



BLARNEY GAA NEWS

November 20th, 2008



JOIN THE REAL BLARNEY ARMY!!

There will be a huge exodus from Blarney on Sunday next as legions of fans travel to Bruff, Co Limerick in support of their hurler's quest for the Munster Clubs' Intermediate Hurling Championship.

It is the most auspicious occasion in the history of our 124 year old club - which only a few short weeks ago - were crowned Cork County Champions for the first time in 70 years. The team faces tough opponents in Clare Champions Broadford, who qualified for the provincial decider with victories over their counterparts from Tipperary and Limerick.

To reach the final – Blarney first had to capture the elusive county title and then defeat Kerry representatives Kilmoyley in the Kingdom. Their path was eased somewhat when they received a walk over - in last weeks semi final scheduled to be played in Blarney. But, it was tempered by the fact that the team were denied the opportunity to display their skills, on what would have been the biggest ever sporting event staged in the world famous village.

However, that is history now and the focus is firmly focused on the task that lies ahead. Sport is unpredictable - but one thing is certain – the lad's well give 100% AND they will have the wholehearted backing of the Blarney Army of supporters.

HOW WE REACHED THE MUNSTER FINAL!

Cork Premier Intermediate Championship

First Round: Courcey Rovers 3-12 Blarney 1-10
Second Round: Blarney 0-10 Aghada 0-7
Third Round: Blarney 1-14 Watergrasshill 0-9
Quarter Final; Blarney 1-11 Ballincollig 0-13
Semi Final; Blarney 1-9 Douglas 0-5
Final; Blarney 0-13 Courcey Rovers 1-9

Munster Intermediate Championship

Quarter Final: Blarney 3-9 Kilmoyley 0-7

Scorers

**Mark Cremin 0-31 Colin Murphy 1-10,
Ross McNamara 2-6, Johnny Hurley 1-5,
Eoin Hallahan 0-7, Brian Deasy 1-2,
Steve O'Donoghue 0-5, Mark McCarthy 0-4,
James O'Sullivan 1-0. Dave McCarthy 0-2,
Brian Hurley 0-2, Ronan Byrne 0-1 (0-1 f),
Joe Jordan 0-1.**

MUNSTER IHC

Blarney 3-9 Kilmoyley 0-7

Kilmoyley, November 2nd 2008

Having finally captured the elusive County Championship - Blarney ventured into unknown territory – taking on Kilmoyley in the Munster Club I.H.C. in Kilmoyley. And they did so in style – brushing aside the challenge of Kerry kingpins on a scoreline of 3-9 to 0-7

Many experts forecast that Kilmoyley would outmuscle the more refined Blarney machine. But, they failed to reckon with the high octane performance of intensity, passion and will to win of the men in red.

Mark Cremin opened Blarney's account with a point from a free, which was cancelled out by a similar score from Kilmoyley superstar Shane Brick. Blarney got a huge boost when young Colin Murphy's persistence forced his opponents defence to concede a goal. Cremin added another free –before Kilmoyley rattled off 3 points in a row. Moments later Ross McNamara delivered the killer punch –hammering home Blarney's second goal. Brick, who earlier missed a number of frees, eventually found the mark. But the Blarney engine was now in full throttle; Jack in the box Mark McCarthy and McNamara increased the rebel's point tally, and although the home side did pull a point back – Blarney led 2-4 to 0-6 at the half way mark.

Brick registered the first point of the second half – but it was Kilmoyley's last score of the day. They threw everything bar the proverbial sink at the Blarney defence. But, there was no way past O'Leary; McSweeney; Jordan, Hughes, and O'Donoghue; the inspirational captain Danny Cronin and the imperturbable Ronan Byrne in the Blarney net.

The Blarney choir was now in full voice, as they cheered points from Cremin (3), Eoin Hallahan, and Colin Murphy. And when Murphy grabbed his side's third goal the Blarney Roar could be heard for miles around.

The final whistle sounded. Blarney were the winners - and another page in the club's rich history was written.

