

# ANOTHER CLOSE ENCOUNTER IS THE PREDICTION



Gort captain, Sylvie Linnane being presented with the Sanga Skills Award for 1981 by Mr. John Ludden, Marketing Director of Sanga, prior to Sunday's County Final at Duggan Park, Ballinasloe. The football skills award has been won by Offaly's Charlie Conroy.

by TOM ROONEY

THE MOST popular question after last Sunday's drawn County Senior Hurling Final was who had benefited most from the Final which was considered one of the best in recent years.

The question gains further impetus given Gort's continued improvement with every game in the championship and Kiltormer's liking for dramatic improvement in replays.

The general consensus of opinion is that the replay arranged for Duggan Park on Sunday (3 p.m.) in contrast to most others, will be another close affair.

A mini survey carried out by The Connacht Tribune failed to provide a clearcut prediction in favour of either side.

Galway's All-Ireland captain, SEAN SILKE was enthusiastic about the drawn final and felt that Gort had the winning of it but allowed Kiltormer to re-assert themselves.

'I still think Gort can do it with a bit of luck. They could have lost and won last Sunday. They had Kiltormer in trouble with ground hurling in the early stages of the first half but then they stopped and let Kiltormer off the hook.

'They started the second half with good direct hurling but they stopped again and allowed Kiltormer back in the match for a second time.'

Silke was glowing in his praise for Conor Hayes' performance but he doubts if Hayes can reproduce the same standards in successive games, while he points out that Sylvie Linnane, whose

performance was severely restricted by influenza, will have the benefit of a weeks recovery.

'Gort must iron out their inconsistencies and with that bit of luck which they have had going with them all year they can do it,' added Silke.

County Board Secretary, DAVID MCGANN was positive in his prediction that Kiltormer would have four points to spare over Gort who last won the title in 1934.

'Kiltormer will have benefited most from the drawn game. This was their fourth draw this year and they certainly learned their lesson after the drawn semi-final against Turloughmore.

'I also believe that Andy Fenton should be played out the field rather than full forward and with Joe Hayes almost certain to be back Kiltormer should win by four or five points.'

McGann warned, however, that he would not write off Gort and he was particularly impressed with their full forward Kevin Fahy who could have won last Sunday's final on his own if he had got the right service.

Hurling Board Secretary, FRANK CORCORAN does not see Sunday's replay in that order. 'Gort have not missed the boat but their defence will have to be on their toes because any one of the Kiltormer forwards is a matchwinner.'

Corcoran also pointed out that Kiltormer had not been beaten at Duggan Park since 1974 and Conor Hayes would have benefited considerably from the drawn game. 'It's going to be very close and I would not plump for anybody,' he added.

Galway team trainer CYRIL FARRELL was equally cautious in



ONE FOR THE BOOK... referee Mick Quaine notes Kiltormer's goal scored by John Goode.

his prediction and said he believed the weather would have an important bearing on the issue.

'Fine weather will suit Gort's direct style but the heavier weather would be more suited to Kiltormer. I do not see anybody walking away with it,' he added.

The survey clearly shows a division among the experts but it all points to another absorbing struggle.

## Both Sides Likely To Be Altered For Replay

NEITHER side had picked their team for Sunday's Co. Hurling Final replay at the time of writing, but both Kiltormer and Gort are expected to be at full strength for Sunday's replay at Duggan Park.

Kiltormer secretary, Joe Hayes, who did not play in the drawn game because of illness, told The Connacht Tribune that he had now recovered and was in contention for a place on the team for the replay.

Hayes would not be drawn into predictions about the outcome but he said that Kiltormer had got 'the feel' of Gort and they knew what they had to do on Sunday.

'Last Sunday was the first time we playing Gort this year and our semi-final meeting with Turloughmore was also our first with them this year. We were happy with a draw last Sunday and we know what we have to do now,' said Hayes.

Gort, who are due to pick their team tonight (Thursday) have a few injury problems, the most serious to

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## Kiltormer's Late Revival Earns Last Puck Draw

# GORT JUST FAIL

GORT 2-8 :: KILTORMER 1-11

by MICHAEL GLYNN

IF CHAMPIONSHIPS were decided by one's input to the proceedings then Gort would have emerged hands down winners of the County Senior Hurling Championship Final at Duggan Park on Sunday, yet for all the South Galway side's toil and endeavour, a largely outplayed Kiltormer outfit were not undeserving of a draw if only for the touches of finesse that they contributed during their last quarter revival.

It may not have been an epic decider but it always maintained a high level of interest particularly since it looked likely for the most part that the outsiders, Gort, would take the laurels from the hot favourites, Kiltormer. The standard may have dropped to average or below on occasions, yet by comparison with recent county finals it was not a bad game for the 8,000 plus spectators.

Prematch expectations were high of a fascinating clash of styles — Gort's unfussy direct approach versus Kiltormer's flair and skill — and notwithstanding the result there could be no argument at the end about which had proved the more effective. For Gort won this game everywhere but on the scoreboard, something that they never once fell into arrears after taking a third minute lead.

Gort have every reason, in fact, to feel that they did not get out of the match what they put into it and few impartial observers would dispute the contention that their high workrate was worthy of the club's first Co. Title since the 1930's.

