



BLARNEY GAA NEWS

MARCH 2005



DINNER DANCE 2005



From left to right: Martin Lynch (Chairman), Darragh McSweeney (Under 21 Captain), Tom Kenny (Guest of Honour), Mark McCarthy (Minor Captain), Don Hegarty (Chairman of the Minor County Board).

The Blarney G.A.A. Dinner Dance took place in the function room at Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel, Blarney on Wednesday, the 16th of March. The large attendance enjoyed a fantastic night of food, drink, music and craic. The theme of the evening was "Victory" with the County Championship Winning Minor Hurlers, the Under 21 Hurlers and the Junior B Footballers being presented with their medals by the Guest of Honour, Tom Kenny. Tom Kenny also had some kind words of instruction and encouragement for the Club. Special presentations were made to the selectors of the Minor winning team, Darragh McSweeney (member of the All-Ireland winning Cork Intermediate hurling team) and Mark McCarthy (member of the Munster Championship winning Cork Minor hurling team). Much praise must go to the organisers of the night: Tadhg Hurley, Willie Cronin, Denis Deasy, Jerry Hurley and Stephen O' Riordan, the management and staff of Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel and all those who contributed to ensure that the night was a great success.

Intermediate Hurling

BLARNEY 2-4

MALLOW 1 -13

Blarney travelled to Mallow on Sunday, the 20th of March to face the home side in the opening round of the Liam Breathnach Cup. A strong cross-field wind made conditions very difficult for both sides. Mallow, playing with the aid of the wind in the first half, opened the scoring with a point in the 2nd minute. However, Blarney responded with a well-struck Ross McNamara goal after some good work by Brian Hurley. Mallow replied with four unanswered points before Blarney got their first point of the afternoon through a Donal O'Leary free. Mallow then took control of the game scoring some fine points before Brian Hurley and Gerard O'Donovan picked off two nice points for the visitors. Blarney's chances were dealt a major blow just before half time when Mallow struck for a goal after Peter McSweeney had saved well from the initial effort leaving the home side leading at the interval by 1-9 to 1-3. The second half was a dour encounter with both sides finding it difficult to get to grips with the driving wind and rain. It was Mallow who adapted better, however, picking off four points. Blarney continued to battle but failed to utilise the wind to good effect and all they had to show for their efforts was a James Hughes' point and an injury time consolation goal from Mark McCarthy. Best for Blarney: Peter McSweeney, James O'Sullivan and Mark McCarthy.

Blarney Team: Peter McSweeney, James O'Sullivan, Julian O'Donoghue, Richard Pinfield, James Hughes (0-1), Brian Sheehan, Stephen O'Donoghue, Mark McCarthy (1-0), Colm Sheehan, Donal O'Leary (0-1), Brendan Sheehan, Brian Hurley (0-1), Ross McNamara (1-0), Eugene McCarthy, Gerard O'Donovan (0-1).

Substitutes: Niall Murphy, Pat O'Connor, Eoin Hallahan, Peter Nodwell.

JUNIOR A HURLING

BLARNEY 1 -13

IVELEARY 0 -3

The Blarney Junior A Hurlers got their season off to a convincing start with an easy league victory over Iveleary at Killowen on Saturday, the 19th of March. Iveleary, playing with the advantage of a slight breeze in the first half, opened the scoring with two points but after that it was all Blarney. Sean Harrington put Blarney on the scoreboard with two frees before Stephen O' Brien eased Blarney further in front with two fine points from acute angles. Sean Harrington added two further points, one free and one from play. Damien McSweeney then completed the first half scoring with a fine individual effort leaving Blarney leading at the interval 0-7 to 0-2. In the second half, Blarney continued where they left off in the first half with points from Eamonn Kennedy and David O' Callaghan. The game was effectively over as a contest after fifteen minutes in the second half when a high ball hit in by Michael Horgan was deftly finished to the net by Damien McSweeney. Further points from Stephen O' Brien, David O' Callaghan, Michael Horgan and the hard-working Eamonn Kennedy completed the scoring.

Best for Blarney: Julian O' Donoghue, Daniel O' Donovan, Paul O' Leary and Stephen O' Brien.

Blarney Team: Peter McSweeney; Colm Kiely, Julian O' Donoghue, Timothy Green, Paul O' Leary, Pat O' Connor, Daniel O' Donovan, David O' Callaghan (0-2), Michael Horgan (0-1), Brian Deasy, Eamonn Kennedy (0-2), Sean Harrington (0-4), Stephen O' Brien (0-3), Damien McSweeney (1-1), Conor Foley.

