

Cork National Hurling Club / Blackrock National Hurling Club

Extracts from the Cork Examiner, Freemans Journal,

It's a matter of record that the Blackrock Hurling Club is the oldest of its kind in Cork, it was formed in 1883, 18 months before the G.A.A. was founded in Thurles, in November 1884, under the name Cork Nationals. In 1888 it changed its name to National Hurling Club, Blackrock, and later in the same year to Blackrock National Hurling Club.

For many years before that hurling teams existed in many parishes. On Monday, October 17, 1876, it was reported in one of Cork's newspapers that a match yesterday was fought out between the hurling club of Blackrock and that of St.Finbarrs. The contest took place at Glasheen and after a severe conflict the Blackrock men were completely worsted. The latter alleged that they did not get fair play and say they are ready to meet their opponents in a fair field any day that may be named. The men from the West Parish did not like the insinuation that they had not won fairly and they pucked off in a correspondence war that was to keep Corkonians tickled for the next few weeks. Four days after the match a letter to the editor signed by Michael Dunn, William Deasy and Timothy Riordan on behalf of South Gate Hurlers was published in the following terms, as the match has caused some conversation throughout the city and county, we ask you to allow us, with your usual desire for fair play, to lay the facts before the public.

The Blackrock men say they were deprived of a clear field on Sunday. When they won the choice of place and after play having comenced they put the ball down by their own corner. The people then rushed into field thus preventing the South Gate men from striking the ball towards their own goal. However, through sound judgement and manly play we took the ball away from them and won one of the best hurling matches that ever played in Cork, beating the Blackrock men without any exertion. It is madness on the part of the Blackrock men to say that their hurleys were taken from them by outsiders for the thousands of disinterested parties who witnessed the match can attest to the contrary. In conclusion we must decline to turn the sport which we play for honour into a money transaction. If the Blackrock men wish to try out their strength again, we will play them in Corkers Inch, Innishannon on any weekday they wish to appoint so as to prevent overcrowding. We appeal to the thousands who assembled to see the last match whether our playing was fair and manly last Sunday.

Such fighting talk provoked a retort from a "disinterested outsider", who promptly wrote back, as a disinterested outsider save in the spirit of fair play, who was on a ditch on the field from the commencing of play to the finish. I am in a position to state that on the ball being thrown up, the field being in possession of the respective hurlers, and on its reaching terra-firma the Blackrock men took it towards their goal and were evidently winning. On the outsider seeing Blackrock men gaining on their opponents, in play, they rushed in like a swarm of bees, jostled them about, kicked the ball and in many cases deprived them of their hurleys and, therefore the game was lost to them. I admired the pluck of the Blackrock men, they played admirably and I have no doubt whatever of their success, were they allowed continue the match. It is a pity that such a manly game should have been so much abused. Shame on the instigators of it.

The Barrs could not take this lying down, nor did they. Two days later came a scathing reply from Daniel Mahony, William Downey, Daniel Murphy and Daniel Buckley, on behalf of St.Finbarrs hurlers. Such an attack as had been published two days earlier would have been passed

over with the contempt an anonymous communication deserved they wrote, were it not that they had decided to bring the matter to a termination.

We have received challenges from time to time from many parishes in the county, Cloghroe we played twice, Ballygarvan twice, with their clergyman, the Rev, Fr. Murray accompanying them, Aglish once, Carrigaline twice, Shanbally twice, accompanied by Fr.McDonnell. In each of these several matches we were victorious and the defeated hurlers were quite satisfied with the play. No charge was ever imputed towards us until we played the Blackrock men. On several occasions we declined to play, thinking that the two parishes were too close to each other. However, on repeated challenges from the Blackrock men we acceded, after some reluctance to play them. The letter of this disinterested outsider is a tissue of falsehoods. It is a falsehood for him to say that the ball was kicked and their hurleys taken from them. If what he says is true, why not give his name so that it may be sifted and try not to take away the name of a parish whose goalers have beaten every parish they ever played.

We challenged the Blackrock men last week to play at Corkers Inch, Innishannon and received no reply, save a stab from a disinterested outsider. Now we beg leave to bring the matter to a termination. We refuse to hold any further communication with anonymous writers and we will always be found to play a fair and manly goal. In all the matches we played bitter feeling was never displayed and we now say that it was the Blackrock men who tried to turn this noble sport into a farce in place of cherishing it as one of our country's national amusements.

The Cork Examiner agreed with the Barr's sentiment of bringing the matter to a termination and declined to publish any more letters on the subject but suggested it was a pity that a matter of manly sport should be made the subject of taunts and recriminations. It offered the gratuitous advice that those interested in the game should endeavour to free it from it's one great disadvantage, that was ending in quarrels, would it not be possible to have, as in cricket, an umpire impartially chosen by both sides whose decision should be accepted at once and without appeal. If such a functionary could be got opined the leader in the "Examiner". We fancy there would be little difficulty about it and that the contending parties and that contenting themselves with those decisions, then the sport of hurling, a really splendid mimic combat, would be relieved of a disadvantage which alone prevents it being a thorough and general favourite.

October 10, 1885

A special meeting of the Cork National Hurling Club will be held at the Pinfore Gymnasium Hall, South Mall, on Tuesday next, 13th. October at 8 o'clock sharp. Punctual attendance requested.

1886

May 11, 1886

The Cork National Hurling Club had a practice match in the park on Sunday at which the president acted as referee. The GAA rules were observed. The play was very successful. Members are requested to attend a meeting to be held at no.2 Angelsea Street on Friday the 14th., at eight o'clock pm. For the election of officers for the ensuing year and other business

May 15, 1886

Last evening a very representative meeting of the Cork National Hurling Club was held at No.2 Angelesea Street, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing season. The following were unanimously elected:- Messers Edward Fitzgerald, President; M.O'Connell, vice president; Thomas C.Leahy, captain; P.F.McCarthy, treasurer; D.Lane, hon.

secretary, It was decided to hold a practice match in the park at twelve o'clock on Sunday next.

May 17, 1886

The Cork National Hurling Club held a practice match in the park yesterday under the GAA rules. The ball was thrown up at 12.30 by the president, who acted as umpire during the play, which lasted one hour and twenty minutes. Sides were changed at half time. A large number of people were present, who were delighted at seeing the old manly game revived.

June 10, 1886

At a meeting of the committee of the Cork National Hurling Club, held in the rooms of the Young Ireland Society, Prince's Street, it was decided to hold practice matches with other affiliated clubs with a view to prepare for the tournament to be held in the city, such as was held in Thurles some time since. A practice match for above will be held in the Park on Sunday next.

June 19, 1886

The hurling and football tournament in Cork.

The hurlers in the various districts in Cork are making active preparations for the hurling and football tournament to be held in the Cork Park early in August. The date has not yet been definitely fixed, but even on the very short notice given elaborate preparations may be seen on all sides, and everywhere is to be observed hurling teams engaged in practice. The St.Finbarrs hurlers play in the Lough district, and the Park is occupied every evening by the Cork National Hurling Club. Aghabullogue is sending a team and so are Macroom, Riverstown, Blarney, Little Island, etc. It may be mentioned that those are only the local hurlers. The visitors will comprise Templemore and other districts of Tipperary, and probably Limerick and Dublin. Negotiations are in progress with the Great Southern and Western Railway for a special train for the latter to Cork. A reception committee has been formed of two members from each club, and everything augers well for a magnificent display of our ancient pastimes.

Prior to the foundation of the county board in 1886, a committee organised a competition called the Challenge cup.

Twelve teams took part in what was to become the forerunner to the present day county championship. Blackrock, known of course as Cork Nationals in those days, first recorded competitive match in this competition was the semi-final against Macroom.

County Challenge Hurling Cup

**Semi-Final, June 27, 1886 Cork Park
Cork Nationals 1-1 Macroom 0-0**

Yesterday in the Park was the scene of the first trial hurling match prior to the football and hurling tournament between clubs in the counties of Cork and Tipperary, which will take place there on Sunday 29th. August, a series of matches will be played in the interm to seek the best clubs and for the superior club in the trial matches a prize of a silver cup, value five guineas has been offered by a lover of the game, resident in the city. The match yesterday was between the Cork National Hurling Club and the Macroom Hurling Club, and the announcement that it was to take place, drew to the Park about 5,000 spectators, who found one of the most orderly crowds ever seen as witness of a stirring game. The greatest of temper was shown by the players from start to finish, about which allows that this game when played under proper rules and with a proper spirit not so dangerous as is commonly supposed. Mr. J.E.Kennedy one of the vice presidents of the GAA, was umpire for the match. Mr.J.F.Crowley kept the time, while for the Cork club was Mr.D.Lane, secretary, and for the Macroom club Mr.O'Leary secretary.