They comprehensively outplayed Kiltormer for long periods, particularly in the opening minutes and once the doubts about the quality of their attack had seemingly been dispelled in the first quarter, they looked set fair to destroy both Kiltormer's reputation and championship aspirations.

Gort led by 0-5 to 0-1 after sixteen minutes, largely through the agency of full forward Kevin Fahy, but the scoreline at that stage reflected just a small measure of their superiority, for it was only the alertness of Frank Larkin in the Kiltormer goal which prevented a substantially larger gap between the sides.

The South Galway side, however, lost much of their attacking direction after that and operating on reduced possession up to the interval, were hard pressed to maintain a 0-6 to 0-5 lead at half time, although it must be said that Kiltormer were far from convincing in whittling back the deficit.

Character  
Yet when Kiltormer equalised within two minutes of the restart, Gort really showed their fighting qualities and the first of Gerry Linnane's two goals a minute later truly mirrored their character. The same was the case again after John Goode had equalised for Kiltormer

in the 38th minute and, indeed, so well did Gort respond on that occasion that their 2-7 to 1-7 advantage appeared secure even with a full quarter remaining. Unfortunately for them, however, Kiltormer's remarkable facility for survival — remember Ollie Kilkenny's last second equaliser from a twice taken lineball against Castlegar and further draws with Ardara and Turloughmore in the semi-final — eventually asserted itself to such an extent that it was the East Galway squad who finished the stronger despite having to rely on Sean Cormican's last puck 50 yard free to force a draw.

And while Gort were undoubtedly hard done by the result, one could not begrudge Kiltormer their second chance for the way they finally put their game together in the closing minutes after looking strangely lethargic for three quarters of an hour. Kiltormer's match plan obviously went haywire in the face of Gort's opening blitz and their usual composure flew out the window as they struggled throughout the field to contain opponents who tore into the fray from the throw-in. It was only when Gort dropped the pace going into the second quarter that the favourites managed to put some semblance of conviction into their play, but panic still resurfaced at times, most notably during a hectic spell five minutes from the end when three different players, ignoring the easy point, attempted to carve a path to goal when their side was only two points behind.

equity or otherwise of the outcome. Essentially Gort's strength lay in their defence especially in a rock solid full back line, but they were also useful in attack where they had a number of individuals capable of doing good things though they lacked power in depth, something which probably cost them the title at the first time of asking at least.

Behind the defence goalie Tony Monahan was utterly dependable and his confident display was surely a source of encouragement to the Gort full backs of whom John Nolan in the centre was outstanding for the manner in which he totally outplayed an ineffectual Andy Fenton who quite literally did not touch the ball until the second half and even then he had to wander outfield to do so. Corner backs Josie Harte and Joe Regan also greatly limited the amount of possession that John Goode and Sonny Glynn saw, though to their credit, the Kiltormer pair continued to battle to the very end.

Gort experienced many more problems at half back, however, with all three Kiltormer half forwards making an excellent impression over the hour, particularly the fleet-footed Aidan Staunton who sniped some vital points from play. Sean Kelly also showed up effectively and got past Sylvie Linnane on a number of occasions, while Tony Furey's speed and accuracy was invaluable to their cause.

It must be pointed out, however, that the impact of the Gort outer line was surely reduced by an illness to their captain Linnane who still hurtled well in defensive terms without attempting anything ambitious. On his banks Christy Monaghan and Michael Brennan put in wholehearted efforts. At midfield neither side attained the desired consistency. Gort had marginally the better of the exchanges here through Gerry Lally who also pointed some good frees, but his partner young Colman Rock seemed overawed by the occasion.



ON THE RUN... Kiltormer centre half forward, Sean Kelly, evades an attempted tackle by Gort's Josie Harte. Photo by John Carlos



NO MORE OF THAT... Referee Mick Quaine has a word of warning for Gort corner back Joe Regan after an incident in which Kiltormer's Padraig 'Sonny' Flynn (on ground) had received a head cut.

## Blow By Blow Account Of Play

1 — Conor Hayes showed his well being from the throw-in when pulling a long Sylvie Linnane delivery from under the crossbar.  
3 — Gerry Lally opened the scoring for Gort when pointing a 28 yard free after Kevin Fahy had been fouled on the run.  
4 — Fahy scored a nice point from the right when beating Tom Lynch to the catch 18 yards out.  
5 — John Goode was booked by referee, Mick Quaine.  
6 — Fahy again caused turmoil in the Kiltormer defence and the ball broke to John Crehan whose rising ground shot was well saved by Frank Larkin and the ball was swept upfield for Tony Furey to end a fifty yard run with a good point.  
7 — Lally pointed a 21 yard free when Fahy again beat Lynch but was fouled in possession by the full back.

8 — Fahy wandered out to collect Pierce Piggotts low cross for a fabulous point.  
14 — A Sylvie Linnane free from inside half way was grabbed by Crehan whose handpassed effort was good but not good enough to beat the vigilant Larkin.  
16 — Gort's Mattie Murphy shot a sweet 35 yard point when Piggotts played the ball low infield from a brilliantly flighted Sylvie Linnane lineball out of defence.  
18 — Aidan Staunton reduced the deficit to 0-5 to 0-2 when shooting a marvellous 55 yard point after a poorly taken Ollie Kilkenny lineball broke favourably for him.  
19 — Gort goalie Tony Monahan held a high Sonny Glynn job, but his puck out fell to the talented Staunton who duly planted it between the uprights from 40 yards out on the left wing.

