

Recent G.A.A. Publications 2019

By Seamus J. King

One book I missed out on last year because it appeared too late for inclusion, having been launched on December 7, was Martin Bourke's *Scór and Other Cultural Activities in Templemore, Clonmore and Killea*.

An impressive production of nearly 300 pages in A4 size, the book is a comprehensive account of cultural events in that parish since the start of its involvement with Scór nearly fifty years ago. In the first divisional final in that year Templemore Eire Óg won two Scór na nÓg titles in Motion Speaking and Ballad Group.

It was an auspicious start and since then the parish has won 226 divisional titles, 95 county titles, 12 Munster titles and 8 All-Irelands. A hugely impressive achievement and a tribute to a huge amount of talent but also to the dedicated and committed coaches, who were prepared to devote a lot of time in preparation for the various competitions.

The book isn't confined to the achievements in Scór but also records the achievements of the many other community groups and organisations in the parish, who also promoted Irish culture through music, song, dance and the Irish language.

All of these achievements are recorded not only in text but also in the wonderful colour of the pictorial record. The author was lucky to have at his disposal a comprehensive collection of Scór photos which photographer Seamus Bourke has been taking since the 1990s. These pictures make it an exciting book to leaf through and the quality of the pictorial reproduction is top class.

There are many high points in the parish's Scór story but the dual All-Ireland success of the Set Dancing and Recitation groups in the 2013 final at Derry must hold a special place, Noel Joyce's 'The Day I Scored the Winning Goal' is one of the most memorable of recitations and was performed to perfection by the winner.

As with everything Martin Bourke puts his hand to, this is another impressive achievement, a tribute to the author's dedication to his parish and the people of Templemore, Clonmore and Killea have to be deeply in his debt for a most valuable record of an important part of the lives of the people of the parish.

G.A.A. History of the Parish of New Inn and Knockgraffon 1884-2018

This book was flagged in last year's column to appear at the end of the year, but it failed to make the starting blocks and it was eventually launched in New Inn on November 1 this year.

This is a comprehensive work that faithfully records the contributions of the thousands of people, who have represented the Rockwell Rovers club over the many years of its existence. The author has made a tremendous effort in researching the club's past and recording the contributions of the great and not so great, who have represented the club in hurling and football, athletics and camogie, in Scór and in a range of other activities at all ages.

As well as giving detailed accounts of matches of all kinds in all grades, the history includes a large selection of pictures and illustrations, which make the publication both vivid and attractive.

An added attraction of this book is the information included on many exciting events in the history of the period, which may not be strictly sporting but which gives the book a wider interest and

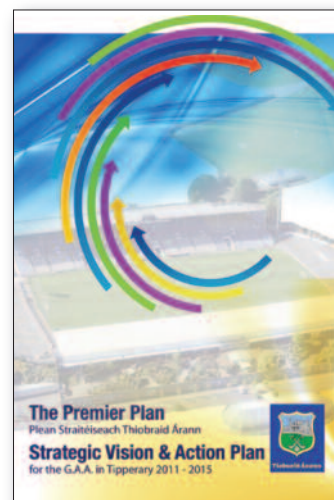
makes it attractive to a larger audience. People from the parish that feature in the history include P. R. Cleary, who was secretary of the G.A.A. at national level, James M. Ryan who set up a world high jump record at Tipperary sports in 1895 and Lena Rice from Marlhill who is the only Irish person to win a title at Wimbledon. There are others also who add to the interest of this book.

Printed by Lion Print, the book retails at €20.

The Premier Plan

In 2010 the G.A.A. embarked upon a National Strategic Plan. It identified key focus areas, detailing clear roles and measures of success for counties and clubs. It outlined specific plans to deal with changes in society and provided a template which would help clubs to respond to changes in their community.

The publication of the Tipperary Strategic Vision and Action Plan 2011-2015 was a response to the need outlined in the national plan, incorporating the themes of the National and Munster plans while also including topics which are important to Tipperary. This plan focused in a big way on the development of our games. It examined our structures, policies and organisation, formulated a vision for the future and presented a template that would enable the organisation to grow over the five years.



Towards 2020

This follow-up plan, entitled 'Strategic Vision & Action Plan for the G.A.A. in Tipperary 2018-2020' evolved from meetings that took place during March and April 2017 in which the members were asked to focus on areas of concern and make suggestions for the betterment of the G.A.A. in the county. Areas focused on included Games, Governance, Development and Planning, Communications, Finance, Club and Social, and focused on issues relevant to the Association in the county as we approach the end of the second decade of the 21st century.

When I reviewed 'By the Mulcaire Banks: the Story of the G.A.A. in the Parish of Newport.' by Michael Collins and Denis Floyd in the 1987 Yearbook, I referred to it as 'an excellent production of 528 pages' which 'is a model of what a club history ought to be.' The book took the history of the G.A.A. in the parish up to 1985.

Now, the club has reproduced the book, painstakingly re-typing the lot and re-sourcing most of the pictures, updating it from 1986-2018. The new production is a hugely impressive work in A4 size numbering 672 pages in a hardback proudly proclaiming the club



colours of purple and gold.

