

## Financing a Dream

The pitch we have today wouldn't be here without our ticket sellers. That says it all. I could extol their many virtues - determination, patience, hardwork, perseverance and of course their map reading skills but the fact that there was over 4,000 tickets sold says more.

It all began back in 1995 when Dunnamaggin HC and Kilmoganny FC purchased a site to develop their new GAA grounds. They had no "pot of gold" so the most feasible option to fund further development - levelling and fencing the field, building of dressing rooms and a car park - was a raffle.

Maps of the whole county were purchased and with Dick O'Shea at the helm, the planned assault began. The secret of this raffle's success was without doubt the maps. Everyone had to sit down and learn how to read maps at the Sunday night meetings in Bob's, so that no houses would be missed. Once they got going, there was no stopping them. By the middle of August, the first tickets had been sold. Slowly the sellers got an increasingly good response as their fame or rather their infamy spread. But do the areas who were targeted realise that it was one of their own who was betraying them. Yes it's true - most of the cars had an 'insider' hidden down in the back of the cars, directing the sellers to which houses to go to. Will you ever trust your neighbour again? Some nights they returned to Bob and Maudie's disheartened, worried would they even make the prize money for the raffle, disgusted that not only had no tickets been sold but that nobody had even brought them in for tea. Life is hard sometimes. Other times it was easy going especially after Dunnamaggin won the U-21 against the Village. They only had to say where they were from and the tickets disappeared out of their hands. Not everyone took too kindly to our brave ticket sellers - who wants to be woken in the middle of the night to buy a ticket when you have to be up at 4 the next morning. It even made the radio about the indecent hours people were going selling tickets - more free publicity!! There was a huge representation of the clergy in the raffle too, due in no small measure to Fr. Fergus. Tickets were sold everywhere, from New York to California to Lemonstown. Many of our ticket sellers have bright futures ahead of them in sales.

The draw raised over 86,000 for our dream of an equal of Croke Park here in Dunnamaggin. Dreams don't often come true, but here in Dunnamaggin we don't wait for them to happen; we make them happen.

Mairead O'Donovan