Substitutes: Paul O' Donovan, David Green.

BLARNEY 2 -10

GRENAUGH 0-11

Blarney Junior A hurlers continued their winning ways in Grenagh with an impressive league victory over the home side on Saturday, the 26th of March. Although the tight pitch and difficult surface militated against free-flowing hurling, Blarney opened brightly with sweet points from Brian Deasy and Sean Harrington. Eoin Hallahan, on for the injured Niall Murphy, struck over a sixty-five before Grenagh opened their account with two pointed frees. The hard-working Brian Deasy scored a beauty from the left wing after ten minutes before Damien McSweeney pointed to further extend Blarney's lead. However, Grenagh kept in touch with points from frees and play. With the half coming to a close, Sean Harrington pointed after a loose puck out from the Grenagh goalkeeper and Eoin Hallahan completed the first half scoring with an accurate strike from the left wing leaving the score at the interval, 0-7 to 0-6, in favour of Blarney. Blarney again opened brightly in the second half but failed to capitalise on some good goal-scoring opportunities and Grenagh pointed to level the score. However, in a three-minute period the game was effectively decided when Eoin Hallahan pointed two frees and a long range free from the commanding figure of Pat O'Connor deceived the Grenagh goalkeeper and went straight to the back of the Grenagh net. Grenagh tried to fight back but Blarney consolidated their position with an Eoin Hallahan free. Blarney then finished in style and put the game well and truly beyond Grenagh's reach when Eamonn Kennedy's first-time strike bellowed the Grenagh net.

Best for Blarney: Julian O'Donoghue, Pat O'Connor, Eoin Hallahan, Brian Deasy and Sean Harrington.

Blarney Team: Peter McSweeney, Colm Kiely, Julian O' Donoghue, Donal O'Neill, Paul O' Leary, Pat O' Connor (1-0), Daniel O' Donovan, Denis O'Donovan, Michael Horgan, Niall Murphy, Damien McSweeney (0-1), Brendan Sheehan, Brian Deasy (0-2), Eamonn Kennedy (1-0), Sean Harrington (0-2).

Substitutes: Eoin Hallahan (0-5), Cian O'Mahony, Peter Ahern.

PREMIER MINOR HURLING

BLARNEY 1-3

CHARLEVILLE 4-4

Blarney historically fielded a team in the Premier Minor Hurling grade for the first time against a home side in Charleville on Sunday, the 20th of March. Playing against a strong wind and driving rain in the first half, Blarney's young and under-strength side battled bravely and took the lead following a Derry Quirke point. However, Blarney were not to score for the remainder of the half and the concession of three soft goals left Blarney trailing at the interval by 3-3 to 0-1. Blarney tore into the opposition in the second half but were not rewarded for their efforts, with a number of goal-scoring opportunities going-a-begging. Blarney did succeed in breaching the Charleville defence with Richard Pinfield scoring a point from play and a goal from a free but this was not sufficient to peg back the Charleville lead.

Best for Blarney: John Barrett, Paul O' Leary, Richard Pinfield and Derry Quirke.

Blarney Team: Eamonn McSweeney, John Barrett, Sean Walsh, Colm O' Donoghue, Brian Jordan, Paul O' Leary, Michael O' Reilly, Richard Pinfield (1-1), Eoin O' Connell, Robert White, Patrick O' Sullivan, Derry Quirke (0-2), Sean Twomey, Brian Fitzgibbon, Niall McNamara.

Substitutes: Conor O' Reilly.

JUNIOR A FOOTBALL

BLARNEY 0 – 6

INNISCARRA 0-10

Blarney were defeated by neighbours Inniscarra in this closely fought Junior A football league game at Killowen on Sunday, the 13th of March. Following agreement, both sides fielded only Under 21 players. Inniscarra opened the scoring in the 5th minute with a point from a free. Blarney soon replied with a similar score from the boot of Dermot Crowley. Blarney then raced into a three-point lead with further scores from substitute Conor Foley, Shane Brickley and two more frees from Crowley. Inniscarra slowly clawed their way back into the game and both sides retired at the interval on level terms on a scoreline of 0-5 points each. Having lost the services of Scott Vickery and Sean O'Grady in the first half due to injury, Blarney's chances were dealt a severe blow when Darragh McSweeney, who was having a fine game, had to go off injured just after the restart. Blarney tried valiantly throughout the second half particularly through the efforts of Daniel Cronin, Paul O'Leary, Mark McCarthy and Stephen O'Regan but all they had to show for their efforts was a James O'Sullivan point.