Denis Floyd has been responsible for the update. The task was a huge and time-consuming undertaking and the finished product is a tribute to his endeavour. As the author says in the Preface to Volume 2, in the updated section, he had to deal with a huge plethora of games and a wide range of teams and grades as well as the army of volunteers required to keep the club going. 'Other obvious advances from Volume 1 to Volume 2 are the improved facilities provided by the club, the ever-increasing numbers of young players involved and the diversity of fundraising ventures. The availability, quality and colour of photographs also reflects advances in society.'

This history is a comprehensive and faithful account of everything that happened during the years, not only the games and the players in all grades but the achievements of club members outside the club as well. The extent of the coverage of club activities is best illustrated by the number of words given to the year 1987, the first year of Volume 2. I estimate there are over 6,000 words in this chapter alone! Nothing has been left out!

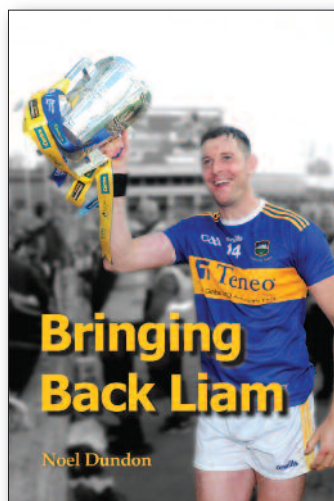
Denis Floyd has done his club some service, but also the wider G.A.A. community by faithfully recording the activities of the Newport club over the past thirty odd years and its contribution to the wider G.A.A. story of County Tipperary.

Bringing Back Liam by Noel Dundon

By any standard, 2019 was an extraordinary year for Tipperary hurling. Having arisen from the doldrums descended to twelve months previously, the Premier County ascended the steps of the Hogan Stand on All-Ireland Final day to claim the Liam MacCarthy Cup for the third time in a decade, after an emotional roller-coaster season.

It was quite a stunning return to the hurling summit, as Tipperary scaled their Everest to reach the Holy Grail for the 28th time. And there in the trenches, plotting the journey, navigating the difficult terrain, and charting Tipperary's rise to glory, was the man who came back – Liam Sheedy.

Bringing Back Liam is the account of how Sheedy defied all who told him that comebacks never end well. This book tells of how he put the team together, on and off the field, to deliver the ultimate prize. It is packed with interviews, discussion points and



reports as they happened throughout the season, and gives an insight to the high points, the low points, and the turning points of a campaign which promised much, and ultimately delivered everything. The book is on sale throughout the county retailing at just €14.99. Proceeds go towards local charities

Two Film Shorts

The first of these is a short documentary for Screen Ireland's 'Real Shorts' scheme. The film, by Frankie Fenton, is entitled, *'The Grass Ceiling'*, and is based on the essay writings of Eimear Ryan, a Tipperary camogie player. It's about what it is like to be a young girl turning into an adult athlete. She had played county camogie and is currently playing for St. Finbarr's in Cork

The second film is by Gerry Nelson, who recently directed *'The game – The Story of Hurling'*. As part of the documentary there is a reconstruction of a young 10-year girl in the late 1980s, who idolizes Nicky English. In the scene she rips a picture out of the G.A.A. Yearbook and blue tacks it onto the wall.

The film will premiere in November at the Cork Film Festival and from there it is hoped it will go to an international audience in film festivals all over the world.

Thurles Sarsfields GAA Story Volume 2: Good news for Thurles Sarsfields supporters in that volume 2 of their history is nearing completion and should hit the book shops in the spring. Volume 1, compiled by Liam Ó Donnchú, was launched in 2017 and told the story of this famous Tipperary club from earliest times until 1959. This was a great success, winning the 2017 GAA's McNamee Award in the best club publication category. Volume 2 by the same author completes the story to 2019 and no doubt will be eagerly awaited in the Cathedral Town and beyond. The new book follows the same successful format as volume 1, high on detail and with plenty of photographs to illustrate the amazing story of the club in the town of the GAA's birth.

Book on Tipperary Minor All-Irelands. This book won't make its appearance until early in the New Year but it will fill a gap in the history of the G.A.A. in the county. By Jim Fogarty, a prominent Tipperary exile living in Kilkenny, who has had to suffer years of misery as Kilkenny has lorded it in the MacCarthy Cup, until this year when he was able to point out to his Kilkenny acquaintances that Tipperary won three All-Irelands in a month in 2018! Jim published the *Cross of Cashel: All-Ireland Under-21 Hurling Finals 1964-2014* in 2015 and his forthcoming book should be an important follow-up. He's looking for information on the 1934 final. Tipperary defeated Laois by 4-3 to 3-5, with a controversial goal in injury time giving the verdict to Tipperary. It appears that none of the match reports give an account of the scorer. If anybody has information on it Jim would like to hear it at 086-1512946.



The photographers at Sports Focus have produced this fantastic photographic record of the Tipperary club championships from 2019. Compiled by Diarmuid Brennan (Loughmore Castleiney), Padraig Hogan (Burgess) and Enda O'Sullivan (Nenagh Éire Óg), the lads travelled through the four divisions of the county as they photographed numerous games from underage to junior to senior in both codes and have captured the highs and lows of the season in this beautifully presented colourful book which will be on shelves in early December. For further details please see their website and social media channels.