21 — Christy Monaghan was booked for pulling across Furey and Sean Cormican landed a magnificent 70 yard point from the right wing free to leave only a point between the sides.  
23 — Lally replied with a point from a 40 yard free.  
24 — Sean Kelly won a race for possession in the right corner and cut in along the endline to perfectly place Furey for a point to close the first half scoring at 0-6 to 0-5 in favour of Gort.  
26 — 'Sonny' Glynn had to leave the field for two minutes to get a head wound bandaged.  
32 — Andy Fenton, getting his first taste of the ball in the game, lofted a high point from 45 yards, to

climax a crisp, first time Kiltormer move along the ground.  
33 — Michael Cahill won the ball in the right corner and handpassed the ball back to Piggotts whose cross was knocked to the ground by Frank Larkin and Gerry Linnane was on hand to find the net from a mere three yards.  
35 — Gort, their lead restored, came within a fraction of going six points ahead but Murphy just failed to make the connection with Piggotts' teasingly low through ball.  
38 — Ollie Kilkenny's lineball caused the first hint of desperation in the Gort defence and the ball was worked through a bunch of players to John Goode who took his goal well from close range to leave the teams locked together at 1-6 each.  
41 — Lally edged Gort back into

the lead with a point from a 30 yard free on the right.  
43 — Furey levelled matters again when the Gort defence failed to cut out Staunton's left wing centre.  
45 — Murphy had both time and space to drop a fifty-five yard delivery into the Kiltormer square and as both goalie Larkin and full back Lynch failed to cope with it, young Gerry Linnane could hardly believe his luck as the ball again fell into his path for another simple goal.  
46 — Staunton scored a fine left wing point.  
47 — Kiltormer's Joe Hayes, who had been warming up from as early as the eight minute, finally came on and replaced Liam Larkin.  
50 — Another Kiltormer switch saw Martin Staunton introduced at full forward with Fenton dropping

back to midfield in place of Donie Campbell who was withdrawn.  
52 — Furey pointed a 35 yard free to cut the deficit to a point.  
55 — Lally put Gort two points in front again from a superbly taken 21 yard free out on the left sideline.  
58 — Tony Kilkenny pointed from 12 yards range at the height of the Kiltormer pressure after Furey had failed to rise a close-in free.  
60 — Ollie Kilkenny was fouled on a burst into the Gort half and this presented Cormican with an opportunity to equalise from 50 yards. The pressure on him was increased when Referee Quaine indicated that there was only time for the puck-out, but showing nerves of steel the Kiltormer captain put the ball between the posts for a dramatic conclusion to a reasonably entertaining game.

### Second Half

## Loughrea Return To The Big Time

LOUGHREA ..... 3-8  
KILLIMOR ..... 2-6  
TWO CLUBS, whose roots go back a long, long way in the history of the Gaelic Athletic Association in Galway, met in the Duggan Park last Sunday in the Co. Final of the Intermediate Hurling Championship. It was, in fact, Killimor's sixth appearance in a County Intermediate Hurling Final in the last eleven years and not all of these appearances were successful. Sadly, it seems that Killimor will have to try again in 1982 to lift themselves into a more permanent place in Senior ranks, a place the age of the Club and its service to the game would entitle it to hold.  
In recent times, Loughrea, like their opponents, have not enjoyed the best of fortunes in their struggle to stake a lasting place in the top ranks of the game in the county. They, too, have tested the sweets of success and the dregs of demotion, but up or down, in or out of Senior ranks, the two clubs have always fought gallantly at whatever level the fates ordained.  
This, then, was the background to their meeting in Ballinasloe last Sunday and, to both, victory was all important. There was quiet confidence on both sides and even the most rabid of fans on either side would go much beyond 'it can go anywhere, but we might...'  
It was a close game, maybe too close, for there was a share of poor, busy hurling that wasted chances for either side. Killimor supporters cannot have been too happy with the outcome. Going into the last couple of minutes of the first half Killimor, enjoying a seven point lead, were looking comfortable enough against a Loughrea side that did not seem to have come together.  
But seconds later the Lakesiders clicked into gear and with a smart goal and a point, wrested the initiative from Killimor and it did appear plainly that the longer the half went on, the better Loughrea would do. Loughrea supporters must have been disappointed to hear that half time whistle for their players really had their tails in the air.  
In the event, it made little difference, for Loughrea,