The county challenge silver cup, began with Cork Nationals and Macroom The game was of eighty minutes, forty minutes a side. From the start the Nationals were the stronger team and persistently rained in attacks but

the Macroom goalkeeper was very dependable. Cork Nationals put the ball several times over the goal lines but were denied scores. Thomas Leahy; Patrick Ahern; Con O'Keeffe; Denis Scannell; James Nagle; John O'Leary; Patrick Kelly; Michael Cremin; David Cremin; P.Collins; J.Mc.Carthy; W.McAuliffe; P.Fitzgearld; M.O'Conner; T.O'Shea; J.Hayes; _O'Halloran; _Quirke; _Cottrell; _Philpott;

**Final August 15, 1886 Cork Park
Cork Nationals 0-2 St.Finbarrs 0-0**

One of the best hurling contests ever seen in Munster came off yesterday in Cork Park between the Cork National Hurling Club and St.Finbarrs Hurling Club, the two city teams being pitted against each other in order to determine which of them should be the winner of the silver cup value five guineas, given by a gentleman in the city who takes an interest in this old manly game.

The play was announced to begin at one o'clock, but it was half past two before the ball was put in motion owing to unavoidable delay. The ground was very wet and slippery from the heavy rainfall during the week, and especially in the morning, but before play commenced the rain ceased, and this added much to the pleasure of the thousands of spectators in the park the crowd being the largest ever seen there on any occasion for many years, and what was better, the people were most orderly.

Play lasted nearly two hours, including stoppages, the regular playing time being one hour and twenty minutes. The slippery nature of the ground made the players fall frequently, and this was especially the case during the last half hour, when the men played under a perfect deluge of rain. One of the St.Finbarrs men, Desmond, injured himself by falling on his hurley, and one of the Cork National Club got a scrape on the head, but it was not serious.

The St.Finbarrs team was captained by James Sheehan, while Thomas Leahy captained the Cork Nationals. Mr.Callanan,(secretary), was umpire for the former, and Mr.D.Lane (secretary), umpire for the latter, while Mr.C.O'Mullane (Metropolitan Hurling Club, Dublin) was referee. St.Finbarrs won the toss, and when the ball was thrown up, the St.Finbarrs, by fine play rushed the leather down in close proximity to the goal, but the National Club men got in and brought it back again to the centre of the field. Up and down, hither and tither, went the ball with great rapidity, and before the end of five minutes play the National Club men had the ball close to their goal, but again the St.Finbarrs team took it away, and there was a great deal of rushing for the next ten minutes. The National Club team secured a free puck from the 21 yards mark by one of the opposing team sending the ball over the end-line at the National team's goal, and the leather was sent flying over the crossbar, and two attempts, which converted what would have been a point into only a try for the National Club. This is the first honours scored in the game. The play was remarkably good on both sides for the next fifteen minutes, when the National men succeeded in getting the ball over the end lines, and after a goal puck out by Sheehan the St.Finbarrs goal keeper, (in fact all the send outs he gave were remarkably good), the ball was only in play for a minute when the National Club team again succeeded in getting over the end lines, a performance which they repeated twice in the next five minutes. Half time was then called, and the game stood Cork Nationals 4 overs and one try, St.Finbarrs one over.

When the second half of the game was entered upon, both teams played with almost double vigour, but the National team had their men better placed, and by a series of brilliant rushes and some well judged close play, they succeeded in obtaining five overs in as many minutes. The St.Finbarrs men made a most determined steal from this out, and the falls on both sides were very frequent owing to the slippery character of the ground, two and three players somersaulting over each other. The National men got four more overs, and once were within an ace of

making a goal. For the last ten minutes of the game the play was fast and fine, and although the St.Finbarrs men brought the ball up the field not far from goal, they did not succeed in gaining any more honours until time was called up.

The result of the match was in favour of Cork National Hurling Club, who have won the cup, the game at the end standing Cork Nationals, two points, three overs and one try, to St.Finbarrs one over.

The match proved the Cork Nationals to be the more experienced players, but had the weather been better and the ground more dry, the St.Finbarrs might have run them closer. As it was, the match was splendidly played, the men showing capital form and exhibiting the greatest good temper, and the community of Cork who love the pastime have a right to feel proud that the city can boast of two first rate teams as those measured hurlers yesterday.

Thomas Leahy(captain); Team not listed.

Inter County Tournament

In late august 1886, an inter county tournament was organised for Cork Park where three hurling matches and one football match were played between Cork and Tipperary clubs. Cork nationals were first into action, but lost out by the only score of the game.

August 29, 1886 Cork Park

Cork Nationals 0-0 Moycarkey 1-0

The largest crowd, probably ever seen in the Park came together yesterday to witness a series of hurling and football contests between teams from Cork city and county and those representing several districts in county Tipperary, and although they swarmed over the enclosed grounds at intervals and often got in front of the whitewashed mark at the end and sidelines, thereby interfering with the carrying out of the programme, by necessitating the curtailing of the time of play and having the last match postponed, still a more good humoured crowd of some thirty thousand people it would be hard to find in any part of the globe. The one-sided business as regards enthusiasm and elbow room also, was manifest when the Moycarkey and the Cork National Hurling Club were competing, and we make bold to say that if the crowd had kept off the field, and in this way given fair play, it would have been the best hurling match ever seen in Ireland. As it was, the play was simply superb on both sides, but towards the end the strangers had to play under fearful disadvantages, as half the time they were hurling among the crowd, or rather sections of it, and the wonder was that some of the spectators were not injured on this account.

Captain of Cork Nationals Thomas Leahy, Umpire D.M.Lane.

Captain of Moycarkey J.O'Grady, Umpire Major O'Kelly.

Moycarkey won the toss, but the Cork men brought the ball with a rush to the side line, and when it came out again, they swept it down close to the goal line, and they made an over before they were five minutes in play. Some half an hour was wasted in settling two charges, one made by each team, a Cork Nationals man was put out of the match for deliberately striking a Moycarkey man on the arm with his hurley, but the Cork Nationals preferred a charge of tripping against one of their opponents, and he too was put off the other team, thus equalising the strength of the respective teams.

Soon after the ball was set in motion, Cork National Club scored another over. Moycarkey then got well on the leather, and it travelled fast down the field, but the Cork men made a stubborn resistance. And after some splendid close play on both sides, Cork secured another over. The Moycarkey men missed the puckout, and Cork got a fourth over put to their credit, the Moycarkey men only having one over up to this point. Half time was now called and the sides were changed. For the first half the game was played with a Tipperary ball, which is smaller than the Cork one, and as the visitors had lighter hurleys, it was thought they would not

be able to make any stand against the Cork men with the heavy ball. However, the contrary was the fact, as the Moycarkey men played as if for dear life, and the Cork men did exactly the same. The play was now very brilliant. The Moycarkey men got the ball up near the goal line, and kept it in the vicinity for many minutes, the play from both teams being simply splendid. The visitors almost scored a goal, but the crowd was too far in front of the posts to admit of them doing so, and thus they lost a good chance. Fast and furious did the play rage for the next five minutes, when the Moycarkey men got the ball under the posts. The Cork Nationals held that the goal was not made, but the umpire for the visitors and the referee both decided that a goal had been made, and the game thus ended in favour of Moycarkey.

September 1, 1886

To the editor of the Freemans Journal,

Sir, I request you will have the goodness to give a place in your next issue of the Freemans the following corrections of your report on the hurling and football Tournament at Cork.

Cork National Hurling Club v Moycarkey, Tipperary. The expression "was been taken near the goal line" should be "was driven through the goal posts and kicked back by the crowd".

The expression, "the local men refused to play any more", should be, "the Moycarkey men refused to play anymore", not receiving fair play from the crowd who rushed over and passed all the boundary lines, I remain dear sir, yours truly, John Kelly Major, umpire for Moycarkey.

