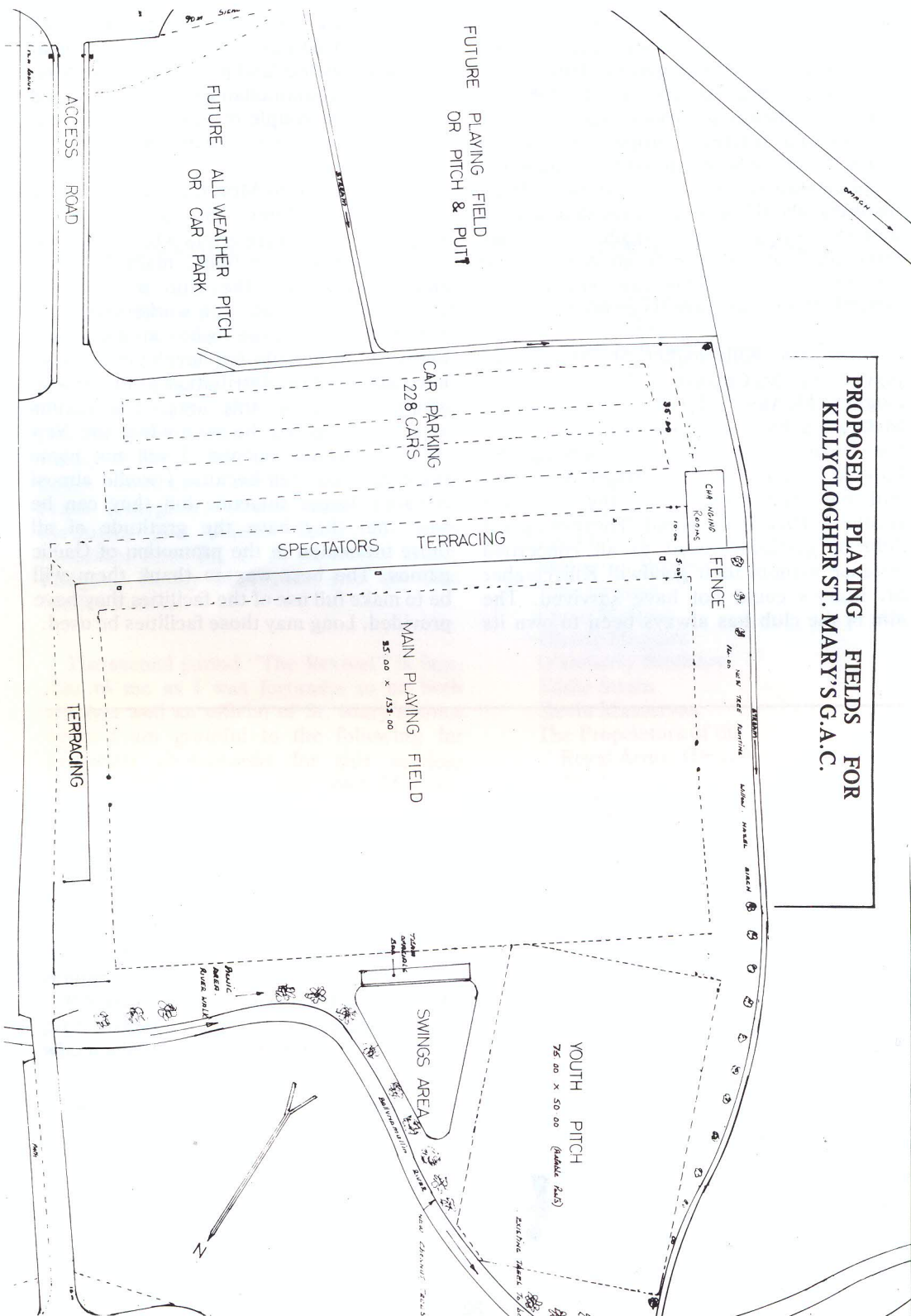
Relief Acts passed at this time had a clause which refused assistance to those who had more than a quarter of an acre. In the aftermath of the famine many young sons continued to emigrate and consequently there was less subdivisions of farms. Although farms increased in size the rights of the tenants were still very uncertain. At the whim of the landlord the rent could be increased beyond the reach of the tenant and he would then be evicted

from the land he had tilled and nurtured. Not surprisingly the tenant farmers began to organise themselves to change this iniquitous system. Michael Davitt formed the Land League in 1879 and through demonstration, agitation and boycotting it was finally impressed on the British Government that the Irish farmers were not prepared to accept the corrupt and unjust system of landlordism. However it was not until 1903 that the Government introduced an Act, the Wyndham Land Act, which made it possible for the farmers to own the land they worked. Landlords were compensated by the Government and the farmers now paid instalments to pay off the cost of their farms instead of the rent which they had paid for generations, without ever getting any nearer to ownership. At last the goal of the Land League—"the land for the people"—was being realised.

We should appreciate the generosity of those who made precious land available for the playing of games and we should realise how impossible it was for the G.A.A. Clubs and County Boards to buy their own playing fields in the early years of the Association. The motion in 1926 calling for the ownership of grounds by the G.A.A. was a brave gesture and launched the G.A.A. on a policy of vested grounds which, some fifty years later, we take for granted as a normal procedure.

If we believe that our Gaelic games are best then it is only natural that the best

**PROPOSED PLAYING FIELDS FOR  
KILLYCLOGHER ST. MARY'S G.A.C.**



facilities and amenities should be made available both for those who play and for those who support our games. This entails a good playing surface, level and well drained; changing room facilities for players and referees; proper car parking space and where possible, sheltered accommodation for spectators. Toilet facilities should also be provided and in general every effort made to make attendance at our games an occasion for the whole family. This can only become possible if the club owns its grounds.

Since 1965 Killyclogher St. Mary's has played in McCrossan's Field in Killyclogher, McAleer's Field in Cloughfin and McGrath's Field in Erganagh. For the last few years the Club has shared St. Patrick's Park with Drumragh Sarsfields and has had the use of the Christian Brothers' Park on occasions. There is a great debt of gratitude owed to all concerned because without their goodwill Killyclogher St. Mary's could not have survived. The aim of the club has always been to own its

own playing field complete with all amenities. That one-time dream is now near realisation as the land purchased from Mrs. Curran in Ballinamullan has been developed over the past couple of years and the New Park should be completed in 1980.

Thanks is due to Mrs. Curran for making the land available for purchase and also to the many supporters who, by attendance at various functions, made it financially possible for the club to purchase and develop the site. The workers at these functions and those who kindly made machinery available for development work have made a big contribution to the growth of the G.A.A. in this area. The results of their efforts will be seen when the New Park is officially opened. I will not name these devoted men because I would almost certainly forget someone but they can be sure that they have the gratitude of all those interested in the promotion of Gaelic games. The best way to thank them will be to make full use of the facilities they have provided. Long may those facilities be used.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The second period "The Revival" is familiar to me as I was fortunate to be both a player and an official of St. Mary's since 1965. I am grateful to the following for providing photographs for this section: John Bradley, Eamon and Sean Meenan, Pat McSorley, Mrs. Hutchinson and Denis Martin.

I would like to mention the contribution made by my own family, my father, mother and uncles who through nights of reminiscing made me aware of the Gaelic traditions of this parish right through the present century.

Finally I must pay tribute to the professionalism and patience of the printers who made this book possible.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

I wish to acknowledge the financial assistance given to the production of this book by the following business men:

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Their generosity has helped to defray printing costs and so make the whole project possible.





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Killiclogher St. Mary's would like to acknowledge the courtesy, consideration and service offered by the **Allied Irish Banks Ltd.** over the past fifteen years.