then established an ascendancy they were to retain all through the second half thanks to a cool defence and the untiring efforts of their centre-forward, Fr. Iggy Clarke, who besides taking his team-mates out of difficult defensive situations time and again, covered a great deal of ground in the taking of frees and sideline cuts that set up chances for his young team-mates.  
It was he who opened the scoring when he threw in a 75 metre free forty-five seconds after the throw-in. From the puck-out, Killimor got moving and Parvic Blaney went very close. Loughrea replied with a smart attack. Centre half forward Brendan Moran sent a neat pass to his cornerman Brian Kelly but before anything came of the chance a Killimor defender conceded a free 35 metres out. Moran's half forward colleague was on target.  
Penalty Save  
Now it was Killimor's turn to attack. They were awarded a free. John Heald shot low and hard and Christy Daniels in the Loughrea goal did well to cut it off and make a partial clearance, Parvic Blaney won the tussle for the ball further out but his shot was well wide of the posts. Killimor tried again and a Loughrea defender was caught in the act, this time for a three-man penalty. Loughrea brought back Peter Murphy from the right half forward spot to fill one of the three positions between their posts and so well they might for this fine young player had done very well in goal for the County Minor team a couple of years ago.  
This confidence was not misplaced for it was he who turned a rasper from John Heald around a post. The '65' was taken by Vinny Brien. He sent the ball over the Loughrea bar and Killimor were on the scoreboard after six minutes of play. A couple of minutes later another Vinny Brien free went to the Loughrea square. Christy Daniels made a good save but Killimor pressed in again to force a '65'. Again Vinny Brien shot and again he scored and the sides were level on two points apiece.  
In the tenth minute a nice point by their captain,

Eamon Hanney put Killimor in the lead but, shortly after, a Loughrea free, pointed by Peter Murphy balanced the scores. Though the scoring was as close as that, the hurling was not all that exciting. There was a good deal of scooping and there were even a few fresh air shots that gave indication of tension in both sides.  
Killimor jumped into the lead in stylish fashion in the eighteenth minute. John Heald angled a good ball to the Loughrea square. Showing fine anticipation Shane Brody came racing in to get under it and volley it, tennis-fashion to the net. This raised Killimor spirits both on the field and all around it. They attacked again and had the Loughrea defence under severe pressure. Good work by Iggy Clarke relieved many an awkward situation.  
While most of the attacking was done by Killimor, Loughrea managed the odd sortie into enemy territory but there was little reward for their work. Seven minutes from half time Killimor attacked again to win a '65' away out in the corner. Vinny Brien drove the ball to the Loughrea goal area and John Heald shot a fine goal through a forest of legs and swinging hurleys. When, three minutes later, Eamon Hanney whacked over another point to give Killimor a seven point lead, Killimor supporters had plenty to cheer about and could be forgiven their rosy expectations of following their team into Senior Ranks.  
At this stage Loughrea introduced Camillus Kelly into their attack and very soon after the whole tenor of this game seemed to change. Killimor appeared to lose command of the situation they had enjoyed up to then and Loughrea took up the running with a confidence they had not shown hitherto. With the Killimor defence branched, their goalkeeper, Enda McCleann was called on for a very fine save.  
Turning Point  
From the clearance the ball ended up over the sideline. A beautiful cut by Iggy Clarke dropped the ball in the Killimor goalmouth. In the scramble, cornerman Brian Kelly got to the ball and sent it to the

net. From then on one had the distinct impression that the quicker half time came the better it would be for Killimor. One writes or hears about or talks of the moment when a game turns and the outcome seems obvious, if there was such an occasion this goal, two minutes before half time, was that magic moment for Loughrea — at least to one spectator.  
This feeling was re-inforced at once as Loughrea swept into the attack once again and thirty seconds before the break Parvic Blaney's point from a close free cut Killimor's lead to a single goal. At the interval, the score stood at 2-4 to 1-4 in favour of Killimor. Such a state of affairs did not last for very long.  
Loughrea began the second half in very business like fashion and a free taken by Iggy Clarke cut Killimor's lead to two points after three minutes of play. Two minutes later, Loughrea took the lead with a fine goal scored in very determined fashion by Brian Kelly. Also showing up very well in this early stage in the second half was the substitute, Camillus Kelly. Following a fine run he got the ball into the Killimor net but the whistle ran for a foul on him by a defender and the referee awarded instead a three-man penalty.  
Goalkeeper Enda McCleann saved Iggy Clarke's shot at the expense of a '65'. Iggy Clarke sent the '65' to the Killimor square and, fittingly enough, it was Camillus Kelly who was first to the ball and he lashed in Loughrea's third goal. Seeing the game getting away from them Killimor fought hard to stem the tide. They attacked with spirit and after Christy Daniels had made a fine save of a very good shot by Parvic Blaney they came back hard at the Loughrea defence and a point from a John Heald free and another one from a free taken by Shane Brody, rekindled the hope in their supporters.  
They continued to press but a couple of moves that were pressed home with great determination ended wide or had the ball coming back into play off an upright. It was around this time that the true worth of Iggy Clarke to this Loughrea team became apparent.  
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# Gort's Day Of Glory Marred By Incidents

GORT 2-6 KILTORMER 0-8

By TOM ROONEY

GORT IS in a festive mood this week after the long awaited County Hurling Final victory which eluded many of their greatest hurlers over the past forty years. But their heroes of yesterday could hardly have been pleased at the disgraceful scenes which destroyed what was meant to be a great occasion for Galway hurling.

Referee, Mick Quaine, will undoubtedly be criticised and he was not blameless, but surely the players from both sides should have been above the level of thuggery which prevailed in the second half of a demoralising county final replay at Duggan Park, Ballinasloe on Sunday.

Kiltormer centre half forward Sean Kelly was sent off by Mr. Quaine three minutes from time but his action was too late to undo the damage which preceded it.