September 3, 1886

To the editor of the Freeman.

Cork National Hurling Club v Moycarkey, Tipperary.

Sir, I am astonished at seeing your report of the above match contradicted in your issue of yesterday. The expression "was being taken near the goal-line" is quite correct, and Major Kelly's contradiction altogether unwarranted, as no time during the play was the ball kicked by one of the crowd. I may add the Cork team had to contend against similar difficulties when playing towards the same end of the goal field as that which Major Kelly complains of on the part of Moycarkey.

The decision of Mr.Bracken was given without consulting me, and it was by his direction and at his suggestion that major Kelly claimed the goal. I may also state, the Moycarkey team was not confined to men from Moycarkey only, even Mr.Bracken's own admission there were members of the Holy Cross Club played with them, which is against the rules of the association.

Under all these circumstances, and taking into account that the Cork team had obtained four overs to one, I claim on behalf of the Cork National Hurling Club that they were entitled to victory. Trusting you will give this a prominent place in your next issue of the Freeman, I am, sir, yours obediently, D.M.Lane, umpire for the Cork National Hurling Club..

September 3, 1886

To the editor of the Cork Examiner, Sir your report of the hurling match in the Park on Sunday is incorrect in stating that a goal was obtained by the Moycarkey men. This I altogether deny, as the ball never approached, at any time, nearer than five yards to the goal posts, and our umpire not being consulted on the matter, I consider it high handed proceeding on the part of Mr.Bracken, the referee, to decide a goal on the supposition that it would be obtained if the crowd were not in front of the goal posts. My club cannot be held responsible for the conduct of some 30,000 people, coming as they did from all parts, the tournament committee having charge of the field arrangements.

As to the statement contained in your issue of Monday, the strangers had to play under fearful disadvantages, your report would have been more correct had you stated that both teams, towards the end had to play under fearful disadvantages. It was not possible for the Cork National Hurling Club to make elbow room for themselves only, in a hurling match

when it has been stated in your report that half the time the players were hurling amongst the crowd. When there was a clear field for the first half-time, my men obtained four overs against one over by the Moycarkey men, although they had choice of way and choice of ball. I may add to the claiming of the goal by Mr. Bracken, he refused to carry out rule 9 of G.A.A., which states, "No player is to catch, trip or push from behind. Penalty, disqualification to the offender, and a free puck to the opposite side." One of the Moycarkey men having committed a deliberate foul, our umpire claimed that the rule should be observed, therefore Mr. Bracken disqualified the Moycarkey man, but admitted him into play after an interval of five minutes, and declined to give the free puck to my club. When our umpire called his attention to the rule, his answer was, "these are Cork rules".

Had Mr. Bracken observed rule 9, and not allowed the Moycarkey man take further part in the play, and given the free puck which was our right, we would in all probability have run in a goal. If Mr. Bracken, as umpire of the G.A.A., can violate the rules of the association to suit his one-sided feelings, my club declines to submit to his decisions, and shall refer the matter to the G.A.A. at an early date. In conclusion, I beg to state that I shall leave the public draw their own inferences as to the merits of the respective teams.

Thrusting you will give this a prominent place in your next issue, I am sir, your obedient servant, Thomas C. Leahy, captain C.N.H.C.

September 4, 1886

Dear sir, Mr. Lane in his letter in the Freeman of Friday questions my decision in the hurling match between the Cork National Hurling Club and Moycarkey. In reply I beg to say that it was only when I had seen the leather cross the goal line between the posts, not once, but twice, that I ruled in favour of Moycarkey. Again, he states that I admitted that there were members of the Holy Cross team playing with the Moycarkey men. Allow me to explain. In the hurling match between Holy Cross and St. Finbarrs, the captain of the latter objected to two of the players on the Holy Cross team, as he alleged they did not belong to Holy Cross parish, and as a proof of his assertion he said they played with Moycarkey, and explained that although those two men played with Moycarkey they were Holy Cross men, that as the Moycarkey club was first established those men living on the borders of the parish became members. When the Holy Cross branch of the G.A.A. was formed, they also formed their own parish club. This explanation was deemed satisfactory by the captain of the St. Finbarrs team. This comes badly from a member of the Cork National Hurling Club. The men of Tipperary did not make any inquiries as to the constitution of the Cork teams. We went to the city by the Lee for the sole purpose of helping our brother gaels in Cork in the laudable efforts they are making to restore our old games and pastimes. If beaten we would have accepted our defeat with the best grace. As it was, out of four matches, we won three. If the men of Rebel Cork question this, I beg to inform them, on behalf of the men of the premier county, that we are ready and willing to meet them here on our own ground, and give them what, I am sorry to say, we did not get in Cork, a clear field and no favour, and let them reverse the decision if they can,

Faithfully yours, J.K. Bracken.

September 7, 1886

To the editor of the Freeman, Sir I beg your indulgence for the purpose of replying to Mr. Lane. I cannot allow it to go before the public unchallenged that I made an unwarranted statement. I repeat that my version of is warranted by facts which are corroborated by many, but the decision of the referee, Mr. Bracken, was sufficient in itself, this decision was publicly given by Mr. Bracken, and Mr. Lane was aware of it on the field, for I told him what it was myself, and I wanted to add that it would appear to have been Mr. Lane's duty to umpire to make himself acquainted with the decision.

We are not, however at all covetous, and have no desire to snatch and run away with this victory, for the Moycarkey men will be always ready to give the Cork men an opportunity of reversing it upon neutral ground or in gallant Tipperary.

Ready, aye, ready, yours truly, John Kelly, Major.

September 30, 1886

A meeting of the members of the Cork National Hurling Club was held last evening in the rooms of Cork Young Ireland Society, 27 Princes Street, Mr. Edward Fitzgerald, president in the chair. Amongst those present were Messrs D.M. Lane, hon secretary, Florance McCarthy, hon treasurer, Thomas C. Leahy captain, Timothy O'Shea, vice captain, J.O'Keeffe, T. Hodnett, J. Forrest, J. Duggan, P. Corkery, P. Geary, etc. Mr. E. Fitzgerald, PLG, proposed, and Mr. C.J. Sheehan seconded the following resolutions, "That whilst regretting the resignation of Mr. McKay from the G.A.A., and in recognition of the very great services he has rendered to the association, and to hurling in particular, that a sum of £5 be handed to the treasurer of the testimonial about to be presented to him, as a subscription from the Cork National Hurling Club". Carried unanimously.

Mr. F. McCarthy proposed, "that in future the Cork National Hurling Club be known as the Cork National Hurling and Football Club". Football would be a good game during the winter, when the game of hurling could not be played.

Mr. J. Ahern seconded the proposition.

During the subsequent discussion Mr. O'Keeffe asked the chairman was football to be played under Gaelic rules.

The Chairman said the club was essentially Gaelic, and Gaelic games alone would be played.

Mr. O'Keeffe proposed that the consideration of the matter be postponed for a week in order that a fuller meeting might be summoned.

The amendment being seconded, a vote was taken, when the original resolution was carried by a large majority.

On a motion by Mr. Duggan, seconded by Mr. O'Shea, it was resolved that the members in future be required to pay twopence per week in addition to the entrance fee.

Mr. Thomas Leahy proposed, "that any clubs wishing to play on the ground of the Cork National Hurling and Football Club on Sundays will apply for permission to the committee at least three clear days before the contemplated match is to come off. Permission only to be given to clubs affiliated with the G.A.A.

Seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Forrest said in consequence of the rule passed at the recent meeting of the G.A.A. delegates at Thurles, which made it impossible for a man playing football under the rules of another association, to be a member of a hurling club under Gaelic rules, he begged to tender his resignation, as he did not wish to get the club into trouble or dispute.

In compliance with the rules of the G.A.A, Mr. Forrest's resignation was accepted, the members of the club expressing their regret that such a course may be necessary, and hoping that at an early date a modification in the rules of the association would permit him again becoming a member of their club. The meeting then adjourned.

November 11, 1886

There is at present on view in Egan's, Patrick Street, window, a silver cup presented for competition by an anonymous lover of the national game of hurling, to hurling clubs of the county and city of Cork. The cup, which was supplied from Messrs Egan's jewellery establishment, stands two feet high upon a black ebony base. Upon the lid stands the appropriate emblem of the game in the shape of a figure of a hurler with a hurley and ball before him. The cup is two feet in height, elaborately chased, and is justly regarded by the fortunate owners as a valuable prize. It was won by

the Cork National Hurling Club, the names of the officers of which, as well as those of the successful team, are engraved upon it.

