

## Aspirations

Hayden Park was the parish GAA pitch for many years, and while the club greatly appreciated the use of the field, there was a desire to own its own grounds. It was decided, therefore, to start fund-raising. In 1986 it was agreed that a big effort be made to sell the "Piltown Draw" tickets and the profits made were kept for the purchase of new grounds, when such became available and not for the day to day running of the club as heretofore.

A great effort was made by all and none more so than Pat Comerford, Kells and a profit of £4,000 was made. After further meetings it was decided to borrow on the strength of this £4,000 and to purchase cattle to the value of £15,000. The money was originally raised in the Bank. The late Gus Moran arranged for individual members of the club to borrow at low interest rates from the local Credit Union. A committee spearheaded by John Hayes, Haggard organised local farmers to take on these cattle free of charge and these were sold on after two years. This mighty effort by all the committee and the generosity of the local farmers yielded a profit of £18,000. The original £4,000 now became £18,000. Eventually in 1995 a suitable field became available.

With interest the club now had £23,000 in the bank. Serious fundraising was now required. It was decided to hold a monster raffle. Teams of ticket sellers were recruited and no house in County Kilkenny "escaped". This draw could not have happened at a better time as our young team with their attractive brand of hurling were the talk of the county at the time. The generosity of the people of Kilkenny and other far-flung corners of Ireland had to be seen to be believed and a profit of £72,000 was made. Again many thanks to all who supported this draw and congratulations to the winners. (See separate article on "Financing a Dream"). Further funds were raised by interest free loans, parish door to door collections, generous sponsorship etc. This is not forgetting all the free time and effort, the free use of machinery etc. by the locals. There were also substantial grants given by the G.A.A. We have more or less cleared our debt for the developments to date. Further developments will include a small seated stand so the fund raising I am afraid to say will continue!