Kelly, in fact, outhurled Gort captain, Sylvie Linnane for much of the hour and he was by no means the worst offence on a day when at least a dozen players warranted a similar fate.

The question of who started the fifth is immaterial but suffice to say that Gort had little need to, given that they were deservedly in front for the entire game except for the first minute when Kiltormer captain, Sean Cormican put a 65 over the bar.

Tension surfaced from the opening minutes of the second half when Gort's scoring here, Mattie Murphy and Kiltormer's Kieran Lynch were involved in an off the ball incident for the second time in the half.

other end in the last minute of the match. In the interim there were countless off the ball incidents behind the referee's back which made Kelly's offence — he was 'caught' striking Linnane who was by no means innocent — look harmless.

Tension was lurking under the surface after twenty three minutes of the first half when John Crehan got a touch to Murphy's dipping shot to snatch a goal which effectively sealed victory for Gort.

In the first of a series of desperate efforts to save the match Kiltormer replaced full back Tom Lynch with Liam Larkin and moved Andy Fenton from midfield, where he was never effective to full back.

Larkin moved to right/full forward in a switch with Donie Campbell who took over from Fenton in midfield. Fenton's presence at full back was part of a concerted effort to 'soften' a Gort full forward line that availed of almost every opportunity they got in the first half.

Lynch who was also injured after he scored a point two minutes into the second half.

It was the beginning of a shameful afternoon for both sides as Kiltormer began to recognise that the match was slipping away from them.

Gort could only manage one more point also from Murphy and Kiltormer two as the destiny of the title became of secondary importance.

Murphy's point, however, provided a timely boost for Gort just as Kiltormer's efforts to save the game peaked.

Fenton later moved to centre half back and finally to full forward to rally a muted attack which had six first half wides. Only Kelly, Goode and Staunton had the pace to take on the Gort defence from a rather limited service.

Gort were on their way to their long awaited success after a first half in which any worthwhile hurling, something of a rarity on Sunday, was played.

They had learned their lesson from the drawn final when they allowed Kiltormer through the back door to force a replay. On Sunday they were faster to the ball and again resorted to the direct approach which troubled Kiltormer in the drawn final, never allowing them to dictate the play for any period of note.

### Shameful

It was hardly coincidental that Murphy should find himself floored in an off the ball incident with

### Doubtful Defence

Kiltormer's full back line which was suspect in the drawn game failed miserably again on Sunday and along with goalkeeper Larkin must share the blame for Gort's first half goals.

Conor Hayes supreme in the drawn game was now, however, inhibited by his back injury and without his authority Kiltormer's defence was always doubtful.

In addition, Pearce Piggott improved considerably from the previous week and apart from setting up Murphy for their first goal his industry rescued the Gort defence on more than one occasion in the second half.

Even more significant Gort moved Michael Cahill from left full to midfield to partner Gerry Lally from the start and the change reaped dividends.

Cahill scored two first half points and gave Gort a decided advantage in the area during that time before Donie Campbell improved matters for Kiltormer there after the break.

### Confidence

Kiltormer, whose confidence was such that they had already organised a victory celebration, also, contributed to their own downfall.

In contrast to Gort, they failed to heed the lessons from the previous Sunday. Kevin Fahy who had troubled Tom Lynch in the drawn final repeated the dose on Sunday and it was too late when Lynch was replaced seven minutes from the break.

Indeed over the course of the hour they made far too many insignificant changes which only unsettled their team, while Gort having learned from the drawn final played to their strengths and took their opportunities in style.

In his after match victory speech team captain, Sylvie Linnane (Continued from Page 11)



CHAMPIONS GORT . . . Front row, left to right: Gerry Linnane, John Crehan, Joe Regan, Sylvie Linnane capt., Josie Harte, Mattie Murphy, Michael Brennan. Back row, left to right: Gerry Lally, Pearce Piggott, Michael Cahill, Patrick Neilan, John Nolan, Tony Monaghan, Michael Brennan, Kevin Fahy.

## The Story Of The Play— 'Blow By Blow' Account

My Sports Editor asked me to give 'a blow by blow' account of the play but I'm afraid if I did it would make pretty gruesome reading so I'll concentrate on the hurling which should not take up too much space, writes TOM ROONEY.

- 1st minute — Kiltormer captain Sean Cormican got his team off to a good start with a point from a 65.
- 2 — Gort equalised through Gerry Lally with a point from a twenty one yards free after Conor Hayes had been penalised for a foul.
- 4 — Tony Furey was wide with a scorable free from 30 yards on the left in what was the beginning of a disappointing afternoon for both himself and Kiltormer.
- 5 — Furey missed from a free again, this time about 35 yards out in front of the Gort goal after referee Quaine moved the ball nearer to goal when Michael Cahill dissented.
- 6 — Cahill scored the first of his two first half points when he picked up a loose ball after Conor Hayes clearance was partially blocked by Patrick Neilan.
- 9 — Cahill was again ideally positioned about 30 yards from the Kiltormer goal to gather another poor clearance from Conor Hayes and score another point.
- 11 — Gort's first goal. The Kiltormer central defence was blatantly exposed as Piggott received the sliothar unmarked and fed Mattie Murphy who had