November 17, 1886

G.A.A. meeting in Thurles, Cork National Hurling and football Club representative was Robert Walsh.

December 20, 1886

First county board meeting, held at Alderman's Horgan, Maylor Street. Both Cork National Hurling and football Club delegates D.M.Lane and Robert Walsh were proposed for hon. Secretary for the county committee. Robert Walsh withdrew, and D.M.Lane was elected

1887

January 31, 1887

County championship draws, Cork Nationals select two teams. The first team play Aghabullogue, with the seconds team playing Glasheen.

County Senior Hurling Championship

1st.Round May 1, 1887 Cork Park Cork Nationals 0-3 Aghabullogue 0-0

The great attraction yesterday was the match between Cork National Hurling Club and Aghabullogue Hurling Club, as these two clubs are looked upon as the pick of the city and county. They had also previously met, and the play was very close and equal on both sides, so that the public had good grounds for believing that some beautiful play would be witnessed on the present occasion. In this they were not disappointed, both teams playing in their best form, and keeping the ball moving across and up and down the playground in rapid style, while the close play was very fine and scientific.

Aghabullogue won the toss, and played with the wind in their favour, but the advantage was not much as it was very light. Cork National's commenced well, and rushed the ball down to their opponents goal line, and when it was sent in again with a fine push by the Aghabullogue goal keeper, the Corkmen made a beautiful piece of passing, the leather being trundled from one man on the team to another five times in succession without Aghabullogue getting a look in. The Aghabullogue goal minder again struck out the ball in fine style, it had been sent out over the end line, and his men brought it quickly up the field. Hither and thither it was propelled in Cork National's territory, and ultimately it went over the goal line. Cork National's sent it out from the goal, and with the velocity of an express train they carried it down the field and scored a point, their run with it not being checked for an instant. On being struck into play again, J.Connell of the Cork National's caught it flying, and with a splendid tip drove the leather between the flag and the goal post, thus scoring another point. The first point was gained at the close of eleven minutes play, and the second point in another minute, Aghabullogue then made a rush up the field after taking the ball from the side-line, but as it was pronounced dead, their good run went for naught, as the ball was brought back again to the spot where it went over the side-line. The Cork National's once more invaded the Aghabullogue domain, and a lot of close play ensued, in the midst of which one of the Aghabullogue team got a bad blow on the knee and he had to retire from play. Sides were soon after changed, half time being called, and again the Cork National's began well, a point being scored by them in less than two minutes.

Thomas Leahy, the captain of the National's got a blow on the leg which cut a vein, and he also had to retire for a time, but he was able to return again and see the finishing strokes in the match. When the ball came into play after the third point had been scored, Aghabullogue swept it down to their opponents goal in fine style, and they more like snatching a goal when the National's goalkeeper repulsed their attack, and the ball was only over the end line. Play to the side followed, and M.O'Connor of the National's getting on the leather, he brought it clean up the field with

both foot and hurley unchecked, for which performances he was loudly cheered. The National's now got the ball over the goal line twice, but Aghabullogue responded gamely and well, and once more rushed it down the field and were within an ace of scoring a point. The National's then repeated their previous performance, and twice the ball was sent over the goal line.

Thomas Leahy; Michael Bermingham; Michael Creedon; Timothy O'Shea; William O'Keeffe; James Nagle; John Cashman; Denis Scannell; Harry Ahern; John O'Leary; John Murphy; Patrick Kelly; Patrick Ahern; Con O'Keeffe; Thomas Cremin; J.O'Connell; J.Hayes; David Cremin; W.McAuliffe; M.O'Conner; P.Collins;

May 17, 1887

Sir, will you kindly allow us space in the next issue of the Examiner to enter our protest against the action of the County Committee of the G.A.A. in rescinding at their meeting of the 12th. May the resolution of the 5th. Inst into Cork Nationals v Aghabullogue Hurling Club, by which the committee decided that this match should be played again, without any notice of motion, and deciding that the match be given to the Cork National's. We have no intention of letting the matter rest here after the treatment to which we have been subjected, and which we intend giving to the public at a future date, and only await the next meeting of the county committee to decide what action we shall take.

Signed on behalf of Aghabullogue Hurling Club, Denis O'Leary, President, Thomas T.Twomey, secretary.

President, Thomas T.Twomey, secretary.

May 23, 1887

Cork National Hurling Club v Ballinhassig, at Cork Park.

The county championship was to have continued yesterday with the meeting of Cork National Hurling Club and Ballinhassig. However it appears there is some difference between the members of the county executive with reference to the match which the Nationals played a few weeks ago. The Aghabullogue men raised some objections re the constitution of the team and some formality as to the giving in of the names to the county secretary in the proper time, which objections were overruled by one committee meeting and sustained by the next, or visa versa. The result was that although the match was publicly announced in the papers to come off at o'clock yesterday, the Ballinhassig men decided to absent themselves, noting a letter published a few days ago and signed by three members of the committee. The Cork National Hurling Club were on the ground sharp to time ready to do battle with the camáns, and as Ballinhassig did not turn they claim the match. One would think that they are entitled to it, but of course the whole thing will depend upon the decision of the county executive. It would simplify matters very much if all formalities were decided before a match was played, and then let the referee's decision be final as to who is the victor in the match. The Cork National's having no opponents decided to entertain the crowd by an exhibition of hurling among themselves.

May 30, 1887

A meeting of the central executive of the G.A.A., was held on Saturday at Limerick Junction. In the case of the disputed match in connection with the Cork county championship, played a short time ago in Cork Park between the Aghabullogue and Cork National Hurling Club, the executive decided, after a protracted discussion, to award the game to the Cork club.

2nd.Round June 12, 1887 Cork Park Cork Nationals 1-6 Ballinhassig 0-1

Cork National's won the toss, and played with the light breeze in their favour and then baked in the hot sun. When the ball was set in motion, the National's concentrated the attack and at once brought the leather to the goal-line. When it was pucked out, one of the National's sent it back flying over the line and scored a point. After this there they gained

position again and immediately scored another point. Ballinhassig made good play at this point, but the National's were well together the mastered all the efforts made by their opponents. The ball remained in Ballinhassig territory the first fifteen minutes. Ballinhassig now brought the ball to the centre by some beautiful play, but they were repulsed and the National's time and again. Eventually Ballinhassig had to give best as the Nationals piled on the pressure in a very one sided first half, with the Nationals in control for most of the half as they had the Ballinhassig defense under constant pressure. In the second half Ballinhassig tried hard but the more organized and skillful Rockies won out in the end. Team not listed.

Quarter-Final June 26, 1887 Cork Park
Cork Nationals 3-7 Little Island 1-1

In front of a very large attendance, the heat was intense, but there was a fair breeze that tempered to some little extent the heat and excitement of the play. Although very good play was occasionally shown by both, the Cork Nationals displayed more science, and won easily by three goals and six points, to one goal and one point. It may also be stated that the Cork Nationals played with four raw men, instead of four of their veterans, so that by their play yesterday they well maintained the prestige of their club. The Little Island team, though defeated, were far from disgraced, because of all the teams that have played the county matches, this one showed the most marked improvement in their play during the season. Little Island won the toss, and although the National's had to face a strong sun, they forced the ball up the field, and brought it over the goal-line after the lapse of a few minutes, and after Little Island made a rush down the field, the National's brought up the leather again and made two goals within a few minutes. Little Island now got behind the ball and with some time passed, brought it down to the goal line. They missed scoring, but the next minute they made a goal out of a bad puck out. Again the National's swept the ball up the field, but Little Island gamely responded and playing splendidly scored a point. In the latter half of the game the play was very even for some minutes, but the National's then added a point to their score. When the leather came out Little island played vigorously and their attack was so good, and the passing so very fine, that not withstanding the good defence of the National's they brought the ball over the end line. The National's however, worked it down again and kept it in Little Island territory for many minutes during which they scored a goal and two points. Although Little Island played well, the National's kept the upper hand, Team not listed.