Blarney: Ronan Byrne; Danny Cronin (capt), Darragh McSweeney, Paul O'Leary; Joe Jordan, James Hughes, Steve O'Donoghue; Brian Hurley, Eoin Hallahan; Brian Deasy, Mark McCarthy, Johnny Hurley; Mark Cremin, Ross McNamara, Colin Murphy.

Subs: Gerard O'Donovan, Eugene McCarthy, Dave McCarthy.

Scorers: Mark Cremin 0-5 (0-5f), Ross McNamara 1-1, Colin Murphy 1-1, Mark McCarthy 0-1, Eoin Hallahan 0-1 OG

Long serving defender Stephen O'Donoghue, who was a member of the '93 Junior A Championship Winning Team, reflects on the last 15 years:

"It has been a long and often heartbreaking journey from winning the Junior A Final in '93 to finally capturing the Premier Intermediate title.

There have been a number of transitional phases in the intervening period, most notably 1999 when the addition of young players Denis O'Donovan, Ross McNamara and Julian O'Donoghue almost catapulted to an Intermediate title. Unfortunately, it was not to be but nevertheless, I felt it was only a matter of time before the Holy Grail would be achieved. I certainly did not think it would take nine long years.

As the years passed, quarter-finals and semi finals were lost and it looked as if the coveted title would not be achieved in my playing career. However, in 2008 with the addition of sublime young talents like Joe Jordan, Mark Cremin and Colin Murphy (whose father Anthony Murphy I played with in the ('93 final) and a new self-belief amongst the panel, we finally captured the Premier Intermediate title which I had coveted for so long and pined for fifteen years.

It has been an honour and a privilege to have played with Blarney for so many years and go to battle with such fantastic players like Ronan Byrne, James Hughes and Johnny Hurley.

I certainly hope that the club goes from strength and untimely wins the senior county championship"

Stephen O'Donoghue

Scorers

**Mark Cremin 0-31 Colin Murphy 1-10,
Ross McNamara 2-6, Johnny Hurley 1-5,
Eoin Hallahan 0-7, Brian Deasy 1-2,
Steve O'Donoghue 0-5, Mark McCarthy 0-4,
James O'Sullivan 1-0. Dave McCarthy 0-2,
Brian Hurley 0-2, Ronan Byrne 0-1 (0-1 f),
Joe Jordan 0-1.**

JOE JORDAN

96FM/C103

'Player of the Month'

Mighty Joe Jordan's superb displays in last month's Premier Intermediate and Under 21 County Championship campaigns earned him the coveted 96FM/C103 'Player of the Month' for October.

WELL DONE JOE – YOU DESERVE IT.

CONGRATULATIONS to!

Congrats to the players, mentors and all concerned on reaching the Munster Intermediate Hurling Championship Final.

Hearty congratulations and best wishes to Niall and Lisa Murphy on their recent marriage.

CLUB SHOP

Visit our club shop for all the best of club gear including: Shorts, Track pants, socks, jerseys, training tops, polo shirts, rain jackets, cold weather coats, hoodies, tracksuits and rugby shirts! We also stock umbrellas, flags, and bunting, headbands and pom pom for all those cheerleaders.

A DAY TO REMEMBER!

To celebrate our achievement on winning the County Championship and becoming a Senior club in over 70 years - the club have commissioned a special commemorative DVD set.

The twin pack includes commentary and footage of the entire final; presentation highlights and footage of the homecoming party in Blarney Woollen Mills. It also includes post match interviews with players, mentors and club officials. This unique package is priced just 40 and makes an ideal gift for any occasion - especially for those who could not be with us on the momentous day.

The DVD is available from the Club Shop or any club official.

WATCH OUT!

Watch out for the **Official Club Calendar**. This superb full colour calendar includes photographs of all our underage teams – our adult title winning teams, as well as celebration scenes from our historic County Championship triumph.

IT IS A MUST FOR EVERY CHRISTMAS STOCKING.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Club AGM will take place in the Club Pavilion on Tuesday 2nd December, Commencing at 8 p.m.

If there is any issue you wish to see included on the agenda – please contact Bill Costello by 25th November.

**For all the latest Blarney GAA
information log on to
www.blarneygaa.ie**

Your Club Your Community

Blarney Abú