- more than enough time to first time the sliothar past an unprotected Larkin to leave Gort leading by 1-3 to 0-1.
- 12 — Joe Hayes moved to left half back in a switch with Sean Cormican who went to right full back in the first of a litany of positional changes by Kiltormer.
- 13 — Furey scored his first point from 35 yards.
- 15 — Lally replied with a point from a free.
- 16 — Sean Kelly picked up a loose ball and sent it over the bar from 40 yards.
- 20 — John Goode showed his considerable pace when easing away from Josie Harte to score a point after gathering possession from a breaking ball between John Nolan and Peadar Ryan to leave the score at 1-4 to 0-4 in Gort's favour.
- 23 — Gort's second goal was scored to create a void that Kiltormer never breached. Murphy was again involved. His inviting look was apparently dropping short of Kiltormer's goal and Larkin came out to make the ball his own but his challenge was rather weak. Cormican and Crehan gets a final touch to the sliothar which trickles over the goal line despite Cormican's despairing lunge to retrieve it.
- 25 — Liam Larkin replaced Tom Lynch. Andy Fenton moved from midfield to full back, Donie Campbell switched from right full forward to midfield and

- Liam Larkin was introduced in the vacant right full forward berth as Kiltormer tried to come up with a winning formula.
  - 27 — Staunton, who never got enough possession to make an impact, scored a good point from 30 yards.
  - 28 — Cormican added a point from a free to leave the half-time score at 2-4 to 0-6 in Gort's favour.
- Second half: This disgrace has already been described but I'll record some of the incidents and the scores which amounted to two points to each side.
- 2 — Mattie Murphy scored a point after Tony Kilkenny last possession.
  - 5 — Mattie Murphy lay injured after an off the ball incident with Kieran Lynch. Referee Quaine consults the umpires at the Kiltormer goal but took no action.
  - 9 — Furey scored a point from a free after Sylvie Linnane fouled Sean Kelly to leave Gort leading by 2-5 to 0-7.
  - 10 — Murphy was floored again and Lynch was also hurt after an off the ball incident. Referee Quaine again talked to his umpires and this time warns Murphy and Lynch. It was the beginning of a sequence of shameful events.
  - 15 — Good could possibly have improved Kiltormer's position but his finish from the sod was poor after a sweeping upfield move started by Joe Hayes who placed Peadar Ryan who, in

- turn, found Goode with a deft outfield pass.
- 19 — Mattie Murphy after switching to left full forward gives Gort the perfect psychological boost when he landed a point despite challenge from Lynch who had followed him to his new position. It was the last score of the day and left Gort leading by 2-6 to 0-8.
- 20 — Conor Hayes moved to full back in a direct switch with Fenton.
- 22 — Hayes fouled Kevin Fahy who ran on to score a point but referee Quaine awarded a free to Gort which Lally missed.
- 25 — By now Kiltormer had virtually thrown everybody into attack. And as the tension mounted in the Gort goal their goalkeeper Tony Monaghan put a sideline cut by Ollie Kilkenny out for a 65.
- 27 — While the players were awaiting the 65 Kelly was caught striking Linnane by referee Quaine and he was sent off.
- 28 — Referee Quaine moved towards midfield where the delayed 65 was still to be taken. A fracas involving at least a dozen players from both sides erupted. The referee appealed for calm and summoned the captains, Linnane and Cormican and order was restored.
- 29 — Cormican's 65 is beaten out in a crowded Gort goalmouth and eventually cleared by Piggott. Seconds later Mr. Quaine blows the final whistle.



ON THE BREAK . . . Gort's Gerry Linnane proves too speedy for Kiltormer's Joe Hayes.



DEFEATED . . . Kiltormer, front row, left to right: Aidan Staunton, Tom Lynch, Ollie Kilkenny, Tony Furey, Sean Cormican, capt., Kieran Lynch, Donie Campbell. Back row, left to right: Peadar Ryan, Sean Kelly, Frasnk Larkin, Tony Kilkenny, Andy Fenton, Joe Hayes, Conor Hayes, John Goode.

## KILTORMER'S FUTURE IS WELL SECURE

KILTORMER . . . 3-6 CASTLEGAR . . . 1-2 THOUGH Kiltormer supporters were downcast and disappointed leaving Duggan Park last Sunday afternoon with their hopes of regaining the County Senior Hurling Championship title they held for two years in succession in the late seventies faded and gone, they could still look forward with no little hope to the future of hurling in the parish. For, the afternoon before, their under-12 hurlers won the County Under-12 Hurling Championship with a very good performance against Castlegar, who made a much better showing than the scoreline might suggest and kept the issue in doubt for most of the game. Indeed, Castlegar can also look forward with considerable optimism to the nineteen-nineties when these fine young hurlers will have matured into the standardbearers who will carry on the 'Castel' tradition. Conditions were ideal for the game, which attracted a good attendance. Kiltormer were the first to score when some very neat combination between William Tierney and Tony Larkin brought a goal by Larkin that gave the Castlegar goalkeeper little or no chance. Castlegar made immediate reply as they swarmed downfield from the puck-out. A very determined move was finished in splendid style by