Semi-Final July 17, 1887 Cork Park
Cork Nationals 0-1 St.Finbarrs 0-1

Yesterday was the day fixed for deciding the champion hurling team of the city and county to meet the premier Kilkenny team at Dungarvan on Sunday next. St.Finbarr's were drawn against Cork National's for the first match of the day, the winning team being bound to play off Passage in the final, but the whole thing ended in a miserable fiasco after only twenty minutes actual play had been engaged in. The game was evenly and well contested on both sides and would have been a close one at the end in all probability, but matters were not allowed to proceed that far. Mr. Edward Fitzgerald, PLG, was held umpire for the National's, Mr. Callanan umpire for the St.Finbarr's, and Mr.J.F.Kennedy, V.P. G.A.A., was the referee. The National's secured a point, which ought to have been a goal, but for the mistake of the member of their team who struck the leather in, and then when the St.Finbarr's got the ball up to their opponents goal line, some saying it went over and others saying no, the referee gave his decision that it was a point in their favour. This equalised the score of the teams. Cork National's objected to the ruling and brought a lot of testimony up in their favour, but the referee held by his decision, and when the National's refused to play, he left the field. The whole thing is very regrettable, and it quite probable that no hurling

team can now be sent to play the inter county match with Kilkenny at Dungarvan on next Sunday. If the disputed point had been left in abeyance the match could have played out, but this suggestion, although made, was not acted on. The County Executive will likely convene a meeting immediately and decide the question, if they have the power to do so, and by selecting some suitable evening during the week the matches may yet be brought to a happy termination. There ought to be some way out of the deadlock, and those in authority ought to take prompt action.

The following is an account of the match. The National's won the toss and played against the wind, which freshened considerably soon after the game commenced. The National's made a good beginning, but St.Finbarr's got together at once and swept the leather over the goal line just outside the point post. When the ball came out again the National's showed some fine passing play, and the ball travelled down over the end line. Up and own the ball went for some time, when M.O'Connor got behind it, and rushed it down near the goal post. James Delea then tried for goal, but through some mistake he only brought it between the inside point post instead of between the tall standards. One of their team was then injured in the arm and leg, and a substitute had to be found for him. When play was re-commenced, after a short delay, there was some really fine play witnessed on both sides, and ultimately St.Finbarr's brought the ball up to the goal line. Some said the ball struck the point post and went over the goal line, others that it did not go over the line, amongst the latter being the goal umpire, Mr.Scott, but he referee gave it as a point for St.Finbarr's. The National's demurred to this, and refused to abide by the decision, upon which the referee left the field, and the match burst up. The referee's decision left both teams equal, a point each, but as the National's left the pitch, the St.Finbarrs claimed the match.

They wanted Passage to play them for the final, but as the latter had not got the referee's decision, they refused to play until the matter was settled by the county committee.

When that is done, the captain said Passage will play the successful team. The whole thing ended in a most unsatisfactory manner, and the crowd left the Park very much disappointed.

July 21, 1887

Sir, would you kindly publish in your influential journal the following facts connected with the hurling match between St.Finbarrs Hurling Club and the Cork Nationals, on last Sunday, and the subsequent decision of the county committee:- After the ball was twelve minutes in play the first point was made by Cork National's, and a player on their side was hurt, leaving an interval of twenty elapse before they obtained a substitute. When the ball was struck out, after about five minutes hard play, it was carried to the Cork National's goal posts and driven against the northern point post, of which it rebounded, and was then struck about two feet inside the said point post. The umpires on either side did not see it, neither could Mr.Scott, the goal umpire who was standing about twenty five yards to the north of the post. We claimed the point, which was conceded to us by the referee, who states he saw the ball going between the posts, and who told Mr.Scott it was impossible for him to see the ball from the position he was in, and that his proper place was between the posts. The National's refused to abide by the referee's decision, who gave them five minutes for consideration, after which time, when they would not strike out the ball, the referee left the field, deciding the match in our favour, as the National's refused to continue the play. Now sir, we respectfully submit that the National's, if they felt aggrieved at the decision, as it appears they did, should, instead of refusing to strike out the ball, have lodged an objection of such ruling, and they could do so within twenty four hours, and then play the remainder of the time, as we would have done if we were similarly placed. But their secretary, who also holds the same appointment to the county committee, saw an easier

way open to him, and consequently summoned the members of the county committee to meet on Monday evening without giving any notice of same to us or our umpire. However this dodge leaked out, and we were present, as we were also the Messers, Mahony, and Sullivan, gentlemen not expected to attend, although summoned, according to Mr.Lane's challenge on their arrival.

You have this day published the conclusion arrived at by them last evening, carried by a majority of 3 to 2, Mr.Scott, goal umpire, Mr.Sheehan, and Mr.Lane, sec. Cork Nationals, voting for the National's, Mahony and Sullivan for St.Finbarrs. Mr.Cotter the sixth member present, had to leave before the voting was recorded, said he was for playing the match over again on equal terms, thereby upholding the decision of the referee, this would have equalised the voting had he time to remain. Is there such an absurd decision as the one arrived at last evening in the history of athletic events, or has anyone ever heard of a match being partly played for an hour on two different days?

We have in no way violated any rule of the G.A.A., but stuck to the referee's decision, whom I may mention was personally and by letter invited by Mr.Lane to act on Sunday. Now we know that the Butter Exchange Band has arranged with the Railway Companies to run an excursion train to Dungarvan on next Sunday, and as Kilkenny will possibly send a team to meet Cork, we now challenge the Cork National Hurling Club to play us for one or two hours in Dungarvan on next Sunday on equal terms, and we do not fear the result. If the challenge is not accepted, we will test the decision of the county committee before the executive of the G.A.A. and will also call on the gaels of Kilkenny not to play any other but the victorious team of the county of Cork.

Hoping we have not trespassed too much on your valuable space, we are sir, yours respectfully, James Dennehy, St,Finbarr's captain.

July 23, 1887

In accordance with the decision of the county executive of the G.A.A., with reference to the disputed match on last Sunday in the Park, between the Cork National Hurling Club and St,Finbarr's Hurling Club, the members of the former club took their place on the Park last evening to play out the game, about which a dispute arose last Sunday. The decision of the county executive was that the point awarded by the referee to the St.Finbarrs should be disallowed, and that the two teams should play for forty minutes, the Cork National's to start with one point and their opponents nil. The Cork National's put in an appearance at the hour appointed, but the others did not. A large crowd of spectators had assembled, and they felt some disappointing at the collapse of play. The players on the ground, however, divided themselves into two teams, and for fifteen minutes interested the assemblage with their skillfull wielding of the hurley. It is stated that the Passage team will meet the Cork National's to-day at three o'clock in the Park. If the latter beat the former today they will proceed to Dungarvan tomorrow, and so will, it is said, the St. Finbarr's, so that in all likelihood, as matters stand, the result will be that the Kilkenny team will have a bye for the inter county championship, but a friendly match between the Kilkenny team and one or other of the Cork teams may be improvised on the ground.

July 25 1887

Cork had to concede a walk-over to Kilkenny due to the issues with not completing the county championship on Saturday.

On Saturday Cork National's were to play Passage at 3 o'clock, and although Passage turned up in the Park, no play resulted. Passage had just fifteen men and notwithstanding the offer of the National's to put a similar number against them, Passage refused to play because the dispute was undecided. The county committee again held a meeting on Saturday night to see if the matter could be amicably arranged, but the result was fruitless. A suggestion that a draw from a hat should take place, Passage waiving their claim, as the team was not prepared to go to

Dungarvan if they were lucky in the draw. St.Finbarrs agreed to abide by the tale the hat told, but the Cork National's refused, and said they would take the decision of the committee only as final. The idea was that the lucky team in the draw would go to represent Cork.

Semi-Final-2nd.Replay July 31, 1887 Tralee Cork Nationals 4-5 St.Finbarrs 0-4

At a meeting of the county committee held last night, it was resolved that the match to be played on Sunday 31st, July between Cork National's and St.Finbarr's at Tralee, be a continuation of the county championship, and that the winner try conclusions with the Passage team at a day to be named. This match was played off as a championship match as well as a tournament for a silver cup. Cork Nationals objected to some of the St. Finbarrs players who had played with Glasheen in the earlier rounds of the championship. St.Finbarrs countered by stating that the Glasheen team had disbanded and they were free players.

