

Bringing Success to the Parish

Nothing compares to winning with your parish. Since the implementation of the Parish rule in 1951 which basically halted the movement and coaxing of players from one team to another. One could say that this was the introduction of the modern game in Kilkenny. A number of rural Parish Clubs can readily recall a particular period when they dominated top grade hurling in the county, be it for a brief or extended term.

The most obvious ones that prevailed over a longer period were Ballyhale, Bennettsbridge, Glenmore and Johnstown. Others to reach the pinnacle were Muckalee, Mooncoin, Tullaroan, Rower Inistioge, Gowran, Graigue Ballycallan, Dunamaggin, Freshford, Slievruie, and Clara.

Generally the explanation for success will have been similar. The most noticeable being the appearance in the parish of a remarkably talented group of individuals during the same period, this often stemming from two, three or four families backboning the teams from juvenile level upwards.

The teams that had a prolonged life at the top were able to introduce a steady flow of young talent to replace older players who may have retired or were forced to give way to the new generation.

A high level of commitment and dedication from both players and mentors was also apparent.

Such a cycle may only happen once in a lifetime, a thought that would probably not have registered during the good times. For the new generations to emulate their predecessors can be difficult and the constant reminder from the older folk of previous triumphs can become unhelpful.

The rise and development of Dunamaggin G.A.A. Club would during the past decade certainly fall into the above categories.

Dedicated Club Officials, the family factor and talent were instrumental in both the advancement of playing facilities and the triumphs at all levels during the past seven years.

The parish had rarely tasted success in its lifetime. Highlights were an appearance in the Junior County final in 1966 also in the U18 final in 1970 both ending in defeat. An U16 success in between gave rise to optimism but was not extended to adult level.

During the late 80's and early 90's victories were gained at lower levels by the juvenile section and the vibes were positive. Confidence was growing and the long awaited breakthrough arrived in 1993.

Since then winning has become a habit and championships have been won every year in the period 1993 - '99.

This base should auger well for the club's future. For many years to come the period stated above will always be remembered as the time that all bridges were crossed on the local hurling scene.

Brendan Fennelly