Brendan Flynn who scored an excellent goal from a very narrow angle. Castlegar kept up the pressure and it took some very good work by the Kiltormer defence, notably Gerry Kelly and Joseph Fahy, to keep them at bay. Kiltormer finally managed to break out of defence and some good chances, created by Damien Curley, were converted into a couple of points by Justin Campbell, who was using his speed to very good effect to wrong-foot the Castlegar defence. Castlegar came back for a good point, scored by Brendan Flynn, and looked likely to get on terms. But shortly before half-time, William Tierney made the most of his chances when he whacked in another goal for Kiltormer. At the break, the East Galway side led 2-2 to 1-1. In the second half, the Castlegar goalkeeper, Pat Egan, moved outfield, where he got through a good deal of useful work. But, for all that, the Castlegar defence was finding it very difficult to keep any kind of control over the hard-running Justin Campbell who, thanks to good work by Tommy Kilkenny, tucked on two further Kiltormer points, one of them from a free. Michael Moylan cut the Kiltormer lead with a long-range point but, using the goal service provided by a very useful pair of half-backs, Thomas Hanahan and John

Donoghue, John O'Connor scored another brace. Castlegar tried very hard to get back into the game and both goalkeepers were called on to prove their worth, and well they managed until, shortly before full-time, William Tierney drove in another Kiltormer goal to clinch their claim to the 1981 championship. All of the Kiltormer team played their part in the winning of this and to name one player rather than another would be invidious. They fielded as a unit and they played to and for each other with commendable unselfishness. Castlegar were very well served by Brendan Flynn, Michael Moylan, Conor Molloy, Jer. Broderick and Pat Egan who did well outfield. The referee, Tom Cloonan, presented the cup to Damien Curley, the captain of the Kiltormer team. Kiltormer: Kieran Kenny, Gerry Kelly, Joseph Fahy, Thomas Hanahan, John Donoghue, John O'Connor, Damien Curley, Justin Campbell, Tommy Kilkenny, William Tierney, Tony Larkin, Subs: Francis O'Connor for Tony Larkin; Justin Noone for John O'Connor. Castlegar: Pat Egan, Jer. Broderick, Pat Casserly, Conor Molloy, Martin Fox, Martin Kyne, Anthony Killeen, Michael Moylan, James Wall, Brendan Flynn, Stephen Keary. Sub.: Liam Francis for James Wall.



PANIC . . . in the Kiltormer goalmouth as goalie Frank Larkin paces back to avert a dangerous situation with Gort full forward Kevin Fahy in a kneeling position. Looking on are referee Mick Quaine, Gorts John Crehan and Kiltormers Joe Hayes.

## Junior Crown For Ahascragh In Unique Clash Of Neighbours

AHASCRAGH . . . 3-9 FOHENAGH . . . 3-3

THERE ARE neighbours, near neighbours and next-door neighbours and then . . . you have Ahascragh and Fohenagh. These two clubs are very close indeed and much more than mere neighbours. Before the Fohenagh club was revived in the thirties a young man from the parish, bounded as it is by Kiltennell, Ahascragh and Caltra and Ballinasloe who wished to hurl, threw in his lot with Ahascragh.

With the revival Fohenagh were taken into the East Board grouping while Ahascragh remained with the North Board. That kept the two parishes apart and seldom, even since the Divisional Board system was abolished some years ago, have the two clubs met at any competitive level. This year the clubs have met in junior league games but last Sunday the Duggan Park housed the first ever Junior County Hurling Final between the two clubs.

In consequence the meeting was invested with a greater importance than, perhaps, it deserved and, while it was a close, well contested game that reached no spectacular heights, it was not one of the better games of this or any other season.

Ahascragh played no very fancy hurling but they hurled steadily and solidly and managed to fight off every serious challenge that their opponents offered and went on to regain a title they have held a couple of times in the past few years.

Before this game began there was a one-minute silence for two octogenarians, a brother and sister, Margaret and Martin Glynn from the Ahascragh area who died in a fire at their home in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Ahascragh gave early notice of their intentions when they won the ball from the throw-in and charged upfield. The finishing shot, however, ended wide. They managed to keep up the momentum of their attack and in the fourth minute, Anto Smith, opened the scoring with an Ahascragh point. Two more Ahascragh wides followed in quick succession but in the sixth minute there was greater accuracy in their attack when Michael Healy drove in a very good goal.

Fohenagh got moving but a free brought relief to the Ahascragh defence. In the tenth minute, Gerry Smith pointed a close free from the right to stretch Ahascragh's lead. Just then, it seemed as if the red shirts of Ahascragh would sweep on to a one-sided victory but Fohenagh immediately gathered their forces to make a rare rally into Ahascragh territory and right cornerman, Paddy Lohan finished a good movement with a capital goal.

### Good Chance

Fohenagh tried again and, when Michael Gormally sent a free close to the Ahascragh square they had a very good chance but they left corner forward, Gerry Lally was off target with the final shot. Ahascragh attacked from the puck-off and the Fohenagh defence counted itself lucky to concede a '65'. The ball went to the square and the Fohenagh goalkeeper, Sean Burke brought off a very fine save. The ball was not fully cleared and it took further good work by midfielder Gerry Lohan back to help out in defence to keep a lively Ahascragh forward line in check.