The Nationals won the toss and played with a good breeze in their favour. They began well, and after the ball went over the side line twice, the National's charged it over the end line. When it came into play again the St.Finbarr's rushed the charge and the leather travelled over the goalline of their opponents. There was some fine play now, and the battle with the camáns went merrily on for five minutes, when the National's again brought it over the end line, and as soon as it came out they just failed in making a point, but the next moment they scored a goal by a long drive from the centre of the field, not withstanding a brilliant attempt to save his goal by the St.Finbarr's cúlbaire, his camán just catching the leather as it landed under the crossbar. There was now some give and take play in the centre of the ground, but after a few minutes the National's made another goal in fine style. Two of the St.Finbarr's got injured here and had to retire, and after a few minutes the team played with only nineteen men. Substitutes were soon found, and the National's keeping well at their work added two points and a goal within the next five minutes. There was some beautiful play by both teams until half time, they led 3-5 to nil at half time.

On resuming play St.Finbarr's made a vigorous attack and scored three points, but not without a good defence being made by the National's. The St.Finbarr's were now nearly making a goal by a long puck from almost the centre of the ground, but it went flying over the crossbar and only added by a point to the score. Play was pretty even now and not so fast as before, but the National's getting well behind added another goal cleverly to their score. The ball travelled from end to end during the last five minutes, but there was no further scoring.

The umpire for the National's were Mr.Edward Fitzgerald and for St.Finbarrs, Mr.E.Callanan. Thomas Leahy captained Cork National's and James Dennehy captioned St.Finbarr's.

September 26, 1887

Yesterday Mr.D.M.Lane, hon. Secretary of the Cork National Hurling Club, sailed to America. A deputation of the club attended at Queenstown to wish him farewell, and presented him with a purse of sovereigns in token of their esteem for his valuable services to the club. The deputation included Mr.Edward Fitzgerald, Florance McCarthy, C.J.Sheehan, Thomas Hodnett, D.Cronin, C.Dorgan and M.Dennehy.

November 10, 1887

A.G.M. of G.A.A. at Thurles.

Cork National Hurling Club delegates were Edward Fitzgerald and John O'Keefe.

December 28, 1887

County Convention

Cork National Hurling Club delegates, Edward Fitzgerald and Thomas Leahy.

1888

February 24, 1888

County championship draw.

Draw divided into divisions, Cork National Hurling Club drawn against St.Mary's in city section.

County Senior Hurling Championship

Quarter-Final **March 4, 1888** **Cork Park**
Cork Nationals w.o. St.Marys

First round of the city section of the county hurling championship was fixed Cork Park. Cork National Hurling Club were only able to put sixteen men in the field, and the St.Mary's refused to play with a less number than twenty one. The rule provides for the number of players aside ranging from fourteen to twenty one, and as the Cork National's were acting within the rules, the referee Mr.O'Riordan gave the contest in favour of the National's without a camán being wielded.

Semi-Final **March 25, 1888** **Cork Park**
St.Finbarrs(2) 1-0 Cork Nationals 0-3

Cork National's won the toss, and after some play to the side, the leather was brought into St.Finbarr's territory, but no score was made, the ball only going over the end line. After the puck out, the St.Finbarr's rushed the ball up the field, but the National's were not to be caught, and they speedily trundled the leather down into the enemy's quarter, and although they got it several times over the goal line, it was a quarter of an hour before a point was registered to their credit. Some fine play ensued after the ball came out, and the National's made some beautiful passes, with the result that two more points were added to their score before half time was called, one of them being almost a goal. The St.Finbarr's opened the second half in splendid style, and with some really fine play they several times brought the ball over their opponents goal line, winding up with a capitol goal, at which the crowd cheered madly. The ball was then carried into mid-territory, and for ten minutes neither side was able to gain the slightest advantage over the other, the play being exceptionally fine. Goal is equal to five points.

Timothy O'Shea(c); James Nagle; John Kelly; Con O'Keeffe; Denis Scannell; Patrick Coughlan; Michael Bermingham; Sylvester O'Callaghan; Michael O'Donovan; Dan Murphy; Thomas O'Connell; Michael O'Driscoll; David Hayes; Patrick Ahern; John Murphy; Stephen Hayes; Denis Lane; Patrick Kelly; John O'Leary; J.Mc.Carthy;
Umpire:- Edward Fitzgerald.

April 2, 1888

Sir, there are many surprises to be met with, in the course of human events, and their number is not by any means decreasing, but the decision of a referee in Cork Park on Saturday last, and it's subsequent ratification on Tuesday night in Maylor Street, is a rather unique affair in the eyes of uninterested on-lookers, not to mind it's disheartening effect on, perhaps, the best body of hurlers in Munster. It is much to be regretted that the referee in the match played between the hurlers of Blackrock and St.Finbarr's did not use more discretion in his judicial capacity.

All uninterested parties, and even by some who would be disposed to give the benefit of the doubt to the team from St.Finbarr's admit that the Blackrock men won a goal. Yet this very goal is disallowed by the referee, although he admits to one of the umpires that he at that critical moment did not see the movements of the leather.

Under these circumstances it is rather difficult to characterise his action as impartial, or that he was not actuated by sinister motives, at a time when one would be disposed to say hard things of him.

It is hoped that the County Board will see it's way to reconsider it's decision of Tuesday last, and that it will in future appoint referees who

are able to distinguish a hawk from a handsaw.

It is not a fact that members of the County Board do duty sometimes as referee? In what other institution is such the case.

I am, sir, faithfully yours, Timothy O'Shea, Captain National Hurling Club, Blackrock.

Coachford Senior Hurling Tournament

Round-1 **June 17, 1888** **Coachford**
Cork Nationals 3-13 Douglas 0-0

Round-1 of the Coachford Tournament saw Douglas win the toss and played with the sun at their backs. At the outset some lively play was witnessed, and the ball went hither and thither in rapid succession. The Blackrock men, however soon gained two points and then a goal. Some brisk and exciting play ensued, and though Douglas fought hard, they could not gain anything against their opponents. Two goals more were quickly placed to their credit by Blackrock, and in a hard fought struggle a third point was made, thus leaving the score when half-time was called, at three goals and five points for the Cork National's team, Douglas, nil. Sides were then changed and the spectators seeing the superiority of the Blackrock me, crowded at the lower end of the ground to be the better able to see the play which they rightly anticipated would be made in that direction. The play waxed hot for a quarter of an hour, and the Douglas men worked hard, especially the goalkeeper, who saved his ground very bravely when it was attacked. The Blackrock men placed eight points more to their credit without their opponents being able to score.

Timothy O'Shea(c); Michael Bermingham; Patrick Kelly; John Murphy; John Cashman; James Delea; Patrick Coughlan; David Hayes; Denis Lane; Con O'Keeffe; James Nagle; Patrick Ahern; Denis Scannell; Stephen Hayes; Dan Murphy; Thomas Tobin; Thomas O'Connell; Tim O'Leary; William O'Keeffe; Harry Ahern;

Quarter-Final **July 15, 1888** **Coachford**
St.Finbarrs 1-3 Cork Nationals 0-1

Quarter-Final of the Coachford Tournament saw St.Finbarr's win the toss and played down the field, but there was very little advantage to be gained from this, as any wind there was slew across the sward, while the sun was not obtrusive. St,Finbarr's began well, and scored within the first five minutes. Blackrock then charged up the field in fine style, and brought the ball over the goal line, but when it came into play again, the St.Finbarr's rushed it down, only to be swept back again by the Blackrock men, who now scored a point. Some brilliant play on both sides ensued, but the St.Finbarr's getting well behind the leather, made a great sweep up the field and scored another goal. The referee disallowed the goal on the grounds that the ball was out of play, as he had sounded the bugle previously when he heard that one of the one of the Blackrock men was hurt. A lot of time was wasted in wrangling over the matter, but ultimately play was resumed in accordance with the referee's decision.