Blarney Team: Shane Spillane, Donal O'Neill, Paul O'Leary, Ross Lynch, Mark McCarthy, Danny Cronin, Stephen O'Regan, Darragh McSweeney, Michael Barry, Sean O'Grady, Dermot Crowley (0-3), Eoin Hallahan, Scott Vickery, James O'Sullivan (0-1), Shane Brickley (0-1).

Substitutes: Conor Foley (0-1), Jason Lynch, Colm Kiely.

UPCOMING FIXTURES

Saturday, the 2nd of April: **Blarney –v-**

Aghabullogue (Under 21 Mid-Cork Football Championship First Round) – Ballyanly @ 6.30 p.m.

Sunday, the 3rd of April : **Blarney –v- Ballyhea** (Intermediate Hurling, Liam Breathnach Cup) – Ballyhea @ 3.30 p.m.

Monday, the 4th of April: **Blarney –v- Douglas** (Premier Minor Hurling League) - Blarney @ 6.30 p.m.

Tuesday, the 5th of April : **Blarney –v- Ballincollig** (Under 21B Mid-Cork Football Championship First Round) – Ballyanly @ 6.30 p.m.

Sunday, the 10th of April : **Blarney –v- Inniscarra** (Intermediate Hurling, Liam Breathnach Cup) – Ballyanly or Ballincollig if doubled up as the 2004 Lucey Cup Final.

Sunday, the 8th of May : **Blarney –v- Ballinhassig** (Premier Intermediate Hurling Championship) – Páirc Uí Rinn.

ATTENTION ALL JUNIOR, SENIOR, FIRST AND SECOND CLASS BOYS

Outdoor hurling commencing Friday 22nd April 6p.m.-7p.m. at the G.A.A. pitch.
Contact Number: St. John Cremin 087 6354739.

Hurleys, Helmets, Sliotars for sale. Contacts Jim O' Leary 086 8212331/ St. John Cremin 087 6354739.

Club Clothing Available. Adult/ Children on Friday. April 8th 6.30p.m.-8p.m.

Also Club socks and shorts available at cost price.

BLARNEY UNDERAGE A.G.M. 2004



From Left to Right: Michael Horgan (Vice-Chairman), Jim O'Leary (Secretary), St. John Cremin (Chairman), Ray Buckley (Assistant Secretary).

The 2004 Annual General Meeting of the Underage Section of the Club was held on Tuesday, the 8th of March 2005. The Secretary's Report reviewed the fortunes of the underage section of the Club and highlighted the progress that had been achieved over the past year. It was emphasised that the barometer of achievement at underage is not the number of trophies won but rather the success in increasing the skill and enjoyment levels of underage players. Utilisation of such a barometer highlighted a very successful year at underage level in the Club.

The year began in a welter of excitement with the visit of the President of the G.A.A., Sean Kelly, together with Diarmuid O' Sullivan to present the underage medals won in 2003. The great work put in at underage level throughout the year was seen particularly in the running of the annual Summer Camp, the Parish Leagues and the indoor hurling and winter training in the Na Piarasigh facility. Such commitment to the youth of the parish bore fruit in the parish's schools with four Sciath Na Scoil titles and a Cork Colleges Under 14 Championship being won. The underage teams in the Club also enjoyed the following successes:

Under 10 Hurling: Bishopstown Credit Union Cup Winners in Ballinhassig and Donal Buckley Cup Winners in Sarsfield.
 Under 12 Hurling: Burke Perpetual Cup Winners in St. Finbarrs.
 Under 13 Hurling: Mid-Cork Championship Winners.
 Under 14 Hurling: Mid-Cork A Championship Winners.

UNDERAGE OFFICERS CONTACT NUMBERS

Chairman: St. John Cremin	087 76354739	Assistant Secretary: Ray Buckley	0872100400
Vice-Chairman: Michael Horgan	087 2629557	School Liaison Officer: Dermot McSweeney	(021) 4385507
Secretary: Jim O' Leary	086 8212331		

UNDERAGE TEAM CONTACT NUMBERS

Under 16: Derry McSweeney	(021) 4385507	Under 11: Seamus Mulcahy	(021) 4381159
Under 15: Denis O' Donovan	(021) 4381279	Under 10: Paul Lenihan	(021) 4385753
Under 14: Jim Barrett	087 2508996	2nd Class: Michael Mc Namara	(021) 4385811
Under 13: Ray Buckley	087 2100400	1st Class: Ray Coleman	(021) 4381094
Under 12: Michael Horgan	087 2629557	Junior/Senior Infants: St. John Cremin	087 6354739