But Ahascragh, with a little help from a breeze that was mostly crossfield, continued to keep Fohenagh under pressure. Just on the quarter hour, Frankie Nolan pulled on a long ball and sent it over the Fohenagh bar to leave Ahascragh with a three-point lead. As they had done before, Fohenagh pulled another rabbit out of the hat where one of their rare attacks developed down their left flank. Getting to the ball out in the corner and very close to the Ahascragh endline, full forward Donal Barrett cut the ball across the face of the goal and there was his forward colleague, Gerry Burke, to connect with it and, with a shot that gave goalkeeper, Nicholas Finerty, absolutely no chance, whacked in the goal that brought the sides level after sixteen minutes of play.

Before the Fohenagh cheers had died down Michael Healy had regained the lead for Ahascragh with a neat point. At this stage, Fohenagh midfielders, Gerry Lohan, retired with an damaged ankle and was replaced by P. J. Power. In the nineteenth minute, a Fohenagh attack yielded a close free to the right of the Ahascragh posts. Michael Gormally's shot went over the Ahascragh crossbar and the sides were level yet again. Two minutes later, a very well worked move put Ahascragh back into the lead. Gerry Smyth placed his full forward Joe Burke with a very precise pass and Michael Healy snapped Burke's pass and hammered home his second goal of the game.

Down but by no means out, Fohenagh rallied again, and in the twenty-third minute, scored a carbon copy of the goal they had scored, out of so very little, six minutes before and, again, Gerry Burke was involved in the action. The Fohenagh attack developed down the left wing as before. This time it was Gerry Burke who sent the ball across the Ahascragh goal. Nicely placed on the fringe of the square the substitute, P. J. Power waddled down with a two-handed stroke and sent the ball to the net and Fohenagh had scrambled back on level terms once again.

Two points from Gerry Smyth, one from a free quickly put Ahascragh back on top and, a minute later, Martin Healy's point had given them a three-point lead. Fohenagh rallied before half-time and Gerry Lally's point cut Ahascragh's lead. Michael Gormally had a good chance from a free but the ball drifted wide of the posts and half-time came with the score standing at 2-7 to 3-2 in favour of Ahascragh.

### Plenty of Action

There was plenty of action in the opening stages of the second half with play moving from end with both sides having their chances. Eight minutes into the half a more point divided the sides when Gerry Burke cut a sideline ball over the Ahascragh bar from fifty metres out. The age-old rivalry between the two clubs came to the surface, as the pressure mounted and a few doubtful strokes were pulled.

Going into the final quarter, another Gerry Smyth point stretched Ahascragh's lead. The referee, at this stage, chatted up a couple of the players and he wasn't complimenting them on the vigour of their swinging. Five minutes from full-time Dermot Murphy's point put Ahascragh back into a three-point lead. Fohenagh were trying hard for an equising goal but the magic was gone and nothing came of some whole-hearted effort. Four minutes from full-time, Dermot Murphy came tearing through the Fohenagh defence and when he lashed in a clinching goal any hopes of a Fohenagh recovery were blown away on the harsh windy wind.

Full-time came with victory going where it belonged on the day's play. Ahascragh were smarter and sharper to the ball than their opponents and two vital positions, centre half back and centre half forward were exceptionally well manned. That is not to say that the team, as it fielded, was not a well balanced one. Nicholas Finerty, in goal, did well, whenever he was called upon. John Costello had a steady score game at full back but the key work in defence was done by centre half back, Tom Divilly who was an inspiration to those about him. He chased every ball and managed to win and clear more than his share of them.

Anton Smyth paired well at centrefield with Billy Lyons and their task might have been made that little bit easier by the injury to one of the opposing pair Gerry Lohan. The Ahascragh half forward line of the Healy brothers, Michael on the right and Martin on the left with Gerry Smith in the centre was a most effective unit and Dermot Murphy in the left corner was always a threat to the defence.

The Fohenagh goalkeeper, Sean Burke, also did well. Phonsie Mitchell and Sean Gormally were best in a defence that generally was inclined to concede too many frees. The Fohenagh midfield of Kevin Brennan and Gerry Lohan did well early but Lohan's early retirement upset the balance of things. Gerry Burke, Paddy Lohan and substitute P. J. Power took their chances in good style.

### Teams

AHASCRAGH: N. Finerty; B. Donnellan, J. Costello, J. McDermott; J. Egan, T. Divilly, M. Glyne; A. Smyth, B. Lyons; Michael Healy, G. Smyth, Martin Healy; F. Nolan, J. Burke, D. Murphy. Scorers: M. Healy (2-1), G. Smyth (0-4), D. Murphy (1-1), A. Smyth (0-1), F. Nolan (0-1), Martin Healy (0-1). FOHENAGH: S. Burke; T. Noone, E. Lohan, G. Costello; P. Mitchell, E. Hession, S. Gormally; G. Lohan, K. Brennan; M. Gormally, S. Lohan, G. Burke; P. Lohan, D. Barrett, G. Lally, Sub.: P. J. Power for Gerry Lohan. Scorers: G. Burke (1-1), P. Lohan (1-0), P. J. Power (1-0), M. Gormally (0-1), G. Lally (0-1). Referee: Tom Quinn, Ballindereen.