St.Finbarr's now played with great vigor, and twice they got the leather near their opponents goal, but failed to score. The next play however, was more successful, and another goal was added to their score. It appeared that the referee sounded the bugle just prior to the ball going in, but it was not heard by many of the players and spectators, and the referee then decided to keep the goal in abeyance and report the circumstances to the county board. Further time was wasted over this dispute, and when and when play was resumed the St.Finbarrs kept the ball in Blackrock territory, and just missed scoring a point when half time was called. When play re-commenced, the St.Finbarr's again began well and soon scored a point, the leather grazing the goal post. Blackrock made a great dash and swept the ball down the field, but only to be returned by the St.Finbarr's. The play was now very even for some time, the ball being kept in the middle of the field, but the St.Finbarr's came with a well sustained rush and scored a point. The next minute they

invaded the Blackrock goal, but the cúlbairé saved it in clever style. The National's then got well behind the leather, and swept it down to the goal line, but failed to score. The St. Finbarr's again invaded Blackrock territory, and, as the referee's whistle sounded the close of time, they scored another point, thus winning the match most decisively, Timothy O'Shea(c); Michael Bermingham; Con O'Keeffe; Denis Scannell; Thomas O'Connell; Patrick Kelly; John Cashman; Tim O'Leary; Denis Lane; Sylvester O'Callaghan; Patrick Coughlan; Patrick Ahern; James Delea; Patrick Murphy; Dan Murphy; David Hayes; Stephen Hayes; Thomas Tobin; William O'Keeffe; Harry Ahern; J.O'Donovan

Little Island Senior Hurling Tournament

**Round-1 August 12, 1888 Knockraha
Cork Nationals 2-6 Passage 0-2**

Round-1, Little Island tournament. When these teams took the field the wind had drawn to the west, and consequently was in favour of the Passage team for the first half of the match. The Cork National's had not been ten minutes playing when they placed two points to their credit, and during the greater part of the time the ball was in the territory of the Passage men. Very good play was to be witnessed throughout the contest, but it was plain that the National's were the better men. Passage played very gamely, and when half time was called, the score stood, Cork Nationals two points, Passage one point. Sides were then changed, and some very excellent play ensued, the hitting being fast and furious. The National's then had a strong wind in their favour. Nearly all the time the leather was in the vicinity of the Passage goal posts which they defended with great ability. After a few minutes Cork National's placed two more points to their credit, and then a goal by a fine blow from Daniel Gould. Very hot play followed, and the National's soon made another goal, and two points in rapid succession. Final score

Cork Nationals 2-6 Passage 0-2

Timothy O'Shea(c); Denis Lane; Stephen Hayes; Patrick Coughlan; Dan Murphy; John Murphy; Denis Scannell; Daniel Gould; Patrick Kelly; Con O'Keeffe; Michael Bermingham; Sylvester O'Callaghan; Patrick Ahern; Thomas O'Connell; John Cashman; James Delea; David Hayes; William O'Keeffe; Tim O'Leary; John O'Leary; Harry Ahern;

Monuments For Patriots Tournament

**August 19, 1888 Clonskeagh, Dublin
Faughs (Dublin) 1-0 Cork Nationals 5-12**

The committee in charge of the project of erecting monuments over the graves of McManus and other patriots whose remains are interred in Glasnevin has inaugurated a series of hurling and football matches, to be played at Clonskeagh, Dublin, the charge for admission to the field of play to be devoted to the purpose mentioned, and a number of matches were brought off today. The weather was very bad, but still the attendance was very large. Amongst the matches played was the hurling contest between Cork National Hurling Club and Faugh-a-Ballaghs of Dublin. The Faugh's won the toss, and played with the advantage of the wind for the first half. Still the Corkmen had the best of it all through, and at the end of the first half hour they had scored two goals and six points to one goal for their opponents. With the change of sides the Corkmen did not give the Dubliner's a look in at all, and at call of time they won easily. The victory was loudly cheered, and the comments of the spectators on their fine play were most flattering.

Thomas Leahy was umpire for the National's

Cork Park Senior Hurling Tournament

**Round-1 October 7, 1888 Cork Park
Cork Nationals 3-12 Inniscarra 0-3**

Round-1, of the Cork Park tournament for a silver cup donated by Mr. Clancy of Dublin.

The toss was won by Inniscarra, who played with the breeze. The

Blackrock team took the ball to their side of the field immediately and scored a point. A good puck out sent the leather to the side lines and some close play followed in the centre of the field. Soon after Blackrock gained an over after a stiff struggle. Inniscarra now took the leather in hand and sent it right across the field, but it was again brought back by Blackrock who gained another over. After resuming play, John O'Mahony rushed the ball in capital style towards the Inniscarra post and a goal was only averted by the excellent play of the Blackrock goal keeper. Inniscarra shortly after obtained a point, which was immediately followed by another. Fine play followed the puck out, the ball being sent gaily up and down the field, each side making some excellent rushes and playing together in excellent style. Blackrock gained a point in a few minutes, and followed it up by working the first goal of the day. Another goal and a point followed in rapid succession, and although the Inniscarra men played to perfection, and at this point carried the play into Blackrock territory, score being only averted as before by the watchful play of the goalkeeper. Blackrock again maintained the supremacy and put another goal to their account, and then a point. From this out the play was very fierce, but no doubt in favour of the Blackrock team.

Team not listed.

October 17, 1888

Blackrock National Hurling Club

The club held their annual meeting on Monday evening, October 15th., for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year.

The following officers were elected,

P. Leahy, president; E.D. Barry, vice-president; P. Cox, vice-president; Thomas Nagle, treasurer; John O'Riordan, secretary; Stephen Hayes, captain; Corneilous O'Keeffe, vice-captain; Committee, Timothy O'Shea, Denis Scannell; P. Ahern; T. O'Leary; J. Murphy;

October 19, 1888

County Convention

Cork Nationals representatives John O'Riordan and Edward Fitzgerald.

Blackrock National Club representatives E.D. Barry and Thomas Nagle.

Mr. Edward Fitzgerald was proposed as chairman of the county board by Fr. O'Connor (St. Finbarrs) and seconded by Fr. Buckley (Buttevant). Mr.

Eugene Crean was proposed by Mr. J. C. Forde and seconded by Mr. T. O'Riordan.

Mr. Eugene Crean was elected, even though he was not in attendance.

Mr. Edward Fitzgerald said he supposed that if Mr. Crean were present he would thank his supporters, but he though beaten was not disheartened.

From the move that was made about the open voting he was not surprised at the result, but he would be a cowardly man if he did not go to the poll notwithstanding. He did not care whether he was elected or not, as he said last year, when he was also defeated, but he would, regardless of what had just happened, keep a close look after the interests of the G.A.A. He allowed himself to be put forward as a protest against the way in which the business of the county was managed last year. If it had been taken up by men who understood it, things would not have been managed as they were last year. He was sorry to say that a great deal of apathy was displayed by the committee last year, in consequence of which outsiders had to come in and carry the championship through. The meeting turned out to be stormy from then on, several attempts were made to elect a number of the clergy, but each time they were not supported.

November 2, 1888

County board meeting.

A letter was read from the secretary of the Blackrock club, stating they would take no further part in either the Coachford, Little Island or Cork Park tournaments.

November 14, 1888

A meeting of the Cork National Hurling Club was held at Drawbridge street last evening, Edward Fitzgerald, president in the chair. Jeremiah O'Riordan, member of committee, was called before the meeting to explain his action in violating the laws of the G.A.A. by attending the last meeting of the club, at which he was selected as delegate to the county convention, he having previously accepted the position of honorary secretary to the Blackrock hurling club. He apologised, and stated he acted in ignorance of the rules. The following resolution was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously, the chairman alone dissenting:- That no action be taken on the circular received from the clubs dissenting from the present county board.

November 16, 1888

Cork county board.

The secretary brought under notice to the board a circular emanating from the secretary of the Blackrock National Hurling Club, Mr. Jeremiah O'Riordan, and signed by a few seceding clubs. The circular was placed in his hands through the kindness of one of the city clubs. Its object was to disturb the harmony of the association by taking preliminary steps to form another county board in opposition to the present legally constituted board. He considered the board should take some stern action in the matter.

The following resolution was unanimously agreed to, That, as the principal trust of our office is to preserve independently the discipline of the G.A.A., we see no course open to us than to suspend the following clubs for wilful violation of the rules, and in conformity with rule 12. The following clubs were expelled from the association, and ceased from henceforward to be members of the G.A.A.; Blackrock, St. Finbarrs, Little Island, Ballygarvan, St. Peter and St. Paul's, Ballyhooly, Emmets.

