

HURLING WORLD

Ulster
championship
kicks off
without
Westmeath



“No room at the inn”
for All Ireland Champions
Tipperary after 1937 final

Galway launch
Operation
“Overlord”

4 Big Games in
Christy Ring
Cup

Belgium’s Cushen
Puts French and
Dutch ‘To Sword’

Above: Willie Ryan, Tipperary, Ollie Canning,
Galway, James 'Cha' Fitzpatrick, Kilkenny,
Neil McManus, Antrim, at the launch of the
Hurling All-Ireland Senior Championships in
Kilkenny Castle. May 6th 2009
Photo: Ray McManus / SPORTSFILE

Hurlers go
Cuckoo
in Kinvara

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our Hurling E-Zine.

We've been overwhelmed by the feedback from the first issue. Thank you to everyone who has taken time out to contact us. We plan to give this great game the publicity it deserves and we plan to do that with the help of our readers by using articles written by you.

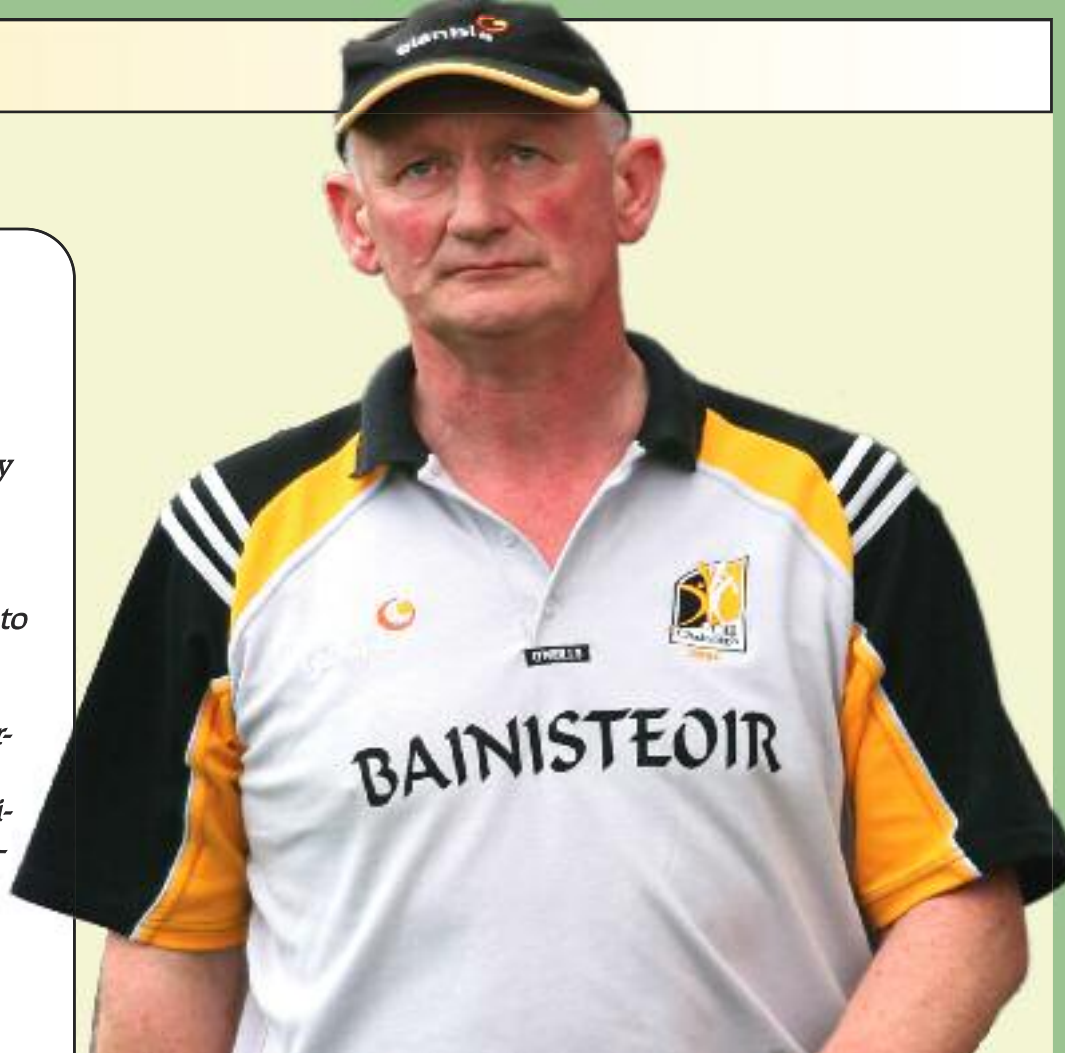
We will also take on board any suggestions and feedback on improvements. Already, this week's issue contains articles supplied to us by our readers in the last 7 days. Keep them coming!

Kilkenny needed an extra 20 minutes to eventually see off Tipperary in the League Final. The margin of victory has given other teams a big boost and has put a new lease of life into the Championship. The also-rans of previous hurling championships now believe they have a realistic chance of stopping Kilkenny from equalling Cork's record of 4 in a row in the early 1940's.

Brian Cody will again leave no stone unturned in turning out another well oiled machine this year but there may be a few more questions to be answered after Thurles.

The Christy Ring Trophy got off to flying start over the weekend with a number of high scoring games. Mayo's Keith Higgin's opted out of a trip to New York with the footballers in favour of a trip to Kerry with Hurlers. Unfortunately for Mayo, that commitment didn't pay off as they went down by a point in Tralee. Reigning Champions Carlow got off to winning start. There was also wins for Down and Kildare. We have a report on all four games.

Armagh, Donegal and Fermanagh all recorded wins in the 1st round of the Ulster Championship. The Ulster Championship is the only provincial Hurling Championship where all counties participate.



Last week Brian Coady captured the 14th National Hurling League title for Kilkenny. Is he now thinking of getting his team to join Cork on the highest pedestal? The Rebels are still the only side in the 125 year history of the GAA to achieve four in a row from 1941 to 1944. (Photo John McIlwaine).

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Galway prepare invasion fleet

Michael O'Muircheartaigh launches the Galway supporters club and new website in the Clayton hotel



Galway senior hurling captain Ollie Canning.

"You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you".

- Dwight D. Eisenhower

(In a letter to his 150,000 troops - written on the eve of Operation Overlord, the Allied codename for the invasion of Normandy involved more than 150,000 men on D-Day 6th June 1944 as the Allies prepared to invade the beaches of Normandy).

"We are going into Leinster, we are going into a territory that do not want us and they are probably right. It is their province. We are the proud bearers of the tradition of Galway Hurling; we are the proud representatives of Connacht crossing the Shannon with that jersey on the backs of those fine young men"

-Joe Connolly

(In his address to the supporters club, former players and the present senior panel)

You couldn't escape the sense of history in Galway's Clayton Hotel on Saturday night where supporters, players, and ex players gathered with GAA personality Micheal O'Muircheartaigh to launch their new supporters club and website as the county prepares to play in Leinster for the first time in the 125 year history of the GAA.

Eamonn Bradshaw, Galway supporters club chairman told the audience that the county has procured 2000 free tickets for the youth of the county to be distributed through the clubs in the coming weeks for the game in Portlaoise on the 31st of May.

The new website www.ghsc.ie is now online and features the new logo which is a sliotar with 2 hurleys entwined in the centre. The home page contains a word from the manager and you can download your supporters club membership form.

In line with recessionary times membership rates are very reasonable. Family membership is 30 euro, the adult rate is 20 euros while a student can join for 5 euro. With your new membership card you are entitled to between 10 and 15% discount at top stores around the county where the supporters club sticker is displayed in the window.

On Stage Micheal interviewed a number of key people including team manager John McIntyre who gave some insight into the ongoing mood of a manager. " You can't get carried away by what you are doing because every other county is working as hard.



Above: The home page of the new Galway Supporters Club Website. www.ghsc.ie



Right: Galway senior player Damien Joyce signs a hurley for a fan at the launch.

Some nights you go home and you are depressed because of injuries problems loss of form of a player, or a mistake you made yourself but we are very united we are pulling hard together. I can't promise anything but I do know this if we are beaten it will be because we are beaten by a better team"

Team captain Ollie Canning is looking forward to the campaign. "Its something new and we are looking forward to it. We are very enthusiastic about the whole year ahead.

The greatest cheer of the night greeted Joe Canning. He was asked if the press affected him "I think it just goes in one ear and out the other. I don't have much between the two lugs so I think its only filling a few gaps in pages and papers". He expressed disappointment with last year "We went out badly enough that was my first year. Now there a great sense of unity and a great bond

together hopefully if we get everybody going in the same direction. We are going out there to do our very best for the Galway Jersey and we are proud to do that. I think that if everybody rows in behind I can nearly guarantee that we will be there in the second Sunday in September.

Mayor of Galway, Paraic Conneely has been disappointed with the Galway support in the

past."The lack of support and the lack of colour in the city, its not good that the city would be behind in supporting the club or the county that goes to an All Ireland final. We have a long history of supporting hurling and just recently we dedicated a building in the city the coach centre to Sean Duggan from college road one of the greatest hurlers to come out of Galway

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“I have full confidence in your courage and devotion to duty and skill in Battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory! Good luck! And let us beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking”.

-Dwight D. Eisenhower (5th June 1944)

“When we go across the Shannon to play Laois we need the cars filled in Galway to come after us, to come after this team, and for the semi-final and final and wherever we go this year... we badly need Galway to rise up again to be what Galway was in the 80’s, We need it, the players need it and I guarantee that if the supporters come behind the team that will surely help the lads in their efforts on the field”.

-Joe Connolly (9th May 2009)

Above: Cork’s Tim Crowley and Galway Hurling Manager, John McIntyre in the 1984 Munster Final.



Micheal O’Muircheartaigh in Croke Park

Highlights of the launch of the new Galway Supporters Club Website in the Clayton Hotel are available on YouTube. Search for Galway Hurling Supporters Club HURL0011



Michael O’Muircheartaigh and Joe Connolly share a joke on the big screen at the Galway Supporters Club Launch in the Clayton hotel.



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This weekend saw the start of the second tier hurling championship - the Christy Ring Cup (Named after the Cork hurling legend). The brainchild of former GAA President, Sean Kelly, the view at the time was that the championship wasn't giving the weaker counties a 'fair crack of the whip'.

The competition has been a huge success in its first four seasons. Regular games, not being subjected to hammerings at the hands of the stronger counties and a realistic chance of getting to play in Croke Park, are seen as its main advantages. There are some however who believe that automatic promotion to the Liam McCarthy Cup should be granted to the winners.

To date, Westmeath have been the most successful team in the Christy Ring, winning two titles in 2005 and 2007. Antrim have recorded one win in 2006, while Carlow were surprising winners last year after an epic tussle with Westmeath which was settled in extra time.

There were four games down for decision this weekend.

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Craig Doyle, Carlow in action against Adam Price, Westmeath in the 2008 Christy Ring Cup Final

Kerry 3-11 Mayo 1-16

It took all of 75 minutes to separate the sides in this Christy Ring Cup Round 1 tie, as a last gasp Evan Sweeney Kerry point from way out on the touchline broke the hearts of the travelling Mayo party, just when everyone present expected extra-time.

Two early Kerry goals from Dooley and McCarthy left Mayo playing catch-up for most of the opening half, but Mayo points from Adrian Freeman (3), Keith Higgins (2), Derek McConn and two more in succession from David Dowling left the half-time score at 2-5 to 0-9 in favour of the Munster side.

Kerry showed their cuteness in front of goal within five minutes of the restart as again they goaled courtesy of corner forward Sean Young. Mayo had a mountain to climb and points from Derek McDonnell (2), Keith Hig-

gins (2) and Stephen Broderick got the West-erners back into contention. Mayo wingback Con Ryan also got on the scoring as he pointed in the 57th minute courtesy of a quality cross-field ball from corner-forward Derek McConn. Trailing by three points, Mayo's equalising goal in the 68th minute came from an unlikely source; after being withdrawn from the game early in the second half due to a contact lens issue, Mayo wing forward was reintroduced with five minutes remaining in the game, and justified his reintroduction as he goaled within a minute to bring his side back level. Shane Brick and Adrian Freeman exchanged points just before entering injury time. Then Tipperary native Evan Sweeney pointed from an acute angle to give Kerry the points.

Kildare 3-19 Westmeath 2-21

Westmeath would have been strong favorites to claim victory in Mullingar on Saturday despite Andy Comerford's Kildare recently being crowned Division 3A champions. Kildare however ignored the script.

They were very impressive in the first half and led 0-14 to 0-6 at the interval but they failed to capitalize on their superiority in the second half as Westmeath came storming back into the game. Billy Foley's charges held Kildare to just 2 points in the second half where an Alan Devine goal ensure the game finished level at 1-16 apiece to send this exciting tie into extra time. Kildare pushed on scoring 2-3 to record a 1 point victory.

Down 3-20 Derry 1-22

Down claimed the spoils in a top quality high scoring affair eventually emerging as 4 point victors. Sam Dodds must feel very unlucky as he scored 0-16 and still ended up on the losing side.

Down held all the goal scoring aces in Eoin Clarke, Gareth "Magic" Johnson and Allie Higgins and it was these goals that made the difference in the end.

Down led by 6 points at half time (1-13 to 0-10) and a goal from Magic Johnson sent Down into an unassailable 9 point lead but Derry did not lie down and a staged a mini revival in the second half.

Derry's comeback was ended when Ally Higgins goaled late on and Eoin Clarke and Simon Wilson added insurance points.

Carlow 4-16 Wicklow 3-9

Meanwhile Carlow recorded an expected 10 point victory against Wicklow. The reigning champions were never in trouble Paudie Kehoe sparkled, smashing in 2-4 in a stellar performance.

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Ulster Senior Hurling Championship Results
 Fermanagh 0-13 Cavan 1-9
 Donegal 1-21 Tyrone 0-6
 Armagh 1-22 Monaghan 0-9

left: Kieran McKiernan, Armagh, in action against Aidan Kerr, Monaghan. Ulster Senior Hurling Championship First Round, Armagh v Monaghan, Athletic Grounds, Armagh

Fermanagh 0-13 Cavan 1-9

Fermanagh recorded a 4 point victory over cavan to progress into the next round of the Ulster SHC where they will play London in the 23rd May, The first half was a tit for tat affair ending 0-7 to 0-6 in Fermanagh's favour with the free taking of Fermanagh's Ryan Bogue and Cavan's Adrian McManus standing out. Bogue was outstanding from the placed ball in the second half and Fermanagh stretched their lead to 4 points. Sean Og Brady goaled late for Cavan but Fermanagh held out to emerge victors by one point.

Donegal 1-21 Tyrone 0-6

Donegal hardly had to move out of 2nd gear to record an 18 point victory in Letterkenny on Saturday. Kevin Campbell finished top scorer in the game with 1-7 with his goal coming from a second half penalty. Tyrone's cause was not helped by the fact that midfielder Joe Kelly was sent off just before half time. Donegal go on to face Armagh in the next round.

Armagh 1-22 Monaghan 0-9

Armagh recorded an easy 16 point victory over a poor Monaghan side in the Athletic Grounds in Armagh on Saturday. Monaghan were short 3 of their key players and Armagh are two tiers above their neighbours in the National League. It is a little baffling to see Monaghan in the Nicky Rackard Cup later this year and not in the Lory meagher competition.



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This week TV3 announced its ten exclusive live GAA Championship matches for the forthcoming season. In the second year of this significant contract, TV3 is the first independent broadcaster to show live All Ireland Senior GAA Championship matches as part of its three-year deal. TV3 will be announcing full details of its championship 2009 coverage at a media event on Tuesday 26th May from Thurles. This event will also mark the GAA's 125th anniversary with a live Ireland AM broadcast.



Above Right: Damien Fitzhenry may be set for his 17th Championship between the Wexford's posts. Colm Bonnar has given the strongest hint yet that one of Wexford's greatest ever goalkeepers may be recalled to the Wexford line up to face Offaly in the 1st round of the Leinster Championship at the end of the Month. "Every position on the team for the championship match against Offaly is up for grabs, and the goalkeeping position is no exception" Said Bonnar.

Right: Following Down's failure to field a team against Justin McCarthy's Limerick last weekend, Down Senior Hurling Manager, Jim McKernan has issued a personal apology to the Corkman. Despite last week's setback, Down got their Christy Ring Campaign off to a good start with a win over Derry on Saturday.



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Hurlers going Cuckoo

Well known for its Cruinniu na mBád and Fleadh na gCuach (Cuckoo) festivals, the "Picturesque Seaside Village" of Kinvara is launching its second Féile Cuchulainn festival on Friday the 24th May in the Pier Head Bar and Restaurant, Kinvara from 7:30 pm.

Words and photos: Donagh O'Shaughnessy

Kinvara GAA are launching the 2nd annual Kinvara Road Hurling Festival Féile Cuchulainn this June. on Friday the 24th May in the Pier Head Bar and Restaurant, Kinvara from 7:30 pm.

Following the success of last year's road hurling event, the event will take place this year from the 12th to the 14th June and will showcase some of Galway's finest hurlers in competitions throughout weekend.

The fundraising dinner will be an opportunity for GAA members and hurling enthusiasts to meet local legends and other special guests.

The highlight of the festival is the pucking of the sliotar from The Michael Cusack Centre in Carran, Co. Clare along the road the 12 mile distance to Fáiche Pádraig in Kinvara. The road hurling stretch from Carran to Kinvara is set to provide great entertainment for onlookers

The Road Hurling Championship will see over 50 clubs from all over Galway, Ireland and hopefully further afield, all competing for the title "Kings of the Road". There will also be a camogie competition for camogie clubs. Clubs are encouraged to enter a team of three players with the winners on the day being the team with the least amount of pucs



needed to get the sliotar to the finish line, over a course circa 3.5 miles long.

The weekend promises to be a celebration of Irish traditions with a re-enactment of the legend of Setanta with target shooting at the Quay on Sunday 14th June. Feile Cuchulainn offers people a great opportunity to celebrate Ireland's native game and a chance to introduce those who are unfamiliar with the sport of hurling.

The weekend will be jam-packed with traditional hurling activities suitable for all ages, from beginner to hurling expert. Along with that, there will be plenty of music, with Kinvara long been a Mecca for musicians, and also keep a look out for some unusual characters! You can find more information at www.kinvara.galway.gaa.ie



Dungaire Castle, Kinvara.



The Féile Cuchulainn Festival along with Cruinniu na mBád and Fleadh na gCuach have made Kinvara the little seaside capital of the West.

Belgium's Cushen Puts French and Dutch 'To Sword'

Words: The Wandering Gael
Photos: The Wandering Gael



Above: The Belgian Senior Hurling Team 2009.
back row; Dominic King, Michael Hough, Conor Aylward, Adrian Hiel, Declan Hilary, Yann, Emmett Devine, Philip Roche.
Front row; Martin Crowley, Eoin Sheanon, Kevin Keary, Willie Cashin, Dave Barrett, Philip Cushen, Aidan Harte.

The first round of the 2009 European Hurling Championship took place in Paris on Saturday, April the 18th. The Championship is played on a league basis with a team's best four tournament games to count.

Paris is a welcome addition to this year's calendar and adds an additional tournament

for these committed hurlers. The Parisians have flirted with the Euro Hurling scene on occasion in previous years but with a more concentrated effort this year they hope to join Den Hague, Zurich, Belgium and current European Champions, Luxembourg on a more regular basis.

On a more worrying note, Lux and Zurich



Above: Players look on as Dominic King thwarts another Paris attack in the first round of the European hurling Championships.

failed to make the journey on this occasion as they struggled to get the necessary panel together. That left the hosts, Den Hague and Belgium to compete for the Paris title.

First into the ring were Belgium and Den Hague. The latter were missing some of their bigger names and the Belgians went straight for the bulls-eye.

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Dungourney legend Jam-sie Kelleher (left) captained Cork and Tom Semple from Thurles Blues captained Tipperary when the counties played exhibition games in Brussels and Fontenoy in 1910. The tour coincided with the Pan-Celtic Congress in Brussels in September



Above: Kevin Keary left with his trophy in Paris

Eoin Sheanon went on an early scoring blitz and by half-time the game was pretty much decided. Hague captain Sean Simpson did his best to drive his troops on and led by example crashing a 20 meter free to the roof of the Belgian net. However, it was to no avail as his side were well beaten.

After a short rest they were back in action against Paris and this proved a much tighter affair. Again it was Simpson who drove his men on but it was Paris, with Darren Lovell solid in goal and Dave Conlon pulling the strings further out who led all the way. Mick Cryan was the man of the moment as his two

first half goals gave his side a winning cushion.

This result rendered the final group game between Paris and Belgium meaningless as both sides rested players and engaged in a bout of shadow boxing. With player of the tournament, Philip Cashin keeping the Paris attack at bay, Michael Hough and Dominic King were able to pick of the scores to ensure first blood went to their side.

The final was a much more hotly contested affair as Paris came out intent on getting stuck in. However, the Belgians were the form team of the day and once the wind blew out

of the Paris storm, Philip Roche punished his opponents with some quickfire scores. A 1-10 to 0-2 half-time lead was built on as the Belgians went on to claim the spoils. _

_ Guest Inter County referee Joe Kelly presented the Paris trophy to the winner's captain Kevin Keary at that evening's dinner.

More competitive tournaments are in store when the competition welcomes Lux and Zurich back into the fray. Den Hague should have their big guns back and Paris will no doubt be all the better for their first final appearance. The next round takes place in Luxembourg on May 16th.

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1937 Tipp surprise Limerick by the lakes



Above: Kilkenny's Paddy Larkin (with cap) in action in the 1937 All Ireland Final in Killarney.

Left: Fr Meagher, Tipperary, County Board Chairman pinning the Blue Riband to captain Jim Lanigan in 1937 as Johnny Leahy looks on.

Limerick started 1937 as clear favourites to retain their championship but, having beaten Clare in the first round, they were met by a serious challenge from Waterford and went within a whisker of failing it. With seconds to go, Waterford led by a point but a last gasp goal by Dave Clohessy clinched the match for Limerick.

In the other semi-final, Tipperary won a thriller by a single point against Cork but entered the Munster decider as complete underdogs. A superb defensive display by Tipperary, however, kept Limerick at bay and limited their scoring propensity. Despite a wonderful performance by Mick Mackey,

Limerick went down by 4 - 3 to 6 - 3.

With eight new players in the Kilkenny team, confidence was low when they faced Dublin in the Leinster semi-final, especially after the previous year's heavy defeat against Limerick. Kilkenny, though, came out on top, winning by 5 - 5 to 3 - 4. Westmeath had surprised Laois to make their one and only Leinster final appearance to date. And what a challenge they presented to Kilkenny! Leading by a point with ten minutes to go, Westmeath were suddenly overturned by three quick goals by Martin White, giving the Cats a flattering 5 - 3 to 2 - 4 victory. The goalkeepers were the stars in a low scoring All-Ireland

semi-final when Kilkenny edged out Galway by 0 - 8 to 0 - 6.

The construction of the Cusack stand was taking place in Croke Park but, due to a strike, was not completed on time for the All-Ireland, which was assigned to Killarney instead. The match turned out to be a one-sided canter for a young, vibrant Tipperary team against the Kilkenny veterans and the Munster champions won by 3 - 11 to 0 - 3. For Lory Meagher and six more of his long serving colleagues, it was their last appearance on the big stage.

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Above: The teams parade in The All Ireland Final in Killarney in 1937.



Jimmy Butler Coffey



Happy supporters at the 1937 All Ireland Hurling Final in Killarney.

“The first meal we got, fair play to Johnny Leahy, he got the train to pull up in Mallow. We all got off and then it was there we had a feed... you couldn't describe it like, Killarney didn't want it - it upset their tourist trade. The trade they always had”.

...Jimmy Butler Coffey

You can watch Jimmy Butler Coffey's comments to Hurling World on YouTube at 1937 All Ireland Hurling Final HURL0007.

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Issue two competition time on YouTube

This week's competition has a Tipperary flavour. The period from 1987 to 1992 is best remembered for the Tipperary-Galway rivalry.

Cyril Farrell who had trained Galway to make their historic breakthrough after 57 years in 1980, built an even better team between 1985 and 1990. Michael 'Babs' Keating, ended the 16 year famine with a great team backboned by the Ryans, the Bonnars, Hogan and Leahy. All great teams need great forwards. Nicholas English and Pat Fox provided the magic that won 2 All Ireland's, 4 Munster titles and a National League.

We have selected 8 great goals from 'The Blue and Gold' DVD and placed them on YouTube headed 1992 Tipperary Hurling FOX and ENGLISH HURL0010.

Pick what you think are the best three goals and email the list to us with your full name and address. We will give away 5 'Blue and Gold' DVDS to the first 5 drawn that match the choice of this week's judge, Joe Connolly (Galway captain 1980).

English Goal A



Fox Goal A



English Goal B



Fox Goal B



English Goal C



Fox Goal C



English goal D



Fox Goal D



Issue one competition results. The five Kilkenny players in order were

- A. Aidan Fogarty.
- B. DJ Carey.
- C. Eddie brennan.
- D. Richie Power.
- E. Tommy Walsh.

To celebrate the success of the first issue of HURLING WORLD we have decided to give away 10 Black and Amber DVD'S to the first 10 names drawn and not five as originally stated last week. Congratulations to the winners you will be notified by email during the week and your DVD'S will be posted.

The winners are

- 1. Fergal McEvoy
- 2. Seamus McAleenan
- 3. Billy Two
- 4. Dermot Donohoe
- 5. Eoin Dunphy
- 6. Mark Graham
- 7. Liam Coonan
- 8. Brian Church
- 9. Kieran Delaney
- 10. Nicky Walsh



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