November 23, 1888

A meeting of the temporary committee of the suppressed clubs was held last evening at the League of the Cross Hall, Charlotte Quay, Rev. Fr. O'Connor presiding. Edward Fitzgerald was in attendance. He was elected as hon. Treasurer.

November 26, 1888

Dear sir, we have no desire to interfere in the present controversy between certain clubs and the Cork county board, but we deem it our duty to contradict a statement which appeared in your issue Wednesday 21st. inst over the signature of Jeremiah O'Riordan, hon. Secretary Blackrock Hurling Club, in which he said that he "did not apologise" at a meeting of the committee of the Cork National Hurling Club, held on the 12th. Inst, for his conduct at a previous meeting. His action on that occasion must be explained to be understood. It was as follows, On Tuesday October 16th., he attended a committee meeting of the Cork National Hurling Club, held for the purpose of electing two delegates to attend the annual county convention to be held the following Thursday. He was elected one of the delegates. The night before October 15th., he attended a meeting of the Blackrock Hurling Club, but he did not mention that fact at our meeting. He was questioned on this point on the day of the convention, but denied that he was that person. We subsequently obtained that his statement was false. So much for his truthfulness! A meeting of the Cork National Hurling Club was held on Monday 12. Inst, to consider a circular received from the dissentient clubs. Mr. O'Riordan attended on invitation to explain his grossly dis-honorable conduct at the previous meeting. A charge of misleading the club was brought against him. He pleaded guilty and humbly apologised for his conduct, giving as his excuse his ignorance of the rules of the G.A.A. He was then called upon to withdraw from the meeting, and he did so with the best grace possible under the circumstances. This statement shows that Mr. O'Riordan is deficient of two necessary qualities in every true Gael. It shows a total disregard for truth, and that he is also in blissful ignorance of the rules of the G.A.A., though he aspires to the secretaryship of the

proposed dissentient county board about to be formed. As to the publication of the proceedings at our meeting, we cannot see on what authority Mr. O'Riordan said it distinctly stated that they would not be published, unless that it is "a little flight of imagination" on his part, considering that he was compelled to withdraw from the room half an hour before the proceedings terminated, and that no such undertaking could therefore be given him. As to his remarks about "wire pullers", we treat it with the contempt it deserves, and now leave the public to judge of Mr. O'Riordan's action in this matter. We may state that Mr. O'Riordan was a member of our club, the Cork National Hurling Club, for a very short time only, and never took part in any of its matches.

We remain, sir, yours etc. James C. Leahy, captain;

J. O'Keeffe and E. Heaphy, members of the committee;

W. J. Meade, hon. secretary Cork National Hurling Club.

November 30, 1888

To the secretary Cork county board, Sir, I am directed to inform you that at a meeting of the Blackrock National Hurling Club held last evening, it was resolved unanimously that the players do not take further part in the Park Tournament, as a protest against insults offered to our priests at the late convention by a clique at present ruling the county board, I am yours, Jeremiah O'Riordan

A scratch match was played in Cork Park between Blackrock and St. Finbarrs in the absence of Little Island in the Cork Park tournament.

December 5, 1888

Cork County board meeting.

Mr. Meade, secretary of the Cork National Hurling Club, said, in reference to his club, that it was reported that they passed a resolution condemning the county board. He, as secretary of the club, knew nothing of any meeting called for such a purpose.

December 8, 1888

Under the auspices of the New City Board, open to all affiliated clubs, hurling and football will be commenced on St. Stephens Day in Cork Park. A valuable silver cup for hurling and one gold and twenty silver medals for football.

Cups and medals specially supplied by the president and treasurer of the board. Clubs of the O'Brien board in north Cork invited to compete.

December 29, 1888

The Central Council has recognised the new city board, which from today on is to be called the Cork Board. The new tournament will begin in January due to extra clubs joining.

1889

January 24, 1889

Annual convention in Thurles.

Edward Fitzgerald was one of the Cork Board delegates.

County Senior Hurling Championship Cork Board

Round-1.

April 14, 1889

Cork Park.

Cork Nationals 5-3 Carrigtwohill (2) 0-1

Carrigtwohill won the toss, and played up the field with a slight breeze in their favour. The moment the leather was put in motion it was carried into the Carrigtwohill territory, and without much opposition the Nationals scored a goal. The leather was again set going and some very fine play ensued, the Carrigtwohill men making several splendid dashes, and succeeded in scoring a point. This put the Nationals on their mettle, and when the ball was again sent into the field, a splendid exhibition of hurling followed in neutral ground, the ball being sent flying from one side of the field to the other. The Nationals again succeeded in adding another goal to their score, soon after following up this by another goal and a point. At half time the score stood, Cork Nationals 3-2 to 0-1. When the leather was again put in motion, the play was almost entirely

confined to the centre of the field, but in the Carrigtwohill territory. Ultimately, after several splendid scrimmages opposite the Carrigtwohill posts, the was swept down the field by the Carrigtwohill men, but was returned in a similar manner by the Nationals, and with a well-directed stroke about thirty yards from the goal line it was sent flying through the posts. After five minutes excellent play this was followed up by another point, and which they soon added a goal and a point.

James O'Connor, Daniel Collins, Patrick Collins, James McAuliffe, Michael Cox, Cornelius O'Callaghan, Patrick Cronin, Michael Crowley, Jeremiah Meade, William O'Connor, Eugene O'Connor, John Williams, John Twohig, James Cleary, John Walsh, Cornelious Coughlan, Denis Brosnan, Jeremiah Madden, Timothy Kiely, John Kelly, Thomas Tobin, Field umpire W.Mullins; Goal umpires- William Kelly and Jeremiah O'Riordan.

Quarter-final April 28, 1889 Cork Park
Carrigtwohill 2-2 Cork Nationals 0-1

The Nationals won the toss, having a strong wind blowing through their posts. No score was made in the first half, but on changing sides it was clearly seen that the visitors were a little too experienced in the game.

On the change of sides the Carrigtwohill made two goals and two points, and the Nationals only a point.

James O'Connell; Daniel Collins, Cornelious O'Callaghan, Denis Brosnan, Eugene O'Connor, Timothy Kiely, Patrick Cronin, Jeremiah Madden, John Williams, James McAuliffe, Michael Crowley, John Twohig, Thomas Tobin, J.Byrne, P.Walsh, P.O'Riordan, T.Coughlan, M.Walsh, D.Healy; Field umpire W.Mullins; Goal umpires M.Fitzgerald and J.Bennett;

Cork Park Tournament

Quarter-Final January 26, 1889 Cork Park
Little Island 4-5 Cork Nationals 0-0

The Cork Park tournament continued about three o'clock, and in the short space of three minutes the camán weilders from Little Island scored two goals. Such a sudden record might be expected to have had a damaging effect on the spirits of the National's, but, instead of that, they strove with all might and main to make up for their opponents goals. But it was easily seen that the visitors were the better men, and that the National's are not yet possessors of that long sweeping puck which distinguishes the Little Island men. Then the Nationals then pucked the ball up the field, but it was soon sent back again by the visitors, who gained an over. Fast and furious play then followed in the centre of the field, and a point was added to the visitors two goals. More exciting play took place in mid-field where the Nationals showed some really fine form and made a splendid defence. The leather was very soon sent up into National ground, and a home man having made a horrid miss, a goal was scored for the Little Island men. Hal time was then called, the visitors in the first half having scored three goals and a point to nil. The game for the second half was intensely exciting. Though the Nationals made some really gallant efforts to avert defeat they could not prevent a goal and a point being added to the visitors credit. After some more loose play another point was scored. To this a goal would have been speedily added were it not for the skilfulness of a National who with a splendid puck, sent the leather down the field. A point was afterwards added to the visitors score. It looked just then as if the Nationals would make some record, but nothing was the result of their gallant rushing, in which M.Cox was especially conspicuous. Time was then called.

James O'Connor(c); Patrick Collins, Daniel Collins, Michael Cox, Patrick Cronin, James McAuliffe, Eugene O'Connor, Michael Crowley, Thomas Tobin, , Cornelious O'Callaghan, Jeremiah Meade, John Williams, T.Crowley, D.Doyle, J.Hurley, D.Finnegan, T.Coughlan, W.O'Connor, J.Coughlan J.Twomey; Umpire Edward Fitzgerald; Goal umpires W.Coughlan